

I have watched children who think that they have the authority to boss other people around. It is quite fascinating to see one who takes charge and has the attitude that they are right and everyone else is wrong. Whatever they say will “go” and that is the way that it is. It is so interesting to see how that changes when an authority figure such as a parent or teacher walks into the room. The child who moments ago had been so sure of himself, now retreats, for the voice of authority greater than his has come into the room.

There are people in high places that have no clue that they are exactly like this type of child.

Pilate was like that when Jesus stood before him as Jesus was prepared to die for his people.

In John 18:31-John 19:1-11, Jesus has been placed on trial because the Jewish nation and chief priest delivered Him to be put to death. Pilate questioned Jesus and the verdict was that he found no fault in Him. Pilate tried to get the Jews to put Jesus to death by their own laws yet they declared that they had no law giving them the right to put anyone to death. This was to fulfill the Scripture that Jesus would be crucified.

Pilate entered the judgment hall and asked Jesus, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Note that Jesus answered him with a question, “Are you asking this on your own or did someone tell you about me?” Pilate responded with these words: “You know I am not a Jew. It was your own people and chief priests who brought you to me. What have you done?”

Jesus told Pilate that His kingdom doesn’t belong to this world. If it did then His followers would have fought for Him and kept Him from being delivered to the Jewish leaders. He repeated that His kingdom doesn’t belong to this world. Pilate answered, “Then you are a king.” Jesus told Pilate, “You are saying that I am a king. I was born into this world to tell about the truth. And everyone who belongs to the truth knows my voice.” Pilate asked Jesus “What is truth?” Pilate desired to release Jesus so he went before the people and stated that he usually sets a prisoner free for the Jews at Passover. He offered to set Jesus free, the King of the Jews.

They shouted “No, not him! Release Barabbas (who was a robber).

Pilate believed he was in charge but even at this point he was not following what he believed in his heart that he should do. He was being controlled by the Jews who desired Jesus to be put to death. Pilate gave the command to scourge Jesus and they put a crown of thorns on his head, royal robes on his body and mocked him with words of “Hey, you king of the Jews!” They hit him with their fists. Once again Pilate went before the people and declared that he had not found him guilty of death. He brought Jesus out and said

“Here is the man”. The chief priests shouted “Crucify Him! Crucify Him.” Pilate again told them that they should crucify him themselves if they were insisting that he die, for he didn’t find any fault with Him. However Jesus had indicated that He would die by crucifixion and the Romans used this method of putting people to death but the Jews were not allowed to use this method to kill people.

The crowd replied, “He claimed to be the Son of God! Our Law says that he must be put to death.” When Pilate heard this, he was terrified! He went back in and asked Jesus where he was from. But Jesus wouldn’t answer him.

Pilate asked, “Why won’t you answer my question? Don’t you know that I have the power to let you go free or to nail you to a cross?”

Jesus replied, “If God had not given you the power, you couldn’t do anything at all to me. But the one who handed me over to you did something even worse.”

Pilate wanted to set Jesus free but the crowd continued yelling for him to be crucified. They told Pilate that if he set Jesus free he was no friend of the Emperor. Anyone who claims to be a king is an enemy of the Emperor. The saying troubled Pilate and he brought Jesus out and said to the crowd, “Look at your king!” They yelled, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”

“Do you want me to nail your king to a cross?” Pilate asked.

The chief priest answered that they had no king by Caesar. Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be nailed to a cross.

Pilate ordered the charge against Jesus to be written on a board and placed above the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” The words were written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek. The chief priests went to Pilate and told him that he should have written, “He claimed to be the King of the Jews.” Pilate said, “What I have written I have written.”

Even though Pilate wanted to free Jesus, God’s plan was that He should die on the cross for the sins of the people. God, the Father had the last word. Pilate’s authority was limited though he considered himself to be in charge.

In Proverbs 1:20, there are some interesting verses. This is speaking to people who would be safe and secure if they would listen to wisdom, but they want to be in charge of themselves. They feel powerful and in control and they won’t listen to knowledge. Wisdom shouts in the streets wherever people gather. She warns them to stop being foolish and listen to wise counsel. She asked them how long they will continue to sneer and laugh at knowledge. She tried to correct them and set their feet on straight paths, but they refused to heed her warning and ignored her advice. They were unprepared for disaster when it struck and when trouble and distress surrounded them; wisdom wouldn’t come to their rescue. They will seek help when they are overwhelmed with calamity, but

she won't respond. They will seek for wisdom, but it will elude them. Because they rejected advice and refused to respect the LORD, and ignored the warning, they will suffer the consequences of their high mindedness.

