

Yahweh Reigns!*

The Message of the OT: Yahweh Reigns

I. Yahweh reigns by faithfully loving his people

II. Yahweh reigns by catastrophically judging his enemies

III. Yahweh reigns by tenaciously revealing his glory

* Why do we use the name "Yahweh" for God the Father? Because that is his name! God most commonly identifies himself by his name, "Yahweh," and the OT most commonly calls him by that name. The name "Yahweh" has meaning; it speaks of the fact that God has always existed and will always exist, and therefore is uniquely deserving of worship. Israel was not called to worship a generic "god," but a particular God named Yahweh. The name Yahweh has fallen out of use because in 250 B.C. the translators of the Greek version of the OT (the Septuagint) were influenced by a syncretistic Jewish cult in Elephantine, Egypt who misunderstood Exo. 20:7 to teach that God's name should not be pronounced (the same sect constructed their own temple in which they worshipped Yahweh alongside of Egyptian gods). Is it profaning God's more to speak his name, or to refuse to use the name by which he revealed himself? Most English translations confuse the issue by translating "Yahweh" as "LORD." While "Lord" is a title God uses for himself in places, I am inclined to say that when God uses a title we should use a title, and when God uses his name we should use his name.

Yahweh reigns; let the
peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon
the cherubim; let the earth
quake!

Psalm 99:1-3

“fire and hail, snow and
mist, stormy wind fulfilling
his word”

Psalm 148:8

You cause the grass to
grow for the livestock and
plants for man to
cultivate, that he may bring
forth food from the earth.

Psalms 104:14

For kingship belongs to
Yahweh, and he rules over
the nations.

Psalms 22:28

He makes nations great,
and he destroys them; he
enlarges nations, and leads
them away.

Job 12:23

For not from the east or
from the west and not from
the wilderness comes lifting
up, but it is God who
executes judgment, putting
down one and lifting up
another.

Psalm 75:6-7

His days are determined,
and the number of his
months is with you, and
you have appointed his
limits that he cannot pass.

Job 14:5

Whatever Yahweh pleases,
he does, in heaven and on
earth, in the seas and all
deeps.

Psalm 135:6

Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.

Isaiah 46:8-9

Now Yahweh said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as Yahweh had told him.

Genesis 12:1-4

I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Exodus 3:7

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9

He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and Yahweh has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:3-6

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares Yahweh: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. . . . they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares Yahweh. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:33-34

Speak to all the
congregation of the people
of Israel and say to them,
“You shall be holy, for I
Yahweh your God am
holy.”

Leviticus 19:2

If you act corruptly by making a carved image in the form of anything, and by doing what is evil in the sight of Yahweh your God, so as to provoke him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess...And Yahweh will scatter you among the peoples.

Deuteronomy 4:23-27

Be very careful, therefore, to love Yahweh your God. For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you... they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground that Yahweh your God has given you.

Joshua 23:11-13

Do not be deceived, God
is not mocked; for
whatever a man sows, this
he will also reap.

Galatians 6:7

And now, Israel, what does Yahweh your God require from you, but to fear Yahweh your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep Yahweh's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

In you all the families of
the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 12:3

The Egyptians shall know
that I am Yahweh, when I
stretch out my hand
against Egypt and bring out
the people of Israel from
among them.

Exodus 7:15

David said... “This day Yahweh will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that Yahweh saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is Yahweh’s, and he will give you into our hand.”

I Samuel 17:45-47

But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations to which they came. Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord Yahweh: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am Yahweh, declares the Lord Yahweh, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

Ezekiel 36:21-23