

## God Rules Over the Nations

November 6, 2016

### GOD IS ABSOLUTELY SOVEREIGN IN HIS POWER AND CONTROL OVER ALL THE EARTH, EVERY NATION, EVERY LANGUAGE, EVERY CULTURE AND ALL PEOPLE

**Psalm 22:28** NASB

28 For the kingdom is the LORD'S and HE RULES OVER THE NATIONS.

**Psalm 103:19** NASB

19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, AND HIS SOVEREIGNTY RULES OVER ALL.

**Psalm 47:7-8** NASB

7 For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with a skillful psalm.

8 GOD REIGNS OVER THE NATIONS, God sits on His holy throne.

**Psalm 66:7** NASB

7 HE RULES BY HIS MIGHT FOREVER; HIS EYES KEEP WATCH ON THE NATIONS; Let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.

**Job 12:23** NASB

23 HE MAKES THE NATIONS GREAT, THEN DESTROYS THEM; HE ENLARGES THE NATIONS, THEN LEADS THEM AWAY.

**Acts 17:26** NASB

26 [Paul] AND HE MADE FROM ONE MAN EVERY NATION OF MANKIND TO LIVE ON ALL THE FACE OF THE EARTH, HAVING DETERMINED THEIR APPOINTED TIMES AND THE BOUNDARIES OF THEIR HABITATION.

### GOD ACCOMPLISHES HIS PLAN THROUGH THE WICKED AS WELL AS THE RIGHTEOUS

**Proverbs 21:1** NASB

1 THE KING'S HEART IS LIKE CHANNELS OF WATER IN THE HAND OF THE LORD; HE TURNS IT WHEREVER HE WISHES.

**Isaiah 44:24-28** NASB [150 years before Cyrus was born]

24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone,

25 Causing the omens of boasters to fail, Making fools out of diviners, Causing wise men to draw back and turning their knowledge into foolishness,

26 Confirming the word of His servant And performing the purpose of His messengers. IT IS I WHO SAYS OF JERUSALEM, 'SHE SHALL BE INHABITED!' AND OF THE CITIES OF JUDAH, 'THEY SHALL BE BUILT.' AND I WILL RAISE UP HER RUINS AGAIN.

27 "It is I who says to the depth of the sea, 'Be dried up!' And I will make your rivers dry.

28 "IT IS I WHO SAYS OF CYRUS, 'HE IS MY SHEPHERD! AND HE WILL PERFORM ALL MY DESIRE.' AND HE DECLARES OF JERUSALEM, 'SHE WILL BE BUILT, 'AND OF THE TEMPLE, 'YOUR FOUNDATION WILL BE LAID.'"

**Isaiah 45:1-6 NASB**

**1 THUS SAYS THE LORD TO CYRUS HIS ANOINTED, WHOM I HAVE TAKEN BY THE RIGHT HAND, TO SUBDUE NATIONS BEFORE HIM AND TO LOOSE THE LOINS OF KINGS; TO OPEN DOORS BEFORE HIM SO THAT GATES WILL NOT BE SHUT:**

2 "I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.

3 "I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden wealth of secret places, So that you may know that it is I, The LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.

**4 "FOR THE SAKE OF JACOB MY SERVANT, AND ISRAEL MY CHOSEN ONE, I HAVE ALSO CALLED YOU BY YOUR NAME; I HAVE GIVEN YOU A TITLE OF HONOR THOUGH YOU HAVE NOT KNOWN ME.**

5 "I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. **I WILL GIRD YOU, THOUGH YOU HAVE NOT KNOWN ME;**

6 That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other.

**2 Chronicles 36:20-23 NASB**

20 Those who had escaped from the sword he [King Nebuchadnezzar] carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,

21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until **SEVENTY YEARS WERE COMPLETE.**

**22 NOW IN THE FIRST YEAR OF CYRUS KING OF PERSIA--IN ORDER TO FULFILL THE WORD OF THE LORD BY THE MOUTH OF JEREMIAH--THE LORD STIRRED UP THE SPIRIT OF CYRUS KING OF PERSIA, SO THAT HE SENT A PROCLAMATION THROUGHOUT HIS KINGDOM, AND ALSO PUT IT IN WRITING, SAYING,**

**23 "THUS SAYS CYRUS KING OF PERSIA, 'THE LORD, THE GOD OF HEAVEN, HAS GIVEN ME ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH, AND HE HAS APPOINTED ME TO BUILD HIM A HOUSE IN JERUSALEM, WHICH IS IN JUDAH. WHOEVER THERE IS AMONG YOU OF ALL HIS PEOPLE, MAY THE LORD HIS GOD BE WITH HIM, AND LET HIM GO UP!'"**