Sin and self-satisfaction brings destruction and death to stupid fools. But those who listen to wisdom will be safe and secure without fear of disaster.

Ps. 2:1 says "Why do the nations plot, and why do their people make useless plans? The kings of the earth have all joined together to turn against the LORD and his chosen one. They say, "Let's cut the ropes and set ourselves free!"

If you continue to read this chapter you will find that the LORD makes fun of the nations who want to be independent of his ruler ship. He becomes furious and threatens them. He announces that his King will be the ruler on Zion his sacred hill. He declares "You are my son; this day I have begotten you." He promised to give his Son all the nations of the earth and he will rule over them and to those who reject Him, He will smash them with an iron rod and shatter them like dishes of clay.

God instructed the people and the kings to serve and honor the LORD; be glad and tremble. Show respect to his son because if they don't, the LORD might become furious and suddenly destroy you. But He blesses and protects everyone who runs to Him.

Proverbs 18:10 says "The name of the LORD is a strong tower. The righteous runs in and are saved. The rich think their money is a wall of protection.

Psalms 9:17 states that evil people will be trapped by their own evil deeds. And the wicked will go down to the world of the dead to be with those nations that forget about God.

In Psalm 10, David writes that proud and brutal people hunt down the poor but he prays that they will get caught by their own evil plans. The wicked brag about their deepest desires. Those greedy people and curse the LORD. The wicked are too proud to turn to the LORD or even think about Him. They are always successful though they can't understand God's teachings and they keep sneering at their enemies. They say in their hearts that nothing can hurt them. "We'll always be happy and free from trouble. They curse and tell lies and all they talk about is how to be cruel and how to do wrong." They hide outside villages waiting to strike and murder. They are like hungry lions hiding in the bushes hoping to catch some helpless passerby. They trap the poor in nets and drag them away. They crouch down and wait to grab a victim. They say "Cod can't see! He's got on a blindfold." The wicked don't respect God and they declare that God won't punish them.

The Psalms say that God sees and we can count on him to do something about the trouble and distress that wicked people bring against innocent people. "Our LORD will always rule, but nations will vanish from the earth. God will punish those who cause suffering to

his people. He offers hope and pays attention to their cry for help. He will come and save us.

In Isaiah 59:19, these words are written: In verse 16, God saw that there was no man, there was no intercessor, therefore his arm brought salvation unto him and his righteousness sustained Him. (He sent Jesus Christ to rescue mankind from Satan's deception and stronghold).

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion and unto those who turn from transgression in Jacob, says the LORD. His words shall be established forever.

The LORD will not tarry forever.

Matthew 24:22 says that terrible times will come to the earth. Except those days should be shortened there should no flesh be saved on the earth, but those days will be shortened.

Luke 22:25 says that there will be signs in the heavens and in the earth distress on nations with perplexity and the sea and the waves roaring. Men's hearts will fail them for fear of what is coming on the earth. The powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with power and with great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads for your redemption draws nigh.

When Jesus spoke to Nathanael about the fact that He saw him before Philip called to him. He was sitting under the fig tree and Jesus saw him. Nathanael marveled and said, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered him by saying, "Because I said that I saw you sitting under the fig tree, you believe? You shall see greater things than these. Verily, verily, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

In Acts 1:12, the apostles were looking steadfastly toward heaven as Jesus ascended into the heavens. Two men stood by them in white apparel; they said to them "Ye men of Galilee, why are you standing gazing up unto heaven? This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven."

1 Thessalonians 4:16 says this: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

The Lord wants us to occupy until he comes. We are not to spend our time worrying about tomorrow, but to trust Him day by day to take care of our needs and provide for those who trust in Him.

In Revelation 1:7, it says this: "Behold he comes with clouds, and every eye shall see Him, and they also who pierced him; and all kindred of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen" Jesus declares himself to be the Alpha, the Omega, the beginning and the ending, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Those who have accepted Jesus Christ into their hearts and are among the redeemed, don't have to worry about the things that are coming to this earth for Jesus will watch over his own. Those who are trusting in any other source for help will be disappointed because there will be no safety net for them.