

January 28, 2018  
Sunday Morning Service  
Series: Psalms  
Community Baptist Church  
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Greer, SC 29650  
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*To Ponder . . .*

Questions to ponder as we prepare to hear from Psalm 93.

1. How do we explain to typical sinners that Jesus the King is robed in majesty, seated on the throne?
2. How does Adonijah usurping the throne of Israel illustrate a tendency in our lives?
3. Contrast the picture of Jesus in Revelation 19, coming with His army ready for war, with the picture of Jesus entering Jerusalem meek and sitting on a colt. How do we explain the difference?
4. Why is it so hard for normal people to accept the eternal nature of King Jesus?
5. Explain the “unseen footprints” of God leading Israel through the Red Sea (Psalm 77:19).
6. How do we know that the LORD is in control?

### **THE KING’S WORD STANDS** **Psalm 93**

The British royal family is in the news again, still, as always. Prince William and Kate are expecting child number three in about a month. Prince Henry is engaged to marry an American actress Meghan Markle in May this year. Princess Eugenie will marry Jack

Brooksbank in October. It’s going to be a busy year for the royal family.

You probably wonder why I keep up with this kind of stuff. I don’t. I simply read a compilation of the news every day, and the private lives of the royal family is always considered news. It ought to be. No one seems to know for sure, but it is estimated that the royal family will cost the British taxpayers about \$97 million dollars for the fiscal year 2017-2018. So the big question is, “Why do the citizens of Great Britain continue to support Queen Elizabeth and her relatives if they serve no viable purpose?”

Maybe the answer to that question lies in the British definition of viable. What is important to Americans may not be important to the Brits and vice-versa. After all, let’s not forget that Americans pay astronomical prices for sports tickets so that the Patriots can pay Tom Brady \$20,500,000 annually to throw a football, and the Dodgers can pay Clayton Kershaw \$33,000,000 to throw a baseball, and so the Cavaliers can pay Lebron James \$31,000,000 each year to throw down a slam dunk.

British royalty does seem to convey a sense of power, authority, and leadership. Long gone are the days when the King or Queen of England actually exercised authority. In fact, royalty is a relic of yesteryear pretty much globally. Now most nations have presidents or prime ministers who act like kings.

If we were to add up the value of all the kings who have reigned throughout history and consider together all the laws and edicts that they have handed down and how they have been responsible for the rise and fall of hundreds of nations and empires, the results would be quite impressive.

That comparison is what makes Psalm 93 so special to us who love the Lord. There is a king who is the King of all kings. Jesus is His name. It is true that for the history of humanity, Jesus has been reckoned by most to be a lot of different things, and King of kings is not one of them. But history isn’t over yet. This psalm attributes to Yahweh God great power and glory. And like other psalms, the picture is broader than just God the Father but speaks of King Jesus who will reign supreme forever.

Jesus must reign because His word is the final word. All the laws and edicts issued by all the kings in history cannot begin to

compare with the authoritative word of our King. What He promised must come to pass. We who love Him look forward to the fulfillment, the completion of every word from our King. We love to hear Him speak His promises to us.

### **The LORD Reigns (vv.1-2).**

The LORD is clothed as King, or, as the text presents Him, He is robed as King. *The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty.* We should be able to see quite easily how this psalm makes use of repetition for emphasis. In this verse the repeated word is *robed*. But in fact, every verse in this psalm has repetition except that last one.

The word *robed* pictures a king ascending his throne. Some scholars have tried to explain this as a view of God's presence entering Solomon's temple with the smoke and glory at the dedication of the temple. More likely is the fact that while God has always been on His throne and always will be, most people don't see Him. But then a time comes when a person sees the Lord reigning in majesty, seated upon His throne. It is a joyous day when we sinners finally get a vision of our Lord and Master seated in power and majesty on His throne.

Until that time, all we can see is the wrong ruler on the throne of our hearts. Our lives are a picture of Adonijah, brother of Solomon, ascending David's throne after David died (1 Kings 1:11). Adonijah wasn't supposed to be on the throne. Solomon was to be the next king of Israel according to God's plan and David's desire. So to make things right, David instructed: *Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!"* (1 Kings 1:39).

That is a good picture of the conflict we live out. We live in a messed-up world where Satan has usurped God's throne. We are born with self and sin usurping the throne of our hearts, the throne where our Lord should rightly reign. One day all of that confusion and conflict will be eradicated. Ultimately, the Lord King Jesus will purge the world of sin and Satan and will sit on His throne to rule. John saw in the vision Jesus gave him on the Island of Patmos, *Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our*

*Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever"* (Revelation 11:15). Has Jesus ascended the throne of your heart, robed to reign where He belongs?

