

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM APRIL 6, 2014

BY ELDER THOM RACHFORD, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Genesis 1: 14

*Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for **signs** and for **seasons** and for days and years"*

The Lord has used His handiwork in the heavens to display His glory and provide for time keeping and for seasons and for signs. Times are easy to understand. We mark days by the rotation of the earth and years by its movement around the sun.

Seasons are more difficult to understand. Yes, seasons can mean winter, summer, fall and spring. We do mark them by the positions of the sun and earth.

But seasons are more than that. Consider, the horse breeder's statement that the mare is in season, or consider the baseball season, or a season of peace. Webster's Dictionary defines season as a time characterized by a particular circumstance or feature. The time itself is undefined. It may be long or short. For example, The church age may be said to be a season of Grace.

What about the term sign? A sign, per Webster, is something that gives information through a motion or gesture by which thought is expressed or a command or wish made known. The Lord placed the "lights" in the sky to make known His thoughts, commands and purposes (wishes). The Star of Bethlehem is such a sign in the heavens. The wise men saw the sign and interpreted its meaning. According to **Matt 2:2** *"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."* They followed up by taking a 700-mile trip extending about 2 years including the preparation.

Are there other signs in the Heavens the Lord has used to fulfill His wishes? Yes, in **Joshua 10: 12-13** the Lord made the sun and moon stop in the sky until His purpose (wish) was accomplished and Israel won the battle.

Also for King Hezekiah. When, in **2 Kings 20:9-11**, Hezekiah asked for a sign to certify he would live, God said He would move the shadow from the sun forward or back which ever one Hezekiah wished. The shadow moved back. You can also read about this in **Isaiah 38:8**.

At the crucifixion of Jesus – the sun was darkened. **Matthew 27: 45** tells us, *"Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour."* That was three hours, from noon to 3 p.m.

Was it only in times past that God caused signs in the heavens for man's information? Does He do the same today? Yes, tetrads (blood moons) are a modern example of God's signs in the heavens. How should we respond? Will we be like the wise men who saw the sign of the Star, recognized it was from God, interpreted the meaning and followed it? Or will we be like the leaders and King of Israel who either paid no attention to the sign in the heavens or if they did observe it, they ignored it for it did not suit their purpose? By ignoring the Bethlehem star, the leaders of Israel put their purpose above God's.

We are now entering a season of signs in the heavens. Watch and be ready in Christ.

Psalm 19:1 *"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands."*



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

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(626) 287-6120 • PastorAndy@SunriseTC.org • www.SunriseTC.org

APRIL 2014													
S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
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	7	8	9	10							



"Blessed is he
that cometh in the
name of the Lord!"
Mark 11:9

Palm Sunday
April 13

The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

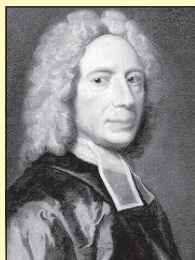
<http://www.hymntime.com/>

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

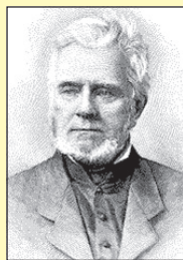
<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/w/h/e/whenisur.htm>

Tune: <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/h/a/m/hamburg.mid>

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Galatians 6:14



Words by Isaac Watts
(1674-1748), *Hymns
and Spiritual Songs*,
1707.



Music by Lowell
Mason (1792-1872),
1824.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;
Then I am dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

To Christ, who won for sinners grace
By bitter grief and anguish sore,
Be praise from all the ransomed race
Forever and forevermore.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

April 2014

April 6	8:45 a.m.	<i>Signs in the Heavens</i> Thom Rachford preaching
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
April 7		Temple City School Spring Break
April 8		No Bible Study
April 11	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship
April 13	8:45 a.m.	Palm Sunday Ken McAuley preaching
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
April 15		No Bible Study- Holy Week
April 17	7:00 p.m.	Maunday Thursday at Westminster Presbyterian
April 18	6:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service in sanctuary
April 20	8:45 a.m.	Resurrection Sunday CHRIST IS RISEN
	10:30 a.m.	Church Brunch
April 22	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in the Book of Philippians
April 25	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship
April 27	8:45 a.m.	New Study in the Book of Philemon
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
April 29	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Philippians
May 2	7:00 p.m.	Game Night

The Cost of Discipleship

Killed Because of the Cross: The Death of an Egyptian Christian

By TODD DANIELS WITH ICC'S EGYPT REPRESENTATIVE WWW.PERSECUTION.ORG/

4/4/14 Washington, D.C. (International Christian Concern) – It was a Friday afternoon on March 28 when Mary Sameh George was doing what she does every Friday. After leaving her job at a communications company, she drove to Ain Shams neighborhood in Cairo, to deliver food and medicine to elderly Christians and Muslims.

"I called Mary by my mobile and she was very happy on this day," Khalil*, a friend of Mary's, told ICC. "She told me that she sold many SIM-cards and then she was driving out to visit the elderly needy and sick people in Ezbet El Nakhl," he continued. "I asked her to take care and we finished the call."

This was the last time that Khalil spoke to Mary, a 24-year-old, with a bachelor's degree in Law from Ain Shams University, who was planning to be engaged in May. Two hours later, Khalil saw on television that a Christian girl was among four people killed by protestors in Ain Shams. Mary was that Christian girl.

They Saw a Cross and Recognized She Was a Christian, So They Attacked Her

ICC spoke with Wahid, a resident of Ain Shams who saw the riots, and from his apartment, witnessed the events that led to Mary's death.

"Every Friday the supporters of Muslim Brotherhood organize a march after Friday prayer in Ain Shams," he told ICC. "On this Friday afternoon, violent clashes took place between the supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood and the security forces during their march at intersection of Musab Saleh Street and Ahmed Esmat Street."

The clashes this Friday were especially intense because they came just days after 529 supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood were given death sentences for their roles in violence across the country.

"Mary had stopped her vehicle and parked in front of the Sun Private School in Ain Shams Street, near the Virgin Mary and Archangel Michael Church, because of the march," said Wahid.

"The Muslim Brotherhood supporters saw a hanging cross on her car and recognized that she was a Christian, so they attacked her," he said.

"Here, Every Friday is a Day of Death" Wahid added..