

“He Rules Over the Nations”

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*“For the kingdom is the LORD’S, **And He rules over the nations.**” (Psalm 22:28)*

Read Psalm 22

This Psalm has three primary movements: verses 1-21, 22-26, and 27-31. Our primary focus will be on verses 27-31. It is necessary, however, to note the two preceding paragraphs within the Psalm itself. Verses 1-21 are immediately recognized by everyone who reads the New Testament as the Psalm quoted by our Lord in Matthew 27:46, “About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?’ that is, ‘MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?’” This Psalm is heavily Messianic in character. Within Psalm 22:1-21 we can see the crucifixion of our Lord and the fulfillment of prophecy (vv. 1, 6, 7, 12-16, 18). From Psalm 22:1-21 we are led into verses 22-26. In verses 22-26 the sufferer of verses 1-21 testifies before their brethren in the Temple, of God’s faithfulness to deliver.

He calls upon his fellow Israelis to join him in praising the LORD. God does deliver the afflicted, and He will satisfy them in their hunger (vv. 23, 24, 26). Both of these movements within the Psalm (i.e. the sufferings of the afflicted [vv. 1-21] and the satisfying of the delivered [vv. 22-26]) bring us to verses 27-31.

The Psalm has an ever increasing circle of inclusion. It begins with the individual in verses 1-21, than it extends to the congregation within the Temple in verses 22-26, and finally it explodes in the arena of “All the ends of the earth” in verses 27-31. It is strongly Jewish in verses 22-26 and becomes inclusive and universal in verses 27-31. Our paragraph begins with a statement of universal worship. There are two sentences in verse 27 that are in synonymous parallelism. Verse 28, “For the kingdom is the LORD’S and He rules over the nations” provides the reason for this universal worship of the LORD.

The rule of God is marked by three qualities. First, The rule of God is unconditional. God does what He desires to do. There is no gap between God’s will and the exercising of power to accomplish what He wills. How this works out in and through free moral agents is beyond my ability to process, but the will of God is being fulfilled. Second, The rule of God is universal. There is nothing that falls outside of His rule. All things created bow before Him. Third, The rule of God is unveiling. Who God is finds expression in how He rules. The rule of God is just, but it is also gracious, loving, merciful, and faithful. The rule of God is not executed by a fallen despot who delights in the misery of his citizens. No, our God’s very character as a God of love and grace

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guarantees that in the exercising of His will we have an unending reservoir of wisdom and mercy.

God does indeed rule over the nations and all things created will one day bow before him without outside coercion in humble adoration and will profess with their voices He is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:11, 12).

Can there be any doubt of why He is worshipped and the certainty of this worship?

Verse 29 of Psalm 22 gives us the inclusive nature of the worship. No one, regardless as to financial prosperity or personal ruin will be excluded from the company of those who worship before Him.

Verses 30 and 31 give us an Old Testament equivalent to Matthew 28:18-20 and 2 Timothy 2:2. We are to teach each succeeding generation the truth about God. How significant is our baby ministry? How significant is the ministry to our children and youth? It is priceless. We are constantly endeavoring to expand our ministry to children through outreach and instruction.

Notice what we are to tell our children. We are to tell our children that "He has done it." Many suggest that we are to translate this, "It is finished." In fact, this is how the Amplified Bible expands on this verse. Friends, we are to tell the next generation and even those who are yet unborn, "It is finished."

It is because of His suffering that He now rules over the nations. It is because of the satisfaction of His labor that we can raise up our voices in unison and say, "He rules over the nations." Friend, there is coming a day when "All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You."

Today, let us praise His name and let us commit ourselves to this holy task of telling each succeeding generation that "It is finished" and that God does indeed rule over the nations!