

WORSHIP GUIDE

A Survey of Church History, Part 48d: John Owen



AS A MEMBER for Oxford University, John Owen sat for Parliament in 1664. Along with with Richard Baxter, he was placed on the committee for settling the “fundamentals” necessary for the toleration promised in the *Instrument of Government*, the document that established the English Protectorate and under which Great Britain was governed from December 1653 to May 1657. As the first detailed written constitution adopted by a modern state, the *Instrument* attempted to provide a legal basis for government after the parliamentary failures in the wake of the English Civil Wars. In effect, it legitimized the power of Oliver Cromwell and his generals.

He was, too, one of the Triers, who were commissioners ‘for the Approbation of Public Preachers,’ established to approve new ministers and those appointed to new livings in parishes or to lectureships maintained out of public funds. But Owen behaved with kindness and moderation in that capacity. As vice-chancellor he acted with readiness and spirit when a general rising in the west seemed imminent in 1655.

During the years 1654-58 his chief controversial works were *Divina Justitia*, *The Perseverance of Saints* (written to answer *Redemption Redeemed* by the Arminian, John Goodwin) and *Vindiciae Evangelicae* (against the Socinians). In 1658 he took a leading part in the conference which drew up the Savoy Declaration.

Owen grew dismayed by the ways in which the Cromwell family, and the administration they led, seemed to turn away from godly values. In 1658, he worked with leading army officers to create a crisis that, he likely hoped, would call the regime back to its earlier ideals. It failed, and instead created the crisis that was resolved by the restoration of the monarchy, the return of Charles II, and the persecution of dissenters that followed. During the Restoration, Owen kept his head down, and, as persecution slackened in the later 1660s, published pamphlets that argued that dissenters were the economic lifeblood of the English nation. But he was chastened by his attempts at political intervention and came increasingly to realize that his focus should be on things eternal.

Owen often changed his mind. As his developing attitudes to political intervention suggest, Owen committed himself to some beliefs and behaviors that he came to regret. In his early years, he changed his churchmanship from Presbyterianism to Congregationalism. He innovated as a Congregationalist, installing as a co-elder and preacher a man who would not be ordained for several years. He argued for the weekly celebration of the Lord’s Supper, though it is not clear that he ever persuaded any of his congregations to practice it. He thought carefully about the end times and came to believe that, in the latter days, a large number of Jewish people would be converted to Christianity and would return to live in the Promised Land. He dismissed a great deal of discussion about the millennium, but became convinced that the binding of Satan had yet to be achieved. Owen changed his mind because he kept on studying the Bible.

Sermon Notes

Guest Minister, Rev. D. Leonard Gulstrom

God is Always Fair!
Job 8

Bildad believes that God always treats man fairly in this life.

I. The Outworking of God’s Fairness, vv. 4-10

A. The Negative Outworking, v. 4

B. The Positive Outworking, vv. 5-7

C. The Evidence, vv. 8-10

II. The Illustration of God’s Fairness, vv. 11-22

A. The Negative Illustration, vv. 11-15

B. The Positive Illustration, vv. 16-19

C. The Conclusion, vv. 20-22



The Lord’s Day Evening

Sunday, September 24, 2023, 4:00 p.m.



The Reverend Mr. D. Leonard Gulstrom, *Presiding*
Ruling Elder Mr. Jonathan Bergmann, *Assisting*

The Silent Preparation

The Announcements

The Greeting and Call to Worship

Psalm 107:1

* **The Hymn of Praise**

O Father, You Are Sovereign

see bulletin

* **The Prooftext and Catechism**

Hebrews 4:9; Westminster Shorter Catechism #57

see Family Worship Guide

* **The Psalm of Doxology**

Psalm 100:1-5 - *Make a Joyful Noise*

Psalm 100D

* **The Pastoral Prayer**

The Old Testament Reading

2 Kings 9:1-15

The New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

* **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

* **The Worship of God with Our Offerings**

* **The Psalm of Adoration**

Psalm 55:16-23 - *But as for Me, I’ll Call on God*

Psalm 55C

The Prayer of Illumination

The Preaching of God’s Word

Guest Minister, Rev. D. Leonard Gulstrom

God is Always Fair!

