

Where Is The Lord?

Today our nation's citizens are focused on patriotism. Celebrations are being held all over the country in honor of the 245th birthday of our blessed nation. The purpose of celebrations is to focus on the fact that we are a blessed nation; blessed with wealth, happiness, relationships, but mostly freedom. Songs like *God Bless America*, *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* and *America, The Beautiful* all extol the presence of God as the reason for our greatness and freedom. God has been here, among us, His presence has been felt for generations. However, we will only remain what we are—blessed of God and filled with freedom—to the extent to which it can still be said that God is here, among us, still visible in His people.

There was another nation who was free and great and celebratory and blessed by God. That nation was Israel. But Israel rebelled against God, repeatedly. They took the presence of God for granted. They assumed because God blessed them once, He would always bless them, no strings attached. And so they rebelled. Their people were filled with idolatry and other acts which offended God's holiness. Sexual promiscuity filled the land. Murder was as common as the cold. And nearly every man, woman and child turned their backs on the living God.

One day Nebuchadnezzar pilfered this nation blessed by God and took his first wave of captives in 593 B.C. One of them was a priest named Ezekiel. God called Ezekiel to be a prophet (preacher) to his captive people. His job was to warn them of the judgments to expect from God if they continued in their rebellion. The first part of the prophecy had to do with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple where God's holy presence dwelt. The most frightening part of the prophecy had to be the fact that God was going to leave them. They were going to be all alone and no longer blessed, no longer free. In chapters 9, 10 and 11, God basically said, "*Because my people have rejected me, I am withdrawing my presence from them.*" The second part of the prophecy cast a glimmer of hope for Israel. For God promised that one day His presence would return. He was going to restore them to the holy city and the holy temple and once again fill it with His presence. "*And the name of the city from that time on will be: The Lord Is There*" (Ezekiel 48:35).

If our own nation persists in wickedness, in rebellion against God, if it continues to reject His Word and holiness, the day will come when we will no longer have His presence. He will leave us, cease blessing us, our freedom will end, and no one will be able to say, "*The Lord Is There.*" Instead, multitudes will be asking, "*Where is the Lord?*" Make sure you are not in rebellion against God so you will always have His presence.

—Jeff Gardner



July 14 - 16

Time: 6 PM - 8 PM

Registration is now open for VBS!
Children enrolling to Kindergarten - 6th grade. If you would like to volunteer contact Melissa Phillips at 405.625.3922

VBS Family Fun Day will be Saturday, July 17, 11 AM - 2 PM



July 19 - 22

Time: 9 AM - 3 PM

Registration is now open for Day Camp!
If you would like to volunteer contact Melissa Phillips at 405.625.3922

Sermon Notes

I AM: A New God for Old Struggles Exodus 3:1-14; John 8:58

God has frequently been misunderstood. His invisible nature is difficult to comprehend. Thus He sent *Immanuel* to be *God with Us* in the flesh. In doing so, Jesus shows us what God is really like in a relatable way. The *I Am* statements found in the Gospel of John reveal much about the nature and character of God. *YAHWEH* was God's personal name to His people in the Old Testament and it was a new name of God for them, literally meaning *I AM*. Notice two revelations about this new God for old struggles.

- I. **YAHWEH Revealed in the O_____ T_____.**
 - A. The greatest need of Moses was a new G_____ for his old S_____.
 - B. When we are in the D_____ of life we need a new V_____ of God.
 - C. YAHWEH literally means, "He Who will M_____ things H_____."
 - D. God delivered the S_____ people from there S_____.
- II. **YAHWEH Revealed in the N_____ T_____.**
 - A. "Before A_____ was I A_____."
 - B. Jesus was telling them HE was the new G_____ for their old S_____.
 - C. Will you allow Jesus to be the God who make things H_____ for His P_____.

How to let Jesus handle your struggle:

1. I _____ the struggle that is your deepest need.
2. I _____ how Christ dealt with someone with your struggle.
3. A _____ that He knows, cares and is with you right now.
4. E _____ A _____ how He will make your struggle a stepping stone.
5. P _____ H _____ for unleashing resources, people and unanticipated potentials just for you.

