

The Lord Rules Over All

Sunday, September 2nd, 1990

Psalm 103:19

“The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.”

The title of my message is: “The Lord Rules Over All.” Let me read my text for you. It is taken from the Book of Psalms, Psalm 103: verse 19. *“The Lord God hath prepared His throne in the heavens and His kingdom rules over all.”* I prepared this message for several reasons. The first reason is this: the true nature and character and name of the eternal Almighty God is not preached today.

We are hearing today, about an impotent God, and a powerless God. We are hearing about a God who wills to but is not able, a God who wants to and can't. We are hearing about a God who is dependent on the mind and will of the creature. We are not hearing about the God of power and sovereignty. We are hearing about a weak God, an impotent God and a defeated God.

Secondly, I prepared this message because I realize there is no way for men and women to know the true God if His name, character and nature is not preached. We may go through the motions; we may have our little church services and play the game. There is no way to worship God if men do not know God. There is no way to glorify God unless we hear and see His true Majesty and His true glory. That is so! You can play the game and you can play church, but you are not going to know God, worship God, or glorify God unless you know the living God. You have to hear His name proclaimed.

Thirdly: This is awesome and fearful; the living God will not own or bless. He is not going to own or bless any prophet who does not preach His true nature, character and name. He is not going to own or bless any people or any preaching that does not truly glorify His name and acknowledge Him as He is. *“Let God be God;”* that is what the scripture says.

Read the text again, *“The Lord has prepared His throne in the heavens and His kingdom rules over all.”* Nothing is clearer or plainer in the scriptures than that fact that the Lord rules over all. That is the title of this message: “The Lord Rules Over All.” *“His throne is in the heavens.”* His reign and rule reaches everywhere.

Listen to the scriptures. In Psalm 135:6 it says; *“Our God is in the heavens; He hath done whatsoever He pleased. Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did He, in heaven, in earth, in the seas and in all deep places.”* That's our God! The heathen asks, “David,

where is your God?" "He is in the heavens." "What is He like?" "*He hath done whatsoever He pleased.*"

In Psalm 93:1, it says; "*The Lord reigneth. The Lord is clothed with majesty.*" In First Chronicles 29, it says; "*Thine O Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty. For all that is in heaven and all that is in earth is thine. Thine is the kingdom O Lord and Thou art exalted above all. The Lord ruleth over all.*"

When we say that the Lord rules and reigns over all, there are three things that are necessary in order to reign and to rule. This is true wherever it may be, but it is especially true in reference to God. If one reigns and one rules over all, then there are three things that are necessary:

First, He must have authority or the right to rule.

Secondly, He must have power or the strength to rule. If He doesn't have the strength and the power to do what He will, then He can't rule.

Thirdly, He must have a purpose. He must have the will to reign. He has to have a will.

Look at these three things in the light of our text. Our text says, "*The Lord God ruleth over all.*" Does He have that right and that authority, does He? He asked that question Himself, "*Can I not do with My own, what I will?*" In Psalm 24:1 and 2, it says; "*The earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein. For, He founded it upon the seas. He established it and it is His.*" In Psalm 89:11, it says; "*The heavens are thine O Lord. The earth is thine, the world and the fullness thereof, for Thou hast made them.*"

God has the right to rule. He made all things. In Revelation 4:11, it says; "*Thou art worthy O Lord to receive glory, honor and power for Thou hast created all things and for your pleasure they are and were created.*" Our Lord Jesus Christ said to His disciples in Matthew 28; "*You go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Because, all authority is given unto Me in heaven and earth.*"

I'm talking about all authority. He has the right. He created all things. He made all things and I will tell you this, "*He died that He might be Lord of the dead and the living.*" He purchased that right. He purchased that right, not only by creation, but also by death and authority. If one rules, if one reigns, he has to have the right to reign. I'm saying, God Almighty has the right to reign, to do His will. He has the right to do what He will, with whom He will, and when He will. The reason is because He made all things and He created all things.

