

## “HIS RULE, HIS REIGN”

There are many angles we could look at this, this morning –

### 1. HIS PEOPLE, ISRAEL –

You & I are living in a day when a prophecy about Israel continues to be fulfilled – the re-gathering of Jews back to their own land.

See Jeremiah 31:7-12

### 2. HIS SON, JESUS –

Did you know that in His life Jesus fulfilled 332 distinct prophecies in the Old Testament? Josh McDowell quotes the odds for just eight of those prophecies being fulfilled in one person – 1 in 10 with 17 zeros. Remember – with many of the prophecies Jesus was in no place to arrange for them to be fulfilled.

### 3. HIS WORLD –

We all know what a volcano in Iceland can do – I understand over 100,000 flights were cancelled. I have wondered – what was God up too? Some remember a prophecy in Penygroes about the coming down of the Berlin Wall. We know what happened.

### 4. HIS CHURCH –

Hearing recently of the numbers coming to faith in China. It is an old statistic – at least 100,000 people a day are coming to faith in Jesus. Jesus said, “I will build my church.” He is building a church in His likeness.

### 5. HIS ENEMY –

Remember His Enemy, is our Enemy. Not so long ago I was faced with a man who was quite violent & vile in his language but by using the name of Jesus, God showed that he rule over the works of the enemy.

### 6. HIS MINISTERS –

That means you and I. What about HIS RULE, HIS REIGN in our lives? We seem to be bombarded with, what I call “pop theology” – motivational statements like – you can do it or live your dream or go for it!

At home I have a book by Frank Damazio called “14 Tests All Leaders Must Face”. One of the tests is called “The Self-Will Test.” Frank writes – God has to break the self-will and personal ambition of every person He uses, so that He can trust him or her to do whatever He requires in His kingdom.”

Is this an old fashioned message? Is this against the go getting leadership model that we are often presented with to follow?

We have just come through an election where we have clearly seen the egos of men and women fighting for position and trying to promote themselves. Is that the spirit that is to be in His Church? The advise of John is still relevant – He must increase and I must decrease. A famous Christian of the 19thC said this (he had given up his wealth and fame etc) “If Jesus Christ be God and He died for me,

nothing is too hard for me to do for Him.” HIS RULE, HIS REIGN over my ambitions, goals.

No doubt it is easy to confess HIS RULE, HIS REIGN when everything is going well and you are having success. What about when things suddenly turn upside down. They certainly do!! Is that when we start to doubt and wonder whether HE IS RULING AND REIGNING? One of the marks of maturity, I feel, is that you and I can live with unanswered questions but still worship, still serve, still give of ourselves and declare HE IS GOD AND THERE IS NO ONE BESIDE HIM AND THERE IS NO ONE ABOVE HIM.

There is a scripture that I believe God gave me some 35 yrs ago which guided back then and continues to guide. It has often been mentioned in prophecy and when I hear these verses, I feel God is reminding me - I AM STILL IN CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE.

What about HIS RULE, HIS REIGN in our failures? For us more than anyone else in the local church, we live our failures before people but still have to teach, preach etc. The incident that helps me is with Peter – we know he denied Jesus but when Jesus rose from the dead, he said two little words that help me to rise and believe that my failure is not final. Jesus said – tell the disciples “and Peter.”

HIS RULE AND HIS REIGN IN OUR LIVES. I could have given some neat headings but I didn’t want to make this devotional clinical.

WHO DO YOU AND I WANT TO BE LIKE? Who does God want you to be like? Very simple but true – HE WANTS YOU AND I TO BE JUST LIKE JESUS. He doesn’t want you and I to be a mixture of self and of Him but to be like Jesus not only in character but in mission also – continuing to teach and do what He started. We want our people to be like Jesus - is it something that we think about in regard to OURSELVES?

What are we left with? What is the one thing we can only do? Paul writes “...I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” Eph 3:14 The context is Paul getting down to prayer but it is the passion behind the statement that I want to finish with – Paul is earnest, his emotions are being touched, there is an intensity behind this action. What do you and I feel on the inside or think about in our heads when we hear about HIS REIGN, HIS RULE IN THE LIFE OF HIS MINISTERS – does it leave you cold or is that a passion that says – reign in me sovereign Lord, reign in me.

**Devotional on the theme of International Convention August 2010  
Apostolic Church Council Meetings May 2010  
Pastor Marcus Thomas**