

Psalm 114

- If someone were to ask you what sets the church apart and makes it unique in the world, how would you respond?
- The church's message, mission, or ministry?
- All would be good; each speaks to the special importance of the church in the world.
- We do have a unique message, mission, and ministry
- But ultimately what sets the church apart and makes it unique in the world is not our message, mission, or ministry, but rather our unique God who has delivered us and dwells with us in order to make his power and presence known in all the earth.
- Today I want us to reflect on three realities that set the church apart and make it unique in the world.
- And as we reflect on these realities, it is my prayer that we would leave here today trusting more fully in God's provision, relying more freely on God's power, and depending more fearlessly on God's presence as we give ourselves to the advancement of his kingdom on the earth.
- First reality I want us to reflect on this morning...

1. Our God's Provision (114:1-2)

- [1-2]: God provided salvation for his people in order to dwell with them and establish his kingdom among them.
- God's salvation was provided for a particular people for a particular purpose.
- **God's salvation was provided for a particular people.**
- (1-2): Three different designations to describe the people who are the recipients of God's salvation.
- Not three different groups of people, but rather one group of people described in three different ways to emphasize the whole people of God are in view.
- (1): Setting; People of God slaves in Egypt among a people of strange language.
- God promised this slavery to Abraham in Gen. 15
- He told him that his offspring would be sojourners and slaves in a land that was not theirs for four hundred years.
- God also promised salvation to Abraham in Gen. 15.
- He promised to bring judgment on the nation they served and deliver them from their slavery.
- The people of Israel eventually cried out to God for help.
- God heard their groaning and remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and with Jacob (Ex. 2:23-25).
- God then raised up Moses to send him to Pharaoh to bring his people out of Egypt.
- And God brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand and outstretched arm.
- God's salvation was provided for a particular people.
- **God's salvation was provided for a particular purpose.**
- (2): what happened after the people of God were delivered from their slavery in Egypt.
- They became the place where he dwelled on earth (2a).

- They became a place where he ruled on earth (2b).
- Idea present in Exodus 19:5-6: treasured possession; kingdom of priests; holy nation
- Represented the responsibility inherent in promise to Abraham in Gen. 12:2-3.
- He blessed them so that they could be a blessing to others.
- He delivered the people of Israel so that they could display his glory among all the peoples.
- God provided salvation to a particular people so that they could fulfill a particular purpose.
- Second reality I want us to reflect on this morning...

2. Our God's Power (114:3-6).

- [3-6]: what happened after God delivered his people and they became the place where he dwelled and ruled: God's power put on display
- God's power is unlimited and undeniable.
- **God's power is unlimited (3-4).**
- In verses 3-4, the psalmist personifies nature as being terrified and fleeing as God leads his people through the wilderness and into the Promised Land.
- In each, God's power is put on display as he moves the immovable, and each natural feature does what is contrary to its nature.
- The flowing sea and river stand still; the stable mountains and hills shake.
- In this the psalmist is showing us that there is no limit to God's power. It is unlimited.
- **God's power is undeniable (5-6).**
- In verses 5-6 the psalmist seeks an explanation from nature as to why it responded the way that it did by asking a series of rhetorical questions
- The psalmist wanted nature itself to bear witness to God's undeniable power.
- Who else could cause the sea to flee, the Jordan to turn back, the mountains to skip like rams, and the hills like lambs?
- Nature is God's creation that serves his purposes and displays his unlimited and undeniable power.
- And don't miss this...this unlimited and undeniable power was made available to the people of God. It was exercised on their behalf, for their good and God's glory as God led his people through the wilderness and into the Promised Land.
- Third reality I want us to reflect on this morning...

