

From: Michael Birnbaum

Subject: Living the Word This Week....

For forty-four years of preaching I was always careful to observe one of the "preaching rules" in seminary and that was to resist the temptation to preach on special Sundays sermons not actually based on a Biblical text -- sort of like preaching a "patriotic sermon" on the 4th of July weekend or some other themes that are not part of the actual Church Year preaching schedule.

Sooooo....I decided my last Mothers Day to give in to the temptation of "preaching on Mothers" BUT base it on what the Bible says about how God loves us as a mother -- even more! See sermon notes and outline attached.

I am saddened that its time for me to "hang it up" and retire soon, BUT I am gladdened about how God has prepared us for this amazing opportunity to "go the next step" in creating a FULL TIME ministry here at Living Word. These are good and exciting days!

May the Lord bless, keep, and bring peace to you all in this week to come!

Pastor
(see below)

The Motherhood of God - Notes

God gives birth/begins/creates us

Genesis 1:27 Men and Women created in God's image

"Humankind was created as God's reflection: in the divine image God created them; female and male, God made them."

Deuteronomy 32:18 God who gives birth

"You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth."

Isaiah 42:14 God as a woman in labor

God: "For a long time I have held my peace, I have kept myself still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor, I will gasp and pant."

But the greatest pain of all was sacrificing His son!

God loves us as only a Mother can

Hosea 11:3-4 God described as a mother

God: "Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I who took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them."

Hosea 13:8 God described as a mother bear

"Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and tear them asunder..."

Deuteronomy 32:11-12 God described as a mother eagle

"Like the eagle that stirs up its nest, and hovers over its young, God spreads wings to catch you, and carries you on pinions."

The "mothering God" 's chief job: comforting

Isaiah 66:13 God as a comforting mother

God: "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."

Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34 God as a Mother Hen

Jesus: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"

Psalms 131:2 God as a Mother

"But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me."