

## “The Lord Reigns!”

### I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Intro:** This is the 1st of the *Theocratic Psalms*(95-100). Psalms that magnify Israel’s Theocracy(God/rule).
1. **Autocratic government** - headed by a strong man or a dictator. [Auto/self]
    - a) Kratos = Gk word for power.
  2. **Monarchic gov** - headed by a **king** w/more or less absolute power. [Mono/one]
  3. **Democratic government** - governments in which **the people** rule. [Demos/people]
  4. **Oligarchy** - a gov headed by an **elite few**. [oligoi/few]
  5. **Theocratic government** - government in which there is no man-appointed or self-appointed ruler, **but rather** a government directed by **God**. [Theo/God]
- B. **In all the history of the world only Israel has had a true theocratic form of government.**
1. This was 1st seen in Deut.33:5 by Moses, **And He was King in Jeshurun, When the leaders of the people were gathered, All the tribes of Israel together.**
    - a) Also in Ex,15:18 **“The Lord shall reign forever and ever.”**
  2. From the **beginning** of history, till the **time of Samuel**, this was Israel’s sole form of government.
  3. **It failed, not because God failed, but because Israel failed.**
    - a) **The people demanded** of Samuel that he give them a king so that they might be like the other nations. **See 1 Sam.8 (esp.5-9,19-22) :-**(
- C. **During Millennium** - a **Monarchy** yes, but essentially **theocratic** in character.
1. (i.e.) As David ran it, His character calling a **shepherd, pastoring** the people.
  2. The nation was **NOT** a **private preserve** upon which a king could prey, but a **pasture** to be **kept & cultivated** for the flock of God.
    - a) That’s why God got so mad at **King Ahab** when he wanted **Naboth’s vineyard**. {It was his families inheritance, in the land, from God, he couldn’t take property that wasn’t his, & he knew better! - **But** while sulking, **Jezebel** (his pagan wife, from Sidon) had Naboth set up & stoned. Ahab went to claim the vineyard & **Elijah** showed up to issue his death warrant, **dogs will lick your blood!**}
- D. This Psalm anticipates Israel’s once again theocratic rule during the Millennium.
1. Where God will once again visibly step down into the arena of human affairs, in the person of JC, & take the *admin* of earth’s affairs into His own hands.

## II. **THE LORD REIGNS!**

A. **KING OF HEAVEN!** (1,2)

B. *Yahweh melek* - Jehovah reigns/is king.

C. **Josephus** coined the phrase *Theocracy*, yet its meaning was limited to God's reign over Israel. The Psalmist here describes Him reigning over *the entire earth*, even *the universe*.

D. **Ps.93** is the Psalmist unpacking **Ps.92:8**.

1. **What does that mean? How is He exalted/lifted on high?** - Ps.93 tells us.

E. Note 4 important attributes of God:

1. **[1] The Majesty of God** - Majesty has to do with "*dignity, authority of sovereign power, stateliness, & grandeur.*"

a) Majesty is an attribute that links God's **holiness** & God's **sovereignty**.

2. **[2] The Power of God** - i.e. **Strength**. He means the majesty of God is a majesty of power.

3. **[3] The Immutability of God** - i.e. **Established**. It looks like the world is being *shaken*, but despite appearances, **but** nothing is able to move or, even less, destroy God's creation, but God Himself.

a) The world is only established because God Himself is established/immovable(vs2).

b) This is one of God's qualities that separate Him out from His creation. He *does not change*, but His creation is *always changing*.

(1) **It's in constant change**: decaying; running down; sun is cooling & eventually die out; abundant resources of the earth are exhaustible & will run out; species have gone extinct; each of us matures, grows old, & dies.

4. **[4] The Eternity of God** - means that God **is**, that He **always will be**, & that He is **everywhere the same** in His eternal being.

a) **Abraham** called Him, "*the Eternal God*"; **Moses** wrote, "*from everlasting to everlasting You are God*"; the **Revelation** describes God as, "*the Alpha & the Omega, the beginning & the end.*"

b) **It means God can be trusted to remain** as He revealed Himself.

(1) He'll be at the **end** of our days what he was at the **beg**.

(2) He will **not change** His character, **nor break** His word.

c) **Also He is inescapable**. We may try to **ignore** him, but one day we will have to **give an accounting** to Him, who knows all our heart & desires.

- F. **KING OF EARTH!** (3,4)
- G. **Everything changes but God.** - Yes, the world of nature is indeed in **constant turmoil** but that God is sovereign over even this change.
1. The Greeks were close to the answer when they said “**that change is not random but is instead ordered change.** Ordered because an ordering law or word of God stands behind it.”
  2. God is involved in His creation. He sustains & controls it moment by moment.
    - a) He is never the **absentee landlord.** He is **always in charge.**
- H. **The Floods have lifted up their voices - What are they saying?** “you’re going to sink!” “you’re going to drown!” “I’m taking you down!”
1. **No waves or floods can disturb the throne of God!**
    - a) We see the **floods**, but we don’t see **God.**
    - b) **We see the floods getting higher & higher, & we don’t lift up our eyes by faith & see the eternal, established, secure, throne of God.**
  2. It reminds us again (like w/Peter) don’t look at the **Flood** look to the **Father.**
    - a) Jesus told Peter “come”, & His **commandments** are His **empowerments!**
  3. Vs.4 is **our Father who art in heaven!**
  4. **But even if we do sink beneath the waves, we will simply fall into the hallow of God’s hand.**
- I. **KING OF RULE & JUSTICE!** (5)
- J. **A Kingdom of Law** - God’s rule is not of **power** alone. Note the word **testimonies** here.
1. **Testimony** - because it was the function of the Law to **bear witness** to God’s demands, & to man’s duties.
  2. **It is also a rule of law!** This means God rules His people by His Word (not whim)
  3. To be actually **ruled by God**, we must not only confess Him as our God **but** also **know & obey** his statutes too.
    - a) **Apply to:** a coach, boss, president/king. **How can you say you’re ruled by them but not listen to what they say?**
    - b) Christ then rules His church by teaching us the Scriptures. There is where we learn what to **do &** what we ought to **be.**
  4. **Your choice:** listen to the **waves**, or to **His testimonies.**
- K. **A Kingdom of holiness or justice** - Holiness is what **His house** is known for!

- L. **End:** When the Jews set up their **liturgy** for their **new temple** in Jerusalem, they selected a special Psalm to be sung each day of the week. One of the 7 was this one, Ps.93.
1. It was selected for Friday. The Talmud explains why, “It was on the 6th day that the Lord **finished** the work of **creation**. After that He entered upon His Sabbath rest, & began His reign over the earth.” [Also title LXX; & adopted by Vulg]
    - a) This little Psalm is truly a prelude to the millennium itself.
  2. He also wants to set up a **miniature millennium** in our **hearts!**
    - a) He wants us to acknowledge Him as His Royal Majesty, & let Him still the storms of rebellion & sin.