The Lord Our God the Almighty reigns

The context is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!

> ***"Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sounds of mighty peals of thunder crying out:***
> ***'Hallelujah for the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.' "*** [Rev. 19:6]

What is the greatest fact about the Muslim World that strikes you at this moment?

- The political instability – the domino effect in the Arab World
- Increasing persecution in Iran and Pakistan
- The small amount of fruit in Turkey, Afghanistan etc.
- Workers ejected from Morocco (120+) – and many others

I know what answer the Lord Jesus would give! The central fact in the life of the Lord Jesus was this. ***"The Lord our God the Almighty reigns!"***

This needs to be **our** answer!

- It is more crucial than the work.
- It is more vital than our health and happiness.

Greater, higher, deeper and more important than all is the **fact of God.** The final, irreducible, inescapable common denominator in the whole universe is God. And our unashamed conviction, as strong as steel and as firm as the mountains, is our great watchword***, "The Lord our God the Almighty reigns".***

The omnipotence of God, Sovereign over heaven and earth, who holds in His hand the sceptre of eternal righteousness – this King of Glory is **"Our God"**. He is personally related to His people so we are His and He is ours!

This watchword will lead to three results – three tremendous consequences:

1. Liberation! Absolute release!

Release from what?

- **From worries:** sometimes comparatively unimportant worries can obsess our minds and blot out all the sunshine – kill our joy and peace of heart. Sometimes it is a minor injustice we have incurred, but we can't get it out of our minds and it rankles there. We harbour bitter thoughts and all peace of mind is gone. Our whole outlook on life is warped by a wretched, insignificant triviality.

  It is looking downwards that makes us dizzy (spiritually). If you gaze on your own narrow circle of experience – the dust on the floor – never, as it were, seeing the stars and the Crown, you will never see life in its true perspective. Look up into the face of the Lord our God the Almighty. Spend five minutes remembering the Lord Jesus and it will release you from the worries of life.

- **From fear**: fear that we have been given a task too great for us. The result is a loss of nerve and a turning away from new responsibilities. "I can't do this. You must let me off…. Let me go home and get someone else to do it!" Do you lie in bed at the dreaded 3 am feeling fearful of something you have to do? It is never, never impossible with God for He is the Lord our God the Almighty and He reigns. He releases us from fear.

- **From self-contempt**: so many workers are brought low by inward conflicts and self-condemnation that they don't know how to deal with. All the time there is the power to release them and set them free! The Lord Jesus says to us, *"The Lord our God the Almighty reigns and you, child of God, child of the Almighty God, lift up your head stand on your feet and be free!"*

So release from worry, release from fear and release from self-contempt – this is liberty.

2. A declaration of the death of sin: the ultimate defeat of evil in every shape or form

You know the background of Revelation – Nero and Domitian were seeking to destroy all the believers in the Lord Jesus. Was John pessimistic? Was the battle lost? Was the cause ruined? No! He wrote in defiance of all the facts! Behind all was the great shout, ***"Hallelujah, Babylon is fallen!"*** (Babylon representing all earthly powers and political systems)

Why could John be so triumphant? He saw something that spelled the doom of all sin and all corrupt power. He saw the throne and on the throne the Lord our God the Almighty reigning!

Sometimes we talk **pessimistically** about the evangelisation of the Muslim World. What will be the ultimate issue? Is it possible that force and injustice will prevail? Are the "principalities and powers" too strong for us?

Well, if we see what John saw, it will no longer be an open question! **Evil has been done for already**! Others may say, "Well, it certainly doesn't look like it! Look at the international scene. Look at the demographics. Look at the moral chaos. See how evil flaunts itself!" Yes, we know all this, but we also know that **the Lord our God the Almighty reigns** and evil is doomed and has never been anything else but doomed from the foundation of the world.

The Lord Jesus knew this. Remember when He sent out the seventy disciples into the surrounding villages to preach and heal. They returned to the Lord with eager, glowing, triumphant faces saying in effect, *"Master, it really works – the power you gave us – it really works, we have proved it!"* The Lord Jesus, hearing this, said, ***"I beheld Satan as lightening fall from heaven!"*** He is ratifying the fact that all the powers of darkness are broken, snapped, done for and henceforth **all the initiative is with God**!

What is the source of the "heroism" of the Lord Jesus and the source of our "heroism"? How calm He was before His judges – much more self-possessed than Caiaphas, Herod or Pilate. What was His secret? **The Lord our God the Almighty is reigning!**

The Lord Jesus said, ***"Here on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!"*** This is the Rock: ***"The Lord our God the Almighty reigns!"***

About 500 years ago Francis Xavier landed in China and he said this:

"You may be very sure of one thing, the devil will be tremendously sorry to see the Company of the Name of Jesus enter China. Just imagine! A thing so vile as I am, about to bring down such a vast reputation as the devil's! What great glory to God!"

What is the source of our hope in the Muslim World? What is our certainty of fighting a winning battle? Evil flaunts itself. Yes, but it carries the seal of its own doom. Fight on then, you have lost heart because your own conflict is so difficult, your tempter so strong and dogged and subtle. Fight on! It is your victory, not his! **For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns!**

So two consequences from our verse:

- Liberation
- The death of sin

3. Comfort in sorrow

"The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as King for ever."
(Ps. 29:10)

What are the floods in your life? We all know days when, as the Lord Jesus puts it, ***"The rain falls and the floods come and the winds blow and beat upon the house."*** We see the whole structure of things threatening to come toppling down! Our plans, our dreams, the hopes we cherish and our hearts desire all face thundering, rolling, mountain-high waves and breakers that crash down on our plans leaving only some poor bits of wreckage behind!

What then? ***"Blessed be God the Lord who sits as King over the flood – as King for ever!"*** So heart breaking things have a meaning and a purpose and there is grace in them, for **the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.**

Remember the terrible night the disciples had on the lake of Galilee when a whirlwind blew and the sea was lashed to a fury. The disciples cried out to the Lord Jesus, ***"Don't You care that we will all perish? "*** They learned a lesson that night – that there is something higher than human experience – than life's winds and storms.

So when the floods and waves begin, remember that there is a Lord who rules the waves! When the desolation of sorrow comes, ***"Lift up your hearts",*** for the Lord sits as King over the flood – **your flood** and ***"The Lord our God the Almighty reigns!"***

The worst 'flood' in history is called **Calvary**. All the bitterness and ugliness, all the shame and sorrow of life, all the hatred of the "principalities and powers" entered into that flood and came and beat on the Lord Jesus. They brought Him to the barbarity and infamy of death on the Cross. But the Father was still on the throne and out of that grim Cross He has brought the salvation of the world.

If He did that with the Cross of the Lord Jesus, do you think your cross is too difficult for Him to deal with – to transfigure? He can make it shine with glory.

Do you believe this? This is surely the final victory of faith – to be able to shout with joy, ***"The Lord our God, the Almighty reigns!"*** Shout it aloud when life is good and smiling, but shout it even more in the dark when the great waters are going over your head. Cry to Him then – not diffidently, but passionately with a ring of faith in every word: ***"Hallelujah the Lord our God the Almighty reigns."***

This Almighty Lord God who claims the right to reign and from whose patient pursuit of us we can never be free in this world, stands at the door and knocks – more tender than the kiss of a little granddaughter, mightier than the great flashings of lightening – He stands and knocks. What will our answer be?

"Blessed and glorious Lord God the Almighty, dear loving Lord Jesus, come! Come now! My life is Yours. See, here is the throne. Take Your power and reign!"