

God Still Rules

(Note: As you'll see, this article was written prior to our country's elections in 2008. With election time just around the corner again, I felt it appropriate to remind us all who really rules the world. - mg)

As I'm writing this it is "election eve" in the USA. At this point no one knows for sure who is going to be leading us over the next few years in offices varying from local to national. The pollsters predict. The masses muse. This Monday evening, November 3, 2008, not a one of us can guarantee the outcome of any contested race.

Obviously by the time you read this the positions should be filled. You might be asking yourself, "If he was going to write something about the election, why didn't he wait until it was over so he could comment on the results?" My reason is simple. I wanted to focus on the fact that no matter who is in power in any political position in our country or abroad, God is still the ruler of all. Psalm 22:28 reads, "For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the governor among the nations."

We've heard and read about how right one candidate is for a particular office and how wrong the other candidate is for that same position. The ardent supporters of each politician are convinced that a victory by the opponent will lead to nothing but chaos in our country. Certainly this can be true and such is not without precedent.

Consider for instance the history of Israel after they selected a king to rule over them (I Samuel 8). While they did enjoy some years of peace and prosperity due to the righteousness of their leaders (e.g., Asa - I Kings 15:14, Hezekiah - II Kings 18:3, Josiah - II Kings 22:2), they also suffered division (I Kings 12) and unrest due to kings who chose to turn away from God and lead their people in the way of unrighteousness (e.g., Omri - I Kings 16:25, Ahab - I Kings 16:30, Manasseh - II Kings 21:2). Ultimately, they bore the weight of their wickedness as they were carried away from their homeland into captivity (II Kings, chapters 17, 24 and 25). Still, God continued to reign from His exalted throne and those who sought Him, found Him (II Kings 22:15-20).

When Judah went into captivity, they found themselves under the rule of godless leaders. The book of Daniel chronicles many of these years of captivity and paints for us a picture of empires rife with idolatry. Those who refused to follow their governments' unholy laws were thrown into the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:19-30) and cast into a den of lions (Daniel 6:16-23). Still, God continued to rule among the nations and those who sought Him, found Him (see the previous references in Daniel, chapters 3 and 6).

Consider now the first century AD. During that time the Roman empire was in its heyday. The Caesars were drunk with power, even to the point of declaring themselves deities and alleging that those who did not bow down and worship them were in fact atheists. It was during the time of this wicked government that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14). One would hardly think that such a setting would be appropriate for the coming of the Savior of the world and yet Galatians 4:4 states, "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law." The Lord was not bound by those who held seats of earthly authority. The time was right for Him to send His only begotten Son into the world to pay the price for man's sin. Even after Jesus' ascension, the Roman empire continued to dominate and Christians felt the sting of Rome's repugnant rules when they refused to worship the Caesars and ultimately gave their lives for their stand for God and His Word (Revelation 6:9). Still, even during these several decades of ungodly leadership, God never once abdicated but instead continued to rule from on high and those who sought Him, found Him (Acts 17:22-31).

If space permitted, we could go through the ensuing years of history from the second century AD until now and find that kingdoms have come and gone, governments have come and gone, political leaders have come and gone. Along the way there have been the good, the bad and the ugly (spiritually speaking). Some freely opened the doors of opportunity to those who wished to worship God according to His Word. Some slammed those same doors shut with a bang and insisted that God was not to be the guide and standard during their rule. Still, God stayed right where He was, right where He always had been and right where He is now. His words recorded in Hebrews 13:5-6 have continued to ring true throughout the centuries: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that

we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Today it is true, as it always has been, those who seek Him, find Him.

Right now I don't have a clue who will be in office when this article comes out. But I do know this: God still rules and that's what really matters.

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