

Grace to you and peace from Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood and has made us kings and priests to God. To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. It is certain.

Psalm 93 (NKJV) — 1 The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The Lord is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved. **2** Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting. **3** The floods have lifted up, O Lord, The floods have lifted up their voice; The floods lift up their waves. **4** The Lord on high is mightier Than the noise of many waters, Than the mighty waves of the sea. **5** Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, forever.

**The LORD's Reign:
Mightier Than Many Waters**

- 1. He has established the world**
- 2. He has established His throne**
- 3. He has established His Word**

In Jesus name, fellow redeemed,

Just recently the media was able to bring us extensive coverage of the waves that pummeled the east coast. In Hurricane Sandy, we witnessed the floods lifting up their voice. The force and destruction of this storm appeared as simple for Sandy as kicking over a child's lincoln log house.

Do you ever feel like such storms have passed through your life or the life of someone you love? Have the floods lifted up their voice?

This last Sunday of the Church year we commemorate Christ the King. The LORD reigns. In Him, you will not drown. In Him, wave upon wave cannot cover you. He remains solid – a rock. As Jesus said of those who keep His Word, *Matthew 7:25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.* The LORD reigns. He has established the world. He has established His throne. He has established His Word.

THE LORD'S REIGN: MIGHTIER THAN MANY WATERS

1. He has established the world

The waves crash. The floods lift up their voice. Who is in control? Anyone?

I remember having a discussion about this sort of questions with a coworker of mine. He was convinced that although God was almighty and eternal, He may not necessarily know all things or control all things. As he put it, 'I think God gets surprised every once and a while.'

If this was the case, then to some degree you are on your own. If God didn't know you would be struck with the loss of your job, with cancer, with the loss of someone you love, then how can we be sure He will be able to work these things together for good? How can we know He is with us to answer our cries for aid? And ultimately – If God gets surprised, then really His promises are no longer in His control and therefore no longer certain. Ultimately, how can we trust in His power and promise to save us from our own sins?

1 The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The Lord is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved.

If your Bible gives footnotes you might notice the meaning at the end of the verse – “it cannot be shaken.” It will not totter. **The LORD has established the world.**

However, while we live on the inside of this world, it might not quite feel so firm. The curse that binds this world under the sway of sin can leave us greatly shaken. What hope would we have if it were left up to us to keep things stable in our life? In times of distress we totter; we topple.

Only God can keep this world stable. Take life systems for example. We live in an intricate balance. A slight change in the atmosphere from 21% oxygen and 78% nitrogen makes life impossible. The earth surface must be covered by a majority of water to moderate temperature and cleanse the air. Relatively small changes in the distance of sun and moon from the earth would scorch, freeze, or flood the earth. What will keep this world from tottering and all man kind perishing?

As we read in v.1 – He is robed in majesty. It is the majesty of a King which He wears. You can picture here how officers in our military wear stripes and medals on their uniforms to signify the high rank they hold. Our King is robed with the highest rank. Unlike a democracy governed by many, His is a Monarchy, governed by One. He controls and governs His realm with supreme authority. This world we live in belongs to His realm of power. Nothing is beyond Him. He is girded with strength. The ESV translates, “He has put on strength as His belt.”

Isaiah 46:9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’

Nothing surprises God. The world He has created will not be shaken on account of the wars we wage, the pollution and litter we create, or the selfish sins we commit. When God says, “There is no other God beside Him,” this means that there is no other power that is beyond His control.

4 The Lord on high is mightier Than the noise of many waters. Indeed, **He has established the world.**

2. He has established His throne

We can never truly understand the LORD's supreme reign if we do not understand His throne. We can never truly know the throne if we do not know the One crowned King of kings. Without knowing what God's gracious rule and how it comes to us, a hurricane like Sandy that takes the

hundreds of lives leaves us kingless ... on our own ... thinking God really isn't in control ... and totally confused about God's reign.

But with Christ we see things differently. With an understanding of the eternal Son of God who for our sakes gave up all divine rights to become a servant to all we see the LORD's reign take shape. When we look to His perfect life of obedience offered up for the sins of the world, then and only then do we see the LORD reigning in every circumstance, every hurricane, every flood that enters our lives. Only by a Christ founded faith do we see that **the LORD has established His throne.**

3 The floods have lifted up, O Lord, The floods have lifted up their voice; The floods lift up their waves.

It is a frightful thing to face something that is not under your control. I for instance, have a slight fear of heights. As long as I have something to hold onto with my hand I'm o.k. But as soon as I reach that point on the top of the ladder where I can no longer lean or hold on with my hands, I start to totter. It is because I feel like I don't have control.

The waters that flood our lives can give us much the same feeling – out of control. Maybe its things that seem out of control at work. Maybe it is a child growing up and going off to college where it seems all of sudden that they are beyond your control. Maybe its your own sins or weaknesses that seem out of control. We feel out of control. And rightly so. The foundations of this world and our own self sooner or later will be knocked out by the floods of this world, carried away by our sins. The waves are mighty. Waves of temptation. The evil that floods this world, that rises up around and within. Left to our sins and weaknesses, we cannot keep our head above water. Were lost at sea. Unless...

