

CALL TO WORSHIP

Harpeth Baptist Church

The Old Testament, an overview

Ezekiel

Reintroducing God to His people

Text: The Book of Ezekiel

Responsive reading: Psalm 149

Songs for 8:30 am:

- 115 Love Lifted Me
- 353 Victory In Jesus
- 150 He Lifted Me
- 636 Revive Us Again

Songs for 11 am:

- 27 O Worship the King
- 10 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
His Mercy Is More
- 555 There Shall Be Showers of Blessing

This week's special music

[His Mercy Is More—click to listen](#)

Hymn History

There Shall Be Showers of Blessing

Written in the 1800's by Daniel Webster Whittle, this particular hymn is based upon the scripture found in Ezekiel 34:26-27 which reads *"And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them."*

Daniel Webster Whittle was named after the famous American politician – Daniel Webster. Whittle became a major in the Civil War, and was known as Major Whittle for the rest of his life.

The story of his conversion is a powerful one. Major Whittle lost his right arm in the Civil War and spent time as a prisoner of war. While recovering from wounds incurred during the war, he was in a hospital and came across a New Testament. Although he read it and was convicted by the words, he was unwilling to surrender his life to Christ. One night, an orderly woke him up and

asked him to come and pray for a dying soldier. Whittle initially declined. The orderly told him that he thought he was a Christian because he saw him reading the Bible. Conviction set in and, Major Whittle agreed to go. Here's his testimony about that incident in his own words:

"I dropped on my knees and held the boy's hand in mine. In a few broken words I confessed my sins and asked Christ to forgive me. I believed right there that He did forgive me. I then prayed earnestly for the boy. He became quiet and pressed my hand as I prayed and pleaded God's promises. When I arose from my knees, he was dead. A look of peace had come over his troubled face, and I cannot but believe that God who used him to bring me to the Savior, used me to lead him to trust Christ's precious blood and find par-don. I hope to meet him in heaven."

Following the war, the Major went on serve God in the capacity for which he was called, speaking the message of salvation and bringing the lost into the Good Shepherd's fold.