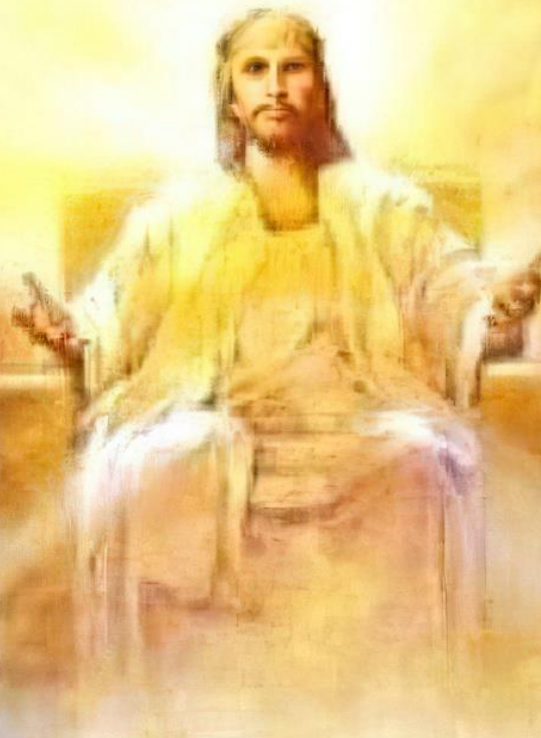


THE LORD REIGNS



Lesson 3 for January 20, 2024

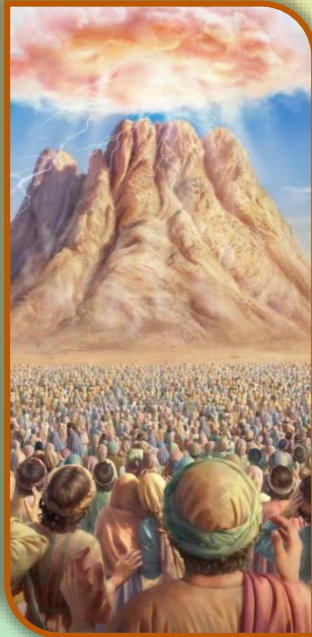
"The Lord
reigneth, he is
clothed with
majesty; the Lord
is clothed with
strength,
wherewith he hath
girded himself:
the world also is
stablished, that it
cannot be moved."

(Psalm 93:1)



The psalms proclaim God's sovereignty over the entire Earth. He is the King over every earthly government, and over every person who lives on our planet.

Although many governments do not accept divine sovereignty, or are even in open rebellion against it, God has loyal subjects throughout the world who adhere to the covenant that the Creator, King and Judge offers us, and are loyal to his Law.



The Creator
(Psalm 8; 100)

The King
(Psalm 97)

The Judge
(Psalm 75)

The covenant
(Psalm 7; 105)

The Law
(Psalm 25)

THE CREATOR

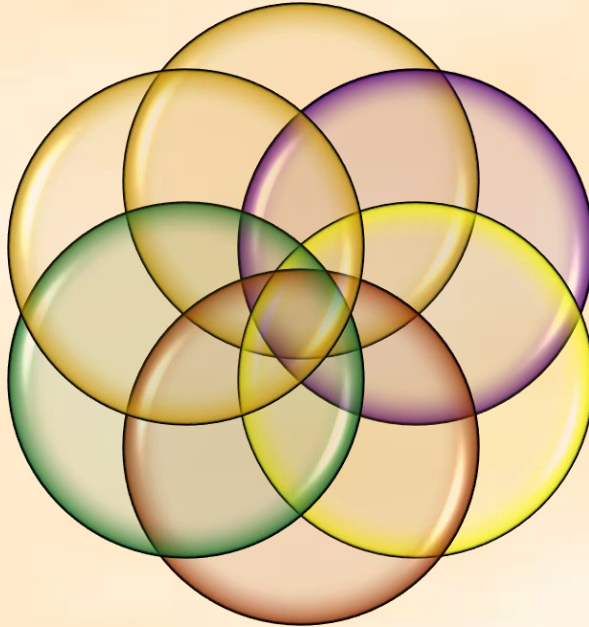
**"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,
the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained"
(Psalm 8:3)**

Why is God the Lord of the entire Earth?

**He already existed before
the Earth existed: "you
have always existed"
(Ps. 93:2 NIV)**

**The world belongs
to God, because
He created it
(Ps. 89:11)**

**He has power
over nature
(Ps. 29:5-8)**



**Creation itself
declares the glory
of God (Ps. 8:1; 19:1)**

**He will continue to
exist when this
Earth disappears
(Ps. 102:25-27)**

**He is superior to
any god of the
nations, who are
human inventions
(Ps. 115:2-4)**



**Looking around us, we can think that
humanity is great, that it has done great
feats and wonders. But the psalmist
confidently declares: "Know that the Lord is
God; He made us, and not we ourselves" (Ps.
100:3).**

**We are mere stewards of what God has
created (Ps. 8:5-9). He alone deserves our
supreme worship and loyalty.**

"The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof" (Psalm 97:1)

THE KING



Psalms shows God as a king clothed in honor, majesty and strength (Ps. 93:1), covered with light (Ps. 104:2). According to Psalms, why is God proclaimed King?