Christ the King is robed not only as the majestic king, but He is also robed as warrior. The rest of verse one says, *the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt (v. 1a).* The words translated, *strength as His belt*, convey the picture of a warrior suited and ready for battle. Our Lord is engaged in battle against sin and Satan all the time. The Captain of our faith does battle in our behalf. Therefore, following His example, we also dress ourselves daily with the armor Christ gives us in order to do spiritual battle.

But our dependance is on Him who has already won the victory over sin, and who is coming again to win the final victory over sinners in this world. Again John wrote in The Revelation, *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords"* (Revelation 19:11-16).

Let us make no mistake. What is left of the world's population when Jesus shows up will be very impressed with His majesty. It doesn't mean that everyone will be delighted to see the King. It does mean that everyone will bow and confess that He is exactly who He has said He is from the moment He created the first person.

The whole world owes more to the Eternal King whom they choose to ignore than we can imagine. The world "is" because the King's throne is established (vv.1b-2). References to the King's throne manifests His character. So it is with verse two, *Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting (v.2).*

The LORD's throne speaks of more than a physical throne sitting in a physical palace somewhere. The word used here is a reference to

the LORD's authority and power. The LORD did not come into power and ascend His throne like earthly kings do. They are born into power and inherit the position of authority. Or they win the position of authority by defeating an enemy and often by taking away what the opponent has established. In contrast to all earthly kings and rulers, our LORD's authority is from everlasting. It had no beginning; it will have no end. No one gives it to Him; no one can take it away.

This thought baffles human comprehension. The eternal concept is so beyond human finiteness that the human mind easily dismisses it. Human pride hesitates to take the truth about God's eternal nature by faith. Strangely, at the same time, folks embrace a lot of very important truths by faith.

I often stand in my back yard and look up at the jets that are departing and landing at GSP. I do try to contemplate how they fly. One time I was so curious that I Googled the weight of a fully loaded McDonald Douglas MD-88 which often fly in and out of GSP. I learned that I am watching 149,500 pounds floating through the air. I have tried to understand the physics of aerodynamics, but I still don't get it. And I'm even more impressed when a Boeing 747 or an Air Force C-5 transport flies over. I do not understand how those things fly, but a couple times a year I board one without asking questions. Is that faith? Why can't people believe that God is eternal?

We have plenty of evidence that points to the eternity of God because the King's creative work is established. *Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved (v.1b)*. Because the King is the eternal and absolute authority, we have a dependable world. It is doubtful that any of you woke up this morning and went over to look out the window to see if the earth was still there. The world is so well established that we take astonishing truths for granted. For example, at the equator, the earth spins at about 1,000 mph. How do you stay on it? Why doesn't centrifugal force fling you out into space? Between today and January 28, 2019, the earth will have traveled around the sun one complete time – a distance of 584 million miles. And I thought the trip from here to Portland, OR was long. So we spin at 1,000 mph, we revolve around the sun a distance of 584 million miles, but a weather man can tell you exactly what time the sun will rise on July 4, 2018. Your calendar has already printed when spring will begin, when summer, fall, and winter begin, and the

weather generally coincides with those printed dates. Doesn't the preciseness of the days, nights, and seasons astonish you?

This is great evidence that the LORD King Creator who is seated on His throne has well established the world. It is as the writer to the Hebrew Christians point out, *And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands" (Hebrew 1:10)*. Ah, but wait! If the Lord has so well established the world, why is the world in such turmoil?

### **The World is in Turmoil (vv.3-4).**

It is true. The world can be scary. Many times as we read the daily news we are given to pause and wonder with David who asked, "Why do the nations rage?" In Psalm 2 David pondered, *Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us" (Psalm 2:1-3)*.

It is obvious that the nations do rage . . . all the time. That raging is the essence of the daily news. Which nation is raging against which nation today? Or which people group within any given nation is raging against their opposing people group? It is true that much of the world is in a constant uproar.

But if we notice the object of their raging, we understand completely why this is the case. The world as a whole is always angry against the Creator. They want to be free from Him who created them. To acknowledge the Creator is to presuppose submission and honor. Satan, who was the first to break that cord of submission to God, encourages every person to follow his example. And so the people who are in an uproar against the Creator take counsel together and plot a vain thing such as a theory that removes the need for a Creator. Darwin's theory of evolution is nothing more than a vain attempt to explain away God. It must keep changing and it can never be foolproof because it is vain, empty. To embrace fantasies like evolution or the mythical stories of gods and goddesses from ages past are all attempts to break God's cords that bind us to the truth about creation.

The whole world is in an uproar because it is in rebellion against its Creator. Even “Mother Nature” seems to be in a bad mood. *The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring (v.3).* Floods are definitely fearsome natural disasters. Whether it is a flash flood in which a wall of water suddenly bursts down the canyon, or a tsunami that you watch approach from miles out in the sea until it sweeps inland taking down everything in its path, or a gradual rising of the river because of the spring rains until the river has not only surrounded your house but is sitting uninvited in your living room.

