



SERVICE TIMES:

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:30 AM
5:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

ELDERS:

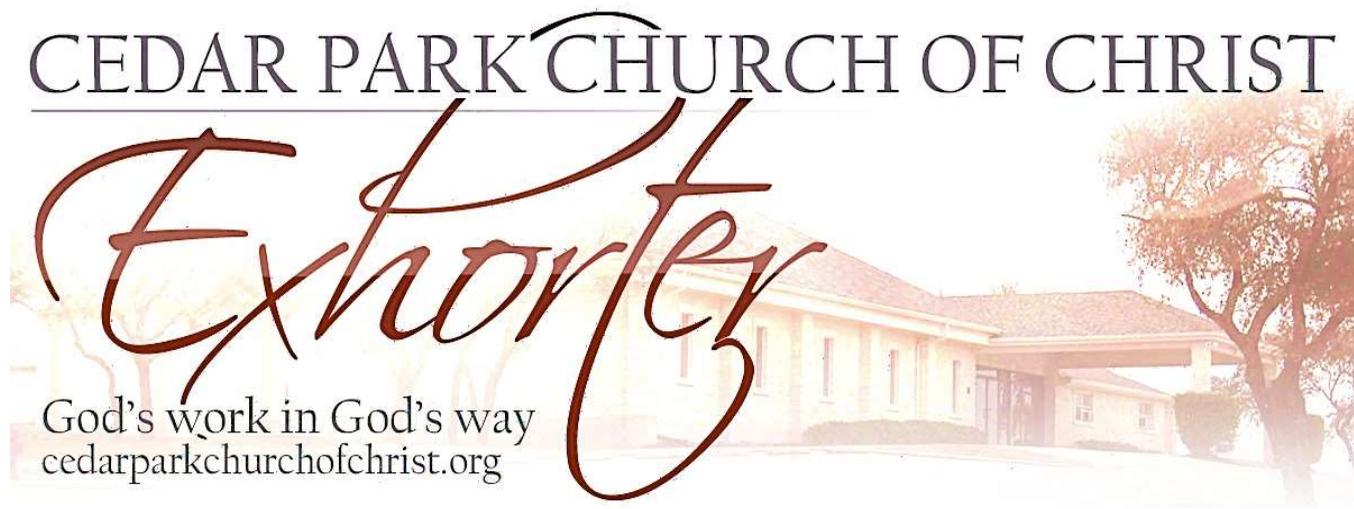
Todd Cox Jimmy Griffith
Travis Everett Paul White

DEACONS:

Derek Anderson Bret Cox
James Dow Patrick Gaughan
Ryan Griffith Dan Harbin
Craig Hecht Danny Meek
Skyler Meek Phil Parker
Jay Silvers Jason Stannard
Travis Starling Bryan Tacker
Steve Turquette Eric Wise

EVANGELIST

Paul White



February 28, 2021

Act of God

Recently, many of us came to the realization that we are very blessed in America. Many of us lost electricity and running water, something we see as necessary, but many in other countries see as a luxury. In just a few days we saw how fragile our society can be, and how powerful the weather can be. Events like this are often referred to as, "Acts of God" in contract language. Acts of God in contracts are considered to be natural occurrences in which significant damage happens which cannot be attributed to people. Although God may or may not have a purpose for disasters like this, we can see His awesome power through them, and see how small we as humans are in the grand scheme of things. God's awesome power has been displayed in the bible through a world-wide flood, utter destruction of towns, and even defeating the seemingly impossible, all while providing an opportunity for mankind.

In the time of Noah, God came to him and said, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth." - Gen. 6:13, ESV. God had determined that He

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would flood the entire earth with water. God opened the fountains of the deep, and the heavens, and caused it to rain for forty days and forty nights. “The waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.” – Gen. 7:19-24. Recently, we have seen events such as hurricane Harvey ravage cities, and destroy so much, but nothing close to this kind of magnitude. God’s awesome power was fully displayed, and brought humanity as close to the breaking point as ever.

In the time of Abraham, God came to him and said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.” - Gen. 18:20-21. God sent two angels to go into Sodom, and eventually it was condemned. The angels told Lot and his family to leave right away. God then, “rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from... out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground... And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace” - Gen. 19:24-27. Once again, God saw the wickedness of man, and devoted these people to destruction. God’s power was once again on full display when fire and brimstone rained upon these cities. The destruction was isolated to these cities, further showing God’s power. Abraham looked out on these cities after this event, and saw smoke that went up like a furnace.

Both of these events show the awesomeness of God’s power. These events were truly, “Acts of God”. Although these specific events mentioned, and events known as acts of God, are typically associated with destruction, there are other acts of God that show his power, but are not destructive. They show His power through other means.

In the well-known story of Jesus and the paralytic, Jesus performs a miracle. “On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.” And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.” - Luke 5:18-26. Here we see God’s power displayed as Jesus tells a Paralytic to walk, and he does! Everyone who saw was astonished, and any honest heart had to see that Jesus was the Son of God. Just as amazing as this, Jesus forgave this man’s sins. Perhaps the greatest Act of God, sending Jesus to die for the forgiveness of our sins, and when we are buried in baptism, we are raised with him through the, “powerful working of God” Col 2:12

- Cody Cox