

# GRACE CHURCH BULLETIN | January 10, 2021

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

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Welcome

Exhortation and Assurance of Pardon

*Look and See*

Reading: Psalm 96:1-4

*Blessed Assurance*

*Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*

Sermon: The Preciousness of Providence and Submission| Genesis 24

*God Moves in a Mysterious Way*

*Behold Our God*

Benediction

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**New Membership Class Part 2** - The second part of the new member class will be on Saturday, January 23rd. If you have questions please contact [pastormike@gracewyoming.com](mailto:pastormike@gracewyoming.com) or [pastordave@gracewyoming.com](mailto:pastordave@gracewyoming.com).

**PowerPoint Button Pushers Wanted** - No experience necessary. It's a relatively simple job, but we could use a couple more people willing to run the PowerPoint on Sunday mornings. Please consider ministering in this way. Contact Mat Adams or Dan Ness for more information.

**Quarterly Business Meeting**-We are going to try something different with our business meetings and have it on a Wednesday night. We know how challenging Sunday business meetings can be for families. Hopefully with enough notice, parents can line up childcare and doesn't make the meeting so long for families. Please save Wednesday, January 27th for our next business meeting.

**Opportunities to Serve** - As we resume more ministries in person, we have several ways to jump in and serve. Here are just a few ways where there are actual needs and who to contact:

- Nursery helpers (Naomi Caneday)
- Subs for Sunday School teachers(Jake Thompson)
- Subs for Grace 4 Kids (Pastor Mike)
- Together for Good various roles (Gerri VanAcker or Lauren Gilkerson)

**CREATE** - Ladies, join us 01/22/21 beginning at 6pm for craft night. It's a time of fellowship, encouragement and a chance to get to know others. Questions contact Annie Howard ([andreadhoward@gmail.com](mailto:andreadhoward@gmail.com)).

As always, News & Notes contains everything you need to stay current with all that is happening at Grace Church.  
Please notify an elder if you would like to be added to our digital newsletter.



## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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(Leader) Insofar as you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of your sins know that your sins have already been forgiven. *(All) Thanks be to God.*

(Leader) Know also that by the blood of Jesus you are welcomed into the presence of God as his beloved sons and daughters. *(All) Praise be to God.*

(Leader) Lift up your hearts. *(All) We lift them up to the Lord.*

## WORSHIP SONG

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### Look and See

Verse 1

To Him be the glory for all He has done  
Praise to the Father who gave us His Son  
A ransom for many, He bled and died  
Then rose in victory, enthroned on high

Verse 2

To Him be the glory in heaven and earth  
All of creation is shouting His worth  
The saints and the angels all live to proclaim  
The wonderful story, the glorious Name

Chorus

Oh look and see our God and celebrate  
The power of the cross and the empty grave

And now we're free, let the redeemed  
Lift up your heads  
Oh look and see our God

Verse 3

To Him be the glory, He's coming again  
And all of the sadness will come to an end  
Oh what a reunion, the Bride and her King  
Forever we'll praise Him, forever we'll sing

Bridge

Glory, glory, to our God  
Glory, glory, to our God

## SCRIPTURE READING

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### Psalm 96:1-4

**[Leader]** 1 Oh sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth!

2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

**[All]** 3 Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.

# WORSHIP SONGS

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## Blessed Assurance

Verse 1

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine  
O what a foretaste of glory divine  
Heir of salvation purchase of God  
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood

Chorus

This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long

Verse 2

Perfect submission perfect delight  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy whispers of love

Verse 3

Perfect submission all is at rest  
I in my Savior am happy and blest  
Watching and waiting looking above  
Filled with His goodness lost in His love

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## Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

Verse 1

Holy Spirit living Breath of God  
Breathe new life into my willing soul  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
To renew my heart and make me whole  
Cause Your Word to come alive in me  
Give me faith for what I cannot see  
Give me passion for Your purity  
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me

Verse 2

Holy Spirit come abide within  
May Your joy be seen in all I do  
Love enough to cover every sin  
In each thought and deed and attitude  
Kindness to the greatest and the least  
Gentleness that sows the path of peace  
Turn my striving into works of grace  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do

Verse 3

Holy Spirit from creation's birth  
Giving life to all that God has made  
Show Your power once again on earth  
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise  
Lead us on the road of sacrifice  
That in unity the face of Christ  
Will be clear for all the world to see

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

# SERMON TEXT Genesis 24

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1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. 2 And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, 3 that I may make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, 4 but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac." 5 The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?" 6 Abraham said to him, "See to it that you do not take my son back there. 7 The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, 'To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. 8 But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there." 9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. 11 And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. 12 And he said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. 13 Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. 14 Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master."

15 Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. 16 The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. 17 Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water to drink from your jar." 18 She said, "Drink, my lord." And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. 19 When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels. 21 The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the Lord had prospered his journey or not.

22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, 23 and said, "Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" 24 She said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor." 25 She added, "We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night." 26 The man bowed his head and worshiped the Lord 27 and said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the Lord has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen." 28 Then the young woman ran and told her mother's household about these things.

29 Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring. 30 As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, "Thus the man spoke to me," he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. 31 He said, "Come in, O blessed of the Lord. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels." 32 So the man came to the house and unharnessed the camels, and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. 33 Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say." He said, "Speak on."

