

Jesus in the Psalms

Jesus Reigns

Psalm 93

December 29th, 2024

I. Introduction (Mark 4:35-41)

This theme of God, the LORD, as the King over all is the very heart of Book 4 of the Psalter. It is the true answer to the exile of Book 3. In Psalm 93, this theme of Kingship is depicted primarily with one image: the image of agitated, billowing, roaring _____.

II. The Text: Psalm 93

*1 The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty;
The LORD is clothed,
He has girded Himself with strength.
Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved.
2 Your throne is established from of old;
You are from everlasting.
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,
Than the mighty waves of the sea.
5 Your testimonies are very sure;
Holiness adorns Your house,
O LORD, forever.*

III. Waters of Life, Waters of Death

For ancient Israel, a lot of _____ centered on water: the fear of not getting enough and dying of thirst and hunger; or, of getting too much and being destroyed.

Biblical History (Genesis): When God first created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a watery mass; without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. It was all *sea*. And the Spirit of God was enthroned above it as He hovered over the face of the waters (Gen. 1:2). The waters had to be pulled back and given boundaries in order for the earth to exist. And it wouldn't be long before those waters would close in on the earth again and destroy it.

Redemptive History of Israel (Exodus-Numbers): The Israelites were slaves in Egypt, but God rose up Moses and led them out of Egypt. And He did this through water. They were saved through water, but the Egyptian army was destroyed by water. Likewise when they came into the promise land, God held back the River Jordan.

Geography: The land of Israel was for most of the year dry. With the exception of the fall and winter, Israel didn't get any rain. The life of the nation was literally dependent on those rains, for without them their crops would die and they would starve. But there was another danger: if it rained _____, flash floods would rip across the dry land and destroy everything, bringing death and destruction in their wake.

IV. The Roaring of the Nations

By virtue of its power and necessity and the terror it held in their imaginations, water also came to symbolize the threatening _____ that surrounded Israel. The nation was in ancient times and is in our day, surrounded by enemies, like an island surrounded by threatening waves. The water, or the sea, became in their imagination a symbolic source of these other evils: of these mighty and uncontrollable enemies that constantly threatened to swallow them up—the Leviathan, Assyria (Isa. 8:7-8), Egypt (Jer. 46:7-8), and the four world empires (Dan. 7:2-8; cf. Rev. 13:1-4).

V. Jesus Calms the Storm

What did Jesus' Jewish disciples see when they beheld Him calming this storm? They saw Jesus, not merely the Water-Walker, or a miracle-worker. They saw Jesus, the _____, YHWH: the One who addressed Job out of the hurricane, who made all things, who set a limit to the ocean, who created all things in and through water, who destroyed it again with water, who split the Red Sea, who held back the Jordan River, who causes floods to break out in the desert, who satisfies the desolate places and gives refreshment to the dry ground. But there is more. In calming the storm Jesus is proclaimed, not just as the Creator God, but He is declared the King over all the _____—He is mightier than, not just the roaring waves, but the roaring *nations*.

VI. By His _____ (Rev. 20:11-16)

How does Jesus still the waves? He did so by His Word: "Peace," He said, "Be still!" And the wind ceased and there was great calm. The wind and the sea obey His Word. And the same is true for the nations. How does Jesus subdue the nations? He does so by His Word, and He conquers His enemies. Thus He commissioned His disciples to conquer the nations by speaking and proclaiming the Good News of His Kingdom, and by calling all nations to come to Jesus and so be saved.

VII. Comfort & Holiness

The fact that Jesus is enthroned over everything, even the tumult of the nations is the absolute security and comfort for His Church. It gives us boldness, for we know and wield and obey the very Word by which He reigns. This is why our psalm ends with a meditation on the law or the command of the reigning Lord. He reigns by His Word. And therefore it is a fitting praise after meditating on His reign to proclaim, like this psalmist does: "Your testimonies are very sure; holiness adorns your house, O Lord, forever" (v. 5).

The Lord reigns, and we stand in awe of the goodness of His Word by which He reigns: the goodness of His righteousness and holiness which adorns His royal house. And we don't just stand in awe of it, but we _____ to it. We clothe ourselves in it. The reign of our Lord drive us to eagerly and with diligence apply ourselves to that peace-giving Word which governs the roaring of the waves and the roaring of the nations.

VIII. Come & Welcome to Jesus Christ