

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

## REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM DECEMBER 15, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Hear Sunday Sermons at [www.SunriseTC.org](http://www.SunriseTC.org)*

### Judges 8:22-24

*Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule over us, both you and your son, also your son’s son, for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian.” But Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you.”*



We are not told exactly when it was that the men of Israel asked Gideon to be their king, but it would seem that it was not long after the victory over the Midianites. What they are really proposing is that Gideon accept the position of being their king and that his ruling over Israel would result in a dynasty. This would assure the Israelites of a strong military leader as well as a continual line of succession. One cannot read this request without thinking ahead to 1 Samuel 8, where the Israelites demanded that Samuel appoint a king for them, a man who would go before them into battle.

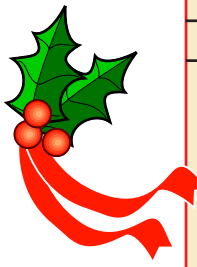
On the surface, it would appear that Gideon (rightly) rejected this offer. He seems to do this in very plain words: “I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The Lord will rule over you.” The right words for the right time. And so we continue to think of him as a hero, looking at his recent conduct as a momentary lapse in conduct and character. But in just a moment – just a couple of verses, actually – our optimism regarding Gideon will go up in flames when we read that he created an ephod that he then set up in his home town as an object of worship. Obviously, something bad happened to Gideon after the miraculous victory God achieved using Gideon and this negative change in Gideon persisted for the rest of his life, nearly forty years.

Gideon’s refusal to be Israel’s king is the right answer theologically speaking but that, in reality, he hypocritically lived a king’s life. For all intents and purposes, Gideon had a harem. The average Israelite certainly did not have many wives and concubines. Not to mention the tax and contributions from each of the soldiers’ collected spoils of war. He may not have taken the title of king but he certainly acted like a king. All the right words were spoken but all the wrong actions were taken.

Gideon reminds us how easy it is to stumble and fall and how few there are who truly “finish well.” That is what makes me so sad when I read about Gideon – he did not finish well. And we should be warned when we realize that many of those who once did well did not finish well. This would include people like David, his son Solomon, and Hezekiah as just a few examples. It does not get easier and easier to live the Christian life as you get older; it gets harder. How important it is to recognize our weakness and to cling to our Lord throughout our lifetime, so that we may finish well.

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

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DECEMBER 2013											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S					
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	31	1	2	3	4					

## SEE YOU SUNDAY AT SUNRISE

### What's Happening at Sunrise

#### December 2013

Dec. 15	8:45 a.m.	More is Less Judges 7:23-8:32 Third Sunday of Advent
	10:30 a.m.	Second Hour/Sunday School
Dec. 20	7:00 p.m.	Game Night
Dec. 22	8:45 a.m.	Christmas Message Fourth Sunday of Advent
	10:30 a.m.	Second Hour/Sunday School
Dec. 24	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service with Westminster Presbyterian Church
Dec. 25		Celebrate the Birth of the Savior
Dec. 27		NO FRIDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES
Dec. 29	10:00 a.m.	Joint Christmas Service with Westminster Presbyterian Chrch
Dec. 31		New Year's EVE

## Join In Be part of the Pageant of Life



Every  
Christmas  
presents special  
opportunities  
to those who  
seek a deeper  
meaning.

## The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

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

### The First Noel

Words: <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/f/r/s/frstnoel.htm>

Music: [http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/f/i/r/first\\_noel.mid](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/f/i/r/first_noel.mid)



*Christ the Savior is Born!*

"There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified."

Luke 2:8-9



From *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

**Words & Music:** Traditional English carol, possibly dating from as early as the 13th Century. This combination of tune and lyrics first appeared in *Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern*, by William Sandys (London: Richard Beckley, 1833).

1. The first Noel the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay tending their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

#### Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

#### Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

3. And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

#### Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
Over Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

#### Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

5. Then did they know assuredly  
Within that house the King did lie;  
One entered it them for to see,  
And found the Babe in poverty.

#### Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

6. Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full reverently upon the knee,  
And offered there, in His presence,  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

#### Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

7. Between an ox stall and an ass,  
This Child truly there He was;  
For want of clothing they did Him lay  
All in a manger, among the hay.

#### Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

8. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

#### Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

9. If we in our time shall do well,  
We shall be free from death and hell;  
For God hath prepared for us all  
A resting place in general.

#### Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.