The Psalms: Infallible Inspiration For Living
Psalm 93
Inspiration to Trust Him

Psalm 93
The Lord Reigns

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. 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 roaring. 4 Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty! 5 Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.

Introduction: Throughout history, kings have employed experts to create clothing, apparel, housing, transportation, furnishings, and protocols that motivated people to praise, submit to, and avoid questioning the king's authority, power, and character.

From crowns and robes, to the chair they sat in while meeting with people, to their mode of transportation, everything was intentionally designed to set them apart as more important than everyone else and, in doing so, convince people to trust and submit to them willingly and enthusiastically.

Even the protocols for those in the presence of the king were designed to reinforce their authority. For instance, one may be required to bow before speaking. Some kings refused to allow anyone to look at them while they were speaking, so one had to look down while conversing with the King and, in doing so, physically acknowledge the King's authority over them throughout the entire conversation. Everything was intentionally designed to portray absolute authority, power, and holiness to garner absolute trust and allegiance.

But in the end, no matter how good a show a king could put on, there were always people who knew the person with the crown had the same human limitations as everybody else. No matter the pomp and circumstance, the crown was still worn by a human being who could get sick like everybody else; who needed to eat, drink, and sleep like everybody else; who got old like everybody else, and whose physical and mental abilities were still limited to those of being a human being. Furthermore, no matter how hard they tried to convince others of the king's moral and ethical purity, in the end they were still sinners like everybody else. Therefore, at minimum, those closest to the king knew his moral superiority was nothing more than a façade, as was the perception of their authority and power.

No human King was all-knowing and all-powerful. Their authority and power had to be defended at all times against those who sought to take it, but even still, no matter how successful they were, even if they survived every threat to their throne, death comes to all—both to the monarch and the kingdom. No human king or kingdom has lasted forever;

therefore, no human king or kingdom should ever be fully trusted. Even the most loyal servant, if they have any wisdom at all, should at least be aware of the inherent fragility of even the greatest of kings and kingdoms. They know the façade of authority and power that protects and supplies their prosperity can crumble. Therefore, a wise servant always has a contingency plan if they outlive the monarch or the kingdom. So, it turns out there is always good reason never to fully trust human kings and kingdoms, because no matter how powerful or good they may appear, they all fall short and pass away!

HOWEVER, all the legitimate reasons to have reasonable doubt about every human king and kingdom have no standing when applied to God and His Kingdom. Psalm 93 demonstrates this very truth. It's known as an enthronement psalm. It is not to be confused with the royal psalms that proclaimed the authority, power, or trustworthiness of human kings of Israel, but rather the eternal King of all. Commentators note,

> "The author of this psalm is unknown, and there is nothing by which we can determine this, or its date, or the occasion on which it was written. … the design was to impart confidence in God, or to keep up the assurance in the mind of the people that God presided over all, and that his kingdom was safe. With this view, it is adapted to inspire confidence in God in all ages, and in all times of danger. In the Septuagint and the Latin Vulgate, the title is, "The praise of an ode by David, for the day preceding the sabbath, when the earth was founded." The origin of this title is unknown, and it has no authority. There is no evidence that it was composed by David, and the presumption from ver. 5 is that it was composed after the temple was built, and consequently after the death of David."[1]

> "This is one of the "enthronement psalms" (or "theocratic psalms" as they are sometimes called), which celebrate the Lord's reigning on the earth. Other enthronement psalms are 47, 95–99. No doubt they were used in Israel's worship to praise God's sovereignty; but they are also prophetic pictures of the consummation of the ages when the Lord will establish His righteous millennial rule on earth through the Messiah."[2]

> "These *enthronement psalms*, as they are called, are not to be confused with *royal psalms*, which are associated with events in the life of the king in Jerusalem. In the enthronement psalms, God is the king; in the royal psalms, the king is the king. The first picture for God that appears in the Psalms is that of the Lord as king: "My King and my God" (Ps. 5:2). That picture recurs in these enthronement psalms, often called "kingship psalms," and runs through the book of Psalms: Psalms 10:16; 29:10; 44:4; 48:2; 68:24; 74:12; 84:3; 145:1; 149:2."[3]

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[1] Barnes, A. (1870–1872). *Notes on the Old Testament: Psalms* (Vol. 3, pp. 25–26). Blackie & Son.
[2] Ross, A. P. (1985). Psalms. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 861). Victor Books.
[3] Limburg, J. (2000). *Psalms* (P. D. Miller & D. L. Bartlett, Eds.; pp. 316–317). Westminster John Knox Press.

Psalm 93 makes it clear that God's authority, power, and character are not a façade. They are eternally perfect in every way, and as such there is no logical reason to do anything but fully trust and submit to Him for who He inherently is—the all-powerful, almighty, glorious singular King over all! There is no room for or reason for doubt! Let's go back through Psalm 93 and see how this is presented.

