

The Awesome Presence of God

Psalm 114 (text v. 7).

The Church is special/unique. There is no other organization quite like it. It is an institution of God, not man. Jesus gave His life for the church.

If you were trying to convince an unbeliever of what makes the church

I. **God is FOR US** (v. 1).

➡ Five Psalms focus on Israel's exodus from Egypt (Ps. 74; 77; 78; 106; 136). The exodus is the most important event in Israel's history it marked Israel's birthday as a nation.

- God had a purpose for Israel: To bear witness of the true and living God, to be a light to the Gentiles, To give us the Scriptures, and bring the Messiah into the world.
- To fulfill God's purposes, God had to deliver Israel out of Egypt.

A. The SYMBOLISM that God is for us.

➡ The symbol of the Passover.

1. Saved by the BLOOD of a Lamb on the doorposts. This act protected the children of Israel from the Judgment of God. It is a symbol of how the shed BLOOD of the Lord Jesus Christ protects the Christian from the judgment of God.
2. As Israel would sing this Psalm when they observed the Passover, it reminded them God was FOR THEM. If God were not for them, why did He deliver them out of Egypt.
3. When we realize Jesus shed His precious blood for our sins to save us, it confirms God is for us also! "*If God be for us, who can be against us?*" (Rom. 8:31).
4. Just as Israel could say, "Hallelujah, we've been set free," so can we today say, "Praise God, we've been set free by the blood of the Lamb!"

B. The SEPARATION that God is for us ("*...when Israel WENT OUT... FROM a people of a strange language*"). God separated His people from Egypt (type of the world).

- As long as Israel was in Egypt / the world, they could never accomplish God's purpose for their lives.
 - ➡ God distinguished Israel from Egypt. They were to be different than the Egyptians.
1. When darkness covered Egypt, we read that "*the children of Israel had light in their dwellings*" (Ex. 10:21-23). This illus-

trated that the people of the world live in darkness, but God’s people are children of light.

2. God’s people are to speak different than the people of the world (v. 1). When God spoke to Israel, He did not speak in Egyptian. He spoke in Hebrew. **God does not communicate with us in the language of the world.**

- a) The world speaks a different language than the church. The world cannot communicate the thoughts of God... the words of God... the mind of God... or the heart of God.

The world cannot speak the language of heaven. That language is only found in the Bible—The one Book the world does not want. The world allows our youth to read the books of Marx, Steinbeck, and Harry Potter— books that glorify adultery, sodomy, and evolution—in schools, but they cannot read the Book of God.

- b) When we speak the words of God... or of the sanctity of life... or the sanctity of marriage... or living a pure / holy life, the world thinks we are speaking a foreign language.

- God’s people need to talk different than the world talks.
- We are to be separated and different from the world.

➡ Say it with me— **GOD IS FOR US!**

II. **God Is WITH US** (v. 2a).

- ➡ “Sanctuary” = an enclosed place where God’s presence dwells.
 - ➡ The Lord not only separated Israel from Egypt, but He also separated Israel unto Himself. Sanctification is the other side of separation. Separation sets us apart from the world; sanctification sets us apart for God.
- A. One of the first things Israel did after they came out of Egypt was erect a “sanctuary” or tabernacle. It was the place where God’s Shekinah glory dwelt.

1. All the pagan nations around Israel had their temples of worship, but **they were empty!** But Israel's sanctuary filled with the presence of God!
 2. The Muslims have their mosques. The Buddhists have their temples. The Mormons have their temples. Jehovah Witnesses have their Kingdom Halls. But we have the presence of God. We have Jesus, Emmanuel— "*God with us*" (Matt. 1:23).
- B. Today, we Christians are God's temple and the church is His sanctuary (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 2:19-22). We have this treasure in earthen vessels.

➡ **Say it with me—**GOD IS WITH US!**** Wherever you go, God goes! Whatever you face, God faces! Whatever you're in, God's in! **You are not alone.**

III. **God Is OVER US** (v. 2b).

- ➡ Not only did they have God's sanctuary, but they also had His throne (Ex. 19:6).
- ➡ He is to have dominion. We are to be submissive to Him. We cannot enjoy God's blessings if we seek to live independently from Him.
- A. Some quote James 4:7, "*Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*" But that is only the second half of the verse. The whole verse says, "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*" The devil will not flee from you unless you are submitted to God.
 - B. It is only as we submit ourselves to God that we can have victory over Satan's attacks.
 1. Submission would have kept Adam and Eve in the garden.
 2. Submission would have kept David from committing adultery.
 - C. Every time we fall to temptation it is because there is a refusal to submit to God's authority. You either submit to Satan's temptation, or you submit to God's throne.

➡ Is there some area in your life that you need to surrender to God so He can give you victory?

IV. **God Is BEFORE US** (vs. 3-8).

➡ Most of Psalm 114 is about the miracles God performed for Israel. The key thought is that God went before His people, and removed the obstacles that would prevent them from becoming the people He wanted them to be.

➡ Verse 8—The “rock” was when God gave Israel water to drink at the beginning of their journey (Ex. 17). The “flint” depicted when God gave them water at the end of their journey (Num. 20). **God went before them all the way to the promised land.**

A. He removed the HOPELESS places (Red Sea, Jordan River).

1. They were saved by blood, but still in Egypt (the world). They had the Red Sea before them. It stood as an obstacle to keep them in the world. It looked hopeless. But God opened the Red Sea and Israel marched through on dry land.
2. Forty years later, the Jordan River opened and the people of Israel marched into the Promised Land.
3. God will remove those hopeless situations that hinder us from becoming all He wants us to be if we will follow Him in faith.

B. He removed the HARD places (mountains / hills). This speaks of the difficulties. There will be some steep climbing. There will be some rocky roads. But God goes before us.

SUMMATION: As our great Shepherd, JESUS GOES BEFORE US (John 10:4; Mt. 28:19-20). When we arrive at a place in our life, God has already been there. Therefore we need not fear anything that is ahead of us.

Psalm 114 may be a poetic description of Israel’s history, but the presence of God is a present reality to those who trust Christ and allow Him to lead.

"If God be for us—and with us—and over us—and before us—who can be against us?"