Secondly, He has the power. The second thing necessary to ruling is power. God has the right to rule. Does He have the power to rule? Well, He asked Sarah this; *“Is anything too hard for God?”*

God took Jeremiah to the potter’s house. He said, *“Look,”* and Jeremiah watched the potter as he put the clay on the wheel and began to work. God said to him, *“I’m the potter, you are the clay. I will make of the same lump, a vessel unto honor, and a vessel unto dishonor.”* God is the potter and the clay belongs to Him. *“The potter hath power over the clay.”* I’m talking about all power!

You see; our God is omnipotent. He said, *“I’ve spoken it; I’ll bring it to pass.”* Our God is omnipresent. David said, *“If I ascend into heaven Thou art there, if I make my bed in the grave, Thou art there. If I go to the uttermost parts of the sea, Thou art there. Even the darkness is light about me.”* God is omnipresent. God is omniscient. *“All things are naked and open before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”* He said, *“My arm is not short that I can’t save.”*

I hear these preachers telling people, “God wants to save you and He can’t.” The scripture says, *“My arm is not too short that I cannot save. My ears are not heavy that I cannot hear.”* A sovereign rule requires authority. God has it. He has the right to rule and it belongs to Him. A sovereign rule requires power. He has the strength and the power.

Thirdly, a sovereign rule requires a purpose. There has to be a will to reign. Does God have a purpose? Does God have a will? Listen to these scriptures, *“David, where is your God?”* He said, *“Our God is in the heavens and He hath done whatsoever He purposed, whatsoever He pleased.”* In Isaiah 46:9 it says, *“I’m the Lord; there is none else. I declare the end from the beginning and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying; My council shall stand; I will do all My pleasure. I have spoken it; I will bring it to pass. I purposed it; I will do it.”*

My friends; how many times does He say in the book of Ephesians, *“He worketh all things after the council of His own will?”* The Word says, *“The Lord reigns and rules over all.”* He has that right and He made it. Secondly, He has the power and He is able. Thirdly, He has a purpose.

Let me show you some things here. First of all, God rules in heaven and earth. He says this in Isaiah 66, *“Heaven is My throne; the earth is My footstool.”* In Daniel 4:35, King Nebuchadnezzar said this; *“When (my senses), my mind returned to me, I saw that the most High God ruleth, and reigneth in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of*

the earth, and He doeth according to His will and giveth it to whom He will and none can stay His hand or say unto Him, what doest Thou? God reigns in heaven and in the earth. The inhabitants of the earth are all reputed as nothing.”

He not only rules in heaven and in earth, but He rules over every part of heaven and the earth. When you think of heaven, what do you think of? First, you think of the sun, the moon, stars and the planets. That is what David said, *“When I consider the heavens, the sun, the moon, the stars, and the things Thou hast made, what is man that Thou art mindful of him?”*

When you think of heaven, what do you think of? You think of angels. Well, the scripture says; *“He saith to the angels; let all the angels of God worship Christ. The angels of God, are they not ministering Spirits? They minister to those who are the heirs of salvation.”* God sends them.

What do you think of when you think of heaven? Do you think of the Seraphims and the Cherubims? Well, Isaiah said; *“When I saw the Lord, I saw the Seraphims flying about His throne, crying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts.”* When you think of heaven, what else do you think of? You think of principalities, powers, and rulers. It says in Colossians 1, *“All of those things were made by Him, principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness. They are all made by Him, and for Him and by Him they exist.”*

When you think of earth, what do you think of? Well, you think of kingdoms. You think of nations. You think of America, England, Russia, China, Japan and all of these continents and nations. Well, it says; *“The heart of the king is in the hands of the Lord; He turneth it wheresoever He will.”* He said to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt; *“For this purpose I raised you up that I might show My power in you.”* In Second Chronicles 20, it says; *“O Lord our God, are not Thou God in heaven, and do you not rule over the kingdoms of the heathen? In Thy hand, is there not power and might so that none is able to withstand Thee?”* God seats kings and unseats kings. God sets the boundaries of nations. God rules over the kingdom, even the kingdom of the heathen.