3. Our God's Presence (114:7-8).

- [7-8]: The Psalmist answers the questions he asked in verses 5-6.
- What is it that caused the waters to flee and the mountains and hills to shake?
- God's presence with his people as he was advancing his kingdom on the earth.
- This is clear in verse 7 as the psalmist commands the whole earth to tremble at the presence of the Lord with his people.
- **He is the Sovereign King whose presence is terrifying.**
- Title "Lord" used to highlight God's majesty and power

- He is the Sovereign Lord who rules over the universe.
- And his presence with his people is terrifying.
- In fact, so terrifying that the whole earth is commanded to tremble.
- **He is the Savior King whose provision is satisfying.**
- He is the God of Jacob. This title takes us back to verse 1, identifying this God as the Savior King who delivered and dwells with his lowly people.
- Not only does he deliver and dwell with them, but he provides for them as well.
- He is the God who turns the rock into a pool of water and the flint into a spring of water.
- This is a reference to Ex. 17 and Num. 20.
- And he didn't just turn the rock into a pool of water, he actually turned a "hard rock" into a "spring" of water that was flowing abundantly, making it clear that
- His provision for his people is satisfying.
- Present tense participle at the beginning of verse 8 to make it clear that the same God who provided for his people in the wilderness as he was advancing his kingdom in the world still provides for his people today as he is advancing his kingdom in the world.
- He is not the God who "turned" the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water; He is the God who "turns" the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.
- 1 Cor. 10:4: Rock that the people of Israel drank from in the wilderness as Christ.
- With most of them God was not pleased, and they were overthrown in the wilderness.
- They were idolaters, they indulged in sexual immorality, they put Christ to the test, and they grumbled.
- They were quick to doubt and deny God's provision, power, and presence, and as a result they did not succeed in the task of advancing God's kingdom in the world.
- But its not as though God's word has failed.
- God's plan has not been thwarted.
- He has provided salvation for his people through his Son.
- The eternal Son of God left the glories of heaven to establish God's kingdom on the earth.
- Instead of initially coming as a King, he came as a servant.
- Rev. 5: 9-10: Jesus has provided salvation for a particular people for a particular purpose.
- His blood ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation for the purpose of making them a kingdom of priests to their God.
- Jesus will come again, but his time he will return as the King to judge the living and dead.
- And if you are here today, and you have responded to this good news through repentance and faith, then you are included in this particular people and have been given this particular purpose on this earth.
- You have been saved to make God's salvation known.
- You have been delivered to display God's glory in the world.
- He makes his power available to his people, and is present with his people through his Spirit.
- The same power that parted the Red Sea and Jordan River, that caused the mountains and hills to shake, and that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us.
- What seemingly insurmountable object stands in your way to keep you from fulfilling the call that God has given you?

- God's power is available to you, and God is present with you.
- So, if I were to ask you if God was pleased with the way you are displaying his power and presence in your life, what would you say? Would he be pleased?
- Or would he want to overturn you in the wilderness just like he did the people of Israel?
- God has provided salvation for you so that you can be a visible display of his power and presence to others.
- Are you allowing him to do this? The fruit of your life will tell you.
- Are you trusting in God's provision, relying on God's power, and depending on his presence?
- For those not apart of the people of God...
 - Jesus wants to set you free from your sin to serve him.
 - He has done everything necessary to make this happen.
 - He lived a sinless life, died a sinners death, defeated sins power in his resurrection, and will destroy sin completely in his return.
 - All you have to do is turn away from trusting in yourself and put your faith in Christ and you can be saved from your sin and set free to serve God.
 - Repent and believe this good news and allow God to display his power and presence through you as he advances his kingdom on the earth.
- For those who are apart of the people of God...
 - Trust more fully in God's provision (we are tempted to turn away just like Israel)
 - Rely more freely on God's power (power made perfect in our weakness)
 - Depend more fearlessly on God's presence (Do not be afraid; I will be with you)
- The church has a unique message, mission, and ministry because we have a unique God who has delivered us and dwells with us in order to make his power and presence known in all the earth.
- So let's consider our unique identity as the people of God, and give ourselves to the unique privilege of tapping into his power and enjoying his presence as we make his glory known in all the earth.