

## Occasional Update #10

Thursday 19 January 2023

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens. (Psalm 8:1)

... they raised their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them, ..." (Acts 4:24)

... He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is He alone who has immortality, and dwells in unapproachable light, who no-one has ever seen or can see; to Him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen! (1 Timothy 6:15-16)

### Prayer and the Sovereignty of God

In just a few months King Charles III will be crowned as king, in an amazing ceremony and celebration, with all the things which go with a coronation. But, of course, there is a much greater Sovereign Who rules over, not just a small part of our world, but the whole universe. He is eternal, Creator, Lord over all lords, and King over all kings. Besides this, He knows all things; He knows what is best for us. He knows what will happen in the days to come. He has all power and authority, so He is not limited in any way. And, very importantly, He loves *us* – He is *our* loving Heavenly Father. Wow! That's what our Father is like!

When His disciples said to Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray", He told them to pray in this way: "Our Father, Who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. ..." These words focus on who God is – Our Father; the one Who lives in Heaven, the place of glory and perfection. His name is holy; He is to be praised and worshiped and glorified. He is King, and His Kingdom will come, and His will shall be done. ***For His is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen!***

Almighty God is Creator of all that exists (including us!). He sustains the whole universe. He is holy and righteous in every way. He is our Saviour. He is loving, just and merciful. **He is worthy** of our praise, worship, gratitude, obedience, honour and love, ... and much more! Revelation 4:9-11 and 5:9-12 show us this truth:

4:9-11 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the One who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the One who is seated on the throne, and worship the One who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory, and honour, and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created."

5:9-12 They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slaughtered and by your blood You ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; You have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power, and wealth, and wisdom, and might, and honour, and glory, and blessing!"

The way we think of God, and "see" Him, will have a huge impact on our prayers and on our lives. How we worship Him, reverence Him, love and obey Him, demonstrate how well we really know Him.

Do we have an intimate relationship with God and His Word?

Do we "seek Him with all our hearts"?

Do we allow God to “direct our paths”?

Are we *absolutely convinced* God knows what is best in every situation, including any situations we may face?

Do I believe He loves me, and knows what I am going through; that He has the wisdom and power to do what is best for me?

We don't have to understand; we just need to trust the Lord with all our heart and not lean on our own understanding. In all our ways we acknowledge Him and He will direct our paths.” Of course, sometimes we “muck things up” but we ask God's forgiveness and “carry on” with Him: fix our mind, heart and spirit on Who our Sovereign Lord is, and pray accordingly.

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## **FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYER**

While we may know the above verses well, let us meditate on what they say, receive God's promises, and praise and thank Him – the Lord of glory. Thank Him too for choosing us!

### **Psalm 46**

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.
- 6 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, and the earth melts.
- 7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- 8 Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations He has brought on the earth.
- 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire.
- 10 ***“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.”***
- 11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

### **Isaiah 41 and 43**

41:10 “... do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.” ...

41:13 “For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Do not fear, I will help you.”

43:1 But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”

### **Jeremiah 29**

11 “For surely I know the plans I have for you”, says the LORD, “plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

12 Then *when you call upon Me and come and pray to Me, I will hear you.*

13 *When you search for Me, you will find Me; if you seek Me with all your heart,*

14 *I will let you find Me”, says the LORD ...* **THANK YOU LORD!**

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