When you think of earth, what do you think of? You think of lands and seas. You think of fish and fowl. You think of rain and snow. You think of lightening and thunder. Have you ever read Job 38, 39 and 40? God shows Job in all these things how He reigns. He says, *“Job, have you entered into the treasures of the snow? Can you say to the lightening, come and it will come and go it will go?”* *Do you speak in the thunder? Do you teach the little bird to fly south in the winter? Do you teach the beasts how to care for their young? Do you teach them how to build a nest? Do you feed the fowls of the air?”*

When our Lord stood on this earth, He stilled the ocean by saying, *“Peace, be still.”* He rules! Our Lord spoke to the fish and they filled the nets of the disciples. Our Lord was commanded to pay taxes and He sent one of His disciples down to catch a fish. In that fish’s mouth, was a coin. When you think of earth, you think of land and seas, fish and fowl, animals, lightening and thunder, snow, rain, hail and all of these things. They are all under the absolute and total control of my God.

He rules not only over the great in heavens. He rules over the stars, moon, sun, principalities, powers and rulers. On earth, He rules over kingdoms, nations, animals, fowl, fish, lightening, thunder and all of these great things. He rules over the small things also.

Do you remember how the ravens fed Elijah? The ravens brought food to God’s prophet in the day of famine. What is a sparrow worth? A sparrow is not worth much. The scripture says, *“Not a sparrow falls to the ground without your Father.”* Do you know what else He said? *“The hairs of your head are numbered.”* God knows the number of the hairs in your head and your eyebrows.

“God clothes the lilies of the field;” God rules over the great and the small. One day God prophesied that King Ahab would die. *“King Ahab is going to die,”* God said. King Ahab was in his chariot and his army surrounded him. King Ahab was out there on the battlefield and no one could get near him. Off somewhere else, there was a soldier (First Kings, chapter 22), a soldier took a bow and arrow and drew it back as far as he could draw it and let it go! The scripture says, *“At a venture.”*

“I shot an arrow into the air
It fell to earth, I knew not where.”

God knew where it was sent. There was one place in King Ahab’s armor, where that arrow could enter and kill him and that is where it went. My God reigns and My God rules. He even rules over the dust of the air and the rocks on the ground. He even rules over the arrows that are shot *“at a venture.”* That’s right! He rules over all.

One day, Paul stood on the deck of a ship and that ship was being tossed and driven by the storm. The ancient mariners were men who knew the seas and they wanted to jump overboard. They wanted to get away from that ship. They knew it was going to be dashed to pieces. Paul said, “Stay on the ship; yes, it will be destroyed, but not one person or one life will be lost.” God told him that. I believe God. My God, so

particularly cared for each life on that ship that the ship was demolished. Every one of those sailors swam to shore.

God rules, not only over creation, but God rules in such a way, my friends, that even the wrath of men and the evil of men will accomplish God's purpose. That's right! Every body is going to serve His purpose. You are and I am. Moses did. God raised Moses up to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. God said to Pharaoh, "I raised you up, too. I raised you up to block them. I raised you up to hinder them. I raised you up to cause trouble. I raised you up to glorify My justice. I raised you up to bury you in the sea for My glory." Even the evil of Pharaoh's heart accomplished the purpose of God.

Psalm 76 says, *"Surely, the wrath of man shall praise the Lord and the remainder of wrath He will restrain."* You see; everything that Joseph's brethren did to him, they meant it for evil. They wanted to destroy him. God meant it for good and God used their evil, God used their wrath, and God used their wickedness to accomplish His purpose. His will shall be done.

Pharaoh had all the Hebrew babies killed. Do you remember that? Do you remember how he killed all of the Hebrew babies? In doing so, he brought Moses right into his house. If he hadn't been killing the Hebrew babies, Moses never would have been put in that basket and Pharaoh's daughter would have never found him. She wouldn't have brought him home with her. The anger of that king was so great, that he killed all the babies and in doing so, he brought Moses right into his house. That is where God wanted him. I would rather be used for God's glory than His justice.

