“Who is the King of Glory?”

Ephesians 1:18-23

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Sean Hoisington, Hayden Bible Church, 4/24/22)

 Today’s study focuses on Jesus’ ascension to His throne of glory. Right after His resurrection, God “raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named…” (Eph. 1:20-21a). The Father gave Jesus this supreme authority. Does He have authority in your day-to-day life? Does His power affect your day-to-day life?

 To the Pharisees, Jesus was not the Messiah, but an annoyance to be dealt with. They mocked Him with their questions (Luke 22:67-68), but He was obedient to His mission… death on a cross… for us (Phil. 2:7-8). In Matt. 26:64, Jesus spoke of His ascension to His throne of glory. In Matt. 28:18-20, He told us to go out and be His hands and feet in spreading the Gospel. And then He ascended into Heaven, where He sits at the Father’s right hand. He is the King of Glory (Ps. 24:7-10), and He has been given an everlasting dominion (Dan. 7:13-14).

 Ephesian culture was full of the deception of false gods. Paul tells these new believers that they were once walking according to their flesh, living as children of wrath. (Q1) Then Jesus brought them into His Kingdom (Eph. 2:1-3). His kingdom is one of everlasting hope, one giving us a future of glory with Him. Sometimes we get mired in thoughts of our own unworthiness and uselessness, but the Bible reminds us that the King looks forward to enjoying us forever (Eph. 1:18b). In spite of your faults and foibles, He is sharing a glorious inheritance with you! Jesus overwhelmingly overcame the forces of spiritual darkness in Ephesus (Eph. 1:19-20). No dictator or country or spiritual power is greater than our King, Jesus. We are no longer slaves to sin, but slaves to righteousness, being progressively sanctified by His grace. (Heb. 10:14) (Q2)

 The lowly, Lamb of God (whose salvation is available to anyone) is now seated on the throne, far above any other (Eph. 1:20). He rules His Kingdom today and forever (Eph. 1:21). All things are in subjection to Him (Eph. 1:22-23). All enemies, even death, will be under His feet (1Cor. 15:25-26). (Q3) In our union with Him, we function as His hands and His feet here on this earth. We our empowered to live our lives with His presence in us. The One who saves is in charge now. The One who saves has all authority. His ascension gives us confidence, conviction, and courage. (Q4)

 Whenever it feels like darkness is winning, remind each other of this reality: we are overcomers for His glory and by His grace! He has given us marching orders: PROCLAIM HIS KINGDOM! You have a foundation of courage: He who loves you and sends you reigns over all things. Jesus, we bow down to you. Help all of us arise and serve you, our Master and our King. (Q5)

**QUESTIONS**:

1. “children of wrath”- What does this mean? For help, look at John 3:18.
2. In Eph. 1:18-19, Paul talks about the hope, riches, and power available to those who believe in Jesus. Compare that to the promises he wrote about in Rom. 8:38-39. What common denominators do you see?
3. “even death will be under His feet”- What does this bold statement mean for you, Christian?
4. What does Paul’s prayer (in Eph. 1:18-23) have to do with the church? What does his prayer have to do with you?
5. Later on, in Ephesians (6:10-18), Paul tells us that if we are to be his hands and feet, we better armor up! Why?

**“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”** (Perronet)

(repeat the last two lines of each stanza)

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ Name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!