



Jeff Sweeten

Thus Saith the Lord
is presented by the

Park Heights Church of Christ

1300 E. Boynton St.
Hamilton
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Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Thus Saith the Lord

BY CLOUD AND FIRE

By Jeff Sweeten

We live in a world fraught with danger at every turn. Our sojourn here is plagued with pitfalls that plummet us into chasms of cynicism, wariness and worry. Too often, our myopic view of the "strait... and narrow" has us watching our feet and forgetting the goal. The children of Israel quickly came to what they thought was the end of their road and the anxiety ramped up as they panicked at the vision of Pharaoh's mighty army descending upon them at break neck speed. It would not be a good day to die. "And Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today'" (Exodus 14:13).

The only winning combination for dealing with the everyday issues of life is caught up in the battle for the soul; and, if we allow it, God will win it for us. "The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace" (Exodus 14:14). Panic, concern and anxiety is justified if we depend solely upon our own strength to meet the day. It is little wonder that the world, in its rejection of Jesus, has nowhere to turn when the road gets rough.

As the children of God, however, such minutia is no cause for concern. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). We "can do all things through Christ who strengthens" us (Philippians 4:13). There is no daily challenge that so perplexes us that it should be carried from our past or carried forward into the future; "Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34). So, "forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, (we) press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13b-14).

God led the children of Israel by cloud and fire and "He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people" (Exodus 13:22). These phenomena were more than just direction, as critical as that was to their survival; it was also safety, comfort and confidence under the protection of God. He was with them, they had no need to worry. The cloud and the fire preserved in these pages of history to remind us that God is still with us today. He will protect us, and the peace that comes from His presence through His Word is unfathomable to those who do not know God and do not obey the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:8). In the face of a raging, unruly world, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord and be a testament to the Power in cloud and fire. Thus Saith the Lord.