Psalm 99

A·do·nai ma·lach yir·g'zu a·mim; yo·sheiv k'ru·vim ta·nut ha·a·retz. A·do·nai b'Tzi·yon ga·dol, v'ram hu al kol ha·a·mim. Yo·du shim·cha, ga·dol v'no·ra ka·dosh hu, V'oz me·lech mish·pat a·heiv. A·tah ko·nan·ta mei·sha·rim. Mish·pat u·tz'da·kah b'Ya·a·kov A·tah a·si·ta.

Ro-m'mu A·do-nai E·lo-hei-nu v'hish-ta-cha-vu la-ha-dom rag-lav ka-dosh hu.

Mo-sheh v'A-ha-ron b'cho-ha-nav u-Sh'mu-eil be-kor-ei sh'mo.

Ko-r'im el A·do-nai v'hu ya-a-neim.

B'a-mud a-nan y'da-beir a-lei-hem.

Sham-ru ei-do-tav v'chok na-tan la-mo.

A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu A-tah a-ni-tam.

Eil no-sei ha-yi-ta la-hem,
v'no-keim al a-li-lo-tam.

❖ Ro·m'mu A·do·nai E·lo·hei·nu v'hish·ta·cha·vu l'har kod·sho ki ka·dosh A·do·nai E·lo·hei·nu. יְיָ מְלָךְ יִרְגִּזוּ עַמִּים ישֵׁב כְּרוּבִים תָּנוּט הָאָבֶץ: יְיָ בְּצִיּוֹן גָּדוֹל יְרָם הוּא עַל כָּל הָעַמִּים: יוֹדוּ שִׁמְךְ, גָּדוֹל וְנוֹרָא קָדוֹש הוּא, וְעֹז מֶלֶךְ מִשְׁפָּט אָהַב: אַתָּה כּוֹנֵנְתָּ מֵישָׁרִים: מִשְׁפָּט וּצְדָקָה מְשִׁפָּט וּצְדָקָה בְיַעֵּקב אַתָּה עָשִׂיתָ:

רוֹמְמוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוּ לַהֲדם רַגְלָיו קְדוֹש הוּא: מֹשֶׁה וְאַהְרֹן בְּכֹהֲנָיו וּשְׁמוּאֵל בְּלְרָאִי שְׁמוֹ לִוֹרְאִים אֶל יְיָ וְהוּא יַעֲנֵם: בְּעַמוּד עָנָן יְדַבֵּר אֲלֵיהֶם שְׁמְרוּ עֵדתִיו וְחֹק נָתַן לָמוֹ: יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ אַתָּה עֲנִיתָם אֵל נשׁא הָיִית לָהֶם וְנֹקֵם על עלילוֹתם:

לוֹמְמוּ יִיָּ אֱלֹהֵינוּוְהִשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ לְהַר קְדְשׁוֹבִּי קָדושׁוֹ יִיְ אֱלֹהֵינוּ:

Psalm 99

Adonai rules, peoples tremble;
God is enthroned on the cherubim, the earth quakes.
Adonai in Zion is great,
high is God over all the peoples.
Let them praise Your Name,
great and awesome, holy it is,
and the power of the Ruler who loves justice.
You have established uprightness.
Justly and righteously
with Ya'akov You Yourself have dealt.

Exalt Adonai our God, bow down at the footstool of God's feet; holy is God.

Moses and Aaron among God's priests, and Samuel among those who call out The Name, call out to Adonai, and You, God, answer them. In a pillar of cloud, You, God, speak to them.

They kept Your testimonies, the law You gave them. Adonai our God, You Yourself answered them.

You were a forgiving God for them, but a punisher of their misdeeds. 1

Exalt Adonai, our God, bow down at The Holy Mountain, for Adonai, our God, is holy. Psalm 99 continues the theme of God's majesty, ruling the world in justice and righteousness from on high. God is above the winged cherubim (angels) atop the Aron (Ark) housing the Two Tablets of the Law that the Jewish people carried through the desert and into the Promised Land. (See Exodus 25:18-22.)

God was faithful and forgiving to our ancestors Moses, Aaron, and Samuel, and answered their prayers because they kept the laws that God gave them. We ask that God show us the same compassion, for we too sense God's holiness when we sing God's praises.

1 Moses and Aaron were punished for their role in the incident of the waters of Merivah (Numbers 20:1-14); they were forbidden to enter the Land of Israel. Samuel was punished for not bringing up his sons in the proper way. Some interpret, with regard to Moses and Aaron, that God punished their opponents as in the incident with Korach and his followers.