4 The Lord on high is mightier Than the noise of many waters, Than the mighty waves of the sea.

Unless... unless God's kingdom could come in such a way that these imperfections were removed. Unless God's kingdom could come in such a way that it would provide the righteousness and holiness we lack – something to grab on to, something to steady us when all else is knocked out. Unless God could crown a King that brings His own righteousness for us, that wins us by grace and love, that conquers our sinful opposition and leads us to trust Him in every way. Unless...

John 18:36 ...“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

His kingdom is not of this world. It comes not through the force and violence that would condemn all the world to hell. It comes through the gracious gift of His Word. It comes not to those who are mightiest, but to those who are weakest. His kingdom comes through the hearing of the gospel, that works a heart to repent and believe in victory amid all defeat. His kingdom teaches us trust in the midst of the mightiest, loudest waters crashing. Our King who has won for us the true victory.

Only through faith do we look not through our eyes but the eyes of the Spirit of God to see this as the throne of God established. Peter had to tell the assembly at Pentecost – *Acts 2:36*
“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Not by might, nor by strength, but by crucifixion and death He is Lord and Christ. This once dead Jesus now lives and reigns at the right hand of the Father over every dominion, every evil, every power that would ever challenge Him.

“I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13–14)

He lives and reigns with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever. **He has established His throne.**

3. He has established His Word

When Jesus was confronted by Pilate with the question as to whether or not he was a king, Jesus responded,

John 18:37 ...“You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

His cause is a royal one. But unlike the kings and governments we’ve known in this world, this King rules by the truth. He leads and governs by a love that flowed forth from the cross. He extends His kingdom, conquering sinful hearts by bearing witness to the truth of sin and the free gift of His salvation. For this cause and for this reason He has come into the world – to bear witness. He continues to bear witness to the truth of our salvation extending His kingdom in reading and preaching, hearing and receiving. His reign is mightier than any force we will ever experience, for His reign in His Word.

5 Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, forever.

Perhaps a flood of accusations has raised their voice in your life. Perhaps a flood of doubt about whether God will see you through a tough time has risen up. Perhaps accusations of past sins keep lifting up their voices, telling you that God’s kingdom has left you; you are no longer worthy of His rule and forgiveness.

4 The Lord on high is mightier Than the noise of many waters. In Jesus we rest in an unshakable throne. Where the noise of sin abounds, the noise of His grace abounds much more. His rules cannot be overcome by the crashing of your sins or the waves of tribulation you face. And He will not change. When He pronounces the world forgiven, He pronounces you forgiven. When He pronounces you forgiven, He promises heaven to you. He reigns in His testimonies, unshaken.

v.5 – ***Your testimonies are very sure.*** They are firm, reliable. Literally, one may safely lean on them. They are pictured here as the opposite of loose dirt. Your testimonies are established – rock solid, we might say. Jesus had to declare to Pilate that His kingdom was not from this world, rather His kingly rule was to bear witness to the truth. He remains exalted on high declaring the truth for all to hear.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Here is where we are able draw near and receive His rule of peace in forgiveness. This is God’s house, His dwelling. As Luther confessed in his explanation to the second petition – “God’s kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and live a godly life here in time and hereafter in eternity.” Where the Word is read, heard, believed, there is God’s kingdom among us. It is through the Word that the Spirit translates us from earth to heaven. The Word delivers the gift of forgiveness and removes every guilty stain; the Word declares you holy and welcomes you into God’s presence. Because of Christ, the Word sets you apart from sin, fully adorned with the holiness in which God dwells and reigns.

The waves crash around us, tearing down the structures that we have learned to rely on. The word in v.3 describes pounding waves, breakers that crash and destroy. Still the Word stands firm. It shouts above the crashing waters, “THE LORD REIGNS!” We stand upon this rock. Established. Above the flood plane. Only by our faith do we rise to this level of deliverance. Shaken by cancer, by loss of a job, by death, the Word remains firm, unshaken.

Matthew 7:24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

When struck with the winds of Sandy, left clinging to ourselves we are crushed with the might of the waves of this world. Cling to Christ and the cross. The LORD reigns. The Christ reigns. He has risen from death; in Him you are afloat, breathing, living eternally. **The LORD is mightier than many waters.**

Therefore we cry out with the 24 elders of ***Revelation 11:17 “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.***

Amen.

Psalm 93

How suitable holiness is for the place where the LORD dwells. The word 'adorn' could be translated "suitable." Holiness suits His house. It fits perfectly. Holiness is God through and through. It means He is set apart – He is completely separate from sin and every evil. So also the place where He dwells can tolerate no sin, no imperfection. No defect or corruption will come into the place where He dwells. Holiness suits Your house, O LORD, forever.