

ADONAI ADONIM: LORD OF LORDS

Psalm 136, Ephesians 1: 15- 23

November 21, 2021

- I. Knowing Comfort by Trusting in God as Adonai Adonim, Lord of Lords
- A. The comfort expressed in Psalm 136
1. That God made and governs all things
  2. That God lovingly cared for his people Israel, redeeming them from Egypt, protecting them from all their enemies, and giving them the land he had promised them.
- B. The God identified in verses 1- 3
1. Yahweh
    - a. Remember that when the word LORD has all capital letters it refers to God's name Yahweh, I am who I am.
    - b. He is the unchangeable God who kept the promises he made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
  2. God of gods: the one true God
  3. Adonai: Lord
    - a. This is the name of God that we wish to focus on this morning.
    - b. The name refers to the one who is the ruler, to the one in control.
    - c. Whenever we see the word Lord with only the first letter capitalized, we can know that this is the name Adonai.
- C. The comfort expressed in this Psalm in knowing God as Lord of lords.
1. The Hebrew for this is the Adonai Adonim.
  2. Both Adonai and Adonim are plural forms for Adon, which means Lord or Master.
  3. Adonim is the regular plural, referring to more than one lord or master.
  4. God however is Adonai.
  5. This name tells us that he is the chief Adon—that he has power and authority over all the adonim
- D. That fits well with verse two, which says that he is God of gods.
1. Of course, all other gods people worship aren't real gods at all.
    - a. They are figments of people imagination, or they are spirits.
    - b. And if they are competing with God for people's worship they are evil spirits.
  2. But all the spiritual powers in the world, including those worshipped as God, cannot compete with one true God.
    - a. He alone is the Creator; they are creatures.
    - b. They may be powerful, but he is all-powerful.
    - c. And he will always achieve his purpose.

Questions:

- 1) Who or what are the people, events, and even evil spirits who have troubled my life? How have they had control or rule over me? What have they done? How am I responding?
- 2) How does it comfort me to know that God is Yahweh, who never changes and who keeps his promises to me? How does it comfort me to know that God alone is God?
- 3) How does it comfort me to know that God is Lord of lords and that he has power over all others who have authority and power over me, including evil spirits like the devil?
- 4) How does it encourage me to know that no one or nothing can stop God from achieving his plan purpose?

II. Knowing Comfort in the Lord of Lords, Only Because We Trust His Faithful Love

- A. Knowing that God is Lord of lords certainly can bring comfort, but only if people trust that he loves them.
1. As we said a couple weeks ago, as part of God's plan for our lives he allows and even causes tragedies and trials to come into our lives.
  2. Remember God was the one who ordered Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.
  3. Without faith in his love, Abraham would never have obeyed what the Lord was telling him to do.
  4. Without faith in his love, some Christians today doubt that God is truly Lord of lords.
  5. Or, without faith in his love, some believe that he is angry with them and perhaps because of their sins wants to punish them, and they may even doubt their salvation.

B. In Psalm 136 the Psalmist trusts God's faithful love.

1. He repeats one statement after every line about who God is and what he has done: "His love endures forever."
- Psalm 136: 3 (NIV) Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love endures forever*
2. The word translated *love* in our English Bibles is the Hebrew work *hesed*.
  3. This word means love or loving-kindness, but it carries with it the idea of faithfulness.
  4. The Psalmist is trusting that faithful Adonai who has shown his love in the past will remain loving.
    - a. Every blessing the Psalmist lists are ways the Lord showed his love to Israel in the past.
    - b. The reason they could trust that his love would last forever was because of the loving blessings he had already given.

C. We also will only find comfort in Adonai if we trust his love

1. One of the most comforting verses in the Bible is Romans 8:28.

**Romans 8:28 (NIV)** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2. **But this verse is only comforting if we understand it in light of the verses that follow.**
  - a. **These verses show us how God in love brought us to faith and gave us the hope of salvation**
  - b. **These verses speak of his love in giving his own Son to die for us.**
3. **These verses all end with verse 37, which says "we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (loved, in the past tense—that is, love that was already shown.)**
4. **And it is because of that love that God already has shown Paul concludes with the words of verse 38-39.**

**Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Questions:**

- 1) **Why might doubting God's love for us also make us doubt that he is truly Lord of lords, or in other words that he can't or won't control all things? How does trusting his love help us to trust that he has a purpose and plan despite the challenging things he is allowing to happen in our lives?**
- 2) **Why does trusting God's love help us to realize that when God allow terrible things to happen in our lives, he may not be necessarily punishing us? How does trusting God's love help us to know that despite what he is allowing to happen in our lives we need not worry about our salvation?**
- 3) **Even if we never understand how God could bring good out of the sad things that happened in our lives, how can we trust that in all things he works for our good? How does reflecting on how he brought us to faith help us to trust that he is working for our good? How does remembering that his sacrificed his own Son for us help us to trust this?**
- 4) **How do we know that nothing can separate us from God's love?**

### **III. How We Experience the Comfort of Adonai's Power in Our Lives**

#### **A. Let us first look to Old Testament.**

1. **There we find story after story of how Adonai defended and cared for his people.**
2. **He saved them from plagues, natural disasters, and enemies, both human and spiritual.**
3. **But in the days when his people were rebelling against him, God promised them a Lord who would rule as king over all.**
4. **One place he did so was Isaiah 9: 6-7.**

**Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

#### **5. He was speaking of our Lord Jesus.**

#### **B. We experience God's power as Lord primarily through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

1. **That is what Paul proclaims in Ephesians 1.**
2. **Speaking of that power he says in verses 19-21,**

**Ephesians 1:19b-21 (NIV)** That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come..

3. **Of course, Jesus is Lord because he is God, the Son.**
4. **But this verse speaks of him as Lord, because of his role as Christ.**
  - a. **Christ means Anointed One.**
  - b. **He was anointed by God to do his work in a world, a work that ended with his rising from dead and reigning in heaven.**
5. **As the Lord in heaven Jesus rules over everything for us his church.**

**Ephesians 1:22-23 (NIV)** And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

#### **C. And Christ not only rules over all things for us, but because we are his body, his power is at work in us.**

1. **He gives us his power through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.**

**Romans 15:13 (NIV)** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. **The Holy Spirit doesn't just act on us, he empowers us.**
3. **That is what Paul prayed he would do for Ephesians**

**Ephesians 1:18-19a (NIV)** I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

4. **As member of our Adonai's body he empowers us to be and do all that he calls us to be and do.**

**Questions:**

- 1) **When did the Lord of lords rescue me from forces or people that were hurting or challenging me? When did he provide for me in ways I still don't understand?**
- 2) **When has Christ as the Lord of lords defeated an enemy or enemies that were destroying my life? (Think about when he did this for all who believe?) Why is it comforting for me to know that Jesus is now reigning in heaven?**
- 3) **When have I experienced that power of the Holy Spirit to be what God is calling be? Who was opposing me? How did I overcome them in his power?**
- 4) **When have I experienced the power of the Holy Spirit to do what he has called me to do? Who was opposing me? How did I overcome them in his power?**

**Conclusion:** We believe in God who is the Lord of lords. And we know he has a purpose and a plan for this world and that he is guiding it toward that end. We also know he has a purpose for our lives. Sometimes we shrink back at what he calls us to do. There are many powerful forces arrayed against us. And it seems as if our Lord expects the impossible. But let us never forget our Lord and master is the Lord of all and that he has already shown his love for us by sacrificing himself for us and by bringing us to faith and making us his own. Let us continue to trust him and thereby know his power over us and within us.