Job 8

* **The Prayer of Application**

* **The Psalm of Response**

Psalm 96:1-8 - *O Sing a New Song*

Psalm 96A

* **The Benediction**

* **The Extroit**

see bulletin

* — *Please stand as you are able. Following Scriptural principle for public prayer (Neh. 9:2-4, 2 Chron. 20:5-13; Mark 11:25), we follow in the footsteps of the early church and our Presbyterian heritage in standing for most of the public prayers.*

O Father, You Are Sovereign

1. O Father, You are sov - ereign in all the worlds You made;
 2. O Father, You are sov - ereign in all af - fairs of man;
 3. O Father, You are sov - ereign, the Lord of hu - man pain,
 4. O Father, You are sov - ereign! We see You dim - ly now,

Your might - y word was spo - ken and light and life o - beyed.
 no pow'rs of death or dark - ness can thwart Your per - fect plan.
 trans - mut - ing earth - ly sor - rows to gold of heav - nly gain.
 but soon be - fore Your tri - umph earth's ev - ery knee shall bow.

Your voice commands the sea - sons and bounds the o - cean's shore,
 All chance and change tran - scending, su - preme in time and space,
 All e - vil o - ver - rul - ing, as none but Conqu'ror could,
 With this glad hope be - fore us our faith springs up a - new:

sets stars with - in their cours - es and stills the tempests' roar.
 You hold Your trust - ing chil - dren se - cure in Your em - brace.
 Your love pur - sues its pur - pose—our souls' e - ter - nal good.
 our sovereign Lord and Sav - ior, we trust and wor - ship You!

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 E. M. Clarkson, 1982
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ST. THEODULPH. 7.6.7.6.D
 Melchoir Teschner, ca. 1615
 From *The Trinity Hymnal* (Rev.) 1990
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Extroit: Psalm 117

(v.1) 1. Praise give the LORD, you nations all; All peo - ples, praise now bring.
 (v.2) 2. His lov - ing - kind - ness doth abound; His love tow'rd us is sure.

Ex - tol the LORD, you peoples all, Ex - tol Him —praise and sing!
 The LORD's great faith - ful - ness endures For - ev - er —praise the LORD!

CCLI # 473612
 Psalm 117:1-2
 From *The Seedbed Psalter*

AZMON C.M.
 Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829
 From *The Trinity Hymnal* (Rev.) 1990

Church Officers

Session:

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 LeRoy Osborn, ruling elder, clerk
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 Aaron Masters, elder nominee

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 Rick Hunt
 Caleb Henning, clerk
 Rick Weber, moderator
 Jonathan Rogers, diaconal treasurer

FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

Week of September 24, 2023

THE FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE is meant to be a resource for the families of Armor. This reading schedule is designed to take your family through the Bible in chronological order in 2023, so feel free to adjust this schedule to best fit your family. See Jonathan Rogers, one of our deacons, for further details. This schedule assumes that you have the Book of Psalms for Worship and includes this week's bulletin hymns and Psalms which we'll be singing the following week. If you miss a day, just pick up where you left off and catch up another day.

Weekly Memorization:

Hebrews 4:9

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

Westminster Shorter Catechism #57

Q. Which is the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment is, Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Family Worship:

Monday:

Sing: I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art (09/24 AM bulletin)
Read: Neh 4-7
Prayer Request: Mission of the Month: Dilert Regulas

Tuesday:

Sing: O Father, You Are Sovereign (09/24 PM bulletin)
Read: Neh 8-9
Prayer Request: Those who are sick

Wednesday:

Sing: Psalm 29A - You Sons of the gods
Read: Neh 10:1-12:26
Prayer Request: Those in authority

Thursday:

Sing: Psalm 119Q - I've Judged Rightly
Read: Neh 12:27-13:31; Ps 126; Mal 1:1-3:5
Prayer Request: Armor Bible Church, OPC

Friday:

Sing: Psalm 72B - Nomads Will Bow
Read: Mal 3:6-4:6; Luk 1
Prayer Request: Lost friends, coworkers, neighbors, and family

Saturday:

Sing: Psalm 94A - God, the LORD, from Whom Is Vengeance
Read: John 1; Mat 1; Luk 2:1-40
Prayer Request: For the Lord to prepare our hearts for the Lord's Day