

LESSON 7

January 12, 2025

Unit II: Our God Reigns

The Majesty of a King's Reign

DEVOTIONAL READING: Isaiah 52:1-12

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Psalms 47; 93

PRINT PASSAGE: Psalm 93:1-5

KEY VERSE

The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved. (Psalm 93:1, KJV)

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The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure. (Psalm 93:1, NIV)

Lesson Aims

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- Brainstorm possible situations of chaos and disorder expressed by the psalmist.
- Trust God's sovereignty to set things right amidst chaos and confusion.
- Be witnesses to God's strength by standing up to the forces of chaos.

*Key Terms

Established (verse 2)—Hebrew: *kun* (*koon*): to be firm; appointed; reliable; set up; certain.

Holiness (verse 5)—Hebrew: *qodesh* (*ko'-desh*): apartness; sacredness; sanctuary.

Lifted (verse 3)—Hebrew: *nasa* or *nasab* (*naw-saw'*): carried; took; raised.

Reigns (verse 1)—Hebrew: *malak* (*maw-lak'*): consults; is or becomes king or queen; rules; "reigneth" (KJV).

Strength (verse 1)—Hebrew: *oz* (*oze*): might; fortress; power; stronghold.

Yahweh (verse 4)—Hebrew: *Yhvh* (*yeh-ho-vaw'*): the proper name of the God of Israel; "Lord" (KJV/NIV).

*(Word Study Supplement—Refer to page 2)



The Biblical Context

The book of Psalms, entitled "Praises" in Hebrew, constituted Israel's "hymnal" and defined the spirit and content of the nation's worship. The book's collection of 150 compositions explores a wide range of themes contributed to several composers, including King David (73), the sons of Korah (10), Asaph (12), Solomon (2), Moses (1), Heman (1), and Ethan (1). The remaining fifty psalms' authors are anonymous. Structurally, the psalms represent a variety of poetic forms used to express a broad range of human emotions related to the physical and spiritual dimensions of life—ultimately leading to worshipping God as Creator and sustainer of the universe. The book of Psalms includes at least seven categories of psalms. Among these are the Enthronement Psalms (47, 93; 96–99), whose purpose is proclaiming and celebrating God as King and His sovereign authority over the earth and all nations. Psalm 93 affirms this purpose by briefly emphasizing God's sovereign majesty, unalterable character, and the unchanging nature of His reign over the world and its natural elements. As such, Psalm 93 provides assurance that God's immutable authority and sovereignty remain constant and stable amid life's chaos.

Introduction

Chaos, defined as "complete disorder, confusion, and unpredictability," is prevalent worldwide and seemingly out of control. In today's culture, chaos manifests in political instability, social injustice, economic insecurity, and uncertainty. National leaders are deadlocked in political power struggles and appear to be more interested in maintaining control for personal interests than for the well-being of their constituents and stability of democratic ideals. At the same time, inequality, racial tension, discrimination, mass shootings, hate crimes, and other forms of social injustice run rampant, creating further chaotic social unrest. These interconnected "catalysts of chaos" are compounded by economic disparities that limit access to resources, increasing poverty, unemployment, and health services to marginalized families and individuals. Knowing that similar conditions exist all over the globe sometimes prompts us to wonder if there is a power that can restore order and peace. Some wonder with sincerity where God is amid all the world's confusion. While it may appear that God has distanced Himself and is ignoring humanity's desperate plight, God's Word affirms that our Creator still reigns. He has not relinquished control, and He maintains full sovereignty over all He created, despite current circumstances. Psalm 93 challenges believers to be confident in what the

Word says about God's sovereign power, and to be assured of our security in Him. No matter what happens, we can faithfully depend on His strength to persevere through difficult times.

ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLICAL TEXT

The Reality of God's Reign (*Psalm 93:1-2*)

KJV

THE LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.

2 Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.

NIV

THE LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.

2 Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity.

Psalm 93 is a brief but powerful declaration attesting to God's sovereign and eternal control of His creation. The psalm is a testimony of the writer's experience with the power of God at work in and around him. The psalm opens with the uncontested fact that the Lord reigns (**verse 1a**), signifying that He governs all creation. Further, it affirms that God alone exercises absolute power over all He created. He controls His creation from inception to eternity. The Lord reigns "with majesty" and "has girded Himself with strength" (**verse 1**, NKJV). In the Old Testament, one's clothing was considered an extension of the person. Thus, the psalmist figuratively describes the Lord as majestic and mighty in His reign. God's majesty and unshakable power result in the world's being firmly and securely established under His reign (**verse 1c**). Although current events appear to deny this truth, nothing humanity does will change or diminish God's supreme authority over the world.

