

**Miscellaneous**  
***We're Puny and Yet We Matter to God***  
**October 23, 2011**  
**Text - Psalm 2**  
**Scripture Reading - Psalm 2:1-12**

I believe that the Bible teaches that God is in control of ALL things, that NOTHING ever happens by accident, and that EVERYTHING is a part of God's good plan for those who love Him and have been called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

God's control over His creation is referred to by theologians as His sovereignty or His *providence*.

I love it when God, in His good providence, chooses to teach me a valuable lesson by illuminating His Word in a special way through a particular and timely life experience that can only be from His hand.

- This actually happens to me fairly often and it's one of the many reasons that I believe that starting out every day by reading your Bible is so important.

This happened to me this past Thursday and that's why I'm interrupting our Isaiah series to tell you about it.

It just so happened ☺ that Thursday morning, after reading my Bible, I went out for a run...

- What I noticed
  - o Plane(s) vs. blue sky, half moon, clouds, sun
  - o Lift bridge, High Bridge, Bong Bridge vs. Lake Superior
  - o Duluth, Superior, Embridge, surrounding communities, telephone lines vs. the vast forest and landscape
  - o Even New York city looks
  - o Tiny cars and inside them *even tinier people*, tiny planes, tiny houses
- What struck me
  - o *We're SO puny and yet we think we're such a BIG deal.*

It also just so happened ☺ that in my Bible reading I had read Psalm 2...

- **Psalms 2:1-4 (ESV)**  
<sup>1</sup>Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>2</sup>The

kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” <sup>4</sup>*He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.*

- o I’ve always been struck by “He who sits in the heavens laughs...”
  - o *God laughs* at those who are raging and plotting and setting themselves against Him.
- This isn’t the only passage of Scripture that talks about God laughing at these people.
    - o **Psalms 37:13 (ESV)**  
<sup>13</sup>*but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming.*
    - o **Proverbs 1:25-26 (ESV)**  
(God says of those who have ignored all His counsel and who would have none of His reproof...) <sup>26</sup>*I... will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you,*
    - o **Psalms 59:8 (ESV)**  
(David says of those who treacherously plot evil thinking that God won’t notice...) <sup>8</sup>*But you, O Lord, laugh at them; you hold all the nations in derision.*
  - To hold someone in derision is to make them an object of ridicule, mockery, or scorn; to consider them a laughingstock.
  - Why does God laugh at, ridicule, mock, and scorn those who rage, plot, and set themselves against Him, who ignore all His counsel and have none of His reproof, and who treacherously plot evil thinking that He won’t notice?
    - o I think it’s because *we’re SO puny and yet we think we’re such a BIG deal.*
  - Who do we think we are to blow God off and treat Him this way?
    - o **Genesis 1:1 (ESV)**  
(*It is God* who) <sup>1</sup>In the beginning, ...created the heavens and the earth.

- o **Psalms 2:4 (ESV)**  
*(It is God who) <sup>4</sup>...sits in the heavens (and) laughs; (it is ) the Lord (who) holds (the raging nations) in derision.*
- o **Psalms 11:4 (ESV)**  
*<sup>4</sup>The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.*
- o **Psalms 29:10 (ESV)**  
*<sup>10</sup>The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.*
- o **Isaiah 40:22-23 (ESV)**  
*<sup>22</sup>It is (the Lord) who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.*
  - Who ultimately was responsible for bringing Muammar Gaddafi down this past week? *The Lord was.*

God is EVERYTHING; we are NOTHING compared to Him. Who do we think we are to rebel against, question, and answer back to Him???

- God responds to 36 chapters of Job's grumbling and questioning like this...
  - o **Job 38:2-11 (ESV)**  
*<sup>2</sup>"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup>Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. <sup>4</sup>"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? <sup>8</sup>"Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, <sup>9</sup>when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, <sup>10</sup>and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, <sup>11</sup>and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed'...?*

- God responds to 36 chapters of Job’s faultfinding like this...
  - **Job 40:2 (ESV)**  
<sup>2</sup> “Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it.”
  
- And God responds to 36 chapters of Job’s accusations of wrong doing like this...
  - **Job 40:8-11 (ESV)**  
<sup>8</sup> Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right? <sup>9</sup> Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his? (Can you...)<sup>10</sup> “Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendor. (Can you...) <sup>11</sup> Pour out the overflowings of your anger, and look on everyone who is proud and abase him...
  
- Finally, through Paul, God responds to the Romans’ question about the intersection of His sovereignty and their responsibility in like this...
  - **Romans 9:20-21 (ESV)**  
<sup>20</sup> But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” <sup>21</sup> Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?...

When we’re tempted to rebel against, question, or answer back to God we need to get up high and look down. We need to look at things from God’s perspective. We need to remember that God is EVERYTHING and that we are NOTHING compared to Him.

Instead of responding to the Sovereign Master of the Universe and All Eternity with foolish arrogance and stupid pride, we need to respond like the Psalmist suggests in Psalm 2...

- **Psalms 2:10-12 (ESV)**  
<sup>10</sup> ...(we need to) be wise; (and) be warned,...<sup>11</sup> (we need to) Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup> (we need to ) kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and (we) perish in the way, (and we need to act upon the amazing fact that) Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

We need to respond like Job finally did in Job 40 and 42...

- **Job 40:4-5 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup>“Behold, *I am of small account*; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. <sup>5</sup>I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further.”

- **Job 42:2-6 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup>“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. <sup>3</sup>... *I have uttered what I did not understand*, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know... <sup>5</sup>I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; <sup>6</sup>therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

And we need to respond like Isaiah did in Isaiah 6...

- **Isaiah 6:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup>...“*Woe is me! For I am (undone)*; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; *for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!*”

*Who do we think we are to rebel against, question, and answer back to the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, the King of all eternity? We need to always keep in mind that God is EVERYTHING, and that we're NOTHING compared to Him.*

And yet, despite our nothingness, despite our puniness, we matter to God.

God says this *of all us...*

- **Psalms 8:3-9 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup>what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup>You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, <sup>7</sup>all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup>the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. <sup>9</sup>O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

- **Psalms 139:13-16 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

And God says this of *some of us...*

- **Deuteronomy 7:6 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. *The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.*

- **Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.* <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

- **Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; *he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.*

- **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

- **Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- **2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself *and gave us* the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, *and entrusting to us* the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ,

God making his *appeal through us*. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Despite our puniness, despite our nothingness, *we matter to God*. In fact, we matter so much to God that He sent His One and Only Son to earth to die on the cross for our sins.

- **Romans 5:8 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his... love for us in this: While we were (yet) sinners, Christ died for us.

- While were still shaking our puny fists in His face, Jesus died for us!
- Despite our puniness, *despite our sinfulness*, we matter to God.

How should we respond this?

- With humble, grateful, service to our King