

YOUR GOD REIGNS – ISAIAH 52:7-10

INTRODUCTION

1. It has been a long and arduous year that none of us could have imagined.
2. We have all had to endure a long and arduous political campaign season.
3. This has left many of us struggling to grapple with what has happened and what will happen.
4. But this morning we need to remember that no matter what happens the Christian has hope because our Lord lives and reigns (**Matt. 28:18; Isa. 52:7**).

DISCUSSION

I. OUR GOD RULES IN THE KINGDOMS OF MEN

- A. Our country has only been in existence for 244 years.
- B. During those years, our country has gone through 59 presidential elections.
- C. In every single one of those elections, there have been winners and losers.
- D. Every time, some Americans were elated and hopeful for the future.
- E. But other Americans were disheartened and fearful about the future.
- F. And in the past, somehow, some way, our country has managed to get along, to hold it together, and to continue.
- G. And as long as our country stands, Lord willing, may that always be the case.
- H. Whenever these elections roll around it is easy for us, as Americans, to get caught up in the partisan politics and to believe that the future of our country and even the world hangs in the balance depending on how we vote.
- I. And while we all should do our part to help support, further, and sustain our country, the Christian must not forget who is really in control of things.
- J. The Bible says that it is God and not man, who ultimately rules in the kingdoms of men (**Dan. 4:17**).
- K. Down through the ages, God has raised up rulers, both good and bad, to accomplish His purposes – to bless or to judge nations.
- L. Good and godly men like David, but also pagan kings like Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, and Cyrus (**Rom. 9:17; Isa. 45:1**).
- M. And because God rules in the kingdoms of men and we fear God, God's people respect whoever is in power (**1 Pet. 2:13-17; Prov. 24:21**).
- N. Because God rules in the kingdoms of men and we fear God, God's people pray for whoever is in power (**1 Tim. 2:1-4**).
- O. While we have no idea what the future holds for our country, let us take comfort in knowing that our God rules in the kingdoms of men.

II. OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN

- A. Our country was founded on great ideals and values.
- B. That all are created equal and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- C. Over the years, it has struggled to embrace those ideals fully and truly for all people regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or religion.

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- D. Our country's prosperity and opportunity has been the envy of the world.
- E. Countless masses have come to our borders and shores, desperate to have a chance at the "American Dream."
- F. Citizenship in our country is highly prized and highly valued.
- G. Most of us share in this blessing simply by the grace of being born here.
- H. Again, during these election cycles, it is easy for us to get caught up and make our earthly citizenship a priority and lose sight of what truly matters.
- I. For while being an American citizen is a blessing, the Christian has an even greater blessing - a citizenship in heaven, in the Kingdom of God (**Phil. 3:17-4:1; Eph. 2:19**).
- J. Because our citizenship is in heaven, our highest concern is to honor God and bring Him glory, showing others that His way is best (**1 Pet. 2:9-12, 13-17**).
- K. Because our citizenship is in heaven and we fear and love God, God's people submit to laws of the land (**Rom. 13:1-7; Acts 5:29; Dan. 3:16-18**).
- L. Because our citizenship is in heaven, God's people pray for the welfare of their country and preserve it by godly conduct (**Jer. 29:7; Prov. 11:10-11; 14:34**).
- M. While we are grateful to God to be American citizens, let us look beyond that and never neglect to show our loyalty to Christ as Kingdom citizens.

III. OUR LIFE IS IN CHRIST

- A. Our country, as great as it is, is not what we would like it to be.
- B. There are many things that we would like to see improved.
- C. We would like for our fellow citizens to have greater opportunities to better themselves and to be able to provide and enjoy a prosperous, secure life.
- D. We long for our country to value and uphold godly morals and not sin.
- E. Every election cycle, we hope that this time we will have the leader, the congressmen, the judges who will finally set things right so we can all have the "good life."
- F. While we continue to use every godly means to further the cause of Christ, we must recognize that victory will not be achieved through any carnal means (**John 18:36**).
- G. The only way to truly have the "good life" is to put our faith in Christ Jesus (**Col. 3:1-4**).
- H. The only way to change the hearts of men and women, to change the direction of our country is for us to live for Jesus (**Col. 3:5-17**).
- I. Because our life is in Christ, we must live out our faith openly, creating opportunities to share the life and hope we have in Jesus (**Matt. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:12**).
- J. While we are grateful to God to have a good life in America, let us remember that the true hope of a "good life" rests in the gospel of Jesus Christ (**Rom. 1:16-17**).

CONCLUSION

1. No matter what the future holds, let us take comfort that our God reigns (**Isa. 52:7**).
2. Our lives, hopes, and eternal destiny are assured because of Jesus (**1 Pet. 1:3-9**).
3. May we always look to Him for joy today and hope for tomorrow (**1 Thess. 5:17-18**).