

## Our God Reigns

Isa 33:1 Woe to you who plunder, though you have not been plundered; and you who deal treacherously, though they have not dealt treacherously with you! When you cease plundering, you will be plundered; when you make an end of dealing treacherously, they will deal treacherously with you.

This passage can be divided as it were into two parts. First, the Sovereignty of God over the nations of the world and secondly, His rule within and in behalf of His Kingdom upon the earth, the Church. As He rules over the pagan nations and directs their affairs as He has purposed from all eternity it is always with the good of His people that He so directs all things. In this manner we may understand the very core meaning of the words we find in Romans 8:28. *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”* We know this to be true because God rules over all the affairs of men and *“whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth. Ps 135:6*

A. The Lord is exalted in His Sovereignty of God over nations -

*For I know that the Lord is great, and our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places. Ps 135:5-6*

1. In creation itself we read . . .

*Ps 33:7 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.*

2. In His providence

*Ps 33:11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.*

- a. God's rule over creation did not end on the sixth day of creation
- b. Nebuchadnezzar was God's servant (see Jer. 25:9)
- c. Cyrus was named by God even before his birth and is called God's shepherd

*Isa 44:27 Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," and to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."'*

- (1) This pagan king will enabled the rebuilding of Jerusalem
- (2) This pagan king will be instrumental in the rebuilding of the Temple

3. God's rule over all men is summed up for us by Isaiah in chapter 46

*Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,' Calling a bird of prey from the east, the man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it. Isa 46:10-11*

4. Absolutely nothing happens in time except that God has purposed it

- a. From the first moment of creation to this very hour
- b. The bird of prey was Nebuchadnezzar
- c. He executed God's purpose
- d. He was brought down and raised up and was caused to acknowledge Daniel's God's authority over all things

*Dan 4:34-35 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?"*

e. The purpose of God was spoken by the angels in Nebuchadnezzar's dream

*Dan 4:17 In order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men.'*

5. What is true of the kingdoms of Babylon and of the Medes and Persians is true of all nations
  - a. God rules over all nations of the earth
  - b. In all times - including our day
6. King of kings, Lord of lords is not a throw away title

*Prov 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

#### B. The Lord is exalted in Zion

Isa 33:5-6 The Lord is exalted, for He dwells on high; He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness. Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, and the strength of salvation; the fear of the Lord is His treasure.

1. In His dwelling place, in the highest heaven - speaks of His relationship toward His church

Ps 115:3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

- a. Speaks of His authority over all of creation
- b. Speaks of His authority over all nations of the earth
2. God is exalted when He provides justice and righteousness in Zion - *He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness*
  - a. Note it is a justice He provides - He has filled Zion
  - b. Thus God shall receive all praise and glory when we are found sinless on that great day of God's wrath

*For we are saved by grace through faith, and that not of ourselves it is the gift of God, NOT of works lest any man should boast*

3. God is exalted when He gives His people wisdom and knowledge
  - a. We as natural men could not know God nor His goodness and mercy had he not granted us understanding
  - b. Paul tells us that we have received the riches of His grace when has made to abound toward us in all wisdom
  - c. ". . . having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself." Eph 1:9
4. God is exalted when He provides a true stability for His people
  - a. In providing a sure salvation for it is founded upon the faithfulness of God

*Heb 10:22-23 let us draw near with a true heart in **full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, **for He who promised is faithful.***

- b. Providing full assurance for our confidence is not in our works but His work in our behalf

*Unto Him who is **able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless** before the presence of His glory, with exceeding joy - Jude 24*

**CONCLUSION:** the Fear of the Lord is His treasure

Not a fear as one who is under the judgment of a judge

Rather it is a fear that is filled with awe, wonder and astonishment and thus brings true wisdom

A knowledge of God that is making us, the elect of God, the wealthiest of all men upon the earth

For He has taught us from His Word which is more precious than gold tried fire 7 times

And we shall reign with God as kings and priest forever and ever