

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

November 8, 2020

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Song of Ascent *God's people sang together as they gathered and traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.*

Congregation *God of the Ages*

God of the ages, history's Maker, planning our pathway, holding us fast, shaping in mercy all that concerns us: Father, we praise you, Lord of the past.

God of this morning, gladly your children worship before you, trustingly bow; teach us to know you always among us, quietly sovereign-- Lord of our now.

God of tomorrow, strong overcomer, princes of darkness own your command: what then can harm us? We are your people, now and forever kept by your hand.

Lord of past ages, Lord of this morning, Lord of the future, help us, we pray: teach us to trust you, love & obey you, crown you each moment, Lord of today!

ADORATION OF GOD

Call to Worship: King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

— Daniel 4.1-3

Quieting of Hearts, Confession of Sin and Invocation

Declaration of Truth:

Daniel 4.34-37

Leader: At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever,

All: *for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"*

Leader: Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Hymns of Praise *Our God Almighty is Sovereign Still!*

Amid the fears that oppress our day,
across the clouds that obscure our way,
one golden truth sheds its shining ray —
our God almighty is sov-ereign still!

Refrain:

*Pow'r, Pow'r, God's pow'r.
His holy purpose unchanging stands,
Pow'r, Pow'r, God's pow'r.
He holds the world in his mighty hands.*

Though wars may rise, and though kingdoms fall,
though ills may threaten, and fears enthrall,
our God still lives, and he hears our call —
our God almighty is sovereign still!

Though fierce the fight 'gainst the hosts of wrong,
his Word is sure, and his arm is strong;
the day is his: raise his triumph song —
our God almighty is sovereign still!

When Christ shall come to receive his own,
His kingdom come, his power, his throne,
eternal King he shall reign alone —
our God almighty is sovereign still!

CMPC MISSION AND FAMILY LIFE

Mission Moment

Pastoral Prayer

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

The Gift of Music

Receiving God's Tithes and Our Offering

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Testimony *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*
(Children ages 3 through 3rd grade may be escorted to Children's Church)

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more; Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.

Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee; I will ever give to Thee.

Musing on my habitation,
Musing on my heav'nly home,
Fills my soul with holy longings:
Come, my Jesus, quickly come;

Van-i-ty is all I see;
Lord, I long to be with Thee! Lord, I long to be with Thee!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Reading of God's Word

Genesis 14.1-16

In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, ²these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). ³And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). ⁴Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled. ⁵In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, ⁶and the Horites in their hill country of Seir as far as El-paran on the border of the wilderness. ⁷Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh) and defeated all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who were dwelling in Hazazon-tamar. ⁸Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out, and they joined battle in the Valley of Siddim ⁹with Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar, four kings against five. ¹⁰Now the Valley of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, and the rest fled to the hill country. ¹¹So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. ¹²They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way. ¹³Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks^l of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram. ¹⁴When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon

The Adventures of Abraham

Pastor John

Series: Abraham & Sarah: Walking By Faith—Genesis 12-25

OUR RESPONSE

Prayer of Application

Hymn of Response*This is My Father's World*

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.

This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world: the battle is not done'
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, And earth and heav'n be one.

The Benediction and Threefold Amen



Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian, PCA

cmpca.org

CMPC Sermon Notes for November 8, 2020

- **Series:** *Abraham & Sarah: Walking By Faith- Genesis 12-25*
- **Message:** *The Adventures of Abraham.*
- **Text:** Genesis 14.1-16

Rebels Rebuilding Babel

- The Reality of a Fallen World
 - Oppressive Global Conflict
 - War
- Coalition of Kings from the east:
 - Kedorlaomer of Elam? Iran
 - King of Shinar? Babylon- Iraq
 - This is not a neighborhood struggle- this is about empire building!
- International Conflict
 - Oppression of the Jordan River Valley Alliance by Kedorlaomer and Company, 1000 miles away, had been going on for at least 12 years, then the Canaanite Kings rebelled.
 - Mineral deposits/natural resources
 - Historical
 - Bible: Assyrians and Babylonians, Medes and Persians, Greeks and Romans
 - The Turks and Napoleon
 - Hitler, Mussolini, the Japanese and the Soviet Union
 - China today
 - What do they all have in common?
 - Pride: “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as a royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”
 - War of ideas
 - Daniel 4.30: Nebuchadnezzar
 - Create Laughter: “The One enthroned in the heavens laughs....” Psalm 2
 - They all have fallen: “Then He rebukes them in His anger.”
- People are restless, lusting for more and more:
 - Power, Popularity, Possessions/Money

A Raging War

- Archeology suggests this march to the Jordan made Sherman’s march to the sea look like a parade.
 - In the battle, the Mesopotamian Alliance defeats the Jordan River Valley Alliance
 - Caught in international conflict: Lot taken hostage!
- Lot’s Lessons About Living in this world
 - Lot and his family are prisoners of war
 - The Dangerous Progression
 - Lot’s problem is seen when comparing 13.12 with 14.12.
 - Lot had his own private war raging
 - What Kind of a Witness?
 - Remember 13.13? “The men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.”
 - Lot exchanged the fellowship of Abraham for the fellowship of Sodom

- Choices have Consequences
 - Lot probably regrets his decision while a prisoner; yet we shall see later that he does not change it.
- Our own private war
 - Is the company I keep driving me closer to Jesus or away from Jesus in the way I think, speak and act?
 - Does the way I live right now draw my family closer to Jesus or away from Jesus? Television, books, movies, music???
 - Does my current lifestyle show an interest in spiritual things?
 - What changes do I need to make?

Divine Intervention in the Fallen World

- What the world needs
- Abraham: chosen by God to be a blessing for the nations
- Abraham has a trained army!
 - Remember Abraham's adventurous spirit that brought him to Canaan in the first place
 - This is probably not what he had in mind
- Spiritual strength to match physical strength
- Abraham has influence: joined by Mamre, Eshcol and Aner
 - He and his allies are warriors
 - They take on the Mesopotamian Alliance: Kings of Iran and Iraq and Company!
- Abraham is not a pacifist
 - War is never pleasant but sometimes is necessary.
 - Abraham pursues the invaders for approximately 150 miles.
- Abraham: did not isolate himself; to be a blessing, he built relationships.
 - Key relationship: With God
 - Abraham exhibits compassion for Lot, calling him, "My brother."
- God demonstrates compassion for Lot, despite his capitulation to the world
- The Promise Driven Life Trusts God
 - Though hopelessly outnumbered, Abraham walked by faith and trusted God
 - Psalm 2 was true even before it was written!
 - The Great Kedorlaomer's alliance ran away from four men who put their servants together to fight an empire! I Samuel 17.47; Prov. 21.31

So What About Us?

- We live in a world of rebels rebuilding Babel
- A war is raging around us
- We are God's divine intervention