Because He is Creator (Ps. 149:2)

Because He is Savior (Ps. 74:12)

Because he establishes the world (Ps. 96:10)

Because he is merciful (Ps. 98:3)

Because it is right (Ps. 97:2)

Because it unites Heaven and Earth in praise (Ps. 148)

Despite being the King of the entire Earth and ruling with justice and mercy, few recognize His sovereignty.

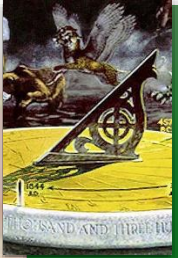
However, his disciples do delight in his righteous judgments (Ps. 97:8, 12). By faith, God's people rejoice in the establishment of God's Kingdom through the redemptive ministry of Christ and look forward to the consummation of the Kingdom at his second coming (Dan. 2:44).



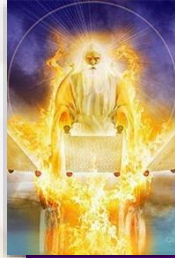
JUDGE

**"You say, "I choose the appointed time;
it is I who judge with equity" (Psalm 75:2)**

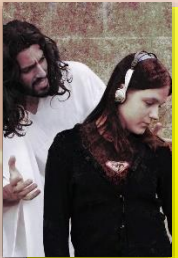
**As sovereign King, God is also Lawgiver and Judge (Ps. 99:7; 7:11).
Psalm 75 vividly describes the work of the Judge and the process and
culmination of his judgment:**



**The Judge has appointed a
time when he will begin to
judge (Ps. 75:2)**



**Judgment will be held and
executed before humanity
itself destroys the Earth
(Ps. 75:3)**



**Before judging each case,
God warns and gives
opportunity to the wicked
to repent (Ps. 75:4-7)**



**At the end of the judgment,
God will pour out the
plagues of the cup of
wrath, full of mixed wine,
on the wicked (Ps. 75:8)**



**At that time, there will be
a faithful remnant on Earth
who will praise God
(Ps. 75:9)**



**Finally, all unrepentant
sinners will be destroyed
forever; and the righteous
will live forever (Ps. 75:10)**



**Why, before speaking of
judgment, does the psalmist
give thanks to God (Ps. 75:1)?**

**Because those of us who trust in
the love of God have nothing to
fear from judgment, since our
sins have been forgiven and we
trust in the Advocate who loses
no case (James 2:13; 1Jn. 2:1).**

**"Arise, O Lord, in Your anger;
Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies;
Rise up me to the judgment You have commanded!" (Psalm 7:6 NKJV)**

THE PACT

The assurance that God's people have of being acquitted at judgment is based on the covenant that God has made with them (Ps. 105:7-8).

**He made the
covenant with
Abraham and
Isaac (Ps. 105:9)**

**He ratified it
with Jacob,
which is Israel
(Ps. 105:10-11)**

**Since they were few
and weak, he
protected them
(Ps. 105:12-15)**

**He saved Israel
through Joseph
(Ps. 105:16-24)**

**When they were
enslaved, he
freed them
(Ps. 105:25-38)**

**He protected
them in the
desert
(Ps. 105:39-43)**

**He settled them in
Canaan, the Promised
Land (Ps. 105:44)**

**As part of the covenant,
the people were to keep
the Law (Ps. 105:45)**

God gives us his justice and protection; He delivers us from evil and saves us. Our part is to embrace his covenant and be willing to obey his laws.

We are called to proclaim the covenant among the nations, so that they too may praise God (Ps. 105:1-4).

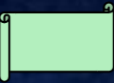

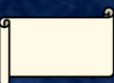

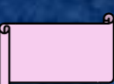
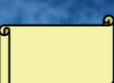


THE LAW

**"All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth,
To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies" (Psalm 25:10)**

Intimately linked to the pact are the "testimonies." The testimonies are the set of laws and ordinances that God has given to his people as the foundation of the government of his Kingdom.

All testimonies derive from a common source: the ten commandments. What do Psalms tell us about the Law or testimony?

-  Psalm 1:1-3. They make us happy and fruitful
-  Psalm 25:10. They guide us along paths of mercy and truth
-  Psalm 93:5. They give us security, because they are firm
-  Psalm 112:1-2. They are a blessing to our family.
-  Psalm 119:165. They give us peace
-  Psalm 119:110. They prevent us from falling into the enemy's traps

The psalmists appeal to God, who is Creator, King, Judge, Covenant Sovereign, and Lawgiver. In the world we can be safe and secure, even in the midst of the turmoil of the great Controversy, because God is sovereign and faithful in all he does and says.

“Our Creator justly claims the right to do as He chooses with the creatures of His hand. He has a right to govern as He will, and not as man chooses. But He is not a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He is the very fountain of love, the giver of blessings innumerable. [...] We do not deserve all His benefits; but they are continued to us, notwithstanding our unworthiness and cruel ingratitude. Then cease to complain as though you were bond servants under a hard taskmaster. Jesus is good. Praise Him. Praise Him who is the health of your countenance, and your God.”

EGW (Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, page 314.4)