

INTRODUCTION: THE LORD REIGNS! REJOICE! (Ps97:1f; see 93:1; 96:10; 99:1; 1Chr16:31; Rev19:6,7)

I. GOD RULES OVER ALL! (Ps.47:2,8; 103:19)

A. OVER CREATION THROUGH MAN (Gen.1:26f; Ps.8:6(Heb.2:5f); see Eph.1:22; Col.1:15f; Dan.2:44f; 7:13f (Mt.26:64))

B. OVER PROVIDENCE THROUGH GOVERNMENTS (Gen.2:18f; Col.3:18-4:1; 1Pt.2:13f,18f; 3:1f; note: 2:18; 3:1; see Eph.5:23; 1Cor.11:3)

C. OVER REDEMPTION THROUGH THE CHURCH (1Pt.5:1f; see 1Tm.3:1f; Heb.13:17)

II. GOD RULES OVER CIVIL GOVERNMENTS (Rom.13:1f; 1Pt.2:13f; Prov.21:1; Dan.4:17,25,32; 5:21; see Dt.27:12,13; 30:1; Ps.107:33,34/35,36)

A. TO JUSTLY DISCIPLINE HIS UNREPENTANT CHILDREN (promsd *curse*; Dt30:1f; 27:15f; 28:15f;Hb12:5f)

1. Nations (Jdgs.2:11f; 19f; 3:7f, etc.!; e.g., Philistines; 1Sam.4:1f, etc.!)

2. Assyriacs (Is.10:5f)

3. Babylonians (Jer.51:20f; see 2Chr.36:17,15f)

B. TO GRACIOUSLY BLESS HIS REPENTANT CHILDREN (promised *blessing*; Dt.30:1; 28:1f; see Eph.6:3)

1. Judges (Jdgs.2:18f; 3:9f, etc.!; 1Sam.7:3f; 8:5f; 16:14f)

2. Babylonians (Is.10:12f; see Jer.50:23,17f; 51:20)

3. Persians (Jer.51:11f,28; see Is.44:28; 45:1; Dan.5:28f; 2Chr.36:22f(Ezra, Nehemiah); see Rev.19-22; 2Th.2:8a/b)

C. OBSERVATIONS

1. ordinarily governed by *foreign* nations (see 1Pt.2:11f,13f; see 1Cor.1:26)

2. deliverers sometimes *become* oppressors (e.g., *Egypt*; Ex.1:8=Acts 7:15f; *Babylon*; B2 and A3 above)

III. THE LORD REIGNS! REJOICE! (Ps.97:1; Rev.19:6,7)

A. WHOEVER WINS ELECTIONS, THE LORD REIGNS, THEREFORE REJOICE! (Ps.97:1f; see 93:1; 96:10; 99:1; 1Chr.16:31; Rev.19:6,7)

B. DO NOT TRUST IN GOVERNMENT, NEITHER BY HOPE NOR BY DESPAIR! (Ps.20:7; 118:9; 146:3; see Rom.1:23; Is.30:1f; 31:1f; see Is.8:11f)

C. PRAY FOR YOUR LEADERS WITH FAITH AND HOPE IN GOD! (Rom.13:1f; 1Tm.2:1f; see Phil.4:6,7; see Dan.2:18f; 6:10(18); 9:2,3f)

D. REPENT & PRAY FOR LEADERS WHO ARE GODLY, GIFTED AND GOOD (Acts 13:22; Dt.30:1f; Jdgs.2:14f/18f; see Ps.75:7; Dan.2:21; 4:17)

E. BE FAITHFUL IN YOUR OWN LIFE AND CALLINGS (Rom.12:1f; 13:1f)

F. DO GOOD WELL, AS BEST AS YOU KNOW HOW (Ps.34:14; 37:3; *Lk.6:9,27f*; *Gal.6:9,10*; 1Tm.6:18; 1Pt.3:11; see 1Cor.10:31; Rom.14:3f)