

**Jerimiah 51:15-23**

**“[Jehovah of Hosts] has made the earth by His power; He has established the world by His wisdom,  
And stretched out the heaven by His understanding.**

**16 When He utters His voice—**

**There is a multitude of waters in the heavens:**

**“He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth;**

**He makes lightnings for the rain;**

**He brings the wind out of His treasuries.”**

**17 Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by the carved image;  
For his molded image is falsehood,**

**And there is no breath in them.**

**18 They are futile, a work of errors;**

**In the time of their punishment they shall perish.**

**19 The Portion of Jacob is not like them, For He is the Maker of all things; And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance.**

**Jehovah of hosts is His name.**

**20 “You are My battle-ax and weapons of war: For with you I will break the nation in pieces;  
With you I will destroy kingdoms;**

**21 With you I will break in pieces the horse and its rider;**

**With you I will break in pieces the chariot and its rider;**

**22 With you also I will break in pieces man and woman;**

**With you I will break in pieces old and young;**

**With you I will break in pieces the young man and the maiden;**

**23 With you also I will break in pieces the shepherd and his flock;**

**With you I will break in pieces the farmer and his yoke of oxen;**

**And with you I will break in pieces governors and rulers.”**

## **"Go Therefore..."**

**This week we finish our short series on worship by considering how and why we are commissioned.**

**We have focused on the Church gathered and the importance of our worship before God, and now we must consider the importance of the Church scattered as we are commissioned or sent forth into a needy world.**

- **And there is no better place to understand the importance of AND purpose of our commissioning than in the Great Commission and that is where I want to begin this morning.**

**Looking simply at the commission that Jesus gave us just before His ascension to the Father's right hand in heaven:**

**Matthew 28:18 "Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

**19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

**Now I have often had the children help us remember how much power and authority Jesus has and where He has it, so this morning we will let them help us move on...**

- **When Jesus says we are to disciple all the nations...  
Which nations are we to go to?**

**And how are we to disciple those nations? We are to preach the Gospel and baptize any converts that God is pleased to save...**

**BUT, it does not end there because Jesus says we are to teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you.**

**So again children, which commands are we to teach them?**

**That is right, all of them and that means a few important things:**

- **First, WE must know the commands of Jesus!**
- **Next, WE must demonstrate the commands of Jesus in our own lives.**
- **WE must teach those commands to others that the Lord may call.**

**That is why we are commissioned and sent forth each week!**

**Now some may be wondering why I chose that passage from Jerimiah as our text on commissioning.**

**Well, the easy answer is that I am reading through Jerimiah in my morning devotions and this sermon came to mind as I read that portion!**

**Do you remember way back a few weeks ago when I gave our message on consecration?**

- **What did we learn about how God changes us?**

**That's right, the Word of God and the Spirit, the Sword and the Fire.**

**And the example for us was those animals in the OT that were changed by the sword of the priest and the fire.**

**What I believe passages like the one I read from Jerimiah show us is that just as God broke many nations in pieces with military conquests in the OT,**

now He is sending us forth to break them in pieces with the Gospel using the Word of God and trusting the Spirit of God.

- This is why Psalms 2 & 110 are the most quoted Psalms in the New Testament.

In Psalm 110, which we will meditate on at the Table this morning, we see a promise that God will make the nations the footstool for Jesus and that He will execute Kings and judge among the nations.

Psalm 2 is sung here at Church of the King often and certainly relates to what the prophet foretold about the nations:

“Why do the nations rage,  
And the people plot a vain thing?  
2 The kings of the earth set themselves,  
And the rulers take counsel together,  
Against Jehovah and against His Anointed, saying,  
3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces  
And cast away Their cords from us.”

4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; Jehovah shall hold them in derision. 5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:

6 “Yet I have set My King  
On My holy hill of Zion.”

7 “I will declare the decree:  
Jehovah has said to Me,  
‘You are My Son,  
Today I have begotten You.

8 Ask of Me, and I will give You  
The nations for Your inheritance,  
And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron;  
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”

And this Psalm ends with the message that we are to carry to all nations when we preach the Good News...

10 “Now therefore, be wise, O kings;  
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.  
11 Serve Jehovah with fear,  
And rejoice with trembling.  
12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,  
And you perish in the way,  
When His wrath is kindled but a little.  
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”

- Bringing all the nations under the feet of Jesus is a BIG task and thus we should see the importance of this final portion of our service!

As with the coming Advent season, the commissioning portion of our service is both the end and the beginning...

- It is the proper end of our Covenant Renewal Worship service...
- AND it is the beginning of our new week of service in the Kingdom of Jesus.

This is why we do more than just say the benediction to end our service.

- After we have celebrated at the Lord's Table together we are reminded about how important our commission really is with another reading from the Scriptures...

Often it is the Great commission but we also use other references relating to the expansion of God's Kingdom.

We read together and sing one of the Psalms or another passage along with one of the great hymns of the faith like A Mighty Fortress is Our God or Joy to the World.

