

Our God: Sovereign Over All Nations

Psalms 2 and 73

God is sovereign over all human governments; nothing can thwart His eternal purpose. Christians can be assured that though the wicked may prosper, and evil rulers may mock God's truth with their evil schemes, God's plans are not impeded, and His ultimate victory is sure.

A Quick Review

Following the Son, the job of a pastor, and a Christian's responsibility

A look into the spiritual realm

Arrogance of Nations and Rulers

- They are egotistical and opposed to God (Ps. 2.1-3)
- They are proud and trust in their wealth (Ps. 73.3-12)

Assurance of God's Final Victory

- God's King (Messiah) will reign in Jerusalem (Ps. 2.4-9)
- Proud nations will be destroyed (Ps. 73.16-20)

Advice to Nations and Rulers

- Submit to the omnipotent God (Ps. 2.10-12)
- Return to trust in God (Ps. 73.26-28)

1. Understanding the power of God – His *omnipotence* (He is all-powerful, or *sovereign*) – should impact *every* area of our lives. For example, how can knowing God is omnipotent affect your prayer life, your doubts or anxieties about the future, or your fears about where our country and the world is going? Now ask yourself this: How can knowing God is sovereign affect the way I choose to live my life?
2. Someone has said, 'History is written by the victors.' To the extent this is true, it reflects an aspect of our depravity: *We always seek to present ourselves in the best light*. Scripture says we are *desperately wicked* (Jer. 17.9); *all have sinned* (Rom. 3.23). The sickness of sin infects governments and nations, too. Is it possible for *patriotism* or *national pride* to blur our 'spiritual vision,' causing us to overlook our own sin? Can you think of any examples?
3. It is tempting to think of events in America or the world in political terms – the person we elect will either save or destroy us. What we cannot see are the spiritual forces which are always warring behind the scenes – God and His angels versus Satan and his demons. This cosmic battle is evident from the beginning (Gen. 3). To learn more about this ongoing battle, see Num. 22-24; Job 1-2; 2 Kings 6.11ff; 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chron. 18; all the events surrounding Jesus' birth; Eph. 6.12 – and many more! God also co-opts demonic acts for His own purposes (e.g., Ex. 7-8, to harden Pharaoh's heart; 2 Sam 24.1 with 1 Chron. 21.1).
4. Psalm 2.1-3 is like a 'spiritual x-ray' of the hearts of world rulers. History is a sordid account of this. What specific characteristics of depravity can you identify in these verses, and Ps. 73.3-12?
5. In Ps. 73.2-3, 13-16, Asaph struggled to know what God was doing as evil men prospered. What changed his perspective (17-20)? What did he put his trust in (21-28)? How does God respond to those who propagate evil (Ps. 2.4-12)? As Christians face a time of increasing evil and persecution, what must our hope and confidence be in?

