

## Meet the God Who Reigns

*"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." (Rom. 15:4)*

▶ Biblical logic, based on the "Romans 15:4 Principle":

1. Everything in the Bible is written ...
2. The Bible is full ...
3. Therefore ...

### Psalm 93:1-5

#### The Lord reigns (vs. 1)

- "The Lord reigns" is a chorus throughout the Old and New Testaments. A sovereign God spoke the world into existence in Genesis. "The Lord reigns" was Moses' message to Pharaoh in Exodus. And on and on it goes right through to the end of Revelation.

#### The Lord reigns from of old (vs. 2)

- The Psalmist reminds believers that God's reign has no beginning.
- Psalm 93:1 hearkens back to Psalm 24 which celebrates God's ownership over every living creature and the whole of creation.

- In Isaiah 46, God gives His people a criterion for testing a candidate's claim to being God. It basically goes like this: "If I can tell you the end from the beginning and accomplish ALL my purpose, then I'm God." And He repeatedly challenges the "gods" of the nations, "Can you do this?"

### **The floods of hardship lift up their voice (vs. 3)**

- This Psalm doesn't come to a jubilant gathering of God's Old Testament people.
- These 150 Psalms weren't compiled and collected as we find them in our Bibles until the time of Ezra and Nehemiah – after Babylon conquered Jerusalem in 586 B.C. These were hard times for the people of God, especially hard in light of the fact that God had made promises to them.
  - God's promises had to do with King David's offspring sitting on the throne for all generations.
  - God's promises had to do with the people having their own land in which they would worship Yahweh.
  - God's promises had to do with the people living in peace and resting from the endless conflict that had marked their history.

"By the waters of Babylon, there we sat and wept, when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our lyres. For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?" (Ps. 137:1-3)

"Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage! Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt. Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins; the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary! Your foes have roared in the midst of your meeting place; they set up their own signs for signs." (Ps. 74:2-4)

"... the floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice." (Ps. 93:3)

- We, too, know this experience of "floods lifting up their voice".

### **The Lord is mightier than the floods and will rescue His people (vs. 4-5)**

- These Psalms – 150 of them, arranged in 5 collections – are not arranged chronologically. They are arranged to tell a story: an unfolding, forward-moving story.

"The organization of the Psalter reminds us not only of the law of Moses but of a pilgrimage through which God is taking his people. The Psalter helps to tell the story of a journey from suffering to glory and from lament to praise. One statistical details tells the tale: in Books One through Three (Psalms 1-89), so-called "laments" outnumber "hymns" of praise by a little more than two-to-one, while in Books Four and Five (Psalms 90-150), the proportion is reversed, and actually amplified – here "hymns" of praise outnumber "laments" seven to three."  
–**Reggie Kidd**, *With One Voice*, p.29

- What does this mean for my life? It means the painful and distressing experiences of our lives are not the end of the story. There is hope!

### **How will He deliver us?**

- How will the Lord deliver us from the most fearsome "flood": the punishment we deserve for our many sins?

- And how will he deliver us from the pains of life in this world?
- The Deliverer, David's long-promised Son, would come.

"Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. (**Isaiah 9:7**)

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." (**Matthew 1:1**)

- On the other side of Christ's perfect life of obedience, sin-bearing death, and resurrection, God would declare: "Jesus Christ is the Sovereign King. And He will reign forever."

"So why the effusive outpouring of praise at the end? Psalms 146-150, it seems to me, are psalms that look to the end of history. The final cluster of psalms opens out onto a promise that transcends the boundaries of Israel's history. Israel's journey was a pilgrimage that awaited another chapter: the day when God would, as Psalm 2 promised, raise up Messiah. God's people drafted the Psalter to sustain themselves in that hope. They knew that one day God and they would have the last laugh. Centuries later, the early believers of Acts 4 recognized that when God raised his Son from the dead, the time for laughter had come."

-**Reggie Kidd**, *With One Voice*, p.44

#### Revelation 5:5

#### Revelation 4:5-6

"My life goes on in endless song, above earth's lamentations.  
I hear the real, though far-off hymn, that hails a new creation.  
Above the tumult and the strife, I hear its music ringing.  
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?  
What though my joys and comforts die, the Lord my Savior liveth.  
And though the darkness round me close, songs in the night He giveth.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?"

-**Robert Lowry/Ira D. Sankey**, *How Can I Keep From Singing?*