



NEW LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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“For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 16 No. 27

LORD’S DAY 01 JULY 2012

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Evening Service – 4pm</i>
<i>Prelude</i>	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>	
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Lamentations 3:22–26	2 Samuel 22:31–33
<i>Opening Hymn *</i>	RHC 47 – “Great is Thy Faithfulness”	RHC 184 – “Rock of Ages”
<i>Opening Prayer *</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Gloria Patri *</i>	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 121	2 Thessalonians 1
<i>Second Hymn *</i>	<i>Psalm 121</i> (to the tune of Beatitudo, RHC 472)	RHC 433 – “Am I a Soldier of the Cross?”
<i>Announcements & Memory Verse</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim
<i>Tithes & Offerings & Doxology *</i>	RHC 348 – “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Matthew 17:1–13	Numbers 1:1–4, 45–54; 26:1–4, 52–65
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>Transfiguration of Jesus</i>	<i>Two Censuses of God’s people</i>
<i>Closing Hymn *</i>	RHC 543 – “Face to Face”	Insert – “Lord, Thou Hast Been Our Dwelling Place”
<i>Benediction/3-Fold Amen *</i>	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>The Lord Bless You</i>	<i>May the Grace of Christ Our Saviour</i>

* Congregation Stands

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

Church Theme 2012 – “Have a Mind to Work” – Nehemiah 4:6

BIBLICAL SABBATH – PART 1

The word, *Sabbath*, occurs 137 times in 116 verses in the whole Bible. If we add its plural form, *Sabbaths*, to our counting, the number of its occurrences swells up to 172 occurrences in 147 verses. Out of 147 verses, 55 verses are from the New Testament, while the Old Testament has 92 verses. The book of Leviticus tops the list with 20 verses, which is followed by Luke (17 verses), Ezekiel (15 verses), Exodus (13 times), Nehemiah and Mark (10 verses), Matthew, John, and Acts (9 verses), 2 Chronicles and Isaiah (6 verses), 2 Kings (5 verses), Jeremiah (4 verses), Numbers, Deuteronomy (3 verses), 1 Chronicles and Lamentation (2 verses), and Psalms, Hosea, Amos, and Colossians (1 verse). If we count the occurrence of the word(s), instead of verses, then again, Leviticus tops the list by 27 occurrences, followed by Luke (18x), Exodus and Ezekiel (15x), Nehemiah (14x), Mark and John (11x), Matthew (10x), Acts (9x), and so on. As I begin to look at all the references in which we find Sabbath or Sabbaths, I do not know exactly whether there is or are any different connotations between the singular and the plural uses of Sabbath. In order to find this out, I am going to go through all the references and study the nature and contents of Sabbath(s). First of all, I begin with Sabbaths.

Sabbaths

The plural form of Sabbath occurs 35 times in 33 verses. It may be an interesting study to see whether there are unique features attached to the plural Sabbaths. Though my primary focus is on the day of rest (7th day of the week), the term Sabbaths is also used to refer to the units of seven year terms. For example, Leviticus 25:8 says, "And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years." Sometimes Sabbaths were used to count the days to determine the religious calendars, as we can see from Leviticus 23:15, "And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete."

First, every occurrence of *Sabbaths* is in the Old Testament only, not even once does it occur in the New Testament. Second, the most frequently used verb in relation to *Sabbaths* is *to keep* (Exodus 31:13; Leviticus 19:30; 26:2; Isaiah 56:4). It also gives us a sense of man's duty to God. Leviticus 19:3 says, "Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I *am* the LORD your God." Third, when *Sabbaths* is related to or used in the possessive case, it is related to God. God calls Sabbaths as "my Sabbaths" (Exodus 31:13; Leviticus 26:2; Isaiah 56:4; Ezekiel 20:12, 16, 20, 21, 24; 22:8, 26; 23:38; 44:24). Leviticus 23:38 says, "Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD." There is a phrase, "the Sabbaths of the LORD." Fourth, there are various activities done on the Sabbath: (1) Offering of burnt sacrifices to the Lord (1 Chronicles 23:31; 2 Chronicles 2:4; 8:13; 31:3; Nehemiah 10:33; Ezekiel 45:17) and (2) worshipping the Lord (Ezekiel 46:13). Fifth, there are two groups enjoying the Sabbaths: (1) the people of God (basically most of the references talk about the Sabbaths keeping by the children of Israel), and (2) the land (Leviticus 26:34, 35 [implied], 43; 2 Chronicles 36:21). Sixth, *Sabbaths* must be hallowed or sanctified. Ezekiel 20:20, "And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I *am* the LORD your God" (cf. 44:24). By keeping Sabbaths holy, we do give due recognition to God. Seventh, it also indicates that *Sabbaths* may be profaned. (1) Enemies of God mock the Sabbaths (Lamentation 1:7). (2) God's Sabbaths are polluted (Ezekiel 20:13, 16, 21, 24; 22:8; 23:38). Eighth, there are a few things related to the act of profaning the *Sabbaths*. Ezekiel 20:16, "Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols." Ezekiel 20:24, "Because they had not executed

my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols." Ezekiel 22:8, "Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths." Often the religious leaders lead their people to profane the Lord's Sabbaths. Ezekiel 22:26, "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed *difference* between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them." Neglecting the Lord's sanctuary is related to profaning the Lord's Sabbaths. Ezekiel 23:38, "Moreover this they have done unto me: they have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my sabbaths." This lesson may be related to the negligence of the Lord's day corporate worship.