Proposition: Psalm 93 gives us three reasons to fully trust God's kingship and kingdom!

The first reason Psalm 93 gives us to fully trust God's kingship and kingdom is that,

(1) God's <u>AUTHORITY</u> is absolute. (93:1-2)

A. 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. 2 Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. (93:1-2)

B. As I stated, Kings put a lot of effort into how they dressed because they understood that people formed opinions about their authority, power, and character based on their appearance. As such, kings in every culture have had clothing designed for them to make them appear more important than everybody else and thus in charge of everybody else! But as it is with anybody's clothes, it's all a façade!

C. But God actually does **REIGN**. His authority isn't derived from perceptions or facades; it wasn't earned through leadership or granted by people of influence. God's authority is eternal and absolute. The psalmist then contrasts the façade of authority by human kings with the actual authority of God:

1. **"he is robed <u>in majesty</u>"** - His robes are not fancy cloths to appear majestic; His robes are His actual, real, everlasting MAJESTY!

   Note: "The word rendered "majesty" means properly *loftiness*, and is applied to the swelling of the sea (Ps. 89:9), or to a column of smoke, Isa. 9:18. The idea here is that God is exalted; and that he appears in such a manner as to indicate his proper dignity."[4]

2. **"the LORD <u>is</u> robed"** – Kings were given a robe to portray authority, but again, the robe was clothing that they took off every day. It projected authority that wasn't inherent to them and could be taken away just as it was given. But God's authority is absolute. The LORD wasn't given His authority, nor does He, or even can He, take it off. The LORD is ALWAYS robed, and thus HE is always in charge.

[4] Barnes, A. (1870–1872). *Notes on the Old Testament: Psalms* (Vol. 3, p. 26). Blackie & Son.

3. **"he has put on <u>strength</u> as his belt"** – The belt held up all the royal garb that portrayed their authority. Nothing could be more awkward than exercising one's authority and having everything they wear to portray that authority suddenly fall off in the middle of a speech! So, a belt needed to be strong enough to hold everything together, but its appearance also had to convey its own importance. It was to be more than functional; it was also to be a statement. But again, even the most impressive belt was still a façade of power and strength, BUT God's belt is HIS eternal, all-powerful STRENGTH! His belt isn't a fashion statement to make Him look powerful; it's a manifestation of His power!

D. Therefore, because His authority is actual instead of a projected facade, His Kingdom has authority as well! There is therefore no reason to doubt that it will ever go away! Look at what the Psalm says about the Kingdom of God,

1. **"Yes, the world <u>is</u> established; it shall <u>never</u> be moved." –** The word "is" means it's inherent, and thus why it can "never be moved." No one or nothing can remove God's authority over the earth because it's not derived or created—it is!

2. **"Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting."** – this again reemphasizes the intrinsic eternal nature of God and His authority and thus the inherent eternal nature of His throne and Kingdom.

E. When we bow down to sin, the ways of the world, governments, or anybody else, we are bowing to things and people that act like they have inherent absolute authority! The Bible does teach that God has designed and works through human authority (i.e., secularly (Romans 13:1-7), family (Colossians 3:18-21), and spiritually (Hebrews 13:7, 17)). But the authority God gives to humans isn't inherent, permanent, ultimate, or absolute—only God's authority is absolute!

The second reason Psalm 93 gives us to fully trust God's kingship and kingdom is that,

(2) God's <u>POWER</u> is unrivaled. (93:3-4)

A. Growing up on the coast in the southeastern United States means you learn to deal with hurricanes. The part that gets everybody's attention is the wind, but the wind is actually the least dangerous part of the storm. The most dangerous part of the storm is the storm surge, and the second most dangerous is the rain. The storm surge hits the coastline like a bulldozer, destroying everything it touches. As the mountains of North Carolina experienced in Helene, the rain totals can cause catastrophic flooding on a biblical scale as well. The reason the storm surge and flooding are more dangerous than the wind is because water is inherently far more destructive than air!

B. Water is one of those things that seems so weak, peaceful, and innocent until you realize it isn't. As a teenager, I was a certified lifeguard, but I also got a quick training to help guide a whitewater canoeing trip. Both trainings exist because of water's destructive power, but it wasn't until an event on the first canoeing trip I helped guide that I truly began to respect it.

C. Two of my female classmates, one of whom was one of my closest childhood friends, hit a huge boulder while going down a class three rapid. However, after both hit their heads on the rock on the initial contact, instead of leaning into it with their bodies, they recoiled away from it. In whitewater canoeing, you are taught to lean into the rock to counteract the natural rebound effect the boat will have when it hits it. The reason you do that is that the rebound of the boat from the rock will cause the side of the boat to rotate away from the rock and towards the current while the boat is pinned against the rock. You have to use your body weight to try and keep that from happening because if the boat rotates away from the rock far enough, the cockpit will dip into the current and turn the boat into a huge water parachute that, within seconds, can be stretched and wrapped around the rock like plastic wrap! The danger isn't just in the destruction of the boat, but more importantly in the potential of being stuck in the bow or stern of the boat by the force of the river and drowning! I'll never forget it.

