

“The Lord Reigns”
Psalm 93
(Preached at Trinity, January 22, 2012)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we open up **Psalm 93** we find a lack of information. No authorship, no hint of context. And yet, it contains the infinite. **Psalm 93** opens with the greatest declaration that can come from the lips of any human being. It is recognition of God’s rightful place in the universe—that He reigns supreme over all things. More important for the believer, it is an expression of God’s rightful place in his personal life. “The Lord Reigns”
2. Psalms 93-100 belong together with a common theme: The kingly rule of God. We actually see this great declaration four times in this group of psalms.
Psalm 93:1 KJV - "The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty"
Psalm 96:10 KJV - "Say among the heathen *that* the LORD reigneth"
Psalm 97:1 KJV - "The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice"
Psalm 99:1 KJV - "The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble"
3. The author is not given. It could be any one of God’s people. They all see Him as Lord and King. It remains at this present time the mark of Christian conversion.
Romans 10:9 NAS - "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;"
Romans 10:13 NAS - "Whoever will call upon the name of the LORD will be saved."
Although the author is not clearly stated most believe the likely author is King David.
4. At the very heart of this passage is the sovereignty of God. The truth that rings forth in this series of psalms is God’s right and God’s power to rule over His creation.
6. As I unfold this short psalm before you I’ll divide it into three parts:
 - I. The King Declared – **Verses 1-2**
 - II. All Disorder Defeated – **Verses 3-4**
 - III. God’s Holiness Demanded – **Verse 5**
- I. The King Declared – **Verses 1-2**
 - A. The declaration of God’s sovereignty is said most simply: “The Lord Reigns”
 1. If you could encompass all of theology into one phrase this would be it
In other words, all of creation falls beneath His feet. God has supreme authority over all things.
 2. He rules over things seen and unseen. He rules over all the angelic realm. He rules over every molecule in the universe. God’s will is brought to bear over all things. He rules over nations, over individuals, over time and history. Every event unfolds by His eternal decree.
Daniel 4:35 KJV - "And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"

Isaiah 46:9-10 KJV - "Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else; *I am* God, and *there is* none like me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"

Isaiah 45:5-7 NAU - "I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; ⁶ That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, ⁷ The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these."

3. These verses tell us that there is nothing that is out from under God's all encompassing rule. The so-called laws of nature are ordained by God. All of the details of life are ordained by God.
 - a. **Romans 8:28** tells us several things about God's overarching sovereignty. He has a purpose. We are a part of that purpose. All things are under His sovereign control. He is working these things for our good.
 - b. God has ordained all things. Some would presume that God has no control over the events of life but runs around making the best out of bad situations.
 - c. Joseph revealed to his brothers that God's purpose was being fulfilled through their actions which He had ordained.
Genesis 50:20 KJV - "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive."
 - d. God uses the sinful hearts and sinful plans of men to accomplish His good purposes. Judas Iscariot betrayed Christ in an evil deed that goes down in infamy, yet God ordained it. But the sin is entirely Judas'. God ordained it that His elect might be saved.
Proverbs 16:9 KJV - "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."
 - e. The twin towers fell according to God's foreordained plan.
4. All of God's purposes ultimately have one goal and one purpose: To display the glory of Christ. God ordered the fall to display Christ. All of the covenants display Christ. The great desire of your life should be to display Christ.
Colossians 1:19 KJV - "For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;"
5. Many have problems with such all encompassing dominion. There is a new book - *Against Calvinism* - Copyright © 2011 by Roger E. Olson, the companion book to Michael Horton's book: *For Calvinism*. "I believe someone needs finally to stand up and in love firmly say "No!" to egregious statements about God's sovereignty often made by Calvinists. Taken to their logical conclusion, that even hell and all who will suffer there eternally are foreordained by God, God is thereby rendered morally ambiguous at best and a moral monster at worst. I have gone so far as to say that this kind of Calvinism, which attributes everything to God's will and control, makes it difficult (at least for me) to see the difference

between God and the devil. Some of my Calvinist friends have expressed offense at that, but I continue to believe it is a valid question worth pursuing. What I mean is that if I were a Calvinist and believed what these people teach, I would have difficulty telling the difference between God and Satan.

5. These charges come from the common belief that all the good things that happen come from God and all the bad things that happen are the works of Satan. God rules over Satan!

B. The nature of this great King is described

1. He is clothed in majesty – **Verse 1**
 - a. His majesty is described as a garment - “clothed”– it covers Him. Majesty describes His essence.
 - b. Majesty describes grandeur. But God’s majesty is infinite. He is surrounded by brilliance – light indescribable, light incomparable, light unapproachable.
2. He is also clothed with Might - "clothed with strength"
 - a. The text describes His power as both a part of His essence as well as something He claims for Himself - "he hath girded himself:"
 - b. God’s majesty is not merely show. It is a majesty of power – of absolute sovereign power.

