

The Sovereign Rule Of God

The questions asked of Jesus by the chief priests and the elders of the people could also be asked of each one of us. “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?” (**Matthew 21:23**). Ultimately there must be a final authority. Who will that be? Man, who changes or God who does not change (**Malachi 3:6**)?

God is the Creator and Sustainer of the world. He has created the world with His Word (**Genesis 1:1, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26**). Everything God made in creation was very good (**Genesis 1:30**). This world is held together by the word of God’s power (**Hebrews 1:3; Psalm 148**). On the day that God knows, this world will be burned up and all the elements of it (**Matthew 24:36; 2 Peter 3:10-11**).

God made a conventional relationship with His chosen people, Israel (**Deuteronomy 7:6-11**). God guided the history of His people toward a redemptive goal (**Jeremiah 31:31-34; Daniel 2:44**). It is God who shows mercy and judgment upon us (**Romans 9:15**). God alone is to be worshipped as Creator and Ruler of the world (ex. **Deuteronomy 4:35**).

The song “Jesus Is Coming Soon” is #712 in our book. There is the phrase “Troublesome times are here filling men’s hearts with fear.” It can become very easy to become anxious as we look at what is going on in the world around us. Elisha’s servant was concerned about the host of Syrians surrounding them. “Open his eyes that he may see” (**2 Kings 6:15-17**). Do we remember the promise of God for His people (**Hebrews 13:5-6**)?

To our physical eye, turmoil seems to abound everywhere. Evil kingdoms seem to rise and punish God’s people. Yet, we are reminded that God is the One who removes kings and raises up kings (**Daniel 2:21**). They are all part of God’s plan in human history (**Daniel 2:36-45**). In the fullness of God’s time, He would send forth His Son (**Galatians 4:4**). At the end of time, God will gather His people home (**Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 2:10**).

However, to the spiritual eye, we need to see a different picture. It is Jesus who calmed the physical storm (**Mark 4:35-41**). He calms the spiritual storms also (**Psalms 107:29**). We need to listen, and practice the words in **Psalm 107:31-32**. Indeed, oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness. We need to be still and know that He is God (**Psalms 46:10**).

There is another song, “Master, The Tempest Is Raging,” #189 in our book. This is based on the account given in **Mark 4:35-41**. Indeed, there may be great windstorms in our life. Do we really think that God does not care if we are perishing? Do we hear the response that Jesus gave to His disciples? “How is it that you have no faith?” (**Mark 4:40**).

Are we like Gideon in our thinking? He asked if God is for us, why has all this befallen us (**Judges 6:13; note Nehemiah 9:23**). Gideon looked back and he had heard of all the good things God had done for His people. But he did not acknowledge, at least in the text, all the “bad things” God’s people did in response to the goodness of God, including the people of his day (**Judges 6:1**).

Are we expecting God to just give us “good” things and there be no lessons for us to learn? Do we glory in tribulations, knowing that it produces perseverance, and that produces character and that produces hope (**Romans 5:3-5**)? Yes, God provided them food and water, but He also expected them to follow Him (the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night) (**Exodus**

13:21-22). If we do, God will bless. If we do not follow, God will punish (**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**; see **1 Corinthians 10:1-11**).

Something to think about!

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