D. The man in charge of the trip sent me and another guy through the rapid first. We were both solo canoeing and carrying some of the supplies. We then pulled our boats to shore so we could get out and be ready to help anyone who needed it. When we saw my two classmates hit the rock, we instantly knew it was serious, and we both instinctively sprinted across the rocks and water toward them. I'm not Jesus, and I can't walk on water, but I was running so fast it felt like it. I got to my childhood friend first and got her out of harm's way and to the shore, while the other guy grabbed my other classmate. It's been more than 35 years since that happened, so I don't remember all the details, but I praise the Lord that I remember how it ended—both of my friends were safe. They were both in shock, and to this day I don't know if either fully understood how bad it could have ended, but the guy in charge of the trip made sure that me, and the guy who helped me, understood we had very likely just saved my two classmates' lives. The water had so severely stretched the boat around the boulder that it was almost unrecognizable as a boat. Water may look weak and peaceful, but it's one of the most unstoppable, powerful forces on the planet. With that in mind, the psalmist wrote,

E. **3 The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. 4 Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the LORD on high is mighty! (93:3-4)**

F. The psalmist points to the power they've seen in the floods, the power that has literally moved and even destroyed mountains, the power that makes all the power of man look too small to even measure. The sea has swallowed the mightiest of ships. Rivers can pick up the mightiest and most impressive boulders you've ever seen and toss them aside like one would toss a used napkin into the garbage. The mightiest structures man has made can be swept away in the blink of an eye by a flood that appeared and left in a moment. God's power isn't even rivaled by these things! The mightiest force in human nature is still no match to the power of GOD!

G. So, as mighty as the Kings of this world like to portray themselves, and as hard as they work for people to see them as powerful, they can be brought to their knees by a virus too small for the human eye to see. Human history is layered with stories of those who conquered kings and kingdoms everyone assumed were unbeatable, only to be later defeated themselves. But God's power is truly unbeatable. His power is so unrivaled that nothing, not even the unstoppable floods of the earth and sea, can compete with it.

H. The following is some additional useful commentary from other commentators:

1. "Never a maritime people, the Jews found the sea mysterious and awesome. This poet has watched wave after wave lift up and pound the shore, listened to their roar and crash, pondered their immeasurable power, and thought of God."[5]

2. "What are "the floods" referred to in verses 3–4? Is there some connection with primeval waters at the time of creation? Is this a reference to Canaanite traditions known and preserved by those outside Israel? The matter is not certain. What is certain, however, is that this short section praises "the LORD," Yahweh, as more powerful than any of these floods or thunderings or waves."[6]

3. "… To one thus looking upon the billows as they roll in towards the shore, it seems as if they were angry; as if they intended to sweep everything away; as if the rocks of the shore could not resist them. Yet they have their bounds. They spend their strength; they break, and retire as if to recover their force, and then they renew their attack with the same result. But their power is limited. The rocky shore is unmoved. The earth abides. God is over all. His throne is unshaken. No violence of the elements can affect that; and, under his dominion, all is secure."[7]

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[5] White, R. E. O. (1995). Psalms. In *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible* (Vol. 3, p. 390). Baker Book House.
[6] Limburg, J. (2000). *Psalms* (P. D. Miller & D. L. Bartlett, Eds.; pp. 317–318). Westminster John Knox Press.
[7] Barnes, A. (1870–1872). *Notes on the Old Testament: Psalms* (Vol. 3, p. 27). Blackie & Son.

4. 4. *The* LORD *on high* is *mightier than the noise of many waters*. That is, he is more powerful than those waters; he is able to control them. See Notes on Ps. 65:7; Job 38:11. The original here is more rapid in the course of the thought; more emphatic and forcible:—"More than the voice of waters—many—mighty—the breakers of the sea—in the high place is Jehovah." He is over all those billows and breakers; more mighty than they all. They can proceed no farther than he permits; they will be stayed when and where he commands. We can conceive of few things which more illustrate the power and the majesty of God than the fact that he thus presides over, and controls, the waves of the ocean. Yea, than *the mighty waves of the sea*. The original word here corresponds precisely with our word *breakers*—the mighty waves that *break* on the beach.[8]

The third reason Psalm 93 gives us to fully trust God's kingship and kingdom is that,

(3) God's <u>WORD</u> is perfectly reliable. (93:5)

