



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. 19 No. 08

LORD’S DAY 22 FEBRUARY 2015

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Isaiah 61:10-11

Psalm 89:1-5

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 31 – “*Blessed Be the Name*”

RHC 22 – “*When All Thy Mercies, O My God*”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 108

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 108 verses 1-6
(to the tune of Lloyd, RHC 563)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 558 – “*We Plough the Fields*”

Scriptural Text

Colossians 3:1-4

Judges 5

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Carl Martin

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

Your New Identity in Christ

The Curse of Meroz

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 318 – “*Blessed Assurance*”

RHC 406 – “*Who Is on the Lord’s Side?*”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Dr Carl Martin

Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

* 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 2015 – “Build a God-Honouring Family” – Joshua 24:15b

From the pastor's heart...

WAITING ON GOD – PART 14

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 7th December 2014

Isaiah 8:17, *“And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.”*

This particular waiting upon the Lord implies that there are many complexities in waiting on God in terms of the time and reason for waiting on God and the person who is waiting. In order to understand this complexity, we need to understand the historical and spiritual background of the given passage, Isaiah 8.

Historical background of Isaiah 8

First, this chapter is uniquely important between chapters 7 and 9. It is because chapter 7 is famous with verse 14, which says, “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel,” and chapter 9 with verse 6 which says, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” These two verses are the most significant messianic prophecies we have known from the Scriptures. Chapter 8, our study chapter, is between these two spiritually charged chapters.

Second, this chapter is a part of the first part of the book of Isaiah (chapters 1-39). It has been a well known fact that the book of Isaiah is easily divided into two parts (1-39 and 40-66). The first part basically deals with Israel’s sin and God’s judgment oracles, while the second part is of the promises of Israel’s future restoration. The verse we are studying is a part of the sin and judgment section. Therefore, waiting on God in 8:17 is related to historical circumstances in which Israel suffered.

Third, more specifically, Isaiah 7:1 offers us a clear historical event related to the study passage: “And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up toward Jerusalem to war against it, but could not prevail against it.” There was an unholy alliance between Syria and northern kingdom of Israel against Judah, whose king was Ahaz. God gave a specific and assuring message to the king through the prophet Isaiah in 7:4 and 7, “And say unto him, Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted for the two tails of these smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin with Syria, and of the son of Remaliah. . . .⁷ Thus saith the Lord GOD, It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass.” The Lord even offered him signs as a token of the certainty of the promise. This message from the Lord was a promise of His help and protection. However, King Ahaz was not a man of faith. As a result, there is a pronouncement of God’s judgment in 7:17, “The LORD shall bring upon thee, and upon thy people, and upon thy father's house, days that have not come, from the day that Ephraim departed from Judah; even the king of Assyria.”

Fourth, a judgment of God was impending against Judah. The Lord will deal with Syria and Israel that will result in their defeats and destructions. However, their disappearance from the horizon did not mean that Judah was safe. Because of her unbelief and rebellion against God, He Himself would bring judgments upon them. The enemy that Judah now had to face was God Himself! God would bring the Assyrians as His instrument to punish Judah,...

and the severity of it would be incomparable. God was going to use Assyria, as a barber uses a razor, to completely humiliate her as in 7:20. He continually spoke of the coming judgment in chapter 8. 8:13 is the heartbeat of the warnings God gave to Judah, which says “Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.” God was the One they had to fear.

Time(s) to wait on God

Isaiah says in 8:17 that God hid His face from the house of Judah. There are a few implications in the description that God hid His face from His people. (1) It is an expression of God’s displeasure over His people. (2) It also means that God did not show His favor to them at this particular time. (3) It is not an expression of God’s negligence of His people. In His displeasure, He showed Himself differently, not as a benefactor but as a divine Judge. Therefore, the times when God hides His face from His people are the times of His divine punishment, if not at least His testing times.

