

“The God of Our Fathers”

INTRODUCTION: Moses was not born in a spiritual vacuum.

1. Egyptian society, in all of its paganism, with all of its many gods and goddesses, was a very *spiritual* society.
2. In fact, *everything in Egyptian society was related to some god or goddess, and infused with some spiritual power – for good or for evil.*
 - a) People were named after gods: Pharaoh **Amenhotep II** means: “Amun is pleased/ satisfied”
 - (1) *Amun-Ra*: king of the gods
 - (2) Chief deity of the Egyptians
 - b) all life-matter was infused with the spirit of a god or goddess:
 - (1) kingship was a divine right bestowed upon the royal line
 - (2) serpents contained divine powers
 - (3) The Nile River was inhabited by and made fertile by the god *Hapi*.
 - c) **Magic** was a powerful force in Egyptian religion
 - (1) The gods often used magic in their mythical tales.
 - (2) The Chief gods were vested with the most powerful magic.
 - (3) **John D. Currid: Against the Gods; p. 29**

Egyptian documents are loaded with examples of priests and magicians performing extraordinary feats, including changing inanimate objects into animals.
3. Moses was reared amid all this magic and myth. And Israel, enslaved in Egypt for 400 years was greatly influenced – spiritually compromised – by all this magic and myth.
4. So ... God will do **Five Marvelous things** to counteract all this magic and myth ...
 - a) Confront their magic and expose its weakness and small limits,
 - b) Judge their gods and put them to shame
 - c) Free His people in a mighty fashion
 - d) Reveal to Moses the true story of One God, His Creation, the Flood, the Scattering of the nations, and God’s moral law.
 - e) Establish a way of worship free of both magic and myth, that will enable all mankind to know, serve and be saved by the One True God.
5. *Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying,*

*"I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.*

*The Lord is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.*

*The Lord is a man of war;
the Lord is his name.*

"Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?

*Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?*

*You stretched out your right hand;
the earth swallowed them.*

*"You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode. (Ex. 15:1-3, 11-13)*

6. “Your Holy abode” = *The Mountain of God ... Sinai.*

7. **A Picture is worth a Thousand Words:** *The Egyptian Scroll of the Dead*

- a) Sermon Series Depiction (slide/ overhead screen)
- b) Really: *The Book of Coming Forth By Day*
- c) or *The Book of Emerging Forth into the Light*
- d) Scrolls that priestly scribes created so that the dead could know the *proper spells (magic)* to use when judged by the gods after death.
- e) This particular scroll (picture) is from the *Papyrus of Ani* (the name of the rich, dead Egyptian man)
- f) In all, by the time of Moses, there were 190 prescribed spells used after death.
- g) **Geraldine Pinch**, and Egyptologist, wrote this: *The Book of the Dead was not the central holy book of Egyptian religion. It was just one of a series of manuals composed to assist the spirits of the elite dead to achieve and maintain a full after life. (Egyptian Mythology: A guide to the Gods, Goddesses and Traditions of Ancient Egypt; p. 26)*

8. The **key spell**, and best known magic formula, was **Spell #125**. This is what is depicted in our graphic/ slide.

- a) *The Judging of the Heart*
- b) Here is how it worked –
 - (1) In the center is the “Scale of Truth”
 - (2) To the Left of the Scale is Ani and his wife – Ani is being judged.
 - (3) To the Right of the Scale stands the jackal-headed god, **Anubis** – the god of the dead and afterlife.
 - *Lord of the Sacred Land*

- *He who dwells on the Sacred Mountain*
- *Ruler of the Bows of Egypt*
- who escorted the dead to the afterlife

- (4) To the right of Anubis stands the god with the head of an Ibis (crane) **Thoth** (scribe or court recorder for the gods. Keeping the record of the trial of Ani.)
- (5) To the right of Thoth crouches the monster goddess, **Ammut** – “the devourer” (head of a crocodile and the body of both a lion and hippo.)
- (6) To the far left stands the two goddesses of Destiny: **Renenit** and **Meschenit**
- (7) above Ani’s wife is a hawk with human head. This is the **soul of Ani**, waiting for the verdict.
- (8) Above the Hall of Truth sit 10 gods and goddesses who will render the verdict.

c) The Court Procedure is as follows –

- (1) Ani will be asked if he has committed any of the sins in a list of 42 sins. He will answer no.
- (2) He must also know the names of 42 gods and must be able to identify them.
- (3) Then his heart will be placed on the left side of the scale.
- (4) The white “feather of Truth” would then be placed on the right scale.
- (5) If Ani was a good man, the feather of Truth will be heavier than his heart: *Innocent*.
- (6) But, if Ani’s heart was a *heavy heart*, laden down with sin, then he would be *condemned*.
- (7) his heavy heart would be thrown to the ground where the monster goddess **Ammut** would consume it. The soul of Ani would fly away and cease to exist.
- (8) But if Ani had a “light heart” then **Anubis** would escort his soul over the river of death into paradise.