The psalmist further reinforces the surety of God's reign by emphasizing its eternal and timeless nature (**verse 2**). God did and does exist outside the confines of time; He has always been God. His authority to reign over and rule the world is as timeless and enduring as He is. This means that despite rampant chaos in the world, those who trust God can be confident that God is always in control with power to govern His world according to His will. The reality of God's absolute sovereignty over the world is a statement of fact. Acknowledging God's sovereignty, however, places a critical responsibility on the believer. Each one must be in a vital, intimate relationship with the Lord; otherwise, that person cannot remain steadfast in ministry or his/her walk of faith, nor can he/she experience the security and other benefits that God desires to give us.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What ideas or realities challenge the truth of God's absolute reign of the world that He has firmly established?

The Security of God's Reign (*Psalm 93:3-5*)

KJV

3 The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves.

4 The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.

5 Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever.

NIV

3 The seas have lifted up, 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, LORD, stand firm; holiness adorns your house for endless days.

The psalmist has established the reality of God's eternal and unalterable reign over all creation. In **verses 3 and 4**, the psalmist affirms God's absolute supremacy then shifts to the chaotic and uncontrollable nature of the seas or the mighty waters as an example of God's power and might. This imagery is familiar in Scripture, where the sea symbolizes chaos and disorder, immense power, unpredictability, and often a force of evil or opposition against God and His people. Although water or floods may rise (meaning troubles may come), they are no match for God's power and authority to control them. However they may roar and thunder overpoweringly against humanity, God's power and might surpass them.

God's people are safe and secure under His supreme authority and sovereign rule despite the vast and adverse effects of chaos and disorder prevalent in the world today. By faith, we can confidently persevere and rest assured that God is above all, sees all, and remains in control of all He created. The psalmist concludes his psalm with an affirmation of faith in the permanence of God's Word and His unchanging nature (**verse 5**). The composer resolves that because God's statutes, laws, and decrees are steadfast, immovable, and enduring, and His holiness is unchanging and unalterable, so is His sovereign rule and authority. Therefore, every child of God can trust in His promise of protection, His provision, and His presence amid the world's most chaotic uncertainties.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What are some “seas” of chaotic adversity challenging the faith community, and how does this psalm ensure that they can be overcome?

A Closing Thought

At times, it seems that chaos, disorder, and crises are the rule, not the exception. The sobering reality is that “everywhere you go there is trouble, and everywhere you go there is strife.” Yet, amid all the darkness that caused all this trouble and confusion, Psalm 93 offers believers hope for restoration and inner peace by reminding us of the unchanging, eternal nature of God's sovereign reign over this world. The psalmist encourages us to confidently trust in God's power to carry us through life's storms. Our task is to depend on the reliability of His promises, anchor our hopes in His eternal existence, and find rest and security in His unwavering stability.

Your Life

We receive God's Word by hearing, reading, and studying it, but we experience it by meditating. Take time to meditate on Psalm 93 and let its message encourage you to solidify your trust in God and the reliability of His promises, especially if you're in the midst of a chaotic life challenge.

Your World!

We don't have to look far to discover people facing some overwhelming life struggles. Consider committing to share Psalm 93 with someone as an encouragement to trust God to help that person navigate his or her adversity.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, we are eternally thankful that even in the most difficult moments of life we can anchor our souls in You and find peace in Your unwavering sovereignty, strength, and power. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Conclusion

(Preparing for Next Week's Lesson)

Next week's lesson is a call to worship and praise God for the benefits we receive because of God's steadfast love. Read Psalm 103:1-14.

Home Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY, January 13	"God's Heavenly Throne"	(Revelation 4)
TUESDAY, January 14	"Life Springs from God's Throne"	(Revelation 22:1-14)
WEDNESDAY, January 15	"My Eyes Have Seen the King"	(Isaiah 6:1-8)
THURSDAY, January 16	"Draw Near to God in Humility"	(James 4:1-10)
FRIDAY, January 17	"Boldly Approach the Throne of Grace"	(Hebrews 4:11-16)
SATURDAY, January 18	"Heaven Is God's Throne"	(Isaiah 66:1-14)
SUNDAY, January 19	"Bless God's Holy Name"	(Psalm 103:1-11, 19-22)

NOTES
