

THE MAJESTY OF GOD AND OF CHRIST

Psalm 93

Intro: This Psalm begins with one of the grandest, one of the most powerful, and most encouraging statements in all of Scripture: “the Lord reigneth.” It is a truth which, as verse 2 tells us “is established of old,” and has been true of the Lord “from everlasting.” So it extends from eternity past, all through the years of time, and all through eternity to come when time no longer exists. It establishes the sovereignty of the Lord, Jehovah eternally. There is none greater than the Lord in power. All angels and men are under His sovereign power. And this applies to all Three Persons of the Godhead – God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Now I want you to see where this statement, “the Lord reigneth,” appears in the Bible. And we don’t have to go very far from Psalm 93 to see most of them.

In Psalm 96:10 we come to the first one after Psalm 93:1. In Psalm 96:10 we find the next appearance of this statement, and it leads down to Psalm 97:1 where we find the third time this statement is used here in the Psalms. I want to read this section from verse 7 of Psalm 96 down through the first verse of Psalm 97, and then let me add to it the last verse of Psalm 97 because it continues the emphasis that this subject is to provoke great joy. (Read Psalm 96:7-97:1 and 12.)

And then the last verse in the Psalms which contains that statement is the first verse of Psalm 99. (Read Psa. 99:1.)

The only other time in the Psalms that we have anything similar to these verses is in Psalm 47:8. Reading verses 6 and 7 with it, this is what that passage tells us:

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

7 For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.

8 God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness (Psa. 47:6-8).

But I want to add one more passage to these. The first time that the words, “the Lord reigneth,” is in 1 Chronicles 16:31. If you let your eye

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run down through the verses of 1 Chronicles 16, you will say to yourself this chapter reads like it is taken from the Psalms. In fact, if you have marginal references down the middle of the pages of your Bible (or perhaps along the outside of the pages, you will see that:

- 1) Verses 8 through 22 are found in Psalm 105:1-15,
- 2) Verses 23 through 33 are found in Psalm 96:1-13.
- 3) Verse 34 is the first verse of Psalm 136.
- 4) Verses 35 and 36 are found in Psalm 106:47-48 with some slight variations.

The part of 1 Chronicles 16 that should be of interest to us this morning is the second part where verses 23 through 33 are repeated at the beginning of Psalm 96. And I am thinking of 1 Chronicles 16:31 where we have our statement, “the Lord reigneth.”

Now in Psalm 93 which we are considering this morning, we are not told who wrote it. The same is true of Psalms 94 through 97. But it seems to me that when we can trace the whole of Psalm 96 back to 1 Chronicles 16 where we have this long Psalm of David, that it is very likely that it is to David that we can trace this expression.

What was the occasion for such rejoicing as we read about in 1 Chronicles 16? It was when under David’s rule the ark was finally brought back to Jerusalem. They had tried to bring it back from Kir-jath-jearim, but they did not use the Levites to do it. When the oxen pulling the cart that carried the ark, stumbled, a man by the name of Uzza put out his hand to steady the ark, and because he touched the ark which none but the Levites could do, the Lord struck him dead. Consequently they left the ark in the home of Obed-edom for three months, and the Lord blessed his house and all that he had. The ark was the place where the Lord dwelt among His people.

The ark remained in the house of Obed-edom for three months (see 1 Chron. 13:14). In the Psalm in 1 Chronicles 16 they were celebrating the return of the ark to Zion in Jerusalem. But the Psalm in 1 Chronicles 16 where we first find the expression, “the Lord reigneth,” shows this great truth and how important it was to the Lord that His people understand that things had to be done God’s way, not just any way that they might choose.

It is important that we all learn to live under the authority of the Lord. We must do His work in His way, and our lives are to be lived in submis-

sion to His will. This is an important factor that is being overlooked by many of the Lord's people. It is not enough for us to be sincere in what we do; we must be sincerely right! And the Lord has given us His Word to show us how we are to live, first of all, and then how we are to serve Him. If we would seek to find authority in Scripture for all that is being done today, presumably, as the work of the Lord, major changes would take place in our service.

Now let us go back to Psalm 93 which brought on our examination of this most important statement of Biblical truth: "the Lord reigneth." Most people do not even know this, but what is even worse is that many people know this but pay very little, if any, attention to it.

Now if the Lord reigns (and He certainly does), this means that He is a King. In fact, He is *the* King of the universe. And kings can usually be distinguished by what they wear. He is the one and only true and eternal King. He exercises authority over all that is in heaven, and all that is on earth and in the heavens that surround the earth. "He is clothed with Majesty" and "with strength." Sovereigns here on earth are addressed as, "your Majesty." But there is a majesty, a glory, and a power, a strength" that is above and unique among all other kings. In the very way that the Bible begins we see the majesty and power of the Lord when we read, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). Even when we read through the Bible we read about many great and wonderful people, great kings who ruled over many nations and large areas of territory, but when we read about the Lord we read of One Who is infinitely more glorious and infinitely powerful than all other kings and rulers that the world has had. He existed long before they did, and He has continued on long after they were dead and buried. He is without beginning and without ending and without change. What He is today, He always has been, and always will be. He never needs to learn because there isn't anything that He doesn't know. If we want to know more about the Majesty and the power of God, we need to read and re-read the Bible. All that God intends for us to know about Himself, He has revealed in Scripture, and in His Son. The Apostle John in writing about our Lord in the Gospel book which bears his name, said of Christ,

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

Creation itself reveals the glory of God, as we learn from Psalm 19. The

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heavens declare His glory. The reason that people don't see His glory in nature, is because they are spiritually blind.

