

Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

Orcutt Christian Church

A Grace Driven Church for Grace Needing People!

Drive In Worship

God is not Far!

Stay in your CAR!

Chapter 15

God's Messengers

1 Ki. 17-19; 2 Ki. 2; 4; 6;

Hosea 4-5; 8-9; 14; Amos 1:3-5; 9

September 6, 2020

Prelude

Prayer

Announcements

Doxology

We worship and adore you

We will stand

All the glory belongs to Jesus

Take Time to Pray

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (TLB)

23 For this is what the Lord himself has said about his Table, and I have passed it on to you before: That on the night when Judas betrayed him, the Lord Jesus took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks to God for it, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember

me."

25 In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new agreement between God and you that has been established and set in motion by my blood. Do this in remembrance of me whenever you drink it." 26 For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you are retelling the message of the Lord's death, that he has died for you. Do this until he comes again.

Isaiah 6:3

I sing praises

Homily

Last Lord's Day, we saw the terrible consequences of David's and Solomon's sin against God when the Davidic Kingdom split into Southern and Northern patriots.

The Southern Kingdom was known as Judah.

The Northern Kingdom was Israel.

Both kings, Rehoboam in Judah, and Jeroboam in Israel acted on bad advice.

And both kings led their respective kingdoms into idolatry and sin.

The result is that both kingdoms were more wicked than the pagan tribes that Joshua fought when he led the Israelites into the promised land.

Over a period of 208 years both kingdoms had a combined total of 38 different kings.

Only 5 kings were good.

The Green Bay Packers were the lousiest football team in history when Vince Lombardi (1913-1970) took over as head football coach in 1959.

With one speech, delivered many times, during his career with the Packers he tallied a career record of 105-35-6 in Green Bay.

On his first day as Head Coach, he sat the dejected players down, and stood in front of them.

He held up a football and said: "Gentlemen, this is a football."

And with that opening he began to emphasize the importance of the fundamentals.

We must never forget the importance of the fundamentals of our Christian faith.

Today we have read chapter 15 of **The Story, "God's Messengers,"** and you have now read 217 pages, 12 pages per week.

The prophets were just that, messengers for God.

God's messengers emphasized the fundamentals.

That's why you so often you read them say, **"Thus says the Lord."**

In fact, that is said 1,605 times in the OT and NT combined. God does have something to say.

Sometimes what they had to say for God was predictive, but most of the time prophets are speaking into specific historic situations.

And when you read Amos and Hosea it is almost as if they were addressing the current situation of cultural isolation and dehumanization.

Their basic message was always the same:

"You have broken the Sinai covenant and there will

be consequences. These are your sins: personally you are guilty of drunkenness and gluttony. You are guilty of self-pampering and accumulating fine jewelry and trinkets. Your religious leaders are ignorant of the law. Political leaders live for their own gain and have turned their backs on injustices. Business leaders are dishonest, cheating people by manipulating scales and prices. Courts and judges are corrupt, money talks; the poor and vulnerable are exploited."

Prophets were inspired by God's spirit to discern God's voice and had the courage to share it.

And in order to share it, they often spoke in fiery language and acted out the message.

And that message included a call to repentance.

True prophets, were ignored, made fun of, ridiculed, persecuted and even beaten and killed.

They were often lonely and isolated.

One of the stunning tragedies of the people of God was their persistence in pursuing the worship of the many gods of their pagan neighbors.

The common practices of this idolatrous worship included offering their children in the fires of Moloch and ritual prostitution with every imaginable lewd practice.

Take king Ahaz for an example:

2 Chronicles 28:1-4 (NASB)

Ahaz *was* twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do right in the sight of the LORD as David his father *had done*. 2 But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel; he also made

molten images for the Baals. 3 Moreover, he burned incense in the valley of Ben-hinnom and burned his sons in fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel. 4 He sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills and under every green tree.

But an even greater evil in forsaking Yahweh came in forsaking God's command for living in community as a distinct and holy people of God.

Concern for the poor, the widow, the orphan and the stranger in the land was replaced by oppression.

Business practices overturned God's standard so that extortion, taking bribes, and dishonest gain became commonplace.

Leaders used power to destroy lives, and religious leaders despised God's holy things.

Far from enriching the nation, these ungodly practices led to the downfall of the nation.

The prophets were the last voices in the land, calling people back to God and to a just and healthy community.

In most cases, the prophets were bi-vocational.

God tapped them for special duty while in the midst of other professions.

