



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
February 6th, 2022

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

The Prelude	Prepare your heart for worship
The Call to Worship	Chris Kimbrell
Hymn	"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"
The Prayer of Confession and Praise	Seth Lirette
Hymn	"Alas and Did My Savior Bleed"
Hymn	"See the Destined Day Arise"
The Reading of the Word — <i>Revelation 19:1-21</i>	Pastor Winn
Hymn	"Man of Sorrows"
The Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Winn
The Sermon — <i>"The Face of God" (Ezekiel 39:21-29)</i>	Hal Pritchard
The Observance of The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	"Joy Unspeakable"
The Benediction	Hal Pritchard
The Postlude	

AFTERNOON WORSHIP

Business Meeting



COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

No one can doubt the popularity in our day of reading the Bible alongside the newspaper, looking for how God's message to Ezekiel, Daniel, and John (Revelation) is coming true in our lifetime. Books that "unlock the secrets of the end times" sell millions of copies, and who could count the number of conferences each year that purport to reveal how the Bible predicts current events? Few if any evangelicals in America question the propriety of this approach. However, to be faithful to what Scripture actually teaches, we must ask this question: is the Bible a code book whose meaning is determined by today's headlines? Largely because the Hebrew term *rosh* ("chief") in verse 1 sounds similar to the name Russia, many people today believe that Ezekiel 38 predicts modern Russia's rise and influence. Yet we must reject this interpretation because the nation of Russia did not exist in Ezekiel's day. If the passage had no meaning to its original audience, we could twist and shape its interpretation like a wax nose. Gog is the name of a leader of the land of Magog, the prince of Meshech and Tubal, territories named after Noah's grandsons (Gen. 10:1–2). We cannot identify these areas precisely, but Ezekiel likely has in view the peoples to the far north of the land of Israel in modern-day Turkey and beyond. The Jews of Ezekiel's day had never met these mysterious nations who lived beyond the boundaries of their known world. Ezekiel foresaw a day when Meshech and Tubal would join with two other northern powers—Gomer and Beth-togarmah—and the four would form an

alliance with Persia, Cush, and Put, which were three powers to the far south or southeast of the Promised Land (Ezek. 38:3–6). The number seven typically indicates completeness in Scripture, so what we have here is a prophecy that the full number of nations beyond the borders of Israel would one day rise up against the people of God. Although a lust for money and power would motivate these nations, the Lord's hand would be working in their advance. He would raise up these nations for the purpose of revealing His own holiness and greatness (vv. 7–23). In sum, Yahweh would defeat these powers to reveal to them that He alone is God. The prophet said this would occur after the restoration of Israel, when His people "dwell securely (v. 14). This means that Israel's restoration to peace and safety would not be accomplished all at once, that some peoples of the world would not know the Lord at the start of the restoration. As they rose up against God's people, however, they would meet Him.

Coram Deo: Given the symbolism of the passage, we must see it not only as a prediction of the final battle between God and the enemies of His people but also a vision of the encounter between new covenant Israel—the church—and the Lord's chosen. For two thousand years, God's enemies have tried to destroy the church, only to find themselves converted to Him. When people come against the Lord, their plans will be thwarted, either in their salvation or in their defeat and destruction.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

February 6th
<i>Morning</i> Amanda Spansel & Lana Wakefield
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Business Meeting
<i>Wednesday - February 9th</i> Bridgette Kimbrell (<i>Claire Shores</i>)

Today's Sound Operator - Mike Poirier



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Today we will observe the Lord's Supper during our morning service.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Today we will have our fellowship meal immediately following the morning service.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Preschool and Children's Choir will not meet this afternoon.

YEAR END BUSINESS MEETING

We will have our 2021 end of year business meeting where we will be voting on the immediately following our fellowship meal today.

CHILDREN'S VALENTINE'S PARTY

The children will be having a Valentine's party, Thursday, February 10th from 11 am to 1 pm at the church. See Bethany for more information.

VALENTINE'S BANQUET

Our Valentine's Banquet will be held on February 11th at 6:00pm at the church. The menu will be steak, potatoes, beans, salad, tea, and dessert. To help offset some of the cost the meal is \$10.00/adult. Childcare will be provided at \$3/child which will include sitters and pizza. Please sign up if you plan to attend.

MEN'S RETREAT

This year's retreat will be March 4th-5th at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Laurel, MS. The theme this year is "A Godly Man's Love for His God." Be sure to join us for this time of edification and fellowship. The cost is \$10/adult. Boys are free and are encouraged to attend with their fathers. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall or see Chris or Pastor Thomas if you plan to attend so we can give Bethlehem an accurate head count.

