



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. 26 No. 23

LORD’S DAY 05 JUNE 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 98:1-4

Psalm 99:1-3 & 9

Opening Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 64 – “Jesus, the Sinner’s Friend”

RHC 65 – “And Can it be That I Should Gain”

Responsive Reading

Psalm 7

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 7 verses 1-2, 9-11
(to the tune of RHC 38 Martyrdom)

Scriptural Text

James 1:2-4

Proverbs 28:13

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

The Benefits of Tested Faith

Man’s Worthless Covering and God’s Perfect Covering

*Closing Hymn **

Insert – “When Fears Arise and Trials Oppress”

RHC 293 – “Jesus, thy blood and righteousness”

Benediction/3-Fold

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

*Amen **

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.

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.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 11

Q: What are God’s works of providence?

A: God’s works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures and all their actions.

Comments:

The power of God is quite as necessary to maintain the world as to make it. We cannot live of ourselves. It is *in God* that all things live, and move, and have their being. And so this answer informs us that God not only created everything, but that he cares for his own glory.

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 6:26, Proverbs 16:9, Psalm 103:19

JEHOVAH RAPHA

Exodus 15:22-17:16

In this lesson, we learn what it means to trust in the Lord by looking at the difficulties Moses and the Israelites faced as they made their way from Egypt, through the wilderness, and eventually to Canaan.

After the water at Marah was made sweet for the Israelites to drink, God said, “If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee.” (15:26). Just as He healed the water, you see, He’s going to heal them.

“I *am* the LORD that healeth thee.” gives us a new name for God: *Jehovah Rapha*. This is what we would call a progressive or growing revelation. First of all they learned that God is Jehovah, that is, the great I AM, the powerful God who was going to conquer the Egyptians and bring His people out of Egypt. And now that they are in the wilderness, they have to learn that this powerful and delivering God is also the God of healing, the God who is going to take care of them each step of the way in the wilderness.

After this incident at Marah, they came to a place called Elim, which was about a day’s journey further on into the Sinai. The commentator Charles Erdman wisely writes that this part of the story involving Elim is there to remind us that the Christian life is not entirely a desert journey and that it often leads through green pastures and beside the still waters.¹ Elim is not yet Canaan. They’re not yet in the Promised Land. There are going to be a lot of hard times to come. But nevertheless it is an oasis along the way and it is a way of saying that God does provide these arbors on the hill of difficulty, these oases of refreshment in the parched surroundings in which we live. Haven’t you found that to be true? You go through a hard time and then there’s an oasis that God gives you, and it’s meant to refresh your spirit and help you along the way.

The second major incident occupies all of chapter 16, which is the provision of the manna and quail. Its importance is seen, not only in the fact that it is told in detail in one whole chapter, but it’s mentioned again and again throughout the Bible (Num. 11; Deut. 8; Josh. 5; Neh. 9; and in the Psalms; also in the New Testament, John 6; Heb. 9; and Revelation).

Now this chapter begins with a very interesting time reference. It tells us in verse 1 that they camped at this place in the desert on the fifteenth day of the second month after they’d come out of Egypt. That’s meaningful because you will recall that they had left Egypt on the fifteenth day of the first month, exactly one month later. The month before they had this miraculous deliverance, and now one month later they’d forgotten all about it. They’d had victory over the Egyptians who were going to kill them. Now they are hungry and they’re complaining again.

There are lessons about grumbling here for us. One is that when the people are grumbling against Moses and Aaron it is not really against them, but against the Lord. When we grumble, we are grumbling against God. As Christians, we know this is not good. So what we do is grumble about our circumstances. We somehow think that we are safe in doing that, forgetting that it really is against God because it is God who gives the circumstances. What we find again and again is that

when these hard times come into our lives, God is giving these circumstances in order to test and train us.

God did provide for them in two ways when they were hungry. He provided quail, which are little birds, and He provided manna, which is this bread-like substance that they found on the ground in the morning. The manna was an utter miracle. There's nothing that can explain that. The quail, on the other hand, are a natural phenomenon. People who know this area of the world say that great flocks of these birds come down from the Mediterranean into Africa in the winter, and in the spring they make their way back up north. As these quail fly these long distances, they become so exhausted that people can almost pick them off the ground. Apparently that's what happened. The wind, which was of God, blew them over in the direction of the Israelites in the spring.

The arrival of the manna was very different. The Bible tells us that it was white, like coriander seed, tasted like a wafer with honey. The Israelites didn't know what it was; they had never seen anything like it. Some commentators have tried to explain it naturally, suggesting that it came from an insect that secretes a honey-like substance, or perhaps it was a kind of lichen that grows on rocks about the size of a pea. I don't find these or any other natural explanation convincing. The people had this manna wherever they went during their wilderness wandering; it appeared on the ground every morning except the Sabbath for those the forty years. It had to be a miracle from God! The people saw this thing, and they had never seen anything like that before. They saw it and asked in Hebrew, מַּנָּה, meaning, "What is it?" That's where they got the word manna.

Study Questions:

1. After the provision at Marah, by what name does the Lord reveal Himself, and what does it mean?
2. What is the significance of the brief mention of Elim?
3. What is the second major incident from our passage?
4. What is the fundamental problem with grumbling?

Application: Do you tend to grumble when things are not going the way you would like? Purpose to stop grumbling, and replace that with a deeper trust in the Lord's sovereign wisdom and power.

Key Point: What we find again and again is that when these hard times come into our lives, God is giving these circumstances in order to test and train us.

Adapted from *Think and Act Biblically*, by James Boice is a devotional of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals

¹ Charles R. Erdman, *The Book of Exodus: An Exposition* (New York: Revell, 1949), 77.

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begins with the **Pre-Worship Prayer Meeting** at **10:15 am** followed by the **Worship Services** at **11.00 am and 3.00 pm**. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Worshippers, we extend a warm welcome to you this Lord's Day. We hope that you have a blessed time of worship with us today.

For those unable to attend Church in person, we are streaming our worship services online. To join our online services or for more information, please call the church manse, or email us at [admin 'at' newlifebpc.org.uk](mailto:admin@newlifebpc.org.uk).

Tithes & Offerings – There will be an offering box at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary for you to place your offerings in.

After-Service Fellowship – Join us for lunch fellowship after the morning worship service. Please bring your own lunch as only drinks will be provided.

Worship Service Collections: Last Sunday - £571.39, Maintenance Fund: £100.00

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £8,800.50

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

2 Peter 1:10

This Week

“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.”

Proverbs 25:2

Next Week

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

James 1:5

Pre-cautions for Worship Services held at the church premises:

With the lifting of the legal Covid restrictions on 24th Feb 2022, we will continue observing the following precautions:

- No offering collection during the worship service. Offerings can be made at the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- Temperature measurements will still be taken for every worshipper and visitor for the time being. We continue to urge those who feel unwell (especially with Covid symptoms) not to come to the church services but join us at our online services.
- During worship services, please continue to sit with your own households.
- As per the current government advise, we suggest you use a face covering when attending the services. Please bring your own face covering.

To join our online services or for more information, please visit the church website (www.newlifebpc.org.uk) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,
Task Force Members