Some prophets (e.g., Jeremiah, Ezekiel) were priests.

Others were shepherds, including Moses and Amos.

Deborah was a judge adjudicating issues for the Israelites.

Huldah was probably a teacher in the university sector of Jerusalem.

The task of "prophet" was carried out while they did their other jobs.

Even though the kingdom was divided, God remained single-

mindful in His love for His people.

ISRAEL was His special nation.

His chosen people.

He had chosen to reveal Himself to the rest of the world through them.

But during the majority of that time, evil kings allowed evil things to continue.

Abominable things.

Unimaginable things.

Which made for some very dark days in this particular part of God's Story.

SO WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE GOD?

Annihilate them?

Choose someone else?

The very nation you chose to reflect your character repeatedly turned away from you, worshiped other gods, practiced and promoted immorality throughout the land?

You know what God did?

He raised up prophets to compensate for the spiritual and moral failure of the kings.

He sent messengers.

Special spokesmen who would speak on His behalf.

In the Northern Kingdom alone, God raised up 9 prophets during that 208-year period to proclaim to the people they needed to repent and turn from their wicked ways or else.

the message of the prophets was

Shape Up or You're Going Down!

Four prophets are mentioned in **Chapter 15** of **THE STORY**.
Elijah, Elisha, Amos, and Hosea

These four prophets were Messengers of
Fire, Faith, Fear and Forgiveness!

The first of God's Messengers in Chapter 15 is

I. Elijah Prophet of Fire

We're introduced to Elijah in
1 Kings 17:1 (NASB)

Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead,

That's all we know of him before his dramatic appearance in
Scripture.

Suddenly, he appears on the scene and is confronting King
Ahab, predicting a drought!

1 Kings 17:1 (NASB)

**Elijah the Tishbite ... said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the
God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall
be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."**

Ahab was the **7th king of Israel** and the worst.

Scripture says,

1 Kings 16:30 (NASB)

**Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD
more than all who were before him.**

If his own depravity wasn't enough, he married a woman named
Jezebel, who was even worse.

She was so bad that even to this day her name symbolizes promiscuity, immorality and evil.

She was the one who convinced Ahab to turn away from God and worship Baal.

1 Kings 18:2-5 (NASB)

So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria. 3 Ahab called Obadiah who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly; 4 for when Jezebel destroyed the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water.) 5 Then Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys; perhaps we will find grass and keep the horses and mules alive, and not have to kill some of the cattle."

Ahab didn't want to kill his cattle, but he was willing to watch his wife Jezebel murder God's prophets.

That was probably what triggered Elijah's challenge to Ahab. Elijah confronted Ahab and challenged him to a showdown with all the prophets of his pagan god.

That plan was for each side to build an altar, slaughter a bull on it as a sacrifice, then call on their god to send down fire from Heaven to consume it.

The god who sent fire was the real god.

Once all the people and prophets were assembled, Elijah issued this challenge:

1 Kings 18:21 (NASB)

Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."

The **450** false prophets of Baal and the **400** prophets of Asherah went first.

They built an altar and placed a bull upon it.

From morning until noon they cried out, danced around and even cut themselves with swords and spears until their blood flowed.

1 Kings 18:27 (CEV)

At noon, Elijah began making fun of them. "Pray louder!" he said. "Baal must be a god. Maybe he's day-dreaming or using the toilet or traveling somewhere. Or maybe he's asleep, and you have to wake him up."

The false prophets carried on all day long.

When it came time for the evening sacrifice, nothing had happened.

So Elijah took over, built his altar, dug a trench around it, arranged the wood, cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the altar. Then he told the people standing by the fill four large jars with water and pour it on the wood and the sacrifice.

Not one. Not twice. But three times!

Now remember there is a draught.

Where did the water come from?

One commentator said:

I used to wonder that too until I went to Israel and stood on Mt. Carmel because I could see the Mediterranean.

It's close, just over the next hill, so they must have used sea water. Elijah had them haul the water up there from the sea to make sure that anything combustible was completely soaked.

Elijah even had them dig a trench around the altar and fill it with water.

That bull, and that wood was so wet that a Boy Scout troop with propane torches wouldn't have been able to get a fire going anywhere near this altar.

