



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. 23 No. 19

LORD’S DAY 12 MAY 2019

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 100

Psalm 24:7-10

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 16 – *“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”*

RHC 2 – *“O Worship the King”*

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 7

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 7:1-6
(to the tune of Azmon, RHC 61)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 390 – *“Something for Thee”*

Scriptural Text

Isaiah 40

Acts 17

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Marco Reale

Mr Marco Reale

Sermon Message

The Comfort of God

The Unknown God

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 347 – *“Under the Care of My God, The Almighty”*

RHC 32 – *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Mr Marco Reale

Mr Marco Reale

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.

INTERPRETING THE OLD TESTAMENT AND ITS PROPHECIES

Adapted from Covenant BP Church Weekly, 17th February 2019

We've been studying the book of Isaiah in the Adult Bible Class and the book of Joel in the main service.

These are prophetic books - and sections of them are often apocalyptic in nature - meaning, they deal with the end of the world. They also have imagery that is wild and fantastical. Some people have interpreted these literally, literarily, and figuratively. It has led to many different conclusions as to how the world will end.

As a church, we are Premillennial. This means that we believe that many of the prophecies will be fulfilled in a literal way.

However, we are also Reformed. This means that we see a spiritual fulfilment of many of these prophecies as well.

Christ is building his kingdom. It is present already. In Luke 17:21, Jesus said that the kingdom of God is present in his believers. But at the same time, he taught the disciples to pray that God's kingdom come to earth and his will would be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

Similarly, Christ is exalted and has subdued all things under his feet - but at the same time, not everything is subdued under his feet.

Hebrews 2:8 - *"Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him."*

This is the principle called - "already and not yet."

So as we interpret the Old Testament prophecies, some have been fulfilled in a spiritual way - but the ultimate and complete fulfilment happens when Christ comes again and ushers in, not only his millennial kingdom on earth, but the new heavens and new earth.

Therefore as Reformed Christians, we should take note of important ways to interpret the Scripture.

The New Testament Must Interpret the Old Testament.

God gives revelation progressively. When he preached the gospel to Adam, Eve, and Satan - he revealed that it would be the seed of the woman who would crush Satan's head.

But this progressed. It would be from the line of Shem that this savior would come. And it would be from Abraham's seed, the line of David, who would be this savior - God born of a virgin, in Bethlehem!

And the New Testament reveals to us and clarifies to us what the Old Testament means.

When Jesus spoke to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, he taught them a new way of interpretation. In Luke 24:27, he showed them how he fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies.

This is why Christ is the centre of the Old Testament. The Old Testament is about Jesus - his sufferings and his triumph.

If we interpret the Old Testament by seeing Christ, then we will understand the thrust of the Old Testament. And that is important - because we see the principles rather than taking every passage and word out of the context of Christ.

This certainly prevents us from reading prophecy and omens into every predictable and common astronomical event that happens.

The Old Testament Speaks to Us As Well the Original Hearers

Some of these prophecies had a very real and immediate application. The threat of judgment concerned their sins and the promise of deliverance was meant to comfort them - even though the deliverance could have been in the far distant future.

Old Testament Prophets Did Not Always Understand Their Prophecies and Fulfilment

In Daniel 8:27, we learn that Daniel didn't understand how the vision would be fulfilled. *"And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it."*

Similarly, Zechariah also didn't understand. Zechariah 4:13 - *"And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord."*

Old Testament Prophets Did Sometimes Understand Their Prophecies and Fulfilment

While Daniel may not have understood the various kingdoms that would come - who they would specifically be - after Babylon; yet he did know the characteristics of these kingdoms.

Similarly, there were things that were so clear about the coming of Christ that even those in New Testament times could understand the Old Testament because the prophecies were very plain.

It was clear that Micah understood where the Christ would be born - in Bethlehem - and not just any Bethlehem, but the one in Judah.

When Abraham heard the prophecies, he knew that there would be a Christ who would come to provide sacrifice. And Abraham rejoiced at it.

While many things were hidden, they were finally revealed by Christ. And while many things were hidden, there were things that were as clear as day.

Conclusion

So as we read the Old Testament, especially the prophetic books, it is dangerous for us to think that we can go beyond the knowledge of the prophet and the clear interpretation of the New Testament on the Old Testament to explain with certainty how many of the Old Testament prophecies will be fulfilled.

And how unfortunate that with every predictable astronomical event, we will be filled with fear or exultation. Rather, we should find comfort and joy in the promise of Christ and the message of the gospel in the Old Testament.

- Rev Mark Chen

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our **worship services** begin promptly at **11.00 am and 3.00 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
Sat 18 th May	No Bible Study & Prayer Meeting		We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We do hope that you have a blessed time of worship on this day.
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Afternoon Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<i>Preacher</i>	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	<u>TODAY: 12/05/2019</u> <i>Chairman:</i> John <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Venise <i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Jonathan <i>Lunch:</i> Jonathan <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Jason <u>NEXT WEEK: 19/05/2019</u> <i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan <i>Organist:</i> Anthony <i>Pianist:</i> Anthony <i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Yetta <i>Lunch:</i> Tom <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers <i>PA Crew:</i> Jason
<i>Message</i>	TBC	TBC	
<i>Text</i>	TBC	TBC	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School: Sunday School for young children and toddlers will be held at 1:45pm. Please invite friends and family to attend. • Church Pulpit Ministry: Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for the calling of Mr Mok Chee Cheong to become our resident minister. • Pray for the forthcoming preachers: May-June – Mr Stephen Toms, Mr Marco Reale, Mr Charles Scott-Pearson, Rev Patrick Baker, Dr David Allen. • Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology 2019: 2nd-4th July 2019. The theme this year is "<i>The True Dynamism of the Local Church</i>". Please see Jonathan or John for more information. 			
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £1111.70, Lunch: £41.00, Maintenance Fund: £100.00 Attendance - Morning: 31 (A) 10 (C), Afternoon: 16 (A) 10 (C)			Church Maintenance Fund Total: £4,910.50

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 64

Q: What is required in the Fifth Commandment?

A: The Fifth Commandment requireth the preserving the honour, and performing the duties, belonging to every one in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals.

Scriptural Reference:

Colossians 3:20; Ephesians 5:21

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week	This Week	Next Week
"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:" 1 John 5:14	"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Colossians 3:16	"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;" 1 Corinthians 15:3