- One last time we are allowing the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God to shape and mold our thinking as we prepare to go forth...
- It is important that we consider carefully what we are hearing and reading and that we once again sing heartily before our Covenant God...

Then I pronounce the benediction:

- This is a blessing from God that we are to receive!

*[It is appropriate to have our hand or hands outstretched to receive such a blessing: Catching as opposed to throwing.]*

And finally, just as we always begin with the same song of adoration, O Worship the King, we end our service with the singing of Simeon's Song and the Doxology. While many of the songs that we sing in the service are far too difficult for our younger members, we provide various places where they can heartily sing along...

- Parents you should be diligent in making sure that they know these songs and that they participate.

Simeon's song is a fitting way to end our covenant renewal service:

- God had promised Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah...

In Luke's account we read that [Simeon] took the baby Jesus up in his arms and blessed God and said: 29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

- We are to be prepared to go forth and serve Jesus with the same faith that Simeon had believing this tiny baby would bring such momentous changes to a very needy world.

With our hands once again lifted up, we proclaim with Simeon's faith... "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever more shall be, world without end, AMEN.

- We join with the Saints who have gone before and the hosts of heaven in declaring the glory of God with the New Song believing that God has a plan and purpose for all of history!

As we have reviewed each portion of our worship service here at Church of the King, we have asked if we believe the reality of what is taking place.

-- We were challenged to believe that God REALLY calls us into His presence to renew covenant with us as we gather each Lord's Day.

-- We were challenged to believe that Jesus REALLY came to save His people from their sins and that if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us ALL our sins.

-- We were challenged to believe that God REALLY changes us with the Word of God, the sword wielded by the Spirit of God to shape and mature us for right service.

-- We were challenged to believe that Jesus is REALLY present with us at His Table where we feast together with God receiving food and drink indeed!

- Now we are challenged to REALLY believe that God is moving in history and that He wants us to be a part of His work!
- The Apostle Paul reminded the Saints at Corinth about the growth of the Kingdom that would take place before the return of Jesus!

**I Corinthians 15:20 “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.**

**25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.”**

So, how do we know what our role in God’s great plan is going to be? What are the practical implications of being commissioned and sent forth?

First remember the three things that are required for us to know in order to carry out the Great Commission:

- What are the commands of Jesus?
- How do I obey the commands?
- Am I ready to teach others?

Jesus rightly brought everything back to the two great commands:

- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.

The Ten Commandments explain what this means: We are to cast aside ALL idolatry! We are to respect God’s name, which represents His authority & power, as well as His Day, which represents His control over all history.

Then we are to respect our parents as the earthly picture of God’s rule and to respect and love those made in the image of God by not killing them, not committing sexual sins with them, not stealing from them, not bearing false witness against them and finally not coveting their possessions.

So how do we know if we are doing this right in the life we are living today?

We look to the examples from our history in the Old Testament because Paul says they are there as OUR examples.

We read and study the books of wisdom in the Old Testament, we learn & apply the many teachings that Jesus gave us during His earthly ministry

Finally we are given more examples from history in the Book of Acts and we strive to follow the many commands given to us in the Epistles of the New Testament.

➤ **In short, we need to know our Bibles well and to practice what we learn by faith!**

-- **God's Word teaches us how we are to grow and mature as young people.**

-- **God's Word teaches us how we are to faithfully serve God as single people or married couples.**

-- **God's Word teaches us about the joy and beauty the world should see in our marriages and families.**

-- **God's Word teaches us about the worth and importance of our calling in our homes and to the world.**

-- **God's Word teaches us about the wisdom of age & respect for our elders**

-- **God's Word teaches us about the importance of raising Godly children: teaching our boys what it means to be strong men and girls what it means to be Godly women.**

-- **God's Word teaches us about the priority of caring for widows & the poor among us.**

-- **God's Word teaches us about the importance of sharing the Good News with others, being those beautiful feet who bring the message of hope!**

**That last point is perhaps the most difficult of all: Learning to trust God when it comes to sharing the faith:**

➤ **We don't think we know how.**

➤ **We don't think this or that person will listen.**

➤ **We are embarrassed about what others might think of us.**

**Here we need to trust the Spirit of God, that He will give us the words to say, that He will do the work needed in the person's heart so they can respond and to trust our reputation to Him rather than the world.**

**This is how we can be used by God in His mission as He uses us as His instruments to break the nations and bring them under the feet of Jesus.**

➤ **Remembering that Jesus is our general and that His Word and Spirit are our weapons of war as we see in that glorious scene near the end of Revelation**

**Revelation 19:11 "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse.**

**And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, & in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns.**

**He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.**

**13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.**

**15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**

**16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."**

➤ **May we rightly worship and serve Him as the one true God all the days of our lives!**

**Communion Meditation: Psalm 110:**

**"Jehovah said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."**

**2 The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!**

**3 Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.**

**4 The Lord has sworn And will not relent,**

**"You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." 5 The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.**