Reason(s) to wait on God

What should the people of God do when God does not deal with them favorably or hides His face from them? Isaiah says in 8:13-14 that they should sanctify the Lord of hosts Himself, because He is the sanctuary they need. “Sanctify the Lord of hosts Himself” is translated as “But the LORD of hosts, him you shall regard as holy” (ESV), “It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy” (NAS), and “The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy” (NIV). When the people of God are in danger and threatened, what they need is safety. Where can they find such a safe place? In the face of dangers from men, God is their sanctuary. In the face of God’s divine judgment, where should they go to? It is also God who is their sanctuary. He is the help, safety, and security they need. God is our refuge and sanctuary. That’s why we must wait on Him.

Person(s) to wait on God

Most of the times we wait on God because of our personal needs. There are times when our needs are immediate but have not been met. There are times when we are facing calamities because of various reasons, in which we cannot but turn to God. However, if we read Isaiah 8:17 carefully, we will see a bigger picture on this matter. It is clearly Isaiah who is waiting on God in this verse. However, if we have to find a righteous man in the land of unbelieving Judah, it was Isaiah. Why did he have to be the one waiting on God? It is not necessarily because of his personal needs (though in his spiritual life he wanted to see a better and righteous Judah, which could be understood as personal needs). He was waiting on God on behalf of his people, Judah. We may say that Isaiah walked in the glory of His countenance, but Judah did not. God hid His face from her. Though Isaiah’s fellowship with the Lord was continued, Judah had lost that connection because of her sins. They did not wait on God. If they had waited on Him, they would not suffer His judgment. For their sake, Isaiah waited on Him. This thought leads us to consider our spiritual ministry. If we find a brother or sister whose spiritual walk is not in the light, we ought to wait on God for him/her. If we find any ministry in our congregation misguided and misled and requires corrections and supplements, we ought to wait on God for it. If we know that God is displeased with anything and anyone, we are the ones who should wait on God. It is a kind of intercessory ministry. The Lord Jesus in glory is interceding for us. Maybe waiting on God for someone or something is a spiritual ministry we must engage ourselves with. We may wait on God for our nation, government, leaders, churches, missionaries, and the list may be endless.

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
Thurs 26 Feb 7:00pm Bible Study - Study on the book of Mark	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Shu Yi and Serene to our worship services last Lord's Day.
Sat 28 Feb 4:00pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting - Study on the book of Nehemiah	

Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Dr Carl Martin	Dr Carl Martin	<u>TODAY: 22/02/2015</u>
Message	Developing Your New Lifestyle in Christ	When Sorrow Gives Birth to Joy	
Text	Colossians 3:5-9	John 16:20-24	

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor & Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Patricia, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Elizabeth, Jonathan's father, Sarah, Matthew • Pray for expecting mothers: Sharon, Magdalene. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana. • Pray for those on travel: Margaret, Rachael, John, Fung, Jiak Eng, Heidi, Daniel & Maureen, Sharon & children, Anthony • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Pr Mok's visa application. • Ladies Fellowship: Meeting will be held after lunch. • Carry-In Lunch: A special thank you to all who have contributed to the carry-in lunch today. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEXT WEEK: 01/03/2015</u></p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Keene Pianist: Matthew Ushers: Tom / Margaret Sunday School: No Sunday School Lunch: Carry-In Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott</p> <p>Chairman: Jonathan Organist: Anthony Pianist: Ernest Ushers: Daniel / Evelyn Sunday School: Hannah / Rachel Lunch: Volunteers Washing Up: Volunteers PA Crew: Scott</p>
<p>Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £301.00, Lunch: £28.28 Attendance - Morning: 22 (A) 2 (C), Evening: 12 (A) 1 (C)</p>	

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 56

Q: What is the reason annexed to the Third Commandment?

A: The reason annexed to the Third Commandment is, That however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet THE LORD OUR GOD will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.

Comments:

The special warning here held out to us is, that although men may permit us to break this commandment with impunity, yet God will assuredly not do so. *He* will not fail to judge us.

Scriptural Reference:

Deuteronomy 28:58-59

MEMORY VERSE

		Next Week
<p>Last Week</p> <p><i>“And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”</i></p> <p>Matthew 7:23</p>	<p>This Week</p> <p><i>“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.”</i></p> <p>Matthew 10:32</p>	<p><i>“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord...”</i></p> <p>Joshua 24:15</p>