

Your God Reigns

Isaiah 52:7

Preface

I am overwhelmed by the words to the song we just sang. The words put our God in universal perspective. I particularly like final verse that reads:

And all the powers of darkness
Tremble at what they've just heard
'Cause all the powers of darkness
Can't drown out a single word

When all God's children sing
Glory, glory, hallelujah
He reigns, He reigns

Scripture

⁷*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*

Isaiah 52:7 (NIV)

Introduction

We live in a day when many people have lost the understanding that God is in control; that God Reigns! Instead, we live as if we are in control. We are smart, equipped, advanced and shrewd. We think we have it all together.

We go through life full of confidence until that day when the world as we know it crumbles before us. It may be a death, a medical diagnosis or economic disaster. But we all have a day when we come face to face with the reality; we are not in control.

That is when we turn to God and pray that he is in control. We pray that somehow he has the madness under control and there is rhyme and reason to it all we see before us.

This is when we turn our trust to him and realize that

God Reigns!

1. Moses & Burning Bush (exodus 3:1-4:17)

God heard the cries of his people and appointed Moses to do a great task. God had great plans for Moses to lead His people out of captivity and into the land he had prepared for them.

Moses was quietly tending the flock of his father-in-law. Through a bush on fire but not being consumed by the fire, God got Moses attention and spoke to him.

As Moses approaches, God says, ***"Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."*** Exodus 3:5

God went on to say to Moses, ***"I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land."***

Moses responds to the huge responsibility by asking the obvious question, ***"Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"*** God gives him the greatest answer possible, ***"I will be with you."***

When you think God doesn't notice your suffering, remember He notices, He cares and He is with you. **God reigns!**

2. Daniel and Lions' Den (Daniel 6)

Because of Daniels ability to explain God's writing to King Belshazzar, he was given high ranking in the kingdom. That is until he refused to obey a decree issued by king Darius that the people could not pray to anyone but the king himself.

Daniel went right on with his prayers to God without concern of punishment. Daniel chose to seek God and thank God for his blessings regardless of the consequences.

The punishment for his prayers was to be thrown into the lions' den. The kings snide remark was ***"May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"***

After spending the night with the lions, miraculously Daniel emerged without a single scar. He said to the king, ***"My God sent his angel and he shut the mouths of the lions."***

The king's response was to issue another decree. This time it was about the God of Daniel. ***"For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end."*** God Reigns!

3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:26)

Nebuchadnezzar was a king who thought highly of himself. He made a gold image ninety feet high and nine feet wide. A decree was issued that when the horn was sounded, all must fall down and worship the image of gold.

But three Jewish men who were dedicated to the worship of God, refused to bow and worship the king's golden image.

With the furnace heated seven times hotter than normal, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace to be burnt to a crisp.

But instead of burning in agony, they danced with joy. But wait, who was that fourth person in the furnace with them? It was God's angel sent to protect them.

The king's response was to say, ***“Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here! Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.”***

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4. Jesus Calmed the Storm (Mark 4:39)

As Jesus and his disciples were crossing the lake to the other side, a great storm came upon them. Waves were crashing over the small boats as they became swamped with water.

The passengers were frantically sinking and filled with panic. Jesus on the other hand was asleep in the stern of the boat. When they awoke him, the Bible says, “He rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ***“Quiet! Be Still!”*** The waves and wind immediately calmed.

When they saw this, the disciples and others asked among themselves, ***“Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”*** He is Jesus the living son of God.

He Reigns!

5. Jesus Raised Lazarus from Dead (John 11:43)

Jesus was beckoned to their home where Lazarus was reported to be very ill. As Jesus arrives, Mary greets him with the bad news that Lazarus is already dead. She says, ***“If only you had been here my brother would not be dead.”***

Surrounded by people crying and mourning the loss of Lazarus, Jesus feels their hurt and is deeply moved. Twice the text tells us he was deeply moved by the sorrow.

Jesus stands at the mouth of the tombs and speaks with the voice of authority, ***“Lazarus, come forth!”*** Up from the dead comes Lazarus.

God in the form of man on earth speaks away death and speaks life back into a man. He is Jesus, the son of the Living God and **He Reigns!**

6. Paul's Dramatic Conversion (Acts 9:4)

Stephen was an enthusiastic Christian who shared the good news of Jesus Christ. But it got him stoned to death. That day a young man stood, watched and learned how to hate.

That young man's hatred for Christians burned within and he made it his mission to hunt down and to arrest Christians.

Armed with letters of authority, he set out for Damascus to arrest anyone who belonged to “The Way.” He was on a hunt. A hunt to destroy Christians and their faith in Jesus Christ.

But almighty God had different plans for Saul of Tarsus. He would not just stop this man, He would convert him.

With a blinding light, God speaks to him; ***“Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”*** Then he says, ***“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”***

And told he was. Saul became Paul the great missionary of Jesus Christ. His life was completely transformed by Jesus Christ. Two thirds of the New Testament was written by Paul.

Untold people have become Christians because of the work and writing of Paul, the converted persecutor of believers. God made this happen in his infinite wisdom and glorious plan.

God Reigns!

Conclusion

Revelation 19:6-7 reads, ***“Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Rev 19:6-7 NIV***

History is God’s story. It is not mine or yours, but it belongs to Gods.

Politicians will come and go. World leaders will come and go.
Philosophies, trends and eras will come and they too will pass.

But your God, he reigns forever!

When the world chooses to deny he exists; God Reigns!

When we are at the pinnacle of our happiness; God Reigns!

When we are at the depths of despair; God Reigns.

When life seems overwhelming and the waves are rushing in upon us; God Reigns!

In all seasons of your life, let God Reign!