

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on July 18, 2021:**

**"Where Does God Dwell and Where Shall We Dwell for Eternity?
(2 Samuel 7:1-14)" [Part 1]**

[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman on Zoom begins his two part message by showing us that we are going to dwell with God for all eternity in a place called heaven.]

Introduction:

- Last Sunday, Pastor Craig asked the question, "Do you want to go to heaven?" which threw a curve at some people.
- At the time, he was thinking that it was a simple alternative of either going to heaven or going to hell.
- Now, in the past, our cultural teaching didn't place much emphasis on heaven but rather on the kingdom of God.

- Today we're going to look at some scriptures which say that Jesus and the Father reside in heaven, which we'll unpack to better understand.
- Now, the next time the RCL gave Pastor Craig the opportunity to speak on that he would.
- And one of the scriptures for this week from RCL is 2 Samuel 7, which gives Pastor Craig his opportunity.

- So, the title today is, "Where Does God Dwell and Where Shall We Dwell for Eternity?"
- This will probably be a 2 part sermon.

- Now GCI has put together a compendium called, "We Believe" a few years ago.
- There's an adult version, a teen version and a teacher's version.
- All this is available on GCI's website.
- Pastor Craig went through the teacher's edition, which was helpful for this message.

Update on our re-opening:

- We are still on the path of going back to the Y and re-open church services on August 1st, even though we're going back to having to wear masks.
- Dan Rogers has commented that the Holy Spirit works through groups of people not just a few or just the church pastor.
- He's come to believe that when the leadership team is united, it shows the will of the Spirit.

- Pastor Craig polled the leadership team about going back to church with the new LA County guideline of wearing masks indoors, vaccinated or not.
- Everyone responded positively to come back to church on August 1st.
- Now if the delta variant reduces its intensity, the mask issue could be reversed.

- Now all of you, who wish to come to church at the Y on August 1st, will need to have your waivers from the Y completed.

- Pastor Craig will send out the necessary paperwork to sign through an e-mail ahead of time.
- You will also have an opportunity to sign the paperwork at the front desk via a laptop, when you first come to church, which might take some time.

Community happening this past week:

- Pastor Craig is learning more and more that we don't necessarily have to have a grand plan to reach out into the community.
- Sometimes, we just show up and the Holy Spirit works in an amazing way.
- Now, at a Rotary Board meeting last week on Tuesday, our membership director person approached Pastor Craig and asked him to attend the Rotary Board meeting that night.
- Now the local Y in Monrovia has been asked to raise \$90,000 by September 30th, so the Y could reopen on January 1, 2022.
- Now the Rotary gives out \$500 per month in scholarships and would consider giving a scholarship to the Y.
- And other members of the board said they would consider giving some funds to the Y so it could re-open.
- And Pastor Craig was also asked if he could provide 5 speakers for the Tuesday meetings in August.
- Pastor Craig asked if he could be one of those speakers, and then he proposed that his wife Nan could talk about how to write and publish a book, then Ed Dunn could talk about the book he has written and the life challenges he's experienced and then several people from the Y.
- Several of you could come and join Pastor Craig on August 3rd, to hear his "craft talk" and he would cover your lunch that day at the Courtyard Marriott on Huntington at 12 noon.
- Then on Thursday, the Y board had been invited to an evening in the park at the Library Park.
- The Y had been given a 10 minute slot to speak to the business leaders of the community and town council members, which Pastor Craig was asked to fulfill.
- Pastor Craig talked about the Y's financial needs to reopen and also that he served as full time pastor of Grace Communion Monrovia which met at the Y before the COVID pandemic.
- He told them that we were coming back to the Y for services on August 1st, where we are glorifying God by loving others without fear, shame, guilt or doubt.
- And he told them that if they didn't have a church home, and would like to come and worship with us, they are free to do that.
- So, this was an exciting week Pastor Craig was given to share the gospel with the community and build relationships.

Today's message:

2 Samuel 7:1 (NASB), Now it came about, when the king (David) lived in his house, and the Lord had given him rest on every side from all his enemies, 2) that the king said to

Nathan the prophet, “See now, I live in a house of cedar, but the ark of God remains within the tent.” 3) Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.”

