

OVERVIEW UNIT #1 WHERE DO WE START?

- “I am the LORD your God” Ex 20:2.

Outline

A Statement of Fact

An Invitation

To a Hope

Faith and Sight / Now and Not Yet

“The Life of the World to Come”

To a Faith

The Christian World View

The King and His Kingdom

Life in the Kingdom

To a Family

“Our Father”

OVERVIEW UNIT #2: THE CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW

- “Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth” Ps 124:8.

Outline

The Way Things Ought to Be

Obligations of God and Neighbor

Elemental Realities

God

Creation

Human Beings

God's Providence and Provision

The Way Things Are

Corruption

God's Continued Care

God's Judgments

Sources

From the Liturgies

Opening Versicles, Divine Service 3 and 5: “Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

From the Prayer of Thanksgiving, Divine Service 1 and 2: “Blessed are You, Lord of Heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created . . .”

From the Prayer of Thanksgiving, Divine Service 4: “Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation . . .”

From the Post Communion Collect, All Divine Services: “O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness . . .”

From the Venite: “For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. The deep places of the earth are in His hand; the strength of the hills is His also. The sea is His for He made it, and His hand formed the dry land.”

From the Scripture

Ps 124:8; Ps 145

Unit #3 Introduction to the Commandments

- “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
... You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Outline

- Commandments and the Character of God
- The Number and Numbering of the Commandments
- Commandments as Broad Categories
- The Double Commandment
- The Two Tables of the Law
- The Basic Paradigm: Merit, Threats and Promises
- A Larger Paradigm: “Keeping Covenant”

Sources

From the Catechism

The Close of the Commandments

What does God say about all these commandments? He says: “I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” (Ex. 20:5-6)

What does this mean? God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

From Luther’s Morning Prayer: “... that all my doings and life may please you.”

From the Liturgies

From the Confession of Sin, Divine Service 1 and 2: “... we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. . . Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.”

From the Collect for Peace, Vespers and Evening Prayer: “... give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments . . .”

From the Scriptures:

Ex 20:1-17; Dt 5:1-22; Lv 19:18; Dt 6:5; Ps 1; Micah 6:6-8; Matt 22:37-39;

Unit #4: The First Commandment

- “We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.”

Outline

You shall have a God

The Fundamental Requirement: Faith

The Fear of God

The Love of God

Trusting God

The “Super-Commandment”

The Fundamental Prohibition: Idolatry

Sources

From the Small Catechism

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

From the Liturgies

From the Gloria in Excelsis: “Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. . . For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen”

The Long Collect Prayer Termination: “. . . through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.”

From the Sanctus: “Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might: [Or, Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;] Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.”

The Gloria Patri: “Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.”

From the Scriptures:

Dt 6:4-15; Ps 18:1-3; Ps 37:3-6; Ps 111; Ps 116:1-2; Prov 3:5; Is 55:6-9; Lk 17:11-19; Mat 10:28; Matt 10:37; 1 Pet 5:6-7; Is 6:1-5; Is 44:9-20; Ps 115:4-8; Rom 1:18-23; Ps 14:1-3; 2 Kings 17:7-18; Is 42:8