

“A Great Tree, Two Eagles, and Three Twigs”
Ezekiel 17:1-24

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.” (Isaiah 9:6-7)

“If you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin. You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.” (Deuteronomy 23:21-23; cf. 2 Chronicles 36:13)

- **The Allegory:** *Various objects that refer to people and what they do or will do. (Ezekiel 12:1-3)*
 - *The Great Tree or The Cedar:* This is a reference to the royal dynasty of David (2 Samuel 7:16; Luke 1:32-33).
 - *The Two Eagles:* They are Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and Pharaoh Hophra, king of Egypt (Jeremiah 48:40; 49:22).
 - *The Three Twigs:* Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:8-14); Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:18-20; 2 Chronicles 36:11-16); and Christ.

- **The Prophecies:** *“The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising His words and scoffing at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against His people, until there was no remedy.” (2 Chronicles 36:15-16)*
 - *Isaiah’s Prophecy:* 2 Kings 20:16-19
 - *Jeremiah’s Prophecy:* Jeremiah 37:1-10 (cf. Jeremiah 38:17-21; 39:11-18)
 - *Ezekiel’s Prophecy:* Ezekiel 17:1-24

- **The Applications:**
 - *God is the ultimate source of provision and protection: “And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)*
 - *God’s people are people of their word: “But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your ‘yes’ be yes and your ‘no’ be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.” (James 5:12)*
 - *God’s people live humbly before the Lord: “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you.” (1 Peter 5:6)*
 - *God’s people pray for His kingdom to come: “Pray then like this:.... Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:9-10)*

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of January we are collecting monetary donations for Heartbeats. Heartbeats is a life-affirming pregnancy resource medical center serving the people of our community with the love of Christ. For more information about Heartbeats and what they do, please see the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary. You can give your monetary donations on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for Heartbeats. Or you can put your monetary donations in the container on the back table. ***THIS Sunday is the LAST day for this collection!***

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch THIS Sunday, January 26th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something to the meal. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us.

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** Our monthly Church Night of Prayer is THIS Sunday, January 26th, from 5:30-7pm. During this prayer time we will be praying for specific prayer requests within the church body. Please consider joining us for a portion of this time or for the full hour and a half of prayer.

★**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY COURSE:** Our next Systematic Theology Course will begin on Monday, January 27th: "God and the World." We will be studying the literal 24-hour six, day of Creation in Genesis and the Age of the Earth; God's Divine Decrees (Sovereignty and Providence); Angelology (Angels); Satanology (Satan); Demonology (Demons); Anthropology (Man); and Hamartiology (Sin). We will study how many Holy angels there are versus Fallen angels and their activities, we will also look at Satan and his strategies as our enemy, we will study man who is made up of body, soul, and spirit, and study the doctrine of sin and its results. This course is eight weeks long and we meet every Monday night from 6:00-9:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. If interested please let Elder Richard know so he can prepare a syllabus for each student.