d) **Joshua J. Mark:** *Egyptian Book of the Dead; pp. 7-8*

www.ancient.eu/Egyptian_Book_of_the_Dead

If one answered all of these questions correctly, and had a heart lighter than the feather of truth, and if one managed to be kind to the surly Divine Ferryman who would row the souls across Lily Lake, one would find one’s self in paradise. The Egyptian Field of Reeds (sometimes called the Field of Offerings) was exactly what one had left behind in life. Once there, the soul was reunited with lost loved ones and even beloved pets. The soul would live in an image of the home they had always known with the exact same yard, same trees, same birds singing at evening or morning, and this would be enjoyed for eternity in the presence of the gods.

9. Here is the soul of paganism in its fullest sense: myth, magic and manipulation of the the gods.

a) *Myth:* imaginary places and deities.

- b) *Magic*: spells, incantations, secret procedures
- c) *Manipulations*: lying to, flattering, bribing the gods
- d) all under the guise of *Truth!*

10. Here's what God is about to do: *Take Moses out of Egypt, to the Holy Mountain (Horeb/ Sinai), to reveal to Moses the Truth, to break the power of Egyptian magic, and to judge and shame the false gods of Egypt –*

For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. (Ex. 12:12)

11. And here is how God begins to do this: *He reveals Himself to Moses as “The God of Your Fathers”*

- a) Exodus 3:1-22
- b) God's Identity (3:1-6)
- c) God's Directive (3:7-12)
- d) God's Name (3:13-15)
- e) God's Wondrous Works (3:16-22)

12. By the way, this is why God repeatedly refers to Pharaoh's hardened heart. Literally God says (Hebrew)

- a) *Pharaoh's heart is heavy...*
- b) *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. (Ex. 7:14)*
- c) **John Currid:** *Exodus: EP Com.*; p. 165

The idea that ‘Pharaoh’s heart is heavy’ is an intriguing expression in view of the Egyptian background of the New Kingdom period in which the exodus occurred. At this time the Egyptians believed that when someone died the person went to judgment in the underworld. The individual’s heart – which was thought to be the very essence of the person – was weighed on the scales of truth. On one pan sat the feather of truth and righteousness; on the other lay the heart of the deceased. If the heart was heavy or weighty with misdeeds, the person was unjust, condemned and thrown to the Devourer to be eaten.

I. THE TRUE GOD IDENTIFIES HIMSELF (Ex.3:1-6)

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. (Ex. 3:1-6)

1. Moses is now 80 years old. He's been tending sheep for the house of Jethro the Midianite for 40 years, all this time in the shadow of *Horeb*.
 - a) "The Mountain of God" (Horeb/Sinai)
 - b) **Cecil B. DeMill's** *Ten Commandments*: "He who has no name lives on this mountain"
2. Moses is on that mountain, with a flock of sheep/goats, when *The Angel of the Lord* speaks to him.
 - a) not an angel, but God Himself
 - b) The Preincarnate Son of God; Second Person of the Trinity
 - c) **Calvin**: "*The ancient teachers of the Church have rightly understood (it to be) the Eternal Son of God in respect to the office of Mediator*"
3. The Son of God appears to Moses in a **theophany**
 - a) Greek: *theos* (God) + *phaneia* (appearance)
 - b) God appearing to man in some visible form
 - c) e.g., a burning bush, a pillar of fire and smoke, a donkey who speaks, etc.
 - d) Here: *a burning bush that is not consumed by its flames!*
 - e) fire: a picture of the Holiness of God.
4. He calls Moses by name, and with great affection
 - a) *When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."* (Ex. 3:4)
 - b) In Hebrew/OT when God repeats a name (*Moses, Moses*) it shows an intensity of affection.
 - c) i.e., "Moses, my dearest Moses"
5. God warns Moses to approach with caution because he is in the presence of *The Holy One*.
 - a) *Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."* (Ex. 3:5)
 - b) on God's Holy Mountain (sanctuary)
 - c) where God becomes a sanctuary (*Holy Place*)
 - d) **Note:** There is no contradiction or inconsistency with God's affection for Moses and His holy transcendence!
6. Then God **identifies** Himself: *He is the God of our Fathers.*
 - a) *And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."* (Ex. 3:6)
 - b) The God of these famous patriarchs Moses has learned about all his life: *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph*
 - c) The God of his parents *Amram and Jochebed*
 - d) The God of his siblings: *Miriam and Aaron*
 - e) The God of the *Hebrew People*

f) The Only, true and living God, from *Adam* down to *Moses*!