Augustus Caesar taxed the world. He sent out a decree that all the world should be taxed. In doing so, he brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, where God said Christ would be born.

Those who crucified Christ Jesus did what they wanted to do. They did what their wicked hearts wanted to do. In doing what their wicked hearts wanted to do, God said, *"They did what I determined before to be done."* God rules and God reigns, let God be God. Oh, the awesome, fearful, Majestic, Almighty, Omnipotent power of my God! *"None can stay His hand."*

You see; God rules over His sheep. Yes, *"All that My Father giveth me, they will come to Me. Him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out."* Christ said, *"I came down from heaven not to do My will (or your will); I came to do the will of Him that sent Me. And, this is the will of Him that sent Me, that of all which He hath given Me; I'll lose nothing, but I will raise it up the last day."*

God knows His sheep. *“The Lord knoweth them that are His.”* Our Lord said, *“Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring; they will hear My voice and they will be one fold and there will be one shepherd.”* God knows His sheep. He says, *“I know My sheep; I call them by name.”* He said to a bunch of people in Matthew 7, at the judgment; *“I never knew you.”* But He says of His own, *“I know My sheep.”*

God has known His sheep from the womb. He rules in their conception; He rules in their formation of either male or female. He said, *“I will return and Sarah shall have a son.”* He rules in their formation and he rules in their birth. He said to Jeremiah, *“Before I formed you in the belly, I knew thee. Before you came forth from your mother’s womb, I sanctified you and ordained you to be a prophet to the nations.”* You didn’t slip up on me, God said. Paul said, *“God separated me from my mother’s womb and called me by His grace.”* He rules over the conception, the formation and birth of His sons and sheep.

He rules over their state and condition. Listen, *“The Lord maketh rich; the Lord maketh poor. The Lord lifteth up; the Lord bringeth down. The Lord killeth; the Lord maketh alive. I the Lord create light; I create darkness. I create good and I create evil. Who maketh thee to differ? What has thou that thou didst not receive? A man can receive nothing except it be given him from above.”*

God quickens His sheep. He calls His sheep. *“They are willing in the day of His power.”* There is no heart so closed that He can’t open it. I know that is so! There is no heart so hard that He can’t break it. It will take God to save a sheep. It will take God to find a sheep. It will take God to save a sinner, but God is able. He rules over all.

There is not a heart so frozen that He can’t melt it. There is no will so rebellious that He can’t turn it. You might say, *“Well, He’ll never save me.”* He will if He has set His love on you. You might say, *“Well, I’ll never come.”* You will if He calls you. He broke down the walls of Jericho.

He rules the heart and He rules the will; the Lord God rules over all. He opens and nobody shuts. He shuts and nobody will open. He can make His chief enemy His beloved friend. He makes His greatest enemy willingly run to do His will and will gladly do it.

He rules the tongue and can turn cursing into praise and blaspheme into preaching. He can save a thief or a Pharisee. He can save whom He will. I will tell you this, when His people die; He rules and presides over their burial. He said, *“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”* He takes their souls to glory and one day He will raise them from the grave. The Lord rules over all, even over death.

You don't have power over death. No one else does, but He does. He said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. Because I live; you live.*" He rules sovereignly; my God reigns. Where is your God? I will tell you where My God is; "*He is in the heavens.*" He is not that weak, impotent, frustrated, defeated, peanut-god that I hear preached today. He rules over all! He reigns sovereignly, and "*None can stay His hand*" and there is none equal to Him. He rules irresistibly, and He rules wisely. "*Shall not the judge of the earth do right?*"

The songwriter put it this way:

King of Kings, let us adore Thee
High on Thy exalted throne.
Fall ye sinners, fall before Him
And His righteous reign, own.
All the glory, all the glory
Be to God and God alone.

That's my message, preaching the God of the Bible.