Natural disasters are scary reminders that we cannot control the powers of nature. That is especially true when the natural element is being used in the hand of the Angry Creator who covers the entire earth with the universal flood as judgment against sin.

Natural disasters and things like that scare even God’s children. Circumstances in the world can be as fearsome as the wall of water on the left and on the right as you walk through the Red Sea where God leads you. The term flood used here probably is just such a picture of God’s care and protection through disasters. The term *flood* literally speaks of a “wall of water.” Think of the Israelites being led by God through the Red Sea. *Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left (Exodus 14:21-22).*

Do we trust God to lead through the trials of difficult circumstances that are part of living in a world that is in chaos because of sin? Do we really trust God enough to follow even when we cannot see His footprints? The psalmist reminds us that *God’s way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen (Psalm 77:19).* The path through great waters is frightening. But it is far better to be led by God through the sea than to be the recipient of God’s judgment like millions of men and women in Noah’s day who continued to run to higher ground as the floods of universal destruction continued to rise higher and higher. What did they think as the final remnant of humanity (other than Noah and family) stood huddled in a mass on the highest

mountain and the flood lifted up and licked their heels, taunting them, until it engulfed them.

Like that chaos, the floods of difficult circumstances continue to pound and they can break us down. The Hebrew word for “roaring” can mean to pound, crush, to beat down or break. We probably can agree from experience with David who prayed to God, *Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice (Psalm 51:8).* Or, *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise (Psalm 51:17).* And, *I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart (Psalm 38:8).*

We are able to endure these trials that even seem to crush us because we know that the LORD is in control. *The LORD on high is mighty! (v.4b).* The LORD is still on high and He is still mighty. The floods, the trials of life seem mighty, majestic, larger than life. But God who loves us and cares for us is still enthroned and in control of the mighty things.

The Lord is mightier than all that frightens us. He is *Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea (v.4a).* David acknowledged that *the nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire (Psalm 46:6-9).* You might know how it feels to face such chaos and uncertainty. But then God speaks: *“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” (Psalm 46:10).* That word from our King, that promise of God, makes all the difference as we face uncertainty.

### **The Word of the LORD Stands (v.5).**

Against the contrast between the LORD seated on His throne in majesty and the world seeming to fall apart, the psalmist concluded that the LORD is holy forever. *Holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore (v.5b).* Holiness makes the LORD’s house beautiful. Picture Jesus cleaning the thieves and cheats out of a very beautiful,

grandiose temple that Herod the wicked pagan built, but which Jesus called, “My Father’s house.” The temple God called “His House” has been a pile of rubble for almost 2,000 years.

Now God has ordained that you and I are His house. Each individual believer houses God the Holy Spirit. Paul put it like this: *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own (1 Corinthians 6:19)*. It must follow that if individual Christians are the house of God, then the corporate body of Christ, the Church is also God’s house. To that end Paul argued, *Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you (1 Corinthians 3:16)*? Therefore, the LORD’S holiness should be the evident characteristic of His people.

That trait is an unchanging trait because the LORD’S holiness is forever. His holiness is defined by Scripture. His holiness is demonstrated by His activity in life. His holiness is evident and identifiable in people. His holiness isn’t going to change. The LORD’S holiness is His unwavering adherence in thought and action to His perfect, sinless character.

Therefore, whatever the LORD decrees is as eternal as He is. The psalmist concluded, *Your decrees are very trustworthy (v.5a)*. The LORD’S decrees are the Scriptures. The LORD’S decrees refer to what God says, His words, His testimony. The New American Standard translation emphasized this truth by translating the phrase, *Your testimonies are fully confirmed (Psalm 93:5 NAS)*. The LORD’S decrees make up the Bible. We know what God says because we have the Bible. The truth of the Bible, the message of Scripture cannot change.

We rejoice to come to the understanding that the Scripture is confirmed because it rests on the LORD’S character. Because God is holy, His Word, His message to us cannot change. Therefore, the Bible will be the standard of measurement for all things and all people for all eternity. It only stands to reason then that the more we know what God has told us in the Bible, the more confident we should be to live according to what we know.

Human opinion is as fickle and changing as the seasons. What was true ten years ago regarding diet, exercise, finance, or many other areas about life has all changed according to the experts. With each

new generation there are new explanations about the origins of the earth and humanity. Changing rules and changing authority almost always causes trouble and difficulty for the cultures that are changing. How wonderful to know that our loving Savior, who gave His life to pay for our sins that we might have fellowship with Him, is seated on the throne. How confident we should be that everything in life is working out according to His plan for His glory. Read His Word. Follow His leading. Follow even into the flood when you cannot see His footsteps. He who reigns supreme has given us His Word that He will keep us in His care.