**Ezra 1:1-8 NASB**

**1 NOW IN THE FIRST YEAR OF CYRUS KING OF PERSIA, IN ORDER TO FULFILL THE WORD OF THE LORD BY THE MOUTH OF JEREMIAH, THE LORD STIRRED UP THE SPIRIT OF CYRUS KING OF PERSIA, SO THAT HE SENT A PROCLAMATION THROUGHOUT ALL HIS KINGDOM, AND ALSO PUT IT IN WRITING, saying:**

2 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, '**THE LORD, THE GOD OF HEAVEN, HAS GIVEN ME ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH AND HE HAS APPOINTED ME TO BUILD HIM A HOUSE IN JERUSALEM, WHICH IS IN JUDAH.**

3 'Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem.

4 'Every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.'"

5 Then the heads of fathers' households of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites arose, even everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up and rebuild the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.

6 All those about them encouraged them with articles of silver, with gold, with goods, with cattle and with valuables, aside from all that was given as a freewill offering.

**7 ALSO KING CYRUS BROUGHT OUT THE ARTICLES OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, WHICH NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAD CARRIED AWAY FROM JERUSALEM and put in the house of his gods;**

8 and Cyrus, king of Persia, had them brought out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and he counted them out to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

## **GOD CAN BRING THE POWERFUL, THE WEALTHY AND THE FAMOUS TO REPENTANCE**

**1 Timothy 2:1-4 NASB**

**1 FIRST OF ALL, THEN, I URGE THAT ENTREATIES AND PRAYERS, PETITIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS, BE MADE ON BEHALF OF ALL MEN,**

**2 FOR KINGS AND ALL WHO ARE IN AUTHORITY, SO THAT WE MAY LEAD A TRANQUIL AND QUIET LIFE IN ALL GODLINESS AND DIGNITY.**

**3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,**

**4 WHO DESIRES ALL MEN TO BE SAVED AND TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.**

**Daniel 4:29-37 NASB**

**29 "Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon.**

**30 "THE KING REFLECTED AND SAID, 'IS THIS NOT BABYLON THE GREAT, WHICH I MYSELF HAVE BUILT AS A ROYAL RESIDENCE BY THE MIGHT OF MY POWER AND FOR THE GLORY OF MY MAJESTY?'**

**31 "WHILE THE WORD WAS IN THE KING'S MOUTH, A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN, SAYING, 'KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, TO YOU IT IS DECLARED: SOVEREIGNTY HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM YOU,**

**32 AND YOU WILL BE DRIVEN AWAY FROM MANKIND, AND YOUR DWELLING PLACE WILL BE WITH THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD. YOU WILL BE GIVEN GRASS TO EAT LIKE CATTLE, AND SEVEN PERIODS OF TIME WILL PASS OVER YOU UNTIL YOU RECOGNIZE THAT THE MOST HIGH IS RULER OVER THE REALM OF MANKIND AND BESTOWS IT ON WHOMEVER HE WISHES.'**

**33 "Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.**

**34 "BUT AT THE END OF THAT PERIOD, I, NEBUCHADNEZZAR, RAISED MY EYES TOWARD HEAVEN AND MY REASON RETURNED TO ME, AND I BLESSED THE MOST HIGH AND PRAISED AND HONORED HIM WHO LIVES FOREVER; FOR HIS DOMINION IS AN EVERLASTING DOMINION, AND HIS KINGDOM ENDURES FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.**

**35 "ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH ARE ACCOUNTED AS NOTHING, BUT HE DOES ACCORDING TO HIS WILL IN THE HOST OF HEAVEN AND AMONG THE INHABITANTS OF EARTH; AND NO ONE CAN WARD OFF HIS HAND OR SAY TO HIM, 'WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?'**

**36 "At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.**

**37 "NOW I, NEBUCHADNEZZAR, PRAISE, EXALT AND HONOR THE KING OF HEAVEN, FOR ALL HIS WORKS ARE TRUE AND HIS WAYS JUST, AND HE IS ABLE TO HUMBLE THOSE WHO WALK IN PRIDE."**

## **GOD STRATEGICALLY PLACES THE RIGHTEOUS IN TIMES OF CRISIS - THE RIGHTEOUS SHINE THE BRIGHTEST IN THE DARKEST OF TIMES**

### **JOSEPH**

**Genesis 41:33-44 NASB**

**33 [Joseph] "Now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.**

**34 "Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance.**

35 "Then let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh's authority, and let them guard it.

