

GOD'S SUPREMACY

(Sermon Summary)

Reading; Psalm 68: 21-35.

We have seen that the Lord's people are protected and preserved. We are a needy people but are often dull to greater spiritual realities in the world we live in. We sometimes copy the world in seeking out the same refuges that the world looks out, such as power, fame, success, and money. The world has aims that only last for this life. God works to a greater plan than this, and we learn something of this in the concluding part of our study in this Psalm.

1. Serving notice on the world.

The Psalm begins with a prayer that God would act. It is a prayer that expresses the intention of God. He is going to scatter people (v1, v14), including kings. Those who oppose Him will be driven away (v2). Armies will flee (v12). These are not the acts of petulance but the acts of justice. This is the manifestation of righteous anger. The wicked have weapons but the Lord has more chariots than they do. Sihon, Og and the Egyptians all fall before Him.

He reigns supreme so effortlessly. Mountains melt, armies are blown away as if they were smoke. The Lord's supremacy is seen in the defeat of His foes, such as Satan, the accuser of the brethren. One day all the godless philosophies of the world will collapse before Him. They are intellectually and morally bankrupt. They are incoherent and will all be found to be on the wrong side of history.

Yet it is hard to see it at present when the godless seem to triumph. Psalm 73: 2-1 are deeply significant words and are often what the Lord's people feel. God bears with the elect (Luke 18: 7-8). The wicked do seem to prosper and the Lord's people seem to be very weak.

So we announce what at present we do not see. We announce the Lord's victories before they happen. We believe what we read in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 about the Lord's coming when people seem to be happy and content with their godless lives. We believe what we read in 2 Peter 3: 1-7 about the end of the world and the judgment of the wicked. We preach these things and warn all not to side with the world for God will be supreme. We can see the madness and folly of the things people believe in this day and age, and realize that the Lord alone has wisdom and understanding. We find that people are deeply afraid and are without direction.

2. We are to sing.

Part of what we are to sing is an announcement of God's judgment and ultimate victory. This is what we see people doing in the Psalm (v3, v4, v25 and v32). We are declaring that the Lord will vindicate His name and His honour. He will win out (v21) and so will we (v23). We sing about the power of God, His strength and awesomeness (vv34-35). We announce the righteous conclusion of all things, despite the moral turmoil of the present and all the unresolved injustices.

By singing we are doing something that is more deeply expressive than speaking. Words go further when they are sung. What we sing is a statement we make to the Lord and to each other. (See Ephesians 5: 18-21; and Colossians 3:15-17). We see our singing is to be full of the Spirit and to come from hearts that are full of grace. We are to sing meaning what we sing. It is not to be something lost in introspection, worrying about whether we are feeling enough or not. Neither are we to judge the spiritual nature of the singing by the volume or enthusiasm. We will sing in heaven where there will be perfect harmony.