



1 Corinthians 15:24-28 The Reign of Christ!

October 19, 2014

Can I just start this morning by saying, “Hallelujah!!!”

- *Psa 93:1* The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.
- *Psa 96:10* Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."
- *Psa 97:1-3 ESV* The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! (2) Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. (3) Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around.
- *Psa 99:1-3 ESV* The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! (2) The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. (3) Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!

Our LORD reigns! In fact, Daniel speaks prophetically and typologically concerning Christ in particular:

- *Dan 7:13-14 ESV* "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. (14) And 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 one that shall not be destroyed.
- More than just the application to a human king, these verses point forward to the reign of “the Son of Man” (Jesus)...the one who is presented to the Ancient of Days, God the Father!

Jesus said of Himself:

- *Mat 25:31-34 ESV* "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. (32) Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (33) And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. (34) Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

- † Be encouraged, dear friends, OUR LORD **REIGNS!** He reigns NOW, and one day we will see the full manifestation of His glorious triumph!
- † Do not be afraid! Do not shrink back! Do not bow to cultural pressure! Do not yield to sin and temptation! Do not despair! Do not give up! Do not lose hope!
- † Precious saints, don't be afraid to read, study, and **live** by Scripture! Don't be afraid to extend His Kingdom in your home, church, and anywhere else! Don't be afraid to preach the Gospel! Don't be afraid of your testimony concerning Jesus!

✠ On the contrary: FORGIVE! LOVE! SPEAK! PROMOTE HOLINESS! SHARE! GIVE! BE JOYFUL!

- *Joh 14:1-3 ESV "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."*

1 Cor 15:24-28 Some Thoughts:

1. In this section of 1 Corinthians, the Apostle is describing the Resurrection of Christ.
2. If you recall, he has gone through detailed lengths to ensure the Corinthian saints understood that Christ's Resurrection means that **believers** would also rise.
3. In fact, he describes Christ's Resurrection as "firstfruits" (v20, 23), implying more "fruit" to come!
4. He then, in verses 22-24, describes the glorious eschaton event, the Second Advent if you will. Let's look at it in context:
 - a. *1Co 15:22-24 ESV For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (23) But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (24) Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.*
 - b. So Christ rises first, then at his coming believers rise and are given glorified bodies. "Then comes the end" where the Kingdom is delivered to the Father!
 - c. Note that at the time of the Kingdom being handed over to the Father, every rule and every authority and power has been destroyed by Christ!
 - d. Are you getting excited?
5. Disclaimer:
 - a. I know there are various thoughts by very smart people on end time events, otherwise known as the study of biblical eschatology.
 - b. There are dispensationalists, futurists, preterists, partial preterists, etc. With respect to the thousand-year reign of Christ mentioned in Revelation 20, there are premillennialists, postmillennialists, amillennialists, and probably some new ones! LOL!
 - c. One day by the grace of God we will study the various camps. ☺ But here is one thing all true Christians agree on: He **reigns!**
6. Let us remember...despite all that is going on in our nation and world, that...
 - a. *1Jn 3:8 ESV Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*
 - b. *Col 2:13-15 ESV And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, (14) by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (15) He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*
7. So, as we look at our Text and its context, we can make some simple observations:
 - a. First, an **end** of the world as we know it is coming.
 - b. At "the end," believers are resurrected.
 - c. Christ will, at some point, "destroy" every rule and every authority!
 - d. This is part of His ultimate triumph as **King of Kings and Lord of Lords!**
 - e. He will then present His Kingdom to His Father, who in the order of the Triune Godhead, is "first."

- f. Death will also be destroyed!
 - g. The “new” will then come!
8. Some may ask, “Is Christ ruling now?” Yes, because...
- a. Jesus IS Lord, not WILL BE Lord!
 - b. *Act 10:36 ESV* As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),
 - c. *1Co 12:3 ESV* Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.
 - d. *Col 1:18 ESV* And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.
9. But much like our **salvation**, there is coming a day where His reign will not just be spiritual; it will be fully seen and experienced by His creation!
- a. *Heb 2:8b ESV* Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.
10. Let’s now look at verses that point to what’s ahead. Please note that I’m not trying to promote a particular eschatology today, nor am I trying to lay out a precise order of things. **I just want you to see that He reigns, and will one day consummate that reign! We should rejoice! 😊**

He Reigns!

An end!

Rev 11:17-19 ESV saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. (18) The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.” (19) Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

A Resurrection!

Rev 20:4-6 ESV Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (5) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

A War: the destruction of God’s enemies!

Rev 20:10 ESV and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

King of Kings!

Rev 17:14 ESV They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

Death destroyed!

Rev 20:11-15 ESV Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. (13) And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. (14) Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

The "new" has come!

Rev 21:1-6 ESV Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (5) And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (6) And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

Rejoice!

Rev 22:13-17 ESV I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (14) Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. (15) Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. (16) "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." (17) The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Amen.