36 "Let the food become as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine."

37 Now the proposal seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants.

38 Then Pharaoh said to his servants, "**CAN WE FIND A MAN LIKE THIS, IN WHOM IS A DIVINE SPIRIT?**"

39 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "**SINCE GOD HAS INFORMED YOU OF ALL THIS, THERE IS NO ONE SO DISCERNING AND WISE AS YOU ARE.**"

40 "**YOU SHALL BE OVER MY HOUSE, AND ACCORDING TO YOUR COMMAND ALL MY PEOPLE SHALL DO HOMAGE; ONLY IN THE THRONE I WILL BE GREATER THAN YOU.**"

41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "**SEE, I HAVE SET YOU OVER ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT.**"

42 Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck.

43 He had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, "Bow the knee!" And he set him over all the land of Egypt.

44 Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "**THOUGH I AM PHARAOH, YET WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION NO ONE SHALL RAISE HIS HAND OR FOOT IN ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT.**"

#### **Genesis 45:9-11 NASB**

9 "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, "**GOD HAS MADE ME LORD OF ALL EGYPT; COME DOWN TO ME, DO NOT DELAY.**"

10 "**YOU SHALL LIVE IN THE LAND OF GOSHEN**, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children and your flocks and your herds and all that you have.

11 "**THERE I WILL ALSO PROVIDE FOR YOU, FOR THERE ARE STILL FIVE YEARS OF FAMINE TO COME, AND YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD AND ALL THAT YOU HAVE WOULD BE IMPOVERISHED.**"

#### **DANIEL, HANANIAH (*Shadrach*), MISHAEL (*Meshach*) AND AZARIAH (*Abed-nego*)**

#### **Daniel 1:17-20 NASB**

17 **AS FOR THESE FOUR YOUTHS, GOD GAVE THEM KNOWLEDGE AND INTELLIGENCE IN EVERY BRANCH OF LITERATURE AND WISDOM; DANIEL EVEN UNDERSTOOD ALL KINDS OF VISIONS AND DREAMS.**

18 Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar.

19 **THE KING TALKED WITH THEM, AND OUT OF THEM ALL NOT ONE WAS FOUND LIKE DANIEL, HANANIAH, MISHAEL AND AZARIAH; SO THEY ENTERED THE KING'S PERSONAL SERVICE.**

20 **AS FOR EVERY MATTER OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHICH THE KING CONSULTED THEM, HE FOUND THEM TEN TIMES BETTER THAN ALL THE MAGICIANS AND CONJURERS WHO WERE IN ALL HIS REALM.**

#### **QUEEN ESTHER**

#### **Esther 4:6-16 NASB**

6 So Hathach [one the king's eunuchs] went out to Mordecai [Esther's cousin who raised her] to the city square in front of the king's gate.

7 **MORDECAI TOLD HIM ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM, AND THE EXACT AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT HAMAN HAD PROMISED TO PAY TO THE KING'S TREASURIES FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE JEWS.**

8 HE ALSO GAVE HIM A COPY OF THE TEXT OF THE EDICT WHICH HAD BEEN ISSUED IN SUSAN FOR THEIR DESTRUCTION, THAT HE MIGHT SHOW ESTHER AND INFORM HER, AND TO ORDER HER TO GO IN TO THE KING TO IMPLORE HIS FAVOR AND TO PLEAD WITH HIM FOR HER PEOPLE.

9 Hathach came back and related Mordecai's words to Esther.

10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him to reply to Mordecai:

11 "ALL THE KING'S SERVANTS AND THE PEOPLE OF THE KING'S PROVINCES KNOW THAT FOR ANY MAN OR WOMAN WHO COMES TO THE KING TO THE INNER COURT WHO IS NOT SUMMONED, HE HAS BUT ONE LAW, THAT HE BE PUT TO DEATH, UNLESS THE KING HOLDS OUT TO HIM THE GOLDEN SCEPTER SO THAT HE MAY LIVE. AND I HAVE NOT BEEN SUMMONED TO COME TO THE KING FOR THESE THIRTY DAYS."

12 They related Esther's words to Mordecai.

13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews.

14 "FOR IF YOU REMAIN SILENT AT THIS TIME, RELIEF AND DELIVERANCE WILL ARISE FOR THE JEWS FROM ANOTHER PLACE AND YOU AND YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE WILL PERISH. AND WHO KNOWS WHETHER YOU HAVE NOT ATTAINED ROYALTY FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS?"

