



God's Word for Today

Sonja Hunt Ministries

Teaching Letter 47

Ruling and Reigning with Christ

“because as He is, so are we in this world” (1 John 4:17 NKJ).

In recent years, Scripture references to God’s people ruling and reigning with Christ *in this life* have caught my attention. As a child I heard people say we were “in training for reigning.” However, I believe they usually meant we would reign in heaven, or maybe in the millenium kingdom. The emphasis at some point shifted to reigning now.

For many years, as a Christian, I did not live an overcoming life. I lived for God, but I ruled over nothing. Doubt, fear, insecurity, and a host of other things defeated me at every turn. I needed to know more about who I am in Christ and how to live like I have authority through Him—because indeed I do. And so do you, child of God. You probably know that already; but if you aren’t living the overcoming life and feel defeated in some areas, maybe this discussion will help you begin to change that.

God’s kingdom is here now in us. Both John the Baptist and Jesus came preaching that the Kingdom of heaven is at hand (see Matthew 3:2 and 4:17). That sounded very good to many people of that day because the Romans were ruling over the Jews as conquerors. Jesus, however, tried to help His followers understand that the Kingdom He announced was a spiritual one and that it would be awhile before He reigned visibly on earth.

Jesus taught that the Kingdom to which His followers belong is one in which Light reigns over darkness. And He demonstrated that dramatically. He told the people of Nazareth: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:18, 19 NKJ). Then He proceeded to do exactly that—all of it!

Jesus spent a lot of time introducing, describing and demonstrating the Kingdom. Though the people liked the miracles He performed and were amazed at His authority over demons, His ability to heal, and His command of the natural elements, most people did not understand the Kingdom as Jesus taught it. It would be later in the letters of Paul that they (and we) would gain understanding about our position in Christ with whom we may now rule and reign as His representatives and ambassadors in this life.

I want to mention briefly some Scriptures which form a basis for understanding how to live the overcoming life. God intends that we live as overcomers. We are now—not someday—“more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37 NKJ).

Where Christ now sits is where we also now sit. Paul wrote to the Ephesian Christians that God has “made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:5, 6 NKJ). Notice all these things have already happened. We do not have to wait until heaven to be seated with Christ in the heavenly places. We already are because He already is, and we are in Him!

Paul further explained that Jesus is now seated at God’s “right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church which is His body . . .” (Ephesians 1:20-23 NKJ). Jesus is high above depression, sickness, doubt, fear, unbelief, sin, disease and everything else, and so are we.

There is nothing created that has not been put under Jesus. Before He ascended, Jesus told His disciples: “. . . ‘All power has been given to Me in heaven and on earth’” (Matthew 28:18 KJV). Jesus now reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords. And because we are in Jesus, because we have been made to “sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6) and because we are His ambassadors in the world (see 2 Corinthians 5:20), we too are far above all principality, power, might or dominion and every name that is named.

We are now the instruments of God’s reign on earth. David wrote what he heard in the Spirit in Psalm 110. It’s like he overheard a conversation in heaven: “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!” (vv. 1, 2). This was a prophetic passage concerning what would happen when centuries later Jesus ascended to heaven following His resurrection.

This passage gives us insight into God’s plan for Christ’s present rule on earth. First, “sitting” indicates rulership, and “at the right hand of God” indicates power and authority. We also note from this passage that though Jesus now sits at the right hand of God, His enemies have not yet been made His footstool. God the Father intends that Christ would rule in the midst of His enemies by the “rod of Your strength” which God would send “out of Zion” (Psalm 110:2) until the time that God will make Christ’s enemies His footstool.

Kings rule by decree and proclamation (and by armies if necessary). What a king decrees becomes law in the land. The “rod of Your strength” referenced in Psalm 110:2 is God’s spoken Word. God has designated that all God’s people—Zion—should be the ones who will speak His Word throughout the centuries and thus proclaim God’s will in the earth until God makes Christ’s enemies His footstool. We are the ones through whom Jesus now rules in the midst of His enemies.

In times when kings would send proclamations across their realms, these proclamations were spoken in public places by heralds (the king’s ambassadors). Everyone knew the heralds represented the king and spoke for him. When the herald spoke, it was as though the king

spoke. The authority backing up the herald was recognized.

Today all God’s children have the authority of Christ to speak His Word and His will into every situation in our lives and in our world. We are Christ’s heralds, every one of us. When we speak God’s Word, things will change. Heavenly forces are activated when we recognize our position in Christ and use the authority we have to proclaim God’s Word on behalf of ourselves, our families, our nation, our world. The forces of darkness recognize our authority and position when we do. We must speak with confidence in who we are and in the power of God’s Word used correctly.

I hope this teaching letter has reminded you of who you are in Christ and of the authority you have as His herald, His representative. Yes, we are “in training for reigning.” But be encouraged that by proclaiming God’s Word, you can rule and reign with Christ now in greater and greater measure. You can defeat the enemies of your soul that may have once defeated you.

You may find three of my God’s Word for Today teaching letters, titled “Speaking God’s Word—Part 1 (also Parts 2 and 3) on the website at: sonjahuntministries.com. They are Letters 27, 28 and 29 on the Teaching Letters page.

Blessings! **SH**

GOD’S WORD FOR TODAY
Teaching Letter 47
“Ruling and Reigning With Christ”
Sonjia Hunt Ministries

www.sonjahuntministries.com
PO Box 21 Cleveland, TN 37364—0021