

The Lord Reigns in Holiness
Psalm 93
November 21, 2021

We look at the world and we see all sorts of leaders. We see so many who reign in their own little part of the world and we wonder where their minds are when it comes to the people they are supposed to take care of, those the Lord has given them to rule over in such a way that they are treated as their works deserve.

We see how leaders reign over their people and see how many leaders do those things to force their subjects to do their will instead of what is good for the nation they are ruling. Yes, the Lord has certain people in power to get the nation the authorities to move that nation toward Him in the long run but as we know, it is in His time which to us, many times, may not be as fast as we might like.

We always need to keep in mind that it is the Lord who reigns in majesty, He is robed with a belt of strength. The world He establishes shall never be moved. He is the King. His kingdom is all of creation. There is nothing greater than He.

We have all sorts of destructive forces in the world but the Lord reigns even over all of them, hurricanes, tornados, floods, droughts, hail storms, earthquakes and yes, even over those who think they have the power and abuse it for their own benefit in this world.

We, knowing who the Lord is, know that all the power of creation that does so much destruction is nothing to God as it is He who created it all. Yes, He created it perfectly but there is that one act that changed it all. That act in the garden of taking from that tree, just that one act, changed it all. Yes, sin, from the very beginning had power to change things, even the whole world.

The Lord established the world and as long as it is around it will stand. In its standing though, it is affected by sin, sin that seeks to destroy what God has made. There is all sorts of talk of how the climate can somehow be changed for the better by mankind and yet even though it was mankind who brought sin into the world, to think that man has the power to change the climate as if he is in control, is just wishful thinking. The world is not going to be destroyed by mankind. Yes, mankind may make it more unlivable but to bring it to an end may be a little far fetched.

Yes, with the destruction of man made bombs, the earth is vulnerable, but even if they were to be used, life will go on as the Lord promised. It will continue on until that day when Jesus will come again, as He left, this time to judge the world and all that is in

it. It will be with that belt of power, that He will destroy this sin tainted creation and will create a new heaven and earth, one where sin will be no more.

Based on science, this world will end eventually. Yes, the sun will go dark and it will all wind down to where there will be no more life. Every thing goes from a state of order to disorder if no outside force or intelligence acts upon it. On its own, it will deteriorate.

Before that happens, Jesus will come again. We look forward to that and yet we wake up each day, looking to the Lord wondering what is going to go on this day and in the future as we wonder what the Lord is going to do and when He is going to do it.

So many questions go through our minds, wondering how what we are going through is going to end. We may think it isn't going to end well and yet in our lives, who is it that is reigning? It is the Lord. He has the power to have His will done in spite of what is going on around you.

Isn't that a comfort for you? When all around you seems to be falling apart, all you have to do is to look to Him. He is watching over you. He is with you as you deal with all the trials and tribulations you have to deal with on a daily basis.

The actions of creation and those in creation may be like thunder, may seem overwhelming in the day to day and may cause all sorts of destruction for the lives of people and for the things mankind has made and yet are you to turn your back on God who made it all blaming Him since He created it all? No, we need to remember that with the destruction that comes about is because of sin, sin that did not win.

Jesus went to that cross for sin, all sin. He went there and died, suffering for the sins of the world as well as then rising from that grave the first of all who would rise bodily to reign forever. He did that so that you and I and all could rise on that last day that gets closer and closer every day.

It is by His belt of power, His strength that we will live even after these bodies are dead and gone. These bodies may return to dust but they will awake to eternal life in a glorified body that will live forever with Him. That is what we are looking forward to as we go about each day. We look forward to better day even as we enjoy the good of today and mourn the evil that seems to always come, if not to us, to others in our lives.

What He has for you and everyone is a holy reign. It means that everything He does is right for what He wants done. It doesn't mean we should just sit back and take it though, no, it means as you go about life, He is there for you as you go through your life to uplift you in spite of what you may be going through.

Do you go through life with questions as to what is going on in the world and how it affects your world? You care about the world you live in and the world that those you care about live in or will live in after you are taken to be with Him. You are not feeling anything different than many before you. You don't know what is going to happen or how a person will deal with it all. It is normal as it was for those in the past that thought it couldn't get much worse and yet, here we are.

You know who is in control. He reigns in holiness directing lives and situations for His benefit in the end. He is all about the end game but until then He reigns, not with a sinful human in power but as the all powerful God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit to bring many to Him for their great glory when this world of sin and its affects has had its last stand against Him.

We don't know when the devil and his angels went against God. We know it had to be after day seven. On that day He rested from creating and it was all perfect, created perfectly to continue on day after day in that perfection. Then sometime after that seventh day the devil went up against the God who created him and his demons. We don't know what went through his mind that he thought he could go up against his creator but he did and took with him many more who have caused so many problems with the pinnacle of God's creation.

The conquered devil is still around, tempting people to follow him and turn from their creator. He is fairly successful as he was with the first two humans. He tries to have his will done, the desire to have humans turn against God who loves them and wants the best for them in spite of the challenges they have with sin and its effects on them and on those in their lives and in all of creation that all live in.

We look around and we might get the idea that he is winning and far too often he seems to be winning in each of you, getting you to turn to self and not to your neighbor.

The Lord has given you life through the water and the Word. The Lord has been lifted up on the cross for the destructive powers of sin and has given you life, life challenged in this world but a life that will continue on forever, even though there will be a time of separation from your body until it is raised in glory on the last day for this world.

The Lord reigns now and forever. He reigns and is coming again like the landowner who went away and left his vineyard to a group who was to take care of it. He is expecting a harvest when He comes again. He expected it but as you know those given charge over his vineyard thought they could keep it all for themselves. He sent

Jesus, His Son to get what was His and they killed Him. Does He expect something from those He left after He rose from the grave and ascended to heaven? We would think He would.

We may wish He would come back while we are still around but if He did, would He find a productive people, people eager to let others He puts in our lives know of something different than what they have been experiencing? They may have a view of what it means to be a Christian but might they get to know you and find out something different? Might they see something missing in themselves, something they want, even though they might not know what they would do with it even if they got it.

A king that rules over his kingdom expects his subjects to come through with some taxes. Yes, in order for him to protect them and provide what is needed for their welfare, it requires men to keep his army filled to take on outside enemies and money and goods to feed that army and his other workers.

Our Lord is different. He doesn't require taxes but a thankful heart, one that is so thankful it will even submit to death to never reject Him. How thankful are you? Would you stand if you were put in a position where you either reject Him or you die? Would the Holy Spirit give you the courage to stand and face death or even torture?

Christians in this nation really haven't had it as bad as many others. We have been blessed, yes, some more than others like Jesus said "The poor you will always have with you." Yet who is it that finds it easier to believe than others? It is the poor isn't it. For it is as hard for the rich to believe as it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, Jesus said.

Not everyone will have their interest piqued. No, the devil the world and their own sinful nature will stand in the way but you have with you the Holy Spirit to intervene. He has put on strength in His belt. The Triune God established this world. He established it and reigns with trustworthy decrees. His reign is a holy one, not showing preference to anyone no matter who they are.

If the Lord reigns as the Psalmist says, and you are one of His subjects as a Christian, what, as the ruler is He prepared to do for you? He said He would "never leave you or forsake you." With that promise how are you to live out your life in Him?