A Lord's Day Snippet!

Biblical and Southern Studies

Pastor Ron Rumburg

SBSS

544

1 O God, thou art the Father
of all that have believed:
from whom all hosts of angels
have life and power received.
O God, thou art the maker
of all created things,
the righteous Judge of judges,
the almighty King of kings.

2 High in the heavenly Zion
thou reignest God adored;
and in the coming glory
thou shalt be Sovereign Lord.
Beyond our ken thou shinest,
the everlasting Light;
ineffable in loving,
unthinkable in might.

3 Thou to the meek and lowly
thy secrets dost unfold;
O God, thou doest all things,
all things both new and old.
I walk secure and blessèd
in every clime or coast,
in name of God the Father,
and Son, and Holy Ghost.

Columba (521-597)

The Majesty of God's Dominion

"My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure."

Isaiah 46:10

Prior to this utterance of inspired declaration the reader of Isaiah 46 was reminded of the former things of old and the reason for remembrance was declared, "for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done," and in the light of this declaration was the assertion of the Almighty, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." The majestic dominion of our God was declared here. For those who

have a lack of knowledge here the Almighty is cluing them in, in other words, this is the way it is, says the glorious God, my counsel or purpose shall stand, and I am going to do what I please. This majestic God had previously declared, "Who hath declared from the beginning, that we may know? and beforetime, that we may say, He is righteous? yea, there is none that sheweth, yea, there is none that declareth, yea, there is none that heareth your words" (Isa. 41:26). In other words, God has declared beforetime what we now know by revelation, but no one is listening. "From the beginning of the world God had declared what would come to pass to the end of time: and from ancient times He had predicted the things, which were not then accomplished. He had declared His determinations, and no power in the universe could defeat them; but 'his counsel should stand, and he would do all his pleasure'…" [Thomas Scott].

The majestic dominion of God is evident in His rule and control of everything, for the earth is the LORD's and the world and those that dwell there (Ps. 24:1). His dominion is universal for it is over time for other rulers die but He is the eternal "I AM." To fight against God is to Him as nothing for His rule is absolute and His power is unlimited (Isa. 41:12). His years never end (Ps. 102:27). God's dominion is infinitely powerful and wise. It is said that Martin Luther would react against Melancthon's great concerns about the affairs of life and would have him admonished, *Monendus est Pilippus ut desinot esse rector mundi,* that is "Let not Philip make himself any longer governor of the world." We should not need to be reminded who is in control of the affairs of men it's not us!

Our majestic God's dominion is over heaven and earth (Ps. 103:19). His dominion is represented in ruling, reigning and lawful judgment. As He is glorious, so His dominion takes on the same character. Thus, his majesty is visible, glorious and holy for this is "the habitation of His holiness and of His glory" (Isa. 63:15). The whole earth is full of His glory (Isa. 6:3). His dominion in the heavens is attested by angels and creation for they declare the glory of God (Ps. 19:1). His dominion is not only glorious, but it is supreme, vast and unending. "His kingdom rules over all" (Ps. 103:19).

The name of our Lord itself bespeaks His dominion, for He is "the Lord of hosts" (Ps. 24:10). As such His dominion is marshalled when His troops or army of spiritual beings do His service. "I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left" (1 Kings 22:19). Behold God upon His throne, surrounded by all the hosts of heaven standing on His right and on His left. These are the angels that wait upon His command as their sovereign awaits orders. He has complete authority over creatures great and small. All kinds of creatures' good angels that willingly obey Him, over the evil angels and since He is Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory, or a glorious king (Ps. 24:10). He is known as a great King, the Most High, the supreme Monarch (Ps. 92:1), everything is infinitely inferior to Him for He is "the blessed and only

Potentate," (1 Tim. 6:15). His knowledge is infinitely above our knowledge, "so He has a dominion incomprehensibly above any dominion of man, and by all the shadows drawn from the authority of one man over another, we can have but weak glimmerings of the authority and dominion of God" [Stephen Charnock].

The basis of His dominion is seen in the excellency of His person, "I am God, and there is none like me," (Isa. 46:9). Its basis is seen in His act of creation, "I have formed thee," (Isa. 44:21). Paul declared at Athens the God they ignorantly worshipped is "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands" (Acts 17:24). The basis of His dominion is seen in purpose and preservation of all things which He created for His own pleasure (Rev. 4:11), and are kept by His preservation for by Him all things are kept or held together (Col. 1:17).

His is an eschatological eternal dominion, "And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:14). The dominion extends even to the Celestial City.

John Bunyan wrote also of Christiana in *Pilgrim's Progress* and when Christiana came to cross the River of Death and enter the Celestial City her departure was thusly described: "Now the day drew on, that Christiana must be gone. So the road was full of people to see her take her journey. But, behold, all the banks beyond the river were full of horses and chariots, which were come down from above to accompany her to the city gate. So, she came forth, and entered the river, with a beckon of farewell to those that followed her to the riverside. The last words that she was heard to say here, were, 'I come, Lord, to be with thee, and bless Thee.' … So, she went and called, and entered in at the gate with all the ceremonies of joy that her husband Christian had done before her. At her departure her children wept. But Mr. Great-heart and Mr. Valiant played upon the well-tuned cymbal and harp *for joy*."