1 Kings 18:36-39 (CEV)

When it was time for the evening sacrifice, Elijah prayed: Our LORD, you are the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. Now, prove that you are the God of this nation, and that I, your servant, have done this at your command. 37 Please answer me, so these people will know that you are the LORD God, and that you will turn their hearts back to you. 38 The LORD immediately sent fire, and it burned up the sacrifice, the wood, and the stones. It scorched the ground everywhere around the altar and dried up every drop of water in the ditch. 39 When the crowd saw what had happened, they all bowed down and shouted, "The LORD is God! The LORD is God!"

Did you catch that?

Not just the carcass, but everything including the stone altar.

Elijah told the people to seize the false prophets and they took them down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered them there.

Can you imagine Ahab carrying the dramatic news to Jezebel? Wouldn't she be impressed?

1 Kings 19:1-2 (NASB)

Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of

one of them by tomorrow about this time."

Right after the victory on Mt. Carmel, he fled into the wilderness because Jezebel threatened to kill him. He was so depressed that He asked God to let him die.

But, Elijah shows us God is willing to go to supernatural lengths to have a relationship with His people.

You see, this is a reminder that we are more like those folk in the Northern Kingdom than we like.

We just can't gloss it off and say: "Well, that doesn't have anything to do with me. I'm not like the people in the Northern Kingdom of Israel."

Because, too often – like they did – we want to worship gods of our own choosing.

None of us would ever admit to idol worship, but think about how much time, energy and money we spend on things that have no eternal value.

Compare that to the time, energy and money we devote to God. Too often, the ONE TRUE GOD is pushed aside for our own little gods.

God may not send FIRE from Heaven, but He'll pursue us just as relentlessly.

So, while Elijah was licking his depressed spirit and hiding in a cave,

1 Kings 19:15-16 (NASB)

The LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram; 16 and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as prophet in

your place.

Elijah became known as the prophet of FIRE.

He even went to Heaven in a mysterious chariot of fire

2 Kings 2:11 (NASB)

As they were going along and talking, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.

And, Elijah passes the prophetic mantle to

II. Elisha, the Prophet of Faith

When God called **Elisha**, he went back home and burned everything that represented his old way of life.

He asked Elijah for a “**double portion**” of his spirit and he did perform twice as many miracles as Elijah did.

In **2 Kings 4**, he is called “**the man of God**” or “**holy man of God**” **10 times**.

Do you know any one else in the Bible referred to that often as a man of God?

Elisha’s name means “**God is salvation**” or “**Jehovah my Savior.**”

In other words, God is our only hope.

We need to have faith and trust in Him.

Each of Elisha’s miracles illustrate the lengths God is willing to go to care for the needs of His people.

The city of Jericho had their water supply become contaminated.

2 Kings 2:19-22 (NASB)

Then the men of the city said to Elisha, "Behold now, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad and the land is unfruitful." 20 He said, "Bring me a new jar, and put salt in it." So they brought *it* to him. 21 He went out to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, "Thus says the LORD, 'I have purified these waters; there shall not be from there death or unfruitfulness any longer.'" 22 So the waters have been purified to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke.

And then there was the the widow of a prophet who was about to be evicted from her home and her two boys taken as payment
2 Kings 4:1-7 (NASB)

Now a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." 2 Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil." 3 Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels at large for yourself from all your neighbors, *even* empty vessels; do not get a few. 4 "And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels, and you shall set aside what is full." 5 So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons; they were bringing *the vessels* to her and she poured. 6 When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not one vessel more." And the oil stopped. 7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you *and* your sons can live on the rest."

Remember, God had brought them to the land of Promise and promised to take care of them.

But they turned their back on their Provider and His provision and found themselves frustrated by famine and in desperate straights due to drought.

Why?

All because they'd turned from God.

Some of his miracles bear a strong resemblance to the miracles of Christ.

2 Kings 4 has four of Elisha's miracles:

The Widow's oil

The Shunammite Woman

The Shunammite Woman's Son

The Poisonous Stew

2 Kings 4:42-44. The multiplication of 20 barley loaves to feed 100 men.

2 Kings 5:1-15. Elisha told Naaman, commander of the army of the King of Aram (Syria) to go dip in the Jordan River 7 times and he could be healed of his leprosy.

Elisha was God's messenger, sent to His people to tell them God would meet all their needs.

If they would just have faith to believe in Him, He would do things they would never believe He could do.

Elisha was the prophet of faith.

Then, there is

III. Amos Prophet of Fear

If Elijah was the prophet of FIRE and Elisha the prophet of FAITH, AMOS is the prophet of FEAR.

His words struck fear in the hearts of God's people.

Amos isn't very famous.

In fact, most people don't even know where his book is in the Bible.

The Lord says to Amos: **"I'll send swarms of locusts against Israel, swarms so frightening that Amos cries, "O Lord God, forgive, I beg you! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!" (7:2).**

God then decides a roaring inferno will sweep across the land, so intense that it will turn the sea to vapor. Amos cries, **"O Lord God, cease, I beg you! How can Jacob stand? He is so small" (7:4,5).**

Amos was a contemporary of Hosea, but where Hosea majored on the religious adultery of Israel, Amos stressed their social sins. Both prophets, whose ministries took place thirty to forty years prior to the Assyrian conquest, placed themselves in the breach.

It was as if the nation of Israel was rolling downhill like a giant snowball, gathering momentum as it involved itself in more wickedness, injustice, and idolatry, until it was about to plunge over the edge of a chasm and disappear forever into the gorge below.

Amos and Hosea were the prophets who attempted to stop the downward course of this massive force of evil by calling the

nation to repentance.

Amos says that the Israelites have fallen far short of God's description of an ideal citizen.

A New Testament complement is

1 John 3:17 (MSG)

If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear.

Amos tells the the Northern Kingdom of Israel:

Amos 5:6 (NASB)

Seek the LORD that you may live, Or He will break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph, And it will consume with none to quench *it*

Amos 5:14-15 (NASB)

14 Seek good and not evil, that you may live; And thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you, Just as you have said!

15 Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the LORD God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Amos 5:24 (NASB)

24 "But let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos confronts them for their neglect of God's Word, idolatry, pagan worship, greed, corruption in leadership and oppression of the poor.

His words struck fear in the hearts of the people and still does even today.

Dr. Richard Halverson, in his book *The Timelessness of Jesus Christ* says:

Fear is a valid motive. We teach a child to fear fire. We instruct a little girl to fear and run away from the man who attempts to pick her up in his car when she is walking home from school. The wise parent and counselor makes sure that the consequences of certain destructive practices are clearly understood. Fear is fundamental to education; fear is fundamental to life. (p.41)

George Bernard Shaw's play, *Back to Methusaleh*. "Good-natured, unambitious men are cowards when they have no religion. At the spectacle of half of Europe being kicked to death by the other half they stare in helpless horror, or are persuaded by the newspapers that this is a sound commercial investment and an act of Divine justice. They [good-natured, unambitious men without religion] are dominated and exploited, not only by greedy and often half-witted and half-alive weaklings who will do anything for cigars, champagne and motor cars and the more childish and selfish uses of money, but by able and sound administrators who dominate and exploit them. Government and exploitation become synonymous under such circumstances, and the world is finally ruled by the childish, the brigands and the blackguards."

So, Dr. Halverson is rightl.

"Men who fear God face life fearlessly. Men who do not fear God end up fearing everything."

FEAR is actually a good thing.

A healthy dose of respect, reverence, and holy awe for God is good for all of us.

It is my contention, that if we fear God, and take Him seriously, we'll seriously pursue ethnic reconciliation.

Romans 13:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law.

Peter's experience with Cornelius dramatizes this basic fruit of Christian faith, for it represents the surgery of the Spirit on the last vestige of racial prejudice in Peter's heart. Peter said,

Acts 10:28 (NASB)

²⁸ And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and *yet* God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.

History has never known stronger racial prejudice than Peter is talking about here. It is impossible for us today to imagine the contempt with which Jewry held the non-Jew in Peter's day.

Juvenal says that the Jews were taught by Moses "not to show the way except to one who practices our rites, and to guide the circumcised alone to the well which they seek." They would not even give directions to a non-Jew.

Tacitus said of the Jew that "among themselves they are inflexibly faithful and ready with charitable aid, but hate all others as enemies. They keep separate from all strangers in eating, sleeping and matrimonial connections."

Edersheim, in his Jewish Social Life, says that "on coming from the market an orthodox Jew was expected to immerse himself to avoid defilement." He might not enter the house of a Gentile, for

"he looked upon it to be ceremonially polluted." The Gentile was an abomination. His touch was defiled; his customs were abhorrent; his religion was a blasphemy
The Apostle Paul directly addressed this ethnic hegemony in **Romans 3:9-18 (GW)**

What, then, is the situation? Do we have any advantage? Not at all. We have already accused everyone (both Jews and Greeks) of being under the power of sin, 10 as Scripture says, "Not one person has God's approval. 11 No one understands. No one searches for God. 12 Everyone has turned away. Together they have become rotten to the core. No one does anything good, not even one person. 13 Their throats are open graves. Their tongues practice deception. Their lips hide the venom of poisonous snakes. 14 Their mouths are full of curses and bitter resentment. 15 They run quickly to murder people. 16 There is ruin and suffering wherever they go. 17 They have not learned to live in peace. 18 They are not terrified of God."

