

“Moving Ever Closer”

Prepared by Patrick J. Griffiths © 2010 - pastorpat@waukeshabible.org
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Laboring in His Legacy and the Storyline of the Bible

Read: Pss. 22:27; 86:9; Isa. 6:3; 11:1-9; Hab. 2:14; Rev. 11:15-17; 15:4

Prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

“The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for 1) the numerical growth of the Body of Christ in any city, and 2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city. Nothing else--not crusades, outreach programs, para-church ministries, growing mega-churches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes--will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. This is an eyebrow raising statement. But to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial.” (“WHY PLANT CHURCHES,” Tim Keller Redeemer Presbyterian Church Feb. 2002, <http://www.redeemer2.com/resources/papers/why%20plant%20%2011%20TLLeaders.pdf>)

Because we are emotional individuals, we often find ourselves floundering and unsettled, yet we turn to the prophets to find our hope and stability in a world that appears to be unraveling at the seams. Consider the following verses. These are but a few from the tremendous treasury of Scripture.

27“All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations will worship before You. 28 For the kingdom is the LORD'S And He rules over the nations” (Ps. 22:27, 28).

9 “All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And they shall glorify Your name. 10 For You are great and do wondrous deeds; You alone are God” (Ps. 86:9, 10).

“And one called out to another and said, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory” (Isa. 6:3).

1 “Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. 3 And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; 4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. 5 Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist. 6 And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the

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young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. ⁷ Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, **For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea**" (Isa. 11:1-9).

"For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14).

¹⁵ "Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, '**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.**' ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying, 'We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign'" (Rev. 11:15-17).

"Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For **ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU**, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED" (Rev. 15:4).

Although our current world is marked by sin and transgression, there is coming a time when the King of kings and Lord of lords shall reign over all that he created (Phil. 2:10, 11); for from Him and through Him and for Him are all things (Col. 1:16). It is this hope that fills me with endurance and grants to me a peace that passes all human understanding. I joy in knowing that even now God reigns, and yet there is more. There is coming a day when all of our hurt and pettiness and party spirit and personal agendas will give way to the great and almighty Prince of Peace. O what joy is ours both now and forever.

Yet my hope is not a dormant hope. It isn't as if the person of Christ and the impact of His work lay hibernating in some remote cave waiting for the spring of God to ignite. It is this future hope that fills His people with glad endurance in the doing of good (Gal. 6:9). As I think of our fellowship and all those assemblies defined geographically world-wide, I fully recognize the inherent demerit of all fallen relationships, yet I do not believe any of this should derail the purpose of God. In fact, I believe it is in embracing the nature of our warfare and the evil one's intense desire to destroy the work of the woman's seed that empowers us to continue pressing forward. We are not laboring in a gerbil's cage. Every effort we put forth for the advancement of His kingdom contributes to the larger whole of seeing His knowledge and glory cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

As we live in the power of Pentecost, let us mark the work of the Holy Spirit in and through His Church. Let us seek to fully engage in the great mission of God in and through His Church knowing that all we do for the advancement of His kingdom continually contributes to its spread and pushes us ever closer to the great day of full and final completion.

Waukesha Bible Church is a family of families seeking to live in **the Storyline of the Bible**. She is determined by design to have a **God-centered, Christ-exalting worship; a Word-centered teaching** focused on personal **discipleship** through intentional and systematic instruction; a **Global-impacting mission** that resolves to be a **church planting church**; and a **Grace-based fellowship** where disciples are invited to live under a **reigning grace** characterized by a **Gospel-driven sanctification** that celebrates a divine **monergism** to the Christian life.