

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM JUNE 16, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Isaiah 42:8

"I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images."

Secular humanism is attempting to banish all thought of God from the minds of people. They have assumed modern science has relegated the God of the Bible to the tales of Hans Christian Anderson and so God, merely being the elderly gentleman in the sky, has no more power or authority to control the affairs of men than the Greek gods of antiquity. Who do we think God is? Is He merely the "old man" who started up time only to become bored and disinterested with His creation? Is He an attempt to explain unknown forces by an ignorant people? Or is He the One who spoke the universe into existence and controls all things for His plan and purpose?



The Bible does not make an argument for the existence of God and it does not need to because it is the record of the way God has revealed Himself to mankind. It begins with the positive conclusion there is a God in **Genesis 1:1**, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* and those that come to Him must believe He exists (Hebrews 11:6). The Bible begins with the statement God is the Almighty Creator and implicitly refutes all other attempts by man that deviate from the truth about who God is. It refutes atheism which states there is no God. It refutes polytheism which states there are many gods. And it refutes humanism which worships man as the creator of his own world and destiny.

By the time of Moses, some 400 years after Abraham, the human race had begun to worship so many false gods and idols that God clearly distinguished Himself from all other gods of the pagan world. That is why God, through Moses, revealed His name as YAHWEH in **Exodus 3:14-15** *"God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM'; and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"* God, furthermore, said to Moses, *"Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations."* God chose the people of Israel as His divine channel for revelation about Himself to maintain this truth. They were the people of Yahweh, literally people of the Name or Semites.

Through the people of His Name, Yahweh revealed He is the God of redemption as well as Almighty Creator and Master. He is the God of love and grace who offers us not only to know of Him, but that we may come to know Him personally. As the Self Revealing God, He demonstrated He is a God of redeeming grace and has provided for the rescue and redemption of sinful men in order that they may know Him and fellowship with Him. And that begins with our coming to YAHWEH, through the work of His Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross of Calvary.

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

Hymn of the Week

COURTESY OF THE
CYBER HYMNAL™

<http://www.hymntime.com/>



ROBERT LOWRY, 1826-1899

Shall We Gather at the River?

"A pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb."

— Revelation 22:1-2

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/s/w/g/swgatriv.htm>

Words & Music: Robert Lowry, 1864; first published in *Happy Voices*, 1865, no. 220.

Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will talk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day.

Refrain

Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.

Refrain

At the smiling of the river,
Mirror of the Savior's face,
Saints, whom death will never sever,
Lift their songs of saving grace.

Refrain

Soon we'll reach the silver river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

Refrain

SEE YOU SUNDAY AT SUNRISE

What's Happening at Sunrise

June 2013

Hear Sunday Sermons again at www.SunriseTC.org

June 16 8:45 a.m. Father's Day – Pastor Andrew Kikkert
No Sunday School- Celebrate Dad!

June 18 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Ephesians

June 21 7:00 p.m. Game Night

June 23 8:45 a.m. Elder Ken McAuley

June 30 8:45 a.m. Mark 14:53-72 – Pastor Andrew Kikkert
Mission Impossible

JUNE 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

The Cost of Discipleship – Georgia: Land of Exile for Egypt's Coptic Christians

JUNE 13 – BY REGIS GENTE/EURASIANET WEEKLY DIGEST

Increasingly under pressure in Egypt, the Copts, one of the world's oldest Christian communities, are starting to migrate to sovereign nation of Georgia, a bastion of Orthodox Christianity in the South Caucasus region of Eurasia. But the transition is not entirely a smooth one.

In Egypt, violent clashes between Copts and Muslims have been on the rise since the 2011 ouster of former President Hosni Mubarak, with many Christians reportedly preferring to leave than experience continuing harassment and discrimination. Earlier this month, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom announced that Egypt "is failing to meet international religious-freedom standards."

Copts, who classify themselves as an Orthodox Christian denomination, say that Georgia's strong Orthodox Christian heritage – Eastern Christianity took root here in the 4th century – motivated them to make the move. The country's relative proximity (Tbilisi is roughly a two-and-a-half-hour flight from Cairo) and reputation for relatively lax business and visa regulations also played a role.

Around 2,500 Coptic Egyptians currently live in Georgia, according to the

Ministry of Justice's Public Service Development Agency, which manages residence data. Most arrived this year and live in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi; a few hundred have settled a few hours' drive to the west in the parliamentary seat of Kutaisi.

The focal point for the Coptic community has become a Catholic church in downtown Tbilisi that allows the Copts to use its sanctuary. Each Wednesday morning, hundreds gather for a two-and-a-half-hour mass, rich with the smell of incense, the sound of cymbals and the haunting melody of songs in Coptic and Arabic.

"We came here because in Egypt there were a lot of commercials saying Welcome [to] Georgia," said Samir, a young father of two, who moved to Tbilisi from Alexandria four months ago. "As it is also an Orthodox country, we thought it was the right decision to move here."

Many more Coptic Egyptians may opt for Georgia in the near future, predicted Father Johan, a priest from Egypt's Saint Anthony Monastery who came to Georgia in May. Land has been purchased on the outskirts of Tbilisi for a Coptic Orthodox Church, he added.