4) But in the same night, the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, 5) “Go and say to My servant David, ‘This is what the Lord says: “Should you build Me a house for My dwelling? 6) For I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the sons of Israel from Egypt, even to this day; rather, I have been moving about in a tent, that is, in a dwelling place. 7) Wherever I have gone with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with one of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’””

8) Now then, this is what you shall say to My servant David: ‘This is what the Lord of armies says: “I Myself took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader over My people Israel. 9) And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have eliminated all your enemies from you; I will also make a great name for you, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. 10) And I will establish a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will malicious people afflict them anymore as previously, 11) even from the day that I appointed judges over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you.

12) When your days are finished and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13) He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14) I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me;

- So, here our Creator God, Father, Son and Spirit, acknowledges that He had been dwelling in a tent with curtains at least in the Old Testament.
- But is that really the whole story? We know it’s not.
- Now, we find different passages in scripture that deal with God in an anthropomorphic sense where He is speaking in His own terms where He’s not limited by time or space.
- So, where does God dwell? This can be answered in many ways.
- Many will say that God dwells in our heart, which is completely true.
- But scripture also says that God dwells in heaven – so it depends upon the time frame and/or which scriptures you are using.
- Now the compendium, “We Believe” contains 16 sections in the table of contents.
- Section 1: The Triune God; Section 2: God the Father; Section 3: God the Son
- Section 4: God the Holy Spirit; Section 5: The Kingdom of God; Section 6: Humanity;
- Section 7: The Holy Scriptures; Section 8: The Sacraments; Section 9: The Church;
- Section 10: The Christian; Section 11: The Gospel; Section 12: God’s Grace;
- Section 13: Sin; Section 14: Faith, Salvation & Repentance; Section 15: The Christian Life; Section 16: Last Things.
- And then there’s Appendix, which shows GCI Statement of Beliefs, which includes 20 doctrinal statements.

- So to answer this question, pastor Craig did a survey with these resources to show what does our church say specifically about heaven, about where God resides, and where we will reside in the future.
- We'll probably get to that next week.
- Then, he'll cover certain sections of the compendium as well as several of the Statement of Beliefs.
- From all of this, we're going to see where heaven be in the future because scripture tells us that the old earth and heaven will pass away.

Today's conclusion:

- These scriptures will show us that concept of heaven is a reality and the concept of the kingdom is a reality.
- So, there is nothing wrong using the term heaven as where we will someday live.

Mark 13:28 (NASB), (Jesus) “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: as soon as its branch has become tender and sprouts its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29) So you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door. 30) Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

31) Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

- So here we see the fact that if heaven is God's residing place, there's going to be a change in that, according to Jesus.
- So as we define heaven and earth today, we know it's not going to be our future dwelling place.
- This is our first clue as we unpack this topic.

Mark 14:22, While they were eating, He took some bread, and after a blessing He broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is My body.” 23) And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24) And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many. 25) Truly I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine again, until that day when I drink it, new, in the kingdom of God.”

- So here Jesus is talking about that His resurrected form will be able to drink again from the vine.
- And Jesus also tells us that the Kingdom of God is on-going.

62) And Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

- So, here Jesus talks about heaven, which is a part of Jesus' return.

Mark 16:19, So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

- So, upon Jesus' ascension, He was also raised up into heaven, which is saying, at this point, that's where God the Father is.

- There isn't a literal physical throne in heaven, but rather a spiritual throne.
- There's nothing wrong with using the term heaven as a future place.

- So, the terms kingdom, the terms heaven can be used somewhat interchangeably, but yet they are distinct.
- Now, we know that the kingdom of God will never pass away, even though we know that Jesus said that heaven and earth will pass away.

- Next time, we'll see from Revelation that there will be new heaven and a new earth, which will essentially be God's ruling kingdom for all eternity.
- We'll also see that the kingdom of God is ruling right now and define it more clearly.

- Now, there's nothing wrong in saying, "I'd like to be in heaven someday."
- And there's also nothing wrong about saying, "I'd like to be a part of the kingdom of God."

Closing prayer: