

“HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE”: ALMIGHTY GOD IN CONTROL

Introduction

- 1) For the Christians living in the latter part of the first century AD, the world had become a very uncertain and dangerous place
- 2) The Roman government under which they lived was requiring its citizens to participate in a pagan, idolatrous religion, and even to recognize and confess the Roman emperor as divine and savior – those who refused to do so were considered treasonous and disobedient to the Roman authorities
- 3) It would have appeared to many that the church was no match for the authority and strength of Rome as it exerted its intimidation and wrath on the disciples of Christ
- 4) Jesus warned about coming persecutions and executions (Matt. 10:16-18, 21)
 - a) Jesus said to fear God, not man! (v. 28) Why? Because Almighty God is in control!!

I) **“HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE” (Revelation 4)**

- A) First vision John is shown is of a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne (vv. 2-3)
 - 1) This One is the sovereign Ruler/King over all things (Psa. 103:19)
 - 2) The appearance described with beauty and majesty (v. 3; cf. Psa. 104:1)
- B) Around the throne (vv. 4-7)
 - 1) Twenty-four elders (12 tribes [OT] + 12 apostles [NT])
 - 2) Four living creatures (spiritual beings who serve God)
 - 3) Lightnings, thunderings, and voices (noise and awe)
 - 4) Seven Spirits of God (Holy Spirit of God)
- C) God the Father identified as “Him who sits on the throne” (vv. 9-10)
 - 1) “Sits” – present participle; modifies “Him” = God is the one “who sits”
 - a) God sits presently, and will continue to sit, on His heavenly throne
 - 2) Because He is the one who sits on the throne, His is worthy of praise (vv. 8, 11)
 - 3) Compare Paul’s praise of our Sovereign God (1 Tim. 6:11-16)

II) **GOD IS IN COMPLETE CONTROL**

- A) Creator of all things (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3)
- B) Upholds all things (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:17)
- C) Judge [ruler] of all the earth (Gen. 18:25)
- D) Provides for all things (Psa. 104:27-28; Matt. 6:26)

III) **GOD’S OVERSIGHT IS PERFECT IN EVERY WAY**

- A) Sees all things (Prov. 15:3; Psa. 139:7-8)
- B) Knows all things (Psa. 147:4-5; 1 Jn. 3:20)
- C) Controls all things (Acts 17:24-26)

IV) **WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE CHRISTIAN**

- A) Full and complete confidence in God’s word (Isa. 46:8-11)
 - 1) Everything provided we need for our knowledge and salvation (Rom. 11:33-36)
- B) God’s rule will continue regardless of what man thinks or does (Psa. 2:1-6; Dan. 4:34-35)
- C) God is fully aware of our situation on earth (Matt. 6:32-33; Heb. 4:11-13)
 - 1) God is watching our lives – we must conduct ourselves according to His will (godliness, purity, humility, kindness, joy, love – 1 Thess. 4:1; Gal. 6:7-10)

- D) Victory is assured now and in eternity for all who remain faithful to God (2 Cor. 10:3-5;
Eph. 6:10-17; 1 Jn. 4:4; 5:4-5; Rev. 17:14)
1) Salvation belongs to our God (Rev. 7:10)

Conclusion

Psalm 86:8-13