

7.2.23 / The Lord Reigns / Psalm 99

The Bible is the infallible Word of God – Inspired by the Holy Spirit – the supreme authority on all matters on which it speaks.

Psalm 99:1-3

I like it when I'm in charge. (i.e. meetings)

I like it when others are in charge. (i.e. London trip)

Who's in charge?

Psalm 99 clearly states the Lord reigns.

2.4 Enthroned in heaven

9.4 Lord sits on the throne judging righteously

9.7 The Lord reigns forever, he has established His throne for justice, He will rule the world in righteousness, He will govern the peoples with equity and compassion

29:10 (55:19; 102:12; 113.5) Enthroned as king forever, ruling with justice and compassion

The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble

Who rules or reigns in **your life**? Peers opinion / political perspective / addiction or an unhealthy habit / a pursuit of riches or comfort / you? (pride and selfish desires)

The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble

97:1 – *The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad.* **Glad** because of His character. **Tremble** because of His power and authority and Holiness.

99:1a *The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble*

[Isaiah 6:3](#), [Revelation 4:8](#) – The Lord is both God to be worshipped and King who reigns

The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble.

99:1b *He sits enthroned between the cherubim; let the earth shake.*

Think here - the vision of the throne room meets a picture of His reign on earth.

- [Between the cherubim reference](#) - Exodus: blood, frogs, gnats, flies, livestock*, boils, hail*, locusts, darkness*, firstborn – demonstrated His reign on earth.
- Joshua - Joshua 2:8-11.
- God comes to earth in the person of Jesus (fully God and fully man). He demonstrates his reign over [disease](#), over [nature](#), over [evil spirits](#), and finally over [sin and death](#).
- He sends the Holy Spirit and launches a worldwide movement through a handful of imperfect followers.

The Lord has demonstrated His reign in countless ways throughout the history of the world.

And yet... not everyone accepts Him as King.

Pharoah didn't.

Some of the Pharisees didn't.

Many people today... don't.

Do you? Do you accept His reign or reject His reign?

I want to spend the rest of our time this morning deeply probing this question: **Do you accept His reign or reject His reign? Have you given your allegiance to King Jesus?**

The sad truth is that **while** we live in this broken world, there are two different reigns in play. There is the reign of God and the reign of people (sinful, broken people).

These two are very different but they both exist. Consider Egypt during the Exodus. Pharaoh **reigned** over Egypt. He had significant power and authority over his subjects. But his reign was **nothing compared to** the reign of the Lord over Egypt.

There is a similar duality at play for us today. We live in a world where people reign (they have real authority that makes a real difference) and at the same time, if scripture is true, the Lord ultimately reigns and His reign crushes the power of human reign like an elephant stepping on a **potato chip**. The power and extent of human reign is nothing compared to the power and extent of the Lord's reign.

Let's unpack these two **real** and **present** reigns:

1. Reign of people

All morals and ethics are relative.

We are subject (with some exceptions) to whomever we choose to be subject to – to whatever extent we feel like being subject.

When something goes wrong you find fault with someone “in charge” of some aspect of your dilemma.

You go after them and reject their reign

Find another King - who inevitably fails to meet your expectations

This cycle repeats itself until you realize that your expectations reign. You actually reign in your own mini-world.

And.... I stink at it

Numb the pain with... indifference, distraction, or addiction

Characterized by payback, pride

It's judgment for them & validation for me

In the end, everyone loses.

If you live in a **people reign** paradigm you'll experience ever changing moral standards and you'll spend much of your life running after someone to blame for the hardships you've experienced and now endlessly replay in your mind.

You don't have to live there. While it's true that people reign to some extent, there is one whose reign is exponentially more powerful and just and compassionate. It is victorious and everlasting. **It is the reign of God.**

Reign of God

All morals and ethics are set by Him (and revealed in the Bible)

The Lord is the King and we are His subjects. His ways are to be trusted and obeyed.

Something goes wrong

- Where did you go? I am here.
- Why did you let...? I am God (see Job).

As we receive that message and take it in with an open heart, the Holy Spirit brings comfort to our hurting souls. Comfort that heals us, prepares us, and equips us to **receive** and **follow** the direction that is coming next.

Direction from our King - which we as His subjects are bound to obey – and which we (as those who have been comforted) are pleased to obey.

Characterized by healing from the Spirit and direction from the Spirit

Direction from the Spirit is so much different from the direction that we sometimes receive from blind rage, deep bitterness or foolish desperation. The direction from the Spirit is the gracious and all-knowing counsel from our King.

Reign of people is filled with finding a foe to fight.

Reign of God involves submitting to a **King** to follow.

This **king** asks for our complete allegiance: Mt 16:24-25; 21:37-39

Will you accept His reign and **live** as His subject in His Kingdom? Or will you reject His reign and subject yourself to lesser kings?

See conclusion on next page...

When... (see below)...

The Lord's reign invites us to...

- **Trust** His rule over heaven & earth
- **Obey** His way in all circumstances.

When you get diagnosed with an illness... wallow in sadness / blame

When you don't get the job... bitterness / depression

When you're hurt by a friend... anger / self pity

When you experience temptation Take a short cut to pleasure

When you don't make the team... complain / blame

When you get an unexpected bill... worry and despair

When you get injured... frustration / self pity

When you have the opportunity to cheat in school, at work, or on your taxes...

Will you accept His reign and **live** as His subject in His Kingdom? Or will you reject His reign and subject yourself to lesser kings

We are given 1000 opportunities every day to accept or reject the Lord's reign.

The teaching of the Bible compels us to acknowledge the Lord as King and to give Him our **full allegiance**.

Practice: "Lord, you are my King and I am your subject. It is my joy to follow my King."