15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai,

16 "GO, ASSEMBLE ALL THE JEWS WHO ARE FOUND IN SUSAN, AND FAST FOR ME; DO NOT EAT OR DRINK FOR THREE DAYS, NIGHT OR DAY. I AND MY MAIDENS ALSO WILL FAST IN THE SAME WAY. AND THUS I WILL GO IN TO THE KING, WHICH IS NOT ACCORDING TO THE LAW; AND IF I PERISH, I PERISH."

## **GOD'S PEOPLE ARE PROTECTED FROM AND THROUGH JUDGMENT AND CRISIS**

**Psalm 91:7-9 NASB**

7 A THOUSAND MAY FALL AT YOUR SIDE AND TEN THOUSAND AT YOUR RIGHT HAND, BUT IT SHALL NOT APPROACH YOU.

8 YOU WILL ONLY LOOK ON WITH YOUR EYES AND SEE THE RECOMPENSE OF THE WICKED.

9 For you have made the LORD, my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place.

**Exodus 9:1-6 NASB**

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and speak to him, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

2 "For if you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them,

3 behold, the hand of the LORD will come with a very severe pestilence on your livestock which are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the herds, and on the flocks.

4 "BUT THE LORD WILL MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE LIVESTOCK OF ISRAEL AND THE LIVESTOCK OF EGYPT, SO THAT NOTHING WILL DIE OF ALL THAT BELONGS TO THE SONS OF ISRAEL."

5 The LORD set a definite time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land."

6 SO THE LORD DID THIS THING ON THE NEXT DAY, AND ALL THE LIVESTOCK OF EGYPT DIED; BUT OF THE LIVESTOCK OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL, NOT ONE DIED.

**Exodus 9:23-26 NASB**

23 Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt.

24 So there was hail, and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very severe, such as had not been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

25 The hail struck all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, both man and beast; the hail also struck every plant of the field and shattered every tree of the field.

26 ONLY IN THE LAND OF GOSHEN, WHERE THE SONS OF ISRAEL WERE, THERE WAS NO HAIL.

**NO MATTER WHAT THE CRISIS OR THE PERSECUTION, GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TO BE PRODUCTIVE AND CONTRIBUTING CITIZENS, LAW-ABIDING, PEACEMAKERS, FORGIVING AND GOOD TO ALL MEN**

**Titus 3:1-2 NASB**

1 REMIND THEM TO BE SUBJECT TO RULERS, TO AUTHORITIES, TO BE OBEDIENT, TO BE READY FOR EVERY GOOD DEED,

2 TO MALIGN NO ONE, TO BE PEACEABLE, GENTLE, SHOWING EVERY CONSIDERATION FOR ALL MEN.

**1 Peter 2:12-17 NASB**

12 KEEP YOUR BEHAVIOR EXCELLENT AMONG THE GENTILES, SO THAT IN THE THING IN WHICH THEY SLANDER YOU AS EVILDOERS, THEY MAY BECAUSE OF YOUR GOOD DEEDS, AS THEY OBSERVE THEM, GLORIFY GOD IN THE DAY OF VISITATION.

13 SUBMIT YOURSELVES FOR THE LORD'S SAKE TO EVERY HUMAN INSTITUTION, WHETHER TO A KING AS THE ONE IN AUTHORITY,

14 OR TO GOVERNORS AS SENT BY HIM FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF EVILDOERS AND THE PRAISE OF THOSE WHO DO RIGHT.

15 FOR SUCH IS THE WILL OF GOD THAT BY DOING RIGHT YOU MAY SILENCE THE IGNORANCE OF FOOLISH MEN.

16 ACT AS FREE MEN, AND DO NOT USE YOUR FREEDOM AS A COVERING FOR EVIL, BUT USE IT AS BONDSLAVES OF GOD.

17 HONOR ALL PEOPLE, LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD, FEAR GOD, HONOR THE KING.

**Jeremiah 29:4-7 NASB**

4 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, **TO ALL THE EXILES WHOM I HAVE SENT INTO EXILE FROM JERUSALEM TO BABYLON,**

5 'Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce.

6 'Take wives and become the fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease.

7 **'SEEK THE WELFARE OF THE CITY WHERE I HAVE SENT YOU INTO EXILE, AND PRAY TO THE LORD ON ITS BEHALF; FOR IN ITS WELFARE YOU WILL HAVE WELFARE** (*shalowm - peace, safety, soundness, prosperity*).<sup>1</sup>