

"Songs in the Night"

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Scripture: Genesis 22

Message by Pastor Tommy Reid

INTRODUCTION:

Several years ago, the noted British journalist, Malcolm Muggeridge was a guest at a breakfast in Washington, DC. When he finished his testimony, he made a number of comments about world affairs - all of which were *pessimistic*.

One of the Christians present said to the speaker, "Mr. Muggeridge, you have been very pessimistic, don't you have any reason to be optimism?"

Malcolm Muggeridge replied, "My friend, I could not be more optimistic than I am. MY HOPE IS IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE!" He allowed the remark to settle for a few seconds and then he added.

Just think if the Apostolic Church had pinned their hopes on the Roman Empire!

Our world is facing one of its greatest challenges:

- The World Economy

- The Stock Market (and your retirement funds)

- The Unemployment Stats

- The Probable Bankruptcy of General Motors

- The Possibility of War in the Middle East

OUR WORLD FACES THE DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL... What better response could we as the faith community to have than to respond with a day of worship?

Talk about the "Dark Night of the Soul," may I remind you of HOW THE SCRIPTURE BEGINS?

"Darkness was on the face of the deep" (The scripture begins in DARKNESS) Evening (first) and Morning were the First Day.

The Bible begins with darkness and evening.

Job 35:10 says, "Where is God my maker, Who gives songs in the night"

I remember my organ teacher, Bernice Kovaks (who taught me Bach on the organ) producing a telecast on the ABC affiliate in my home town called "Songs in the Night." It became the highest rated telecast in the city. Even the network sent investigators to see why it out rated the top network shows. I think the name of the program expressed a great human need.



This morning, I want to very quickly give you an exegetical trip through two passages of scripture:

The first is Genesis 22: The story of Abraham worshiping as he brings Isaac to the altar of sacrifice as worship to his GOD.

GOD TESTED ABRAHAM – Note the *Testings of God* (I often heard that phrase when I grew up and never liked it). God in this test calls him by name and says "Abraham, Abraham" (God and Abraham are friends). Abraham answers "Here am I." On the Third Day (Day of Resurrection for Jonah and Jesus), Abraham rose up early in the morning. Arrives at the place and "Abraham lifts his eyes" - that describes the act of worship. In worship, Abraham "Saw the place." He responds "I will go and worship."

The interchange between the father and son: Isaac said, "My father." Abraham responds, "My son." Then there's the question of Isaac, "Where is the sacrifice?" The Lord will provide.

The second passage is I Kings 19: Ezekiel running for life from Jezebel.

LIFTED HIS EYES (Act of worship for prophet)
GET UP (When a prophet gets up HE WORSHIPS)
Finds in worship Provision (cakes being baked)

In worship is always provision because worship is an acknowledgment of source.

1. Worship is the placement of worth (Anglo Saxon word: Worth-Sipe)

What is IMPORTANT to me – The decor of my house? Or is it important to me how the disenfranchised person is welcomed with dignity at the Food Pantry?
What is security to me, the Stock Market or the God who provides?
What is fulfilling to me, the Sunday night television program I enjoy or coming into the presence of God with His saints?

Worship is placing the emphasis on God.
Worship is "worth-sipe" or where I place worth.

2. Worship is the "lifting of the head."

How desperately in this day of recession we need to look up from all that is causing us to fear and worry! Look up! Lift up your head to the source of your supply!



SCRIPTURE

THE PASSAGE

Genesis 22:4

Abraham LIFTS HIS EYES and SEES THE PLACE.

Genesis 19:18

Hagar is about to loose her son, Ishmael God says, "Arise, lift up the lad I will make him a great nation." The Lord opened her eyes she saw the provision of a well.

I Kings 19:5

Elijah runs for his life from Jezebeel. An angel touches him, "Arise (look up) and see." He sees the baked cake (Provision).

Psalm 23:5

Anoint my head with oil.

Psalm 133:2

It is like the precious oil on the head.

Psalm 24:7

Lift up your heads, King glory is ready to come!

Genesis 13:4

The lord said to abram, "Lift up your eyes and look b from the place you are and see north, south, east and west all you see I will give you.

Psalm 121:1

I will lift up my eyes to the hill from where comes my help – My help cometh from the Lord!

It is time to look up!
Time to worship with our heads held high,
for in looking up we find our supply!
Sing Songs in the Night!