Announcements

- ➔ If you would like to help continue the Community Garden legacy or want to be apart of this ministry contact Ivan Gonzalez at (405) 923-4964.
- ➔ The Green Sheet Prayer List and July Birthday list is available at the Connection Point desk in the lobby.
- ➔ Remember our Community Cupboard Ministry! Items needed: Mustard, Mayonnaise, Pickles, Catsup, BBQ Sauce, or any other items you can think of PLUS monetary donations.
- ➔ Garage Sale Fundraiser for Camp Rock Creek will be August 27 & 28, 2021. If you have any questions or donations please contact Adiel Zapata at 405.664.7729
- ➔ Volunteers are needed for V.B.S. and Day Camp. If you are willing and able to help contact Melissa or Ivan at 405.672.1311.
- ➔ Wednesday Night Meals are postponed for the balance of the Summer and will resume September 8.
- ➔ The Thursday noon Women's Ministry luncheon is taking the month of July off. We will resume our meetings on Thursday, August 5, 2021.

Dates To Remember:

- July 5 Office Closed for Independence Day Holiday
- July 6 @ 7-9 AM Community Cup in the Coffee Shop
- July 7 @ 8-10 AM Men's Breakfast at Madison's
- July 9 @ 6 PM Keenagers Game Night
- July 10 @ 5 PM Hispanic Women's Ministry
- July 14-16 @ 6-8 PM V.B.S
- July 15 @ 2-5:30 PM Community Cupboard
- July 17 @ 11AM - 2PM V.B.S. Family Fun Day
- July 19-22 @ 9AM - 3PM Day Camp
- August 1 @ Noon Women's Ministry Luncheon
- August 7 @ 9AM - 12PM Back to School Bash

Response Form

If you would like to respond to the invitation, please fill out this form and hand it to the minister when the invitation song is being sung.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Date ____/____/____

I come in response to the invitation of Christ...

- To confess Jesus as Lord and be baptized for the forgiveness of my sins.
- To be restored and ask for prayers.
- To transfer my church membership from another church.
- To ask for specific prayers for myself or someone else.

Comments: _____

Staff:

Sam Day, *Youth Minister*
 Jeff Gardner, *Senior Minister*
 Ivan Gonzalez, *Involvement/ Outreach/ Worship Minister*
 Melissa Phillips, *Children's Ministry Leader*
 Liz Zamudio, *Secretary*

Shepherds:

Elmer Cochran
 (405) 203-7491
 Chris Dillinger
 (405) 830-6456
 Dutch Schneider
 (405) 823-7913
 Melvin Thompson
 (405) 606-9253
 Adiel Zapata
 (405) 664-7729

Mailing Address:

1901 Vickie Drive
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Welcome To Our
**Sunday Morning
 Family Worship**
 July 4, 2021

Order of Worship

Song #716. *Sing To Me Of Heaven*Cliff Aldridge
 WelcomeIvan Gonzalez
 PrayerTim Hempel
 Song, *Lord I Lift Your Name On High*Ivan Gonzalez
 Song #800. *What A Friend We Have In Jesus*..Ivan Gonzalez
 Song, *Just As I Am (I Come Broken)*Ivan Gonzalez
 CommunionChris Schoelen
 Scripture Reading, *Exodus 3:1-14*.....Sam Day
 Song #167. *Hosanna*Ivan Gonzalez
 MessageJeff Gardner
 Song, *Is Thy Heart Right With God?*.....Ivan Gonzalez
 Closing Announcements and PrayerMelvin Thompson
 Song #867, *To Canaan's Land I'm on My Way*...Jimmy Lee

Schedule of Assemblies

	Sunday		Saturday
Worship	10:00 AM	Hispanic Women	5:00 PM
Classes	11:15 AM		
Hispanic Class	5:00 PM		
	Wednesday		
Early Class	4:30 PM		
Hispanic Class	7:00 PM		
	Thursday		
Ladies Class	Noon		

Attended Nursery from birth to 2 years is available for Sunday. For transportation to Worship and Other Assemblies Call 405-672-1311 M-F, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.