

## OUR GOD REIGNS<sup>1</sup>

**Text: Isaiah 52: 7**

Pastor Adeboye explored the meaning of the words: “Our God Reigns”. I think as a mathematician and preacher, he is used to being very simple and methodical in all his presentations. It is amazing that he did not take for granted that everything is known or even understood by his audience.

Using Scriptural passages, he established the meaning of our God. For instance, in Rev. 19: 11-16 our God is described vividly as the KING OF KINGS AND THE LORD OF LORDS.

In Psalms 91:1, he is described as the most High. Also in Ecclesiastes 5:8, the attributes of God was succinctly described there: ...”for He ... is higher than the highest. Hence Pastor Adeboye is often recorded as saying that: “He is Higher than the Highest. Stronger than the Strongest, Holier than the Holiest”, etc.

Revisiting the same Ps. 91:1, our God is also known to be the “Almighty” which actually derived from Genesis 17: 1: “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram and said unto him, I am the Almighty God [Heb. *El Shaddai*]; walk before me and be thou perfect.”

In Ps. 62:11, the Psalmist declared that power belongs to our God. In Jeremiah 32:27 he asserted that he is the powerful God by saying: “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?” This was brought to bear again in Luke 1: 37: when the Angel declared to Mary: “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”

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<sup>1</sup> This was my transcript of my notes of the sermon delivered by Pastor E.A. Adeboye during the Festival of Life (FOL) at the Excel Centre in London on 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> November, 2008. All errors are entirely mine and not attributable to Pastor Adeboye.

## **What does it mean to assert that He reigns?**

It means that our God is the one that commands and His command stands. In Ps. 33: 8-9 the Bible says: “Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he speaks and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.” Most importantly, in Daniel 4: 25, Daniel declared: “...the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever he will.”

Someone who knew better, Nebuchadnezer (of course after being dealt with) confessed that: “I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation.” He added that: “he does according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, what doest thou (is that not where the Yoruba word: ‘kabiyesi’ – ka bi o o si - originated from?).

Philippians 2: 9-11 says God shared that sovereign personality with his son by giving him a name that is exalted and higher than every other name and at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth and things under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord to the glory of God the Father.” Pastor Adeboye further quoted from Isaiah 66:1 which confirms that the Lord sits in His throne in Heaven and makes the earth His footstool. That means he can control what happens on earth just by moving his feet. Ps. 115:3 also affirms the same fact.

1 Kings 17 was used by Pastor Adeboye to underscore the fact that God can control and instruct the most unlikely candidates to be the carrier of our blessings. For instance, the Lord used Ravens to bring bread and meat to Elijah at the brook Cherith. Ravens were the most unlikely candidates for such an assignment because as birds, they love bread and as a particularly meat loving bird, the Ravens should have eaten up both bread and meat before getting to Elijah; but they were forbidden from doing that. Everyone that has been instructed to bring about the delivery of your blessings will not withhold in the name of Jesus. This is confirmed by Isaiah 43: 4-6 {this passage is my addition}.

Malachi 3:10 also confirms that our God can open the windows of heaven to bless his people since he inhabits the heavens. Also in Joshua 10: 12-14 the man of God commands the sun to stand still and the Lord obeyed his voice. Verse 14

commented that "... and there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man; for he fought for Israel." The Lord will fight for you in the name of Jesus.

Pastor Adeboye also established that the Lord controls the seasons and the times as mentioned in Daniel 2: 21: "And he changes the times and seasons: he removes kings and sets up kings: he gives wisdom unto the wise and knowledge to them that know understanding". See also Isaiah 66:1; Ps. 24: 1; Gen. 1:1; Ps. 90: 1-2; Mk. 11: 22-23; Josh. 9:1-7; 1 Kings 17: 2-6 to establish the power of our God demonstrating that he reigns over the heavens and the earth.

Curiously, through his son, he was able to turn water to wine at the wedding of Cana of Galilee (John 2: 1-12). He controlled the demons as well (Mat. 8: 16, Luke 8: 26-40; Mk. 15:1-15). Jesus spoke to the sea and wind and they promptly obeyed him (Luke 8: 22-25). All these confirm that our God reigns over the forces of good and evil. He reigns over all.

Our God reigns over sicknesses and decides who to heal (see John 5: 2-13 and Mat. 8: 16; Mt. 8:3; Luke 17: 11-19) Our God pronounced to the children of Israel in Exodus 15: 26: "...if thou will diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and will do that which is right in his sight, and will give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." In Mk. 2: 1-12 the man that was sick of palsy was made whole according the word of God and in accordance with his faith and that of his handlers who took the risk to open another person's roof to bring the man before Jesus.

Our God also reigns over death. In Deu. 32:39 the Lord Himself overwhelmingly cleared that: "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill and I make alive, I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand. In Mark 5: 21 – 43, the ruler of the Synagogue's daughter was sick and he came to Jesus to make her well. Eventually the damsel died; but Jesus came to the scene and told her to wake up from her sleep. She obeyed the voice of the master. In Luke 7: 11 – 15 Jesus made the only son of the woman of Nain who was dead to come back alive. To confirm that he could even make someone who had died for about four days to come back alive, he woke stinking Lazarus from the dead. Every dead dream or vision in your lives shall come back to life in the name of

Jesus. In the case of Hezekiah his date of death was prolonged (Isaiah 38). The Lord will preserve you in the name of Jesus.

Remarkably, he reigns over prosperity. The Bible says whether we like it or not, the poor will never cease out of the land. Some will be rich and some will be poor (Deu. 15:11). The Bible also makes it clear from Deu. 28: 1-14 that as long as we obey his word, we will surely prosper. Also in Deu. 8: 18: “But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that gives thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.”

Our God also has the key of David. When he opens no man can shut and when he shuts no man can open (Rev. 3: 7-8). He is also the controller of destiny. The Bible says: “For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end. The destiny of the man of the country of Gadarenes changed when he had a contact with the one who reigns in the affairs and destiny of man. The Lord will change the destiny of someone in the name of Jesus.

Overall, our God is the God that reigns over the affairs of men and he will reign in your life and make remarkable difference in your life in the name of Jesus.