Verse 2 is a further confirmation of what is stated in verse 1. The Lord is eternal. His throne has been established from eternity. Only in the Bible do we learn the truth of these great facts.

The Bible tells us, and so does true history, that there have been many sovereigns who have ignored this truth, "the Lord reigns." Or they have contested it. Think of Pharaoh in the days of Moses. Think of Nebuchadnezzar. Cf. Daniel 4. And others are trying to do it today.

But now what point was the Psalmist making in verses 3 and 4 when he spoke of the floods. We know from Genesis 1 that originally this earth was covered with water. God made it that way. But then on that week of creation, He separated the waters which were above the firmament from the waters which were under the firmament, and dry land appeared. Everything about creation was miraculous and revealed both the wisdom and the power of God.

Of all of the powers that are evident in creation, water is among the greatest. One possible explanation of verse 3 and 4 is that the Lord is thinking about God's power versus the power of water which men cannot control, and He wants us to know that as great as the power of water is, God's power is even greater. In fact, He is the One Who controls the water. On one occasion, early in human history, man had become so corrupted that God destroyed every living creature on the earth *by floods of water* except for eight human beings and the living creatures which Noah at the command of the Lord took with him into the ark. Time and time again water has caused death and destruction. But "the Lord on high is mightier than the voice of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. What person who lives along the oceanside has not been made to fear when the word *tsunami* is mentioned.

What a helpless feeling grips the hearts of men when we are warned of heavy rains, hurricanes, and the like! There isn't anything that man can do to stop rain storms anywhere on land. Water is one of our greatest needs, but it can also be one of our greatest enemies. Barricades of various kinds have been built along the seashore to protect homes and property, and to save lives. But do you know the kind of a barricade that God has set up to protect us twenty-four hours of every day along the

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shores of the world from the destruction that the sea can cause? Many years ago I ran across a verse in the prophecy of Jeremiah which made me think in a different way about the ocean waves. It is in chapter 5 and verse 22 of Jeremiah. Listen to what it tell us. Jeremiah was dealing with the question as to why more people do not fear the Lord, and this is what he said:

22 Fear ye not me? saith the Lord: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? (Jer. 5:22).

What man could never do with any or all of the tools we have in hand, the Lord does with *sand*! Think of that! According to the Word of God, if it were not for the sand which the Lord has place on the shores of the world, none of us would be here today. Let those questions sink into your mind, and cause you to think. It is not that God can do it, but the point that Jeremiah was making is that God not only can do it, but He is doing it, doing it every day throughout the whole world. Oh, the greatness, the majesty, the power and mercy of God!

So that could be one reason that the Psalmist spoke of the majesty and power of God.

But I have another idea from Scripture. I know another danger that you and I face which the waters of the ocean especially should make us remember. And this thought comes from the prophecy of Isaiah. And you will find it in chapter 57, verses 20 and 21. Here it is:

20 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

21 There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked (Isa. 57:20-21).

Let me ask you a couple of questions that are raised by these verses. First, have you ever been down to the Oregon coast when no waves have been coming up on the beach? The Bible says that the troubled sea is troubled because it cannot rest. The waves may be bigger and stronger some days than they are at other days, but they are always coming. The sea cannot rest. It does not have that ability.

My second question is, Have you ever tried to stop a wave? I am quite sure that you haven't because you know that it would not do any good. The sea is always agitated, and the Spirit of God used this to teach, Isaiah and all of us, a lesson. As beautiful as the Pacific Ocean is, it is a picture

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God has given us of this world and the people of this world. It is restless, and it is morally bad. And there is no peace, real peace, in this world. In order to stop the waves from rolling in, and to keep them from casting up mire and dirt, you would have to change the whole make up of the ocean, change its nature, so to speak. Just as the waves of the sea are mighty, so is the power of sin. You and I are as powerless to change our sinful hearts and sinful ways, as the ocean can change its restless condition and its ability to cast up mire and dirt. I know that God could change the nature of the ocean, and He is the only One Who can. And only God can change us. And He changes us when we realize that sin is what has defiled us, and sin is keeping us from experiencing real peace, peace with God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

But I don't want to finish without giving a word of warning to those of us who have trusted in Jesus Christ for our salvation. We still live in this world of sin, and it presents daily temptations to us to be like the world and to do what people do in the world who do not know our Savior.

Look at verse 5 of our Psalm. The purpose of God in our salvation is to make us holy, holy like God Himself is. And for those of us who are trusting in Christ, that which we need to keep us from sin are "God's testimonies." And where are they? God's testimonies is another name for your Bible. In Psalm 119:11 the Psalmist wrote under the direction of God, the Holy Spirit, as a message to us: "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee."

Concl: Oh, how thankful I am for those three words: "The Lord reigneth." David could read this and know that it was true for him in his day. You and I can read it today, and know that it is true for us too: "The Lord reigneth." But let me also remind you that there is a future meaning to this. Some day the Lord Jesus is going to reign upon the earth. And then the whole world will know the truth of these three words. He always has been reigning. He is reigning in this world now. And yet the day is coming when He will reign on earth in Person as King of kings, and Lord of lords. We read in Revelation 11:15:

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.