Nineth, *Sabbaths* represent a few important truths in the Bible: (1) it is a sign between God and His people, and (2) it leads the people of God to worship Him. Exodus 31:13, "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it *is* a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that *ye* may know that I *am* the LORD that doth sanctify you." (3) It leads the people of God to cherish His sanctuary. Leviticus 19:30, "Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I *am* the LORD." Tenth, only formal and nominal observance of the Lord's Day does not please God. The Lord says in Isaiah 1:13, "Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; *it is* iniquity, even the solemn meeting." Eleventh, profaning the Lord's Sabbaths provokes God's wrath. Ezekiel 20:13, "But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which *if* a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them." The spiritual condition of the people who had polluted the Lord's Sabbaths was that they were spiritually rebellious against God and did not walk in God's ways and despised God's judgment. We must not be confused as if being religious means being always spiritually right. It is possible that we are still religious, though we are spiritual rebels. The children of Israel did not deny God but rebelled against Him. One indication of their spiritual corruption was not to keep the Sabbaths holy. Twelfth, one of the ways God punishes His people is to remove the privilege to sanctify the Sabbaths. It may surprise some Christians who have not kept the day of the Lord holy. They must have thought that keeping or not keeping the day of the Lord holy is in their power. However, it is not so. Lamentations 2:6, "And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as *if it were* of a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the LORD hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest." Hosea 2:11, "I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts." When we do not cherish the Lord's Sabbaths, He will cause them to cease. Thus, not keeping the Lord's Sabbaths is a part of divine punishment. Therefore, while we have opportunities to worship on the Lord's Days, we ought to be diligent in His service and His worship. Lastly, keeping the Lord's Sabbaths holy is a blessing from the Lord, and when the Lord rules over us, we will sanctify His Sabbaths. Ezekiel 44:24, "And in controversy they shall stand in judgment; *and* they shall judge it according to my judgments: and they shall keep my laws and my statutes in all mine assemblies; and they shall hallow my sabbaths." Thirteenth, I hope that Sabbaths are not just God's but ours, too. Leviticus 26:35 says, "As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it." There is a phrase, "your Sabbaths," and I hope and pray that we will gladly take the Lord's Sabbaths as ours and sanctify them.

Lovingly,

Your Pastor

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our **worship services** begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK	WELCOME
<p>Fri 6 July No Young Adults Fellowship</p> <p>Sat 7 July Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 4:00pm <i>“Eschatology” – Rev Timothy Ki</i></p>	<p>We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord’s Day. We like to welcome Steven Ashley and Noel Brown to our worship services last Lord’s Day.</p>

Next Lord’s Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD’S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Rev Timothy Ki	Rev Timothy Ki	<u>TODAY: 01/07/2012</u> <i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan <i>Organist:</i> Joy <i>Pianist:</i> Jasmine <i>Ushers:</i> Alan / Evelyn <i>Sunday School:</i> Alan / Joy <i>Lunch:</i> Mrs Ki <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Lee Wei
Message	Focus of Faith	Sin of Complaints	
Text	Matthew 17:14–23	Numbers 13:25 – 14:38	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Pre-Lunch Bible Study: Pastor Ki will continue the study on “Anthropology” – The Doctrine of the Man • Mid-Week Bible Study: Held this Wednesday, 4 July, at 10:30am • Lord’s Supper: We will be observing the Lord’s Supper next week. Please come with hearts prepared. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Eld Ford, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Mrs Ki, Lai Kheng, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Elizabeth, Tom, Venise • Pray for those on travel: Sonia, Nana, Daniel, Maureen, John, Sharon, Tobias, Anthony, Helen, Yang Fan, Hannah, Lee Wei • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Michelle • Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology: 3rd - 5th July 2012. Theme: “Living & Walking in the Holy Spirit” 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 08/07/2012</u></p> <p><i>Chairman:</i> Alan <i>Organist:</i> Joy <i>Pianist:</i> Jasmine <i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Constance <i>Sunday School:</i> Jonathan / Joy <i>Lunch:</i> Mrs Ki <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Lee Wei / Scott</p>
<p>Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £394.31, Lunch: £38.90</p> <p>Attendance - Morning: 22 (A) 2 (C), Evening: 17 (A)</p>	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 24

Q: How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A: Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Comments:

A prophet is a man who declares the will of God; and we are here told that this is what Christ, as our prophet, does for us. He does so by his Word, for the whole Bible is his; but inasmuch as the mere reading of the Bible is not sufficient of itself to make a man wise unto salvation, he likewise bestows his Holy Spirit, that so the Word may profit those who hear it.

Proofs:

Hebrews 1:1-2, John 16:13

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
<p><i>“So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.”</i></p> <p>Nehemiah 4:6</p>	<p><i>“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.”</i></p> <p>Psalm 119:1</p>	<p><i>“Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.”</i></p> <p>Psalm 119:2</p>