34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. 35 The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, camels and donkeys. 36 And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and to him he has given all that he has. 37 My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell, 38 but you shall go to my father's house and to my clan and take a wife for my son.' 39 I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' 40 But he said to me, 'The Lord,

before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house. 41 Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my clan. And if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.'

42 "I came today to the spring and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you are prospering the way that I go, 43 behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," 44 and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also," let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

45 "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' 46 She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels drink also. 47 Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. 48 Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. 49 Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing has come from the Lord; we cannot speak to you bad or good. 51 Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has spoken."

52 When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the Lord. 53 And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. 54 And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, "Send me away to my master." 55 Her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go." 56 But he said to them, "Do not delay me, since the Lord has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master." 57 They said, "Let us call the young woman and ask her." 58 And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go." 59 So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

"Our sister, may you become  
thousands of ten thousands,  
and may your offspring possess  
the gate of those who hate him!"

61 Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

62 Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb. 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. 64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel 65 and said to the servant, "Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67 Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

# SERMON OUTLINE Genesis 24

The Preciousness of Providence and Submission | David VanAcker

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## *THE PRECIOUSNESS OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE*

*v.1 (and again in 35-36)*

*v.7 (and again in 40)*

*vs.14-16 (and again in 42-47)*

*v.50*

*v.56*

*v.60*

## *THE PRECIOUSNESS OF GODLY SUBMISSION*

*Abraham Submitted to God*

*Abraham's Servant to Submitted Abraham*

*Rebekah's Father and Brother Submitted to God*

*Rebekah's Brother and Mother Submitted to God*

*Rebekah Submitted to God*

*Isaac Submitted to God*

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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In shortest hand, this passage can be summed up in twelve words: God provided a wife for Isaac through the faithful submission of others. From this simple story we find two absolutely profound themes that continue on throughout the entire bible: providence and submission. While these words often illicit all kinds of thoughts and emotions, the main gift this passage provides is that it helps us see the preciousness of both when they are rightly understood and applied.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Had you ever considered the important differences between deism, fatalism, and God's providence? Have you ever been tempted to act as if deism or fatalism were true?
3. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you consider providence and submission? Do they seem precious?
4. Which act of divine providence is easiest for you to see in this passage? Which is easiest for you to appreciate?
5. What do you think of the connection between glad-hearted submission and the ability to recognize God's providence? Can you name any areas of obedience that would be easier for you if you could see them in light of God's providence?
6. Have you ever experienced something you were certain was God's providence? What are the dangers of missing God's providence in your life? What are the dangers of trying to understand it without a divinely inspired narrator?
7. Which act of submission seems most remarkable to you? Which would be hardest for you to do?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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8. See if you can prayerfully root out aspects of deism or fatalism in your heart and mind.
9. Consider any plans you have that are not intentionally rooted in the will of God and release them.
10. Consider any acts of obedience (submission) you are avoiding in light of the promises of God.
11. Consider any areas of success that you've taken credit for rather than thanking God for. Turn your praise to Him.
12. Try to find a way to visually express the truths of the song, "God Moves in a Mysterious Way." Or try to write a song or a poem to capture the goodness of God's providential rule.
13. Name one specific thing that you mean to do differently by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## PRAYER POINTS

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14. Adoration. Praise God for His providential rule over you and all creation. Praise Him for alone possessing the power and wisdom and goodness required to do so. Praise God for revealing His hidden plans in His Word.
15. Confession. Confess the sin of despising God's providence or of ascribing the things in your life to luck or chance or fate. Confess any reluctance to submit to good authority/commands. Confess any lack of appreciation for God's governance of this world. Confess any credit you've taken that belongs to God.
16. Thanksgiving. Thank God that He only gives good things (even if they sting in the short-term). Thank God for a church that loves God's providence and is eager to help you live in light of it.
17. Supplication. Ask God to show us the preciousness of providence and submission. Ask God to make us obedient.

# WORSHIP SONGS

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## God Moves in a Mysterious Way

Verse 1

God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm  
Deep in His dark and hidden mines  
With never-failing skill  
He fashions all His bright designs  
And works His sovereign will

So God we trust in You  
O God we trust in You

Verse 2

O fearful saints new courage take  
The clouds that you now dread  
Are big with mercy and will break  
In blessings on your head  
Judge not the Lord by feeble sense  
But trust Him for His grace  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face

Chorus

So God we trust in You  
O God we trust in You  
When tears are great  
And comforts few  
We hope in mercies ever new  
We trust in You

Verse 3

God's purposes will ripen fast  
Unfolding every hour  
The bud may have a bitter taste  
But sweet will be the flower  
Blind unbelief is sure to err  
And scan His work in vain  
God is His own interpreter  
And He will make it plain

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## Behold Our God

Verse 1

Who has held the oceans in His hand?  
Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice  
All creation rises to rejoice

Chorus

Behold our God seated on His throne  
Come let us adore Him  
Behold our King, nothing can compare  
Come let us adore Him!

Verse 2

Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of His words?  
Who can teach the one who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Verse 3

Who has felt the nails upon His hands  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?  
God eternal, humbled to the grave  
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

Verse 4

Who is seated over kings of earth?  
Who can summon angels with a word?  
God in flesh, Messiah came to save  
Servant-king, our ransom he has paid

Bridge

You will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)



## BENEDICTION

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**Numbers 6:24-26** - [Now may] the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.