Paul is describing not only the people of Israel, but you and I. And that is a sobering thought, isn't it?

Amos says:

Amos 9:10 (NJB)

All the sinners of my people will perish ... who say, 'Disaster will never approach or overtake us.'

But God is long suffering, not willing that any should perish. There will be a remnant that turn back to God and give Him their love and attention.

And to those, God has a word:

Amos 9:14-15 (NASB)

Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit. 15 "I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them,"

AMOS was God's prophet to call his people back to repentance and restoration.

No matter what they'd done, no matter how far they'd gone, God still wanted to have a relationship with them.

And, that is not Israel's story, it is your story and my story, isn't it?

God wants to have a relationship with us!

One last prophet is mentioned in Chapter 15.
He is ...

IV. Hosea Prophet of Forgiveness

Elijah was the prophet of FIRE.

Elisha, the prophet of FAITH..

Amos, the prophet of FEAR.

HOSEA is the prophet of FORGIVENESS.

The story of Hosea shows us how far God is willing to go to reclaim us.

HOSEA pleaded with Israel to return to God.

Hosea 4:1-4 (TLB)

**Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel. The Lord has filed a lawsuit against you listing the following charges:
"There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God**

in your land. 2 You swear and lie and kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere, with one murder after another. 3 "That is why your land is not producing; it is filled with sadness, and all living things grow sick and die; the animals, the birds, and even the fish begin to disappear.

4 "Don't point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame to him ... I am pointing my finger at *you*.

But Israel would not respond and continued to worship other gods and live lives that dishonored God. So God did something incredibly strange to get their attention. It makes no sense from our point of view.

He tells HOSEA, the prophet, to go find a prostitute and marry her.

Hosea 1:2 (TLB)

The Lord said to Hosea, "Go and marry a girl who is a prostitute, so that some of her children will be born to you from other men. This will illustrate the way my people have been untrue to me, committing open adultery against me by worshiping other gods."

Think of the media frenzy that would descend upon this story today: "Preacher marries prostitute!"

It's sad that while clergy lifestyle scandals have become cliché in our news, nobody is reporting on Hosea like *faithfulness* in the ministry.

What would you do if God told you to go marry a prostitute?

The amazing part to me isn't that God told HOSEA to marry a prostitute.

The amazing thing to me is that HOSEA DID IT!

He marries a prostitute whose name was **GOMER**.

She married Hosea but kept her night job.
And she has kids by other men.

But apparently the dark side called her name, and she preferred her sex trade over the love of Hosea.

Apparently, Gomer left Hosea and wound up a sex slave somewhere, and she has become the property of her pimp.

But Hosea hasn't forgotten Gomer.
And neither has God.

Hosea 3:1-5 (GW)

Then the LORD told me, "Love your wife again, even though she is loved by others and has committed adultery. Love her as I, the LORD, love the Israelites, even though they have turned to other gods and love to eat raisin cakes." 2 So I bought her for 23 ounces of silver and 10 bushels of barley. 3 Then I told her, "You must wait for me a long time. Don't be a prostitute or offer yourself to any man. I will wait for you." 4 In the same way, the Israelites will wait a long time without kings or officials, without sacrifices or sacred stones, and without ephods or family idols. 5 After that, the Israelites will turn and look to the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD for his blessings in the last days.

Think about Hosea!

God told him to go find his wife.

He did.

Told her he loved her and wanted her to come home.
He literally bought her back and took her back home.

And, what does that picture for you?
Does it not remind you that God is willing to do whatever it
takes to get us back because He loves us.

Twice the Apostle Paul uses this picture of being bought:

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NASB)

**For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify
God in your body.**

1 Corinthians 7:23 (NASB)

**You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of
men.**

Regardless of your sin, regardless of how far you've strayed
from God – He whispers in your ear:
“Come Home!”

Prayer and Invitation

God has spoken by his prophets

Benediction

**Numbers 6:22-26 - The LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron
and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say
to them: “*The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD
make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD
turn his face toward you and give you peace.*”**

Family of God

Postlude