

The LORD Reigns!

If people observed your life over the last several days, weeks, or months, who would they say rules your life? Would they say the pandemic and fear rule your life or your God and Creator? Would they say party and politics rule your life or the LORD and his Word? Would they say hate and self-righteousness rule your life or the love and forgiveness of your Savior, Jesus Christ?

By my own sinful admission, and I am pretty sure yours too, I have to confess that at times my words, my actions, and my attitude these last several days, weeks, and months have reflected how small and weak my God is to me rather than how great and mighty he is (which explains my feeble faith), and I have to repent that my sinful emotions and arrogant opinions have brought out the worst of me rather than God receiving the best of me. First, our God doesn't deserve that, and second, there's no need for it if we truly understand how great and mighty our God is.

Listen to Psalm 93:

**¹ The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength.
The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.**

**² Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity.
³ The seas have lifted up, O LORD, the seas have lifted up their voice;
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.**

**⁴ Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea –
the LORD on high is mighty.**

⁵ Your statutes stand firm; holiness adorns your house for endless days, O LORD.

Note the name of the LORD in Psalm 93. Five times it is used in five verses. This is the name of the great "I am" – the self-existent One, the self-sustaining One, the One over all, the One who knows all, the One ever present in the lives of his people, the gracious One, the forgiving One, the One steadfast in love and faithfulness. Every time you remember the LORD, every time you call upon the LORD, every time you look to the LORD, these qualities of God are exactly what you can expect. He will give no less to you. This is who your LORD is. The LORD reigns!

Then notice how the LORD is dressed. He is robed in majesty. So majestic, it's repeated in the same verse. This is not a superficial appearance of majesty, but actual majesty, where even angels cover their faces in the presence of the LORD and proclaim: **"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory"** (Isaiah 6:3). Perhaps another word for "majesty" would be "greatness," where there are no limits to his power or his knowledge or his wisdom or his presence or his care. It's like the old spiritual song goes: **"He's got the whole world in his hands."** The stability of the world rests on the LORD's majesty. Without it, the world falls completely apart.

Next, notice how the LORD is also dressed for battle. **“Armed with strength,”** the psalmist says. So not only does the LORD rule over us with his majesty, he’s also armed and ready to fight for us. And fight he does, in so many ways that we don’t always realize or see. But if you are cognizant of the evil and danger that surrounds you as a child of God and aware that the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking to devour you, then you have to be just as aware how much the LORD has been fighting for you. The LORD reigns!

You see, there is no room for small thoughts of God. But how many of us have them? How many of us have diminished or dismissed the greatness of God because we have become so overcome and so overwhelmed with anger and fear because of the perfect storm we seem to be living through today – the pandemic, the political hate and divide, the injustice, the protests, the riots, the arrogance, the self-righteousness, the double standards, the antagonism? How has all of this impacted God’s greatness in our lives? Is the sky falling for us? Or maybe just maybe, is God in his mercy forcing us to look to him, who is greater than all we are experiencing and enduring?

It’s easy, isn’t it, for life to feel like verse three, especially nowadays: **“The seas have lifted up; the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.”** The scene is familiar to us, where one storm after another storm converges on our lives, where we are unable to stop or avoid the rising waters in whatever form they come. It can be a personal crisis or suffering. It can be on a national scale. The seas are intentionally ambiguous because they are whatever they are to you – whatever overwhelms you, overcomes you, floods over you.

But look at where verse four turns our eyes: **“Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea – the LORD on high is mighty.”** Dear friends, yes, agreed, the storms, the waves, the rising waters in your life are mighty, whatever they are to you. But the LORD is mightier.

Our circumstances regardless of how painful and perplexing they are, have no bearing on this divine, transcendent reality of life: the LORD reigns! No matter how stormy things appear or how difficult they are to endure, the LORD’s power and purpose for our lives cannot be frustrated by any of it. All the forces that threaten God’s children do so in vain. Whatever the scenario, circumstance, or catastrophe, our security is in the LORD’s rule and in his Word. Like the psalmist says: **“His statutes stand firm,”** or as another translation puts it: **“All his testimonies are trustworthy.”** So even when things don’t look promising, that does not alter the divine, transcendent reality that God is greater. It doesn’t change the fact that the LORD reigns.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the story and history of God’s master plan of salvation. The same God who seems invisible in Psalm 93 made himself visible in Christ Jesus. This is the same One who got up in the boat, rebuked the winds and the waves, calmed the sea, and of whom the disciples said in amazement, **“What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”** (Matthew 8:23-27). This is the same One who walked on water in the midst of another storm and even had Peter walking on water, until Peter’s attention shifted to the storm and he began to drown. This is the same One who then reached out his hand, saved Peter, climbed into

the boat, and the wind died down. This is the same One of whom the disciples said in the boat, **“Truly you are the Son of God”** (Matthew 14:22-33). This is the same One who faced the fiercest storm of all on the cross – the condemnation for our sins, the holy wrath of God, the crushing of our iniquities. This is the One who took it all, suffered it all, endured it all, to give us the forgiveness of sins, peace with God, and the promise of eternal life in heaven. Dear friends, this One is the same God of Psalm 93!

God has given you this psalm to steady and strengthen your heart. God has given you this psalm to provoke your trust in him. God has given you this psalm for today, for next year, for all your life. Because regardless of what happens today or next year, or over all your life, the LORD reigns. He is greater. He is mightier. He is your LORD! Amen.