



# 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. 39

**LORD’S DAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2022**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### *Morning Service – 11am*

### *Afternoon Service – 3pm*

**Prelude**

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 28:7-9

Psalm 21:1, 5 & 13

**Opening Prayer**

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

**Opening Hymn \***

RHC 27 – “Now Thank We All Our God”

RHC 26 – “Come, Thou Fount”

**Responsive Reading**

Psalm 23

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**Second Hymn \***

RHC 345 – “The Lord is my Shepherd”

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**Scriptural Text**

Exodus 16:4

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

**Pastoral Prayer**

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

**Sermon Message**

**Bread From Heaven**

**Faithful Stewardship**

**Closing Hymn \***

RHC 348 – “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

RHC 466 – “Go Labour On”

**Benediction/3-Fold**

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

**Amen \***

**Postlude**

*The Lord Bless You*

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\* **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 27**

**Q: Wherein did Christ’s humiliation consist?**

*A: Christ’s humiliation consisted in his being born and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miserics of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the CROSS; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.*

Comments:

Humiliation means coming down from a high rank to a low. Christ did so for us. He descended from his throne in heaven, and became a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. In this answer we are told the various particulars in which his humiliation consisted. It consisted: 1. In being born; 2. In being born poor; 3. In being subject to the law; 4. In suffering the sorrows of life; 5. In suffering the hiding of God’s countenance; 6. In being crucified; 7. In being buried; 8. In remaining in the grave for three days. All these things were borne by Christ, and on our behalf.

Scriptural Reference:

Luke 2:7, Matthew 27:46, Philippians 2:6-8, Matthew 12:40

# OPPOSITION FROM WITHOUT

**Scripture: Numbers 23:19-20**

In this week's lessons, we look at the evil plan of Balak and Balaam, and discover how God uses a pagan prophet to speak of good things to come for God's people, both now and in the distant future.

**Theme: What Balak Wanted**

One of the mistakes we often make as Christians, especially young Christians, is to think that if we are on the right path with God, we won't have any opposition and that everything is going to be smooth sailing. Not only is that not the case, it's almost always the opposite. The more we're following after Jesus Christ, the more opposition we will have, because the world and the devil are opposed to Him. And to the extent that we are on His side, the world and the devil will be opposed to us, too. We ought to expect that, because when you look at the Bible, there was never anybody who was more on the right path than Jesus Christ. Yet the author of Hebrews writes, "Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart" (Heb. 12:3).

The Israelites haven't been perfect, neither was their leader, as we have seen. But they are on the right track, moving in the right direction. They are trying to follow the leading of the Lord, and the whole book of Numbers has been filled with various stories of opposition. Up to this point the opposition has all been internal. Now it becomes external.

The first part is the story of Balaam, who was a pagan prophet hired by Balak, the king of Moab, to curse the people (Numbers 22). Balak's thinking has an element of humour. The idea of a pagan king hiring a pagan prophet to stand against the people that God has blessed is simply ludicrous. God had called them out of Egypt with mighty miracles; He had led them, two million people, through the desert; He kept them alive in the wilderness for nearly forty years, giving them food and water and defeating their enemies; and He had brought them to the very border of the promised land. And here is this petty king hiring this petty prophet to try and resist what God is doing.

This is humorous, although it doesn't seem that way when you are going through the battle. We can see this humour only when we realise that Satan and the world opposing us are just as ludicrous when the Almighty God of the Jews is on our side. We are going to persevere to the end because God perseveres with us. It's ludicrous to think that anyone could stand against the Church of Jesus Christ. It doesn't mean that the world and Satan don't succeed at times; God's people do fall into sin, as we will see here.

Now here is the thinking that was going on in the mind of Balak. He had been defeated earlier by the Amorites, who had taken away his cities. Now the Israelites had come out of the