

The Wonders of the LORD in Scripture!

November 15, 2015 - Sermon by Pastor Diana J. Perkins

As I was thinking about our service today, I was meditating on the purpose of gathering together in the house of the Lord and how we should honor and give praise to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. I began to search out Scriptures that give praise and honor to God and I thought it would be glorifying to God to read some of them and think about them as we continue our morning worship.

I love Psalms 8. It begins with "0 Lord, our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth. Who have set your glory above the heavens! Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have ordained strength, because of your enemies that you may silence the enemy and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you visit him? For you have made him a little lower than the angels and you have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet. All sheep and oxen- even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas. 0 LORD, our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth!"

Do you ever think about the wonder and miracle of life when a newborn baby comes into this world? God forms that little one in a mother's womb and He knows everything about us from the time we are conceived until the day He takes the breath from us and we return to the dust of the earth.

King David was a man after God's own heart. He rejoiced in the God of his salvation and he was never shy about declaring praises unto the Lord.

In 2 Samuel 6:12-the story of David bringing the ark of the LORD home to the city of David is recorded. David sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep to the LORD and he danced with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod.

David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of a trumpet. As the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. When he had finished the offerings before the LORD, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. He distributed to men and women, a loaf of bread, a piece of meat and a cake of raisins and the people departed everyone to his own house. David went to his own house to bless his household, and Michal, his wife, came to meet him. She accused him of acting dishonorable in the sight of the maidservants. After all, a king should be dignified. David replied that he was worshipping the LORD who chose him instead of Saul and all his

house and appointed him to be ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel, and therefore he would play music before the LORD. He went on to say that he would even be more undignified than this and be humble in his own sight. He said, "But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, they will honor me."

Therefore Michal, the daughter of Saul, never bore children to the day of her death.

When Mary, the mother of Jesus, went to visit her relative, Elizabeth, who was also with child, Elizabeth greeted her with a blessing. As soon as the sound of Mary's voice greeted Elizabeth, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy. Mary began to praise and give honor to God for the special calling that she had received from her creator to be the mother of Jesus Christ.

I am going to quote the prayer of praise from the "Contemporary English Version" of the New Testament.

Mary said, "With all my heart I praise the Lord and I am glad because of God my Savior. God cares for me, his humble servant. From now on all people will say God has blessed me. God All-Powerful has done great things for me and his name is holy. He always shows mercy to everyone who worships him. The Lord has used his powerful arm to scatter those who are proud. God drags strong rulers from their thrones and puts humble people in places of power. God gives the hungry good things to eat and sends the rich away with nothing. God helps his servant Israel and is always merciful to his people. The Lord made this promise to our ancestors, Abraham and his family forever". Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months. Then she went back home.

Look at Hebrews 7:2. Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God who met Abraham as he returned from conquering the kings who were his enemies, and Melchizedek blessed Abraham. Abraham gave a tenth part of all he had to the "king of righteousness and then also king of Salem meaning "king of peace." He was without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life; but made like the Son of God remains a priest continually.

In Genesis 14:17 says "Abram returned after he had defeated King Chedorlaomer and the other kings. Then the king of Sodom went to meet Abram in Shaveth Valley, which is also known as King's Valley. King Melchizedek of Salem was a priest of God Most High; He brought out some bread and wine and said to Abram: I bless you in the name of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. All praise belongs to God Most High for helping you defeat your enemies." Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything. The king of Sodom told Abram all he wanted was his people and Abram could have everything else. However Abram said, "The LORD God Most High made the heavens and the earth. And I have promised him that I won't keep anything of yours not even a sandal strap or a piece of thread. Then you can never say that you are the one who made me rich. Let my share be the food that my men have eaten. Give a share to the three men who went with me. God made many promises to Abram and to descendents. We are adopted into Abram's family.