

Out of Order

*"I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth."
Ecclesiastes 10:7*

In 1848, amidst a divided nation, James Russell Lowell wrote *The Present Crisis* which rapidly became the poetic anthem for the abolition movement in America. His thoughts echoed the words found in our scripture text today:

*"Truth forever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the throne,
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own."*

The god of this world has turned everything upside down; it being his nature as a fallen spirit to subvert truth and exalt the lie. When the Prince of Peace visited this earth He was greeted with vituperation, crowned with thorns, and subjected to an ignominious death while Caesar, Herod and Pilate sat ensconced in gorgeous array. This is a well proven biblical pattern. Observe the arrogant Haman occupying the seat of authority while Mordecai sits with the servants in "the king's gate". David languishes in caves while Saul sits enthroned. Elijah makes due in the wilderness while Jezebel and Ahab luxuriate in the castle. John awaits his execution in the dungeon while Antipas enjoys the fineries of the palace. Paul is beaten and chained while the incestuous Nero contemplates his latest perversion.

Believers take heart for though now *"we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things"* *"it doth not yet appear what we shall be"*! The divine reversal will remediate the injustice, for the first shall be last, and the last first when His kingdom comes.

Have a blessed day,

Pastor