

Revelation 4:11  
*God is the Loving Ruler of the World*  
January 1, 2012  
**Sermon Outline**

Notes:

**Key Idea**

*God is the loving ruler of the world. He made the world and he made us as rulers of the world under him. He alone deserves our undivided worship and calling all men to worship Him is our primary mission.*

**I. Introduction: Smell the Coffee...**

The continuing and frustrating opacity and complexity of the world is why Christian citizens who agree on the Bible and the gospel will, nevertheless, come to different conclusions about secular arrangements, plans and problems... We may share a desire to love and do good to all people (and especially the household of faith), but think quite differently as to what the best way to help is, or what the most pressing problem to address is. ...

It is just as well that our job is not to improve the world because that is a task demonstrably beyond us. What is the commission our Lord has given us? The Anglican Church in Sydney's mission statement puts it beautifully:

To glorify God by proclaiming our savior the Lord Jesus Christ in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit, so that everyone will hear his call to repent, trust and serve Christ in love, and be established in the fellowship of his disciples while they await his return.<sup>1</sup>

**II. God is the Loving Ruler of the World**

- A. God is the **Creator** of the World  
1. He created everything

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<sup>1</sup> Tony Payne "*Smell the Coffee*". The Breifing Issue 358-9 July-August 2008.

## Romans 11: 36

For **from him** and through him and to him are all things.

2. He created everything ex-nilo

## Colossians 1:16

<sup>16</sup> For by him **all things** were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created **through him** and for him.

3. ...very good (Genesis 1; visible & invisible)
4. Creation is for God's Glory (Rev. 4:11)

B. God is the Loving **Ruler** of All Things

1. ...Because he Created Us
2. His Creative power is ongoing, God **sustains** all he made

## Colossians 1:17

<sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him **all things hold together**.

3. Complete Rule

## Matthew 10:29

<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And **not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father**.

## Proverbs 21:1–2

<sup>1</sup> **The king's heart** is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; **he turns it wherever he will**.

<sup>2</sup> Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord **weighs the heart**.

4. *Loving* Rule (Genesis 1)

C. Humanity was Created to Rule the World Under God

1. We are Creatures
2. Image of God

## Genesis 1:27–28

<sup>27</sup> **So God created man in his own image**, in the image of God he created him; male and female he

created them.<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and *have dominion* over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

### 3. Jesus is the Perfect Image

#### **Colossians 1:15, 16b**

[Jesus] is *the image of the invisible God*...

...all things were created *through him* and *for him*.

#### **Romans 8:29**

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be *conformed to the image of his Son*, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

### **III. Competing Views of the World**

#### A. Materialism

(Only things perceived with the senses exist)

#### B. Mysticism (Cf. 1 Tim 4:1-5)

#### **Philippians 3:17–21**

<sup>17</sup> Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as *enemies of the cross of Christ*. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with *minds set on earthly things*. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

#### C. Deism

#### **Acts 17:24–27**

<sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human

hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.<sup>26</sup> And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, *having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place*,<sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us...

#### D. Problem of Evil

1. It is only a problem for those who believe that God created a purposeful, good world
2. If evil is normal or accidental it is not worth the time to complain about it
3. If it is a real indication that things are not the way they should be, then the real question to ask is: "What can be done about it?"

#### IV. Worship is the Right Response

##### **Revelation 4:11** (Cf. 5:9–10)

<sup>11</sup> "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

##### **Romans 11:33–36** (Cf. Mark 12:30 – Greatest Command)

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! <sup>34</sup> "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" <sup>35</sup> "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" <sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.