7. **This is important:** God always identifies Himself as the God of History.

- a) The God throughout all the ages (Fathers and children)
- b) The God of the Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- c) The God whose track record in the past speaks for itself.
- d) *Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Heb. 13:7-8)*

II. THE TRUE GOD SETS FORTH HIS DIRECTIVE (Ex. 3:7-12)

Then the Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” (Ex. 3:7-12)

1. God speaks to Moses after **400 years of silence**. (Since the days of Joseph). And what He says is marvelous.
2. **First:** *God has seen, and heard, and taken into account all the sufferings of the Hebrew people for 400 years ...*

Then the Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ... And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. (Ex. 3:7,9)

3. **Second:** *God has come down from heaven to deliver Israel from slavery and to take them to a Promised Land*

and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. (Ex. 3:8)

4. **Third:** *God will send Moses back to Egypt to be a deliverer of the people of God.*

- a) *Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” (Ex. 3:10)*
- b) What Moses had tried to do on his own 40 years ago
- c) **Maxie Dunham:** *Exodus: Mastery OT; p. 57*

Moses was old. And you remember he'd made an effort to free Israel through his own strength, but that had failed. His had been a very disappointing experience. But God has not forgotten Moses. The phrase "I have come down" (3:8) describes the nature of the God who is soon going to confront Moses. This God does not sit placidly in the heavens, oblivious to history. In this call of Moses we will find a further revelation of a personal God, working within the framework of history but entering that arena to act purposefully – to name Himself, and to call others by name.

- d) The God who is unknown, unseen, who has no name, was about to change all of that!

5. **Fourth:** Where? *On His holy mountain!*

- a) *But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." (Ex. 3:11-12)*
- b) *"... you shall serve God on this mountain."*
- c) *i.e., you shall worship God on this holy mountain.*
- d) God's revelation of the Ten Commandments, His Covenant of the Mosaic Law, and His design and directives for worship in the Tabernacle.
- e) *"When the Lord your God cuts off before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, take care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do the same.' You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the Lord hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods. "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it. (Deut. 12:29-32)*

f) **The Regulative Principle of Worship**

6. **Please take note of this:** God will repeat this command 14 times between chapters 3 and 10 of Exodus.

And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.' (Ex. 3:18)

III. THE TRUE GOD REVEALS HIS NAME (Ex. 3:13-15)

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. (Ex. 3:13-15)

- 1. Moses does not know God's name, and so he asks God to reveal that to him.

- a) **very important** to the Egyptians who needed to know the names and identities of at least 42 gods in order to gain admittance to paradise.
- b) Important to the Hebrews to connect Moses' God to the God of their Fathers,
- c) God says, "my name is *I am who I am*"

2. **Meaning:** The Hebrew word *YHWH* (the pronunciation of such word has been lost to us.)

- a) *I am ... YHWH ... Yahweh*
- b) Take the consonants of *YHWH* and the vowels of *Adonai* and we end up with *Jehovah/ Yahovah*
- c) I am ... "Being" ... I am that I am ...

3. God's name emphasizes **five truths** about God:

- a) **First:** God's self existence. God determines His own being and has not been created by another
- b) **Second:** God's complete autonomy. God is both independent of and unaffected by His own creation (world)
- c) **Third:** His eternity. God simply "is." He never "was," nor is He yet to be. For God all time is "now" (present)
- d) **Fourth:** His self-identity, God defines, reveals and determines who He is and how the creation relates to Him.
- e) **Fifth:** His immutability. God is not in the process of becoming something else.

4. How marvelously the *opposite* of all Egyptian gods and goddesses ...

- a) emerging from created matter or created by higher gods or even mankind!
- b) dependent on the service and provision of humans in order to survive and thrive.
- c) each having a beginning; all possibly dying and ceasing to exist.
- d) constantly changing; often reconstructed by mankind.
- e) part animal, part human – given names, shapes and natures in the imagination of men and women.

5. And, grandest of all, this name of *YHWH* is to be God's **covenant name** by which His people are to know Him – forevermore!

God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. (Ex. 3:15)

IV. THE TRUE GOD FORECASTS HIS WONDROUS WORKS (Ex. 3:16-22)

Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a

land flowing with milk and honey.”’ And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.’ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go. And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.” (Ex. 3:16-22)

1. God patiently repeats all this information to Moses ...

- a) The God of our Father has seen, heard and responded to us –

Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, “I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, (Ex. 3:16)

- b) Our God has promised to give us the Land He promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob – Canaan.

and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.”’ (Ex. 3:17)

- c) Israel will listen to Moses and follow him to the Holy Mountain in order to learn how to worship God.

