



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. 19

LORD’S DAY 08 MAY 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 68:3-4 & 19

Psalm 71:22-23

Opening Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Opening Hymn *

Insert – “Amazing Grace”

RHC 25 – “The Lord is King”

Responsive Reading

Psalm 3

Second Hymn *

Psalm 3
(to the tune of RHC 38 Martyrdom)

Scriptural Text

1 Peter 5:7

Proverbs 14:14

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

A Remedy for All Anxiety

The Way of A Backslider

Closing Hymn *

Insert – “O Jesus Christ, Grow Thou in Me”

RHC 273 – “Jesus, I come”

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 7

Q: What are the decrees of God?

A: The decrees of God and his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Comments:

The decrees of God are *his purposes*, or *what he has from eternity determined to do*. And this answer tells us that God has so appointed everything that comes to pass. Nothing happens by chance. Everything is arranged upon a plan, and that plan is the plan of God. He makes all things work together for good to them that love him, and for evil to them that hate him.

Scriptural Reference:

Isaiah 40:13, 14, Romans 8:28, Matthew 10:29

WHEN THE TRUE GOD IS ABANDONED

(Exodus 6:28-10:29)

This week, we are going to look at the battle by which the Jews were freed from their slavery in Egypt. But I want to begin by saying that there is an enormous gulf between the way a secular historian would look at this and the way the Bible does. Secular historians might look at in a variety of ways, of course. Some would be inclined to see history as the acts of great men, and would say, "Well, this is a case of a marvellous leader, a man of great charismatic ability and faith and integrity and vision. And it was through the force of his personality that the people were brought out." Somebody who is more inclined to think in terms of mass movements of people through the consolidation of the will of a vast number would say, "Well this is a people movement. Here were a vast number who, in this ancient culture, began to get a taste of what freedom was all about. They wouldn't rest until they really obtained it."

That's very different from what the Bible says. The Bible does not give credit to Moses, although he was a great leader. And it certainly doesn't speak of a people movement, because the people had lost any ability to dream of freedom. They were beaten down and crushed. But the Bible speaks of it instead as a battle between God, the true God, and the various gods of Egypt.

There are a number of verses that tell us this. Exodus 18:11 contains Jethro's words to Moses. Jethro, who was his father-in-law, said, "Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly." Jethro understood it as a struggle against the gods. You find the same thing in Isaiah 19:1, "See, the LORD rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt. The idols of Egypt tremble before him..."

I suppose the greatest text of all is Numbers 33:3-4, which Moses also wrote: "*And they (Israelites) departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians. For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments*" Now that text is a very clear statement that the struggle was between God and the gods of Egypt. And because the polytheism of Egypt was backed by the demonic forces that are in line with Satan, this really was a battle of God against the demons, and Satan who was their leader. It was a battle that was fought with great intensity. But in the end the people were set free, and the idols and gods of Egypt were revealed to be absolutely nothing. Jehovah, the God of Israel, was declared to be clearly the one and only God.

We will understand this better if we understand a little bit about Egyptian religion. The point to start with is to recognise that it was a degenerate religion. There's been a great tendency among anthropologists who study religions to see a religious evolution of the race, generally expressed along these lines. The first tribes in their ignorance were animists. What that means is that they saw gods in every object around them. There was a god of the tree and the god of the stream, and the god of the sky, the god of the rain, and so forth. This animism then developed into what's called polytheism. This is

still at times animistic, but it goes beyond that because sometimes polytheistic gods transcend the mere objects. As this religious evolution continues, polytheism then rises to become monotheism, where one great god stands over all the other gods, or where you have one god alone. This then becomes a kind of ethical humanism, which is probably the kind of religion that most of the scholars have when they trace this upward path, thinking of themselves as being at the top.

Now that's not the picture the Bible gives. The Bible says that polytheism was actually a declension from an original monotheism. And it's kind of interesting that a number of scholars today are beginning to say this very thing. There's a great anthropologist from Germany, Wilhelm Schmidt, who said that all the evidence really points to the belief in one god from whom and from which these early tribes have departed. In other words, people worshiped the gods of nature because the gods of nature were closer to them. They came to fear those gods, and ceased fearing the God who stands behind nature.

However, if you look at Romans 1, you'll find that the history of the race is that God has revealed Himself clearly in nature so that anyone can know Him. But because we don't like the God who is there to be seen in nature, we turn our faces from Him. And instead of that God, other things rise up to take the true God's place. What Paul describes in the first chapter of Romans, although he is not talking about Egypt exactly, certainly describes this ancient Egyptian polytheism. He writes, *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."* (1:20-23).

That certainly describes the religion of Egypt. As a matter of fact, the polytheism of Egypt was so deeply entrenched in the common lore and belief of the people that the only attempt in all the long history of Egypt to break away from polytheism and establish monotheism was done by Amenhotep IV, who became known as Akhenaten, during the eighteenth dynasty. That was repudiated immediately after his death, so much so that they even obliterated his name from the monuments that had been carved during his particular reign.

Study Questions:

1. How might secular historians account for the deliverance of the Israelites from their Egyptian oppressors? What does the Bible say is the real explanation?
2. Contrast how some anthropologists view the movement of religious ideas with what Scripture declares.

Reflection:

Reread Romans 1:20-23. How do we see this idolatry being practiced in our own time and place?

- adapted from *Think and Act Biblically* from James Boice, a devotional of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals

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, with the legal Covid restrictions lifted both Worship Services will be held in the Church Premises.

Please continue to use face coverings in the church out of consideration for all worshippers and as per government advice.

For those unable to attend Church in person, we will continue to stream our services online.

If you require the link to our online zoom services or have any queries, 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.

Worship Service Collections – 01/05/22 - £366.00, 24/04/22 - £625.00

Church Maintenance Fund Total: £8,600.50

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

1 Peter 3:12

This Week

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”

Proverbs 11:30

Next Week

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

1 Peter 5:6-7

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

With the lifting of the legal Covid restrictions on 24th Feb 2022, we will be following the precautions listed below until further notice:

- No offering collection during the worship service. Offerings can still be made at the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- Temperature measurements will still be taken for every worshipper and visitor. We must urge those who feel unwell with Covid symptoms not to come to services until tested.
- During worship services, please continue to sit with your own households.
- We strongly recommend face coverings to be worn in the church out of consideration for all worshippers and as per government advise. For young children under the age of 11, the use of face covering is optional. Please bring your own face covering.
- From 6th March onwards, access to non-essential areas of the church (e.g. the Fellowship Hall and kitchen) will be made available. Please bring your own lunch as Fellowship Lunch is still suspended. Drinks will be provided.

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