

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

April 8, 2018

*Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!*

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Prelude

Worship Theme

God is Glorious

1 Chronicles 29:10-13: "So David blessed the Lord in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, 'Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O Lord, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all. Both riches and honor *come* from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone. Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name.'"

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross** Neh. 9:5b

+We Adore Him

Hymn #38, "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

We Confess Our Sin

Almighty God! We smite upon our breasts, as utterly unworthy of the least of Your gracious and unfathomable mercies. Hear now our cry, and work in us by the omnipotence of Your Holy Spirit, more profound and abiding repentance. Give us more and more of that godly grief, which ever fears and trembles, and yet ever trusts and loves, which is ever watchful and prayerful, and yet is ever confident and hopeful. May the remembrance of the sad past, quicken us to walk in entire newness of life. Grant that through the tears of penitence, we may see more clearly the brightness and the glories of the saving Cross!

Oh! blessed Jesus, we flee to You! We cling to You. Our countless iniquities condemn us, but You will wash them all away! Our tears of penitence cannot remove one blot, but Your blood has all cleansing merit. Our prayers can

earn no pardon, but Your mercy says, "Your sins which are many are all forgiven!" The more we loathe ourselves, the more we love You! Our vile demerits commend Your glorious worth!

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #246, "Man Of Sorrows! What A Name"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication** Neh. 9:38;  
We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns 10:29b

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #457, "Come, Thou Fount Of Ev'ry Blessing"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship** Neh. 9:19-21  
We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #580, "Lead On, O King Eternal"

**God Blesses us in the Benediction**

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

\*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

**The Cities in which we Dwell: Bethel**  
1 Ki. 12:25-33 & Jn. 1:43-51 & Gen. 28:10-13  
*Study Notes for April 8, 2018*

**I. Introduction**

A. What's in a Name?

B. The Background of 1 Kings 12:25-33

**II. The Cities in which we Dwell: Bethel, 1 Ki. 12:25-33 & Jn. 1:43-51 & Gen. 28:10-13.**

**A. Its Physical Characteristics**

1. Its Location

2. Its Climate

3. Its Wealth

4. Its Position and Use

5. Its Name

**B. Its Biblical/Redemptive Significance**

1. Abraham, Gen. 12:8.

2. Jacob, Gen. 28.

3. Prior to the Conquest, Josh. 8:17.

4. Elisha and Bethel, 2 Ki. 2:3, 23.

5. During Israel's war with the Benjaminites, Judg. 20, 21.

6. Samuel, 1 Sam. 7:16.

7. Jeroboam, 1 Ki. 12.

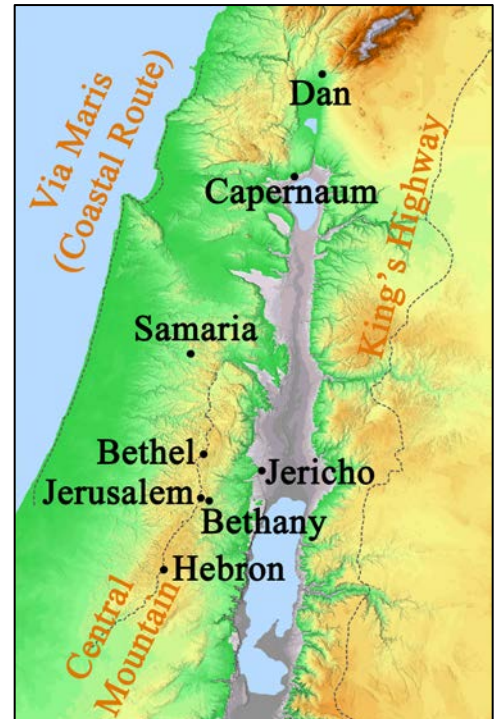
8. The Priests who worked among the Gentile Assyrian settlers in Samaria, 2 Ki. 17:28.

9. Josiah, 2 Ki. 23:15ff.

10. Its Destruction and Later Use, cf. Ezra 2:28; Neh. 7:32; 11:31.

11. Under Persian, Greek, and Roman rule...

12. Its place in the NT...



### C. Its Message, Jn. 1:43-51 & Gen. 28:10-13.

1. Background, Mt. 4:1-2, 13 & Jn. 1-3.
  
2. The Call of the First Disciples, Jn. 1:43-51...

Verses 43-46

Verses 47-49

Verse 50

What is more amazing than the omnipresence of Christ?

Verse 51

Gen. 28:10-13

Behold something more amazing than omnipresence! In the text before us, Christ revealed to Nathaniel that He- Jesus- is the ladder of God! (cf. again v. 51) This is theologically profound for it means that Christ is the fulfillment of every promise, picture, prophecy, covenant, and law of the OT (cf. Col. 2:16-17; 2 Cor. 1:20; Jn. 5:39; Eph. 1:9-10a)!...

#### **\*Point**

1. That which goes beyond omnipresence is the glorious truth that everything in this world/universe converges in Christ (Christ is the substance of the Physicist's quest for a Theory of Everything!!!). Think of quadrillions of lines each of which represent all of creation, the providences of God, the contingencies of life, the movement of every atom- all things- and they all converge in Christ!
2. That is what "Bethel" is all about!...

#### **\*Where We Live**

1. If we have Christ we are the Bethel of God. Yet experientially, will that always be enjoyed (cf. Gen. 28)?...
2. While we cannot make ourselves into the Bethel of God, amazingly we can defile the Bethel of God and so make it something other than what God intended!
  - a. This is what happened at the time of Jeroboam (cf. 1 Ki. 12:27a; 13:1-32; 2 Ki. 10:29; Hos. 10:5, 15)...

- b. Could this happen today in a local body? If so how?

R.C. Sproul said at a Ligonier Conference, "The greatest crises facing the church today is the question of her worship!"
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...just as there will be false-Christ in the last days, so Revelation tells us that the false worship of Babel- which is mysticism- will characterize the church in the last days (cf. Rev. 17). Here the genuine worship of Christ will be replaced by the worship of experience!

3. Now *personally* we can take this a step further...
  - a. Let me ask you theoretically, "For you to be the best Christian you could be, what would you need from God?..."
  - b. Based on our study this morning what you need- and all you need- is the presence and so the fellowship of Christ in your life (cf. 1 Cor. 2:2; 2 Pet. 1:3b; Eph. 1:3)!