



Come, Thou Almighty King



"Come, Thou Almighty King,
help us Thy name to sing, help us to praise:
Father all glorious, o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

"Come Thou Incarnate Word,
gird on Thy mighty sword, our prayer attend:
come and Thy people bless, and give Thy word success -
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

"Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour:
Thou who almighty art, now rule in ev'ry heart,
and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

"To the great One in Three
eternal praises be, hence evermore:
His sov'reign majesty may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore."

"The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord has clothed and girded Himself with strength; indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved. Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting." - Psalm 93:1,2

"The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all." - Psalm 103:19

We turn to the great hymn "Come Thou Almighty King" today as we consider God's majesty. It is not certain who the author was, but it appeared anonymously in England around 1757 to commemorate Trinity Sunday. Charles Wesley may have written the hymn since it was included in a pamphlet published by his brother, John. All four verses must be sung since each of the first 3 are directed to the persons of the Godhead, and verse 4 affirms the mysterious, but majestic, doctrine of the Trinity.

A.W. Tozer once wrote: The doctrine of the Trinity ... is truth for the heart. The fact that it cannot be satisfactorily explained, instead of being against it, is in its favor. Such a truth had to be revealed; no one could have imagined it."

The word "majesty" refers to someone or something that is impressive in terms of stateliness, dignity, beauty, splendor, grandeur and excellent greatness. I think of the line in "America the Beautiful" that speaks of "purple mountains' majesty," and scenes like the Grand Canyon or Niagara Falls that take our breath away. Majesty also indicates royal power and sovereign authority, which is true of kings and queens, but more so of our Almighty King. Psalm 93 in my Bible has the very appropriate title, "The Majesty of the Lord."

John Mac Arthur provides good insights on this short psalm. Along with Psalms 95-100, it is dedicated to celebrating God's sovereign kingship over the world. Psalm 93 glorifies God's eternal, universal kingdom which is providentially administered through His Son (Colossians 1:17). There is nothing and no one more powerful than the Lord; nothing is more steadfast than His reign, nothing more sure than His revelation.

To say that the Lord reigns is an exclamation of His universal reign over the earth from the time of creation and forever. In verse one we see that He is clothed with majesty and girded with strength. The world that He created is firmly established, and "it will not be moved." Verse 2 says, "Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting."

Verses 3 and 4 speak of the powerful waves of the sea that cannot compare to the power of God, for "the Lord on high is mighty." The tripling of expressions are a poetic means of energy and emphasis as the psalmist describes "the floods." Psalm 93 ends by saying "Your testimonies are fully confirmed; holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore."

People who do not know God through His Word tend to reduce Him to a concept that fits with their belief of choice. Their God is small compared to the vastness of His nature described in the Scriptures; but we can rejoice in seeing the majesty of our great God, who is above His whole Creation, yet comes to dwell within the heart of every believer as we come to truly know Him.

Let us find comfort and encouragement in Paul's benediction found in 2 Corinthians 11-14, which exalts the blessed Trinity:

"Rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you ... The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."