C. His sovereign power is demonstrated in creation

"the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved."

1. This demonstrates absolute power. What God establishes it cannot be moved excepted by God’s command?
2. Are you not amazed at God’s sustaining power. All things continue at His command.

Colossians 1:16-17 KJV - "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

Colossians 1:17 NAS - "and in Him all things hold together."

2 Peter 3:10 KJV - " But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." λύω

2. Doesn’t this also give God’s people great comfort.
God is the ruler of this world. It may seem at times that the very foundation of our life is being shaken, yet under the mighty hand of God every detail of our life is firmly established. The Psalms present this truth over and over.

Psalms 16:8 KJV - " I have set the LORD always before me: because *he is* at my right hand, I shall not be moved."

Psalms 55:22 KJV - " Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

Psalms 62:6 KJV - "He only *is* my rock and my salvation: *he is* my defence; I shall not be moved."

Psalm 121:2-3 KJV - "My help *cometh* from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. ³ He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber."

- D. It is an everlasting throne established in eternity
Psalm 93:2 KJV - "Thy throne *is* established of old: thou *art* from everlasting."
Psalm 90:2 KJV - "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God."
 1. God is immutable. He is the same from age to age.
 2. Everything in this world is in a state of change – God alone is unchanging. He alone is from everlasting.

II. All Disorder Defeated – Verses 3-4

- A. The psalmist describes a great tumult
Psalm 93:3 KJV - "The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves."
 1. The sea is often given as a metaphor of upheaval and disorder. There is a relentless pounding of the waves as if trying to escape the prison of the boundaries of the sea. Yet our God reigns.
Psalm 89:9 KJV - "Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them."
 2. It is a perfect description of lost humanity in one accord seeking to overthrow God's rule
Psalm 2:1-3 KJV - "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, ³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."
Isaiah 57:20 KJV - " But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest"
 3. Lost humanity continues to kick against the Law of God like the relentless pounding of the ocean waves.
 It is like the chaos that existed before God brought all things to order.
Genesis 1:2 KJV - "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep."
 תהוֹ וְחָשֶׁךְ – literally it describes nothingness, confusion, a great empty wasteland.
- B. God is mightier than all who rise up in opposition to His reign
Psalm 93:4 KJV - "The LORD on high *is* mightier than the noise of many waters, *yea*, *than* the mighty waves of the sea."
Psalm 2:4-5 KJV - "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. ⁵ Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure."
 1. God is able to bring order out of disorder
 2. He did it at creation. He will repeat it in the final redemption.

2 Peter 3:13 KJV - " Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

III. God's Holiness Demanded – Verse 5

- A. God has set forth His testimonies - "Thy testimonies are very sure"
1. The meaning is that of Divine Law
It is the same word used to describe the Ten Commandment is Exodus 31
Exodus 31:18 KJV - "And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God."
 2. The ESV translates the word "decrees;" The NIV – "statutes"
 3. God does not only have the power and might to rule, He has the right to rule. He has put forth His righteous law. God's reign cannot be separated from God's Law. His Kingdom is a kingdom of Law
- B. The word for "sure" is the Hebrew word אָמֵן
1. This word means fixed, firm – something enduring
It is a form of the word meaning "amen"
2 Corinthians 1:20 KJV - "For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."
 2. God's testimonies often have reference to His Word
Many have tried to vanquish God's Word – but it shall not be destroyed
Matthew 24:35 KJV - "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."
Psalms 119:2 KJV - " Blessed *are* they that keep his testimonies, *and that* seek him with the whole heart."
Psalms 119:125 KJV - "I *am* thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies."
 3. His testimonies are fixed, firm, immovable
Psalms 19:7-10 KJV - "The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple. ⁸ The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."
- C. All must bow before His holiness
Psalms 93:5 KJV - "holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever."
1. Holiness shall dwell in the presence of God forever
 2. It calls to mind the vision of Isaiah
Isaiah 6:1-3 KJV - "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. ² Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. ³ And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory."

3. And it reminds us what is required for us to dwell with Him
4. Psalm 93 ends with a significant, "Forever"
Our King who reigns forever and ever – whose throne is from everlasting to everlasting, has assured us a place with Him.
Revelation 22:5 KJV - "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."

Conclusion:

1. God's absolute, all encompassing sovereign rule gives us great comfort and causes us to sing forth with joy. Rather than despising it and calling it Satanic we rejoice in God's reign. "The LORD reigns."
2. We trust Him in all things. This is the requirement for salvation. To bow before Him, forsake our sin, and trust His wondrous provision for righteousness through Jesus Christ.