And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.’ (Ex. 3:18)

2. But then he adds three new pieces of information.

- a) Pharaoh will oppose God and refuse Moses

But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. (Ex. 3:19)

- b) God will strike Egypt with repeated acts of both divine power and divine judgment. This will break Pharaoh’s heavy heart and Israel will be freed.

So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go. (Ex. 3:20)

- c) When Israel leaves Egypt they will not go forth as poor slaves but as victors carrying “the spoils of Egypt.”

(1) And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.” (Ex. 3:21-22)

(2) *And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. (Ex. 12:36)*

Conclusion: What God said to Moses, on that Mountain, from that burning bush, on the holy day, remains an astounding message – even to this day, in our times.

1. God is still exposing and shaming the *Idols (gods) of our age; showing us how much we foolishly rely upon magic, myth and manipulation.*

a) *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:21-23)*

b) **Tim Keller** calls these idols “*counterfeit Gods*” (pp. xi-xxiii)

To contemporary people the word idolatry conjures up pictures of primitive people bowing down before statues. Our contemporary society is not fundamentally different from these ancient ones. Each culture is dominated by its own set of idols. Each has its “priesthoods,” its totems and rituals. Each one has its shrines – whether office towers, spas and gyms, studios, or stadiums – where sacrifices must be made in order to procure the blessings of the good life and ward off disaster. What are the gods of beauty, power, money and achievement but these same things that have assumed mythic proportions in our individual lives and in our society? We may not physically kneel before the statue of Aphrodite, but many young women today are driven into depression and eating disorders by and obsessive concern over their body image. We may not actually burn incense to Artemis, but when money and career are raised to cosmic proportions, we perform a kind of child sacrifice, neglecting family and community to achieve a higher place in business and gain more wealth and prestige. What many people call “psychological problems” are simply issues of idolatry. Perfectionism, workaholism, chronic indecisiveness, the need to control the lives of others – all of these stem from making good things into idols that then drive us into the ground as we try to appease them. Idols dominate our lives.

c) **Keller** writes about “the Big Three” – The American Trinity: *money, sex and power.*

(1) **Magic:** money can get you anything you want, even lasting security and happiness.

(2) **Myth:** If I am physically fit, eat a good diet and see enough physicians I can become beautiful, handsome, and live indefinitely. (Cosmetic surgeons can rebuild me so that I’m sexy.)

(3) **Manipulation:** Power can control others, determine the course of life, and even impress God!

d) The God on the Holy Mountain says, “*Not so! And I will show you how worthless these gods really are!*”

2. God is offering each of us eternal life in Paradise if we will believe in Jesus Christ, His divine Son, bring our idols and our sins to Him in repentance, receive as a gift of grace His death on the cross for us, and follow Him.

- a) Jesus has already been judged, not in front of 42 false gods, but by His own Father and on our behalf.
- b) Jesus' heart was consumed by the Devourer – not **Ammut**, but by death.
- c) Jesus was raised to live for you and me – not by **Anubis** but by the Holy Spirit of God.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, (1 Peter 3:18)

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)

3. God calls us every **Sunday** – morning and evening to leave our American Egypt and come to His Holy mountain to worship Him.
 - a) The *Sanctuary* where God does to us what He did to Moses.
 - b) Reveals Himself to us in His Word and speaks to us, face to face.
 - c) Reminds us of His love, concern, care and His covenant faithfulness for His people (The Church)
 - d) Rehearses for us the sacred history from Adam to Jesus, and from Abraham to John.

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:7-8)

- e) *Reorients* our souls and *Recalibrates* our lives with reference to the **Truth** as opposed to magic, myth and manipulation.

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:31, 36)
4. God is ever saying to you and me, “*Bring your hearts heavy with sin, disillusionment and discouragement to Me, and I will set you free!*”
 - a) *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*” (Matt. 11:28-30)
 - b) False gods guarantee only this: *disenchantment*
 - (1) all their *promises* are false.
 - (2) all their *powers* are illusion.
 - (3) all their *predictions* never come to pass.
 - c) All they leave to us is an empty soul and a broken heart.
 - d) Psalm 16:4 – “*The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply ...*”
5. No. God brings us to another place and to Another One –

- a) To this *Communion Table*; to this *Lord's Supper*.
- b) And to His Son, our Lord, *Jesus Christ*.
- c) The only true God, revealed to us in human flesh, the Savior and Judge of all mankind, the only way to God!

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

- 6. **You see!** Our modern world is really not so different from that presented on the overhead screens.
- 7. I don't know about you, but I get dog-tired in my soul, living Monday to Saturday in a world of counterfeit gods.
 - a) magic ... myth ... manipulation,
 - b) I'm soul-hungry for the God of Our Fathers
 - c) And here I can feast on Him, through Christ, in this Supper.
- 8. **I invite you to lay down your idols and join me at this table this morning.**