A. 5 Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore. (93:5)

B. "The word here used [for "decrees"]—עֵדוּת, *aidooth*—means properly *that which is borne witness to*, and is applied to revealed truth as that which *God bears witness to*. In reference to the truth of what is stated *he* is the witness or the voucher; it is that which *he* declares to be true. Hence the term is applicable to *all* that is revealed as being that which he affirms to be true, and the word may be applied to historical truths; or to precepts or laws; or to statements respecting himself, respecting man, respecting the way of salvation, respecting the fallen world. On all these subjects he has borne witness in his word, pledging his veracity as to the correctness of the statements which are thus made. The word, therefore, refers to the whole of what is revealed in his word, considered as that to the truth of which *he bears witness*. The word is often used in this sense: Ps. 81:5; 119:14, 31, 36, 88, 99, 111, 129, 144, 157; Jer. 44:23. It is often also applied to the two tables of the law laid up in the ark, which is hence called "the ark of the *testimony*:" Ex. 16:34; 25:16, 21, 22; 26:33; 30:26, *et sæpe*. Is *sure*. Established, firm. That "testimony," or that revealed truth, is not unsettled, vacillating, uncertain. It is so certain that it may be relied on; so well established, that it cannot be shaken. …[9]

C. In short, the word translated as "decrees" refers to all that God has put His name on to do, and when He does, there is no question that He will do it because of who He is! His word is 100% trustworthy because HE is 100% trustworthy, not only because He has the authority to do what He says, not only because He has

[8] Barnes, A. (1870–1872). *Notes on the Old Testament: Psalms* (Vol. 3, p. 27). Blackie & Son.
[9] Barnes, A. (1870–1872). *Notes on the Old Testament: Psalms* (Vol. 1, pp. 170–172). Blackie & Son.

the power to do what He says, but also because He has the CHARACTER to do what He says! For instance,

1. **16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17)**

   Note: Adam disobeyed God, and God did exactly what He said He would do. His word is reliable even when it's not something we want to hear!

2. **1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:1-3)**

   Note: This is a covenant of what God would do regardless of what Abraham and his descendants did. Therefore, despite the consistent unfaithfulness of Abram's descendants, God indeed raised up a nation from his descendants and delivered the Promised One, Jesus, through the descendants of Abram. People from every people group on earth will be blessed with God's salvation through Christ.

3. **4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." (Exodus 19:4-6)**

   Note: After generations of mercy and grace to give them repeated opportunities to repent and enjoy all He promised to them if they would live in glad submission to Him, God did what He told them He would do. They ended up in Babylon, and though God restored them to fulfill His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, He never again prospered them as He had originally.

D. Now here's where the rubber hits the road on the proper application of this passage. The second half of Psalm 93:5 reads, **"holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore." (93:5).** The psalmist didn't give that as a command for us to do, but as a reality for how things are and will forever be! Because God's AUTHORITY is absolute, because God's POWER is unrivaled, and because His WORD is eternally reliable, it is only fitting that He and everyone and everything associated with Him be HOLY as well! This is what led Peter to write,

E. **4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." 7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:4-10)**

F. Jesus has made us befitting of GOD! He has set us apart as Holy! We couldn't do it, but HE DID! So then, **because God's AUTHORITY is absolute, because God's POWER is unrivaled, and because His WORD is eternally reliable,**

Conclusion: We have every reason to TRUST Him enough to live in total <u>GLAD</u> submission to HIM and no reason at all not to!

No ONE is more trustworthy than GOD HIMSELF, and no one has proven their trustworthiness more than the LORD. But this is key: we can NOT forget that trusting Him and living in submission to Him are one and the same thing! Trust and submission track together!

I read this to you the other week, but it's worth us reading hundreds of times, if not thousands! After an eleven-chapter systematic presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Paul wrote,

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1)

The only REASONABLE or befitting response to GOD is total, absolute surrender on the level of being a living sacrifice! Holy living is submissive living, but not in submission to ourselves, or the ways of the world, but to the all-powerful, all-mighty, trustworthy HOLY God! We, as the church of the Living God, which has been set apart as HIS by the blood of Jesus, have only one befitting way to think and act—total glad submission to HIM (AKA Holiness!). Albert Barnes wrote of Psalm 93,

"… in all the convulsions of the world; in all that threatens to overthrow truth and righteousness; in all the attacks which are made on the Divine government; in all the

efforts of the defenders of error, and in the midst of abounding iniquity, the church *should* maintain a firm adherence to the principles of *holiness*, to that which is right and true. There should be one place—the church—where there would be no wavering in regard to truth and holiness;—one place, where the truth would be defended whatever commotions might be abroad."[10]

Challenge: Who you trust most is who you <u>SUBMIT</u> to most. So, who are you actually living in submission to — God, or yourself?

[10] Barnes, A. (1870–1872). *Notes on the Old Testament: Psalms* (Vol. 3, pp. 27–28). Blackie & Son.