

Whole World - cont.

God brought down the Jewish nation in A.D. 70 and cared for “*the elect*” while he did it (Matthew 24:22). Civil government is “*ordained of God*” and it acts as a “*minister of God*” when carrying out punishment against the evildoer (Romans 13:1-7).

So then, what should be our response to God’s providential care over the nations? Like Ezra, we should bless God for his work in the hearts of national leaders when their leadership benefits us (Ezra 6:22; 7:27).

We should continue to “*live by faith*” in God even though the nations around us are proud (Habakkuk 2:4). We should also continue to pray that God will work in the hearts of national leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2), in the hearts of our enemies (Matthew 5:43-44), and that he will avenge our enemies (Revelation 6:6-9; 8:3-5).

We should have confidence in time of national trouble remembering that Jesus Christ rules over all the nations (Psalm 2; 45; 110). He is “*King of kings*” (Psalm 17:14; 19:16).

- Chris Reeves -

Sentence Sermons

- First show others how to live, then tell them.
- Hardship is a true test of friendship.
- When some people run into a telephone pole, they blame the pole.
- The road to heaven is never overcrowded.
- A pint of practicing is worth a barrel of preaching.
- Love never fails.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands - Part 2

In last week's bulletin, I began a study of God's providence. I gave a basic definition of God's providence and I examined God's control over his creation. In this article, I would like to examine God's providence as it pertains to his battle with the Devil and his rule over the nations.

2. God's Battle with the Devil. John wrote: *"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels going forth to war with the dragon; and the dragon warred and his angels; And they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him"* (Revelation 12:7-9; see also 12:13-17).

The fact that the Devil was cast out of heaven shows that God is in control of the Devil. So then, what should our response be to God's providential rule over the Devil and his hosts of wickedness?

We can have confidence that God will answer our prayer to be delivered from the Devil (Matthew 6:11,13) and provide a way of escape in times of temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). But, if

we want to do the Devil's bidding and give heed to the *"doctrines of demons"* (1 Timothy 4:1), he will blind us (2 Corinthians 4:4) and deceive us (2 Corinthians 11:13-14). God will then send us a working of error to those who love not the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12).



On the other hand, we know that we can stand against the wiles of the Devil if we put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). The Devil is very much alive and working in our world today, but we can withstand him in our faith (1 Peter 5:8).

We also respond in confidence knowing the God is in control even over the Devil.

Paul wrote: *"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly"* (Romans 16:20). Like the great multitude in heaven who understood that God was victorious over the Devil, we can shout, *"Hallelujah, for the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns..."* (Revelation 19:6; see also 20:3,10).

3. God's Rule Over the Nations. God is *"the ruler over the nations"* (Psalm 22:28), he *"reigneth over the nations"* (Psalm 47:8), and *"his eyes observe the nations"* (Psalm 66:7). *"The king's heart is in the hand of Jehovah as the watercourses: He turneth it whithersoever he will"* (Proverbs 21:1). God *"removeth kings and setteth up kings"* (Daniel 2:21) and he *"ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever he will"* (Daniel 4:17,25,32; 5:21).

God worked in the hearts of the Egyptian pharaoh (Exodus 9:16), the Assyrian king (Isaiah 10:5-12; Hosea 7:12), the Babylonian king (Isaiah 10:24-26; Jeremiah 4:6-13; 25:9,15-26; 27:5; 50:18; 51:7,20; Ezekiel 29:1-21; Habakkuk 1:5-6), the Medo-Persian king (Isaiah 13:1-3; 44:28; 45:1-13; Jeremiah 51:11), the Greek king (Daniel 8:20-21), the Roman kings (Daniel 2; 7), and the Jewish authorities (John 11:49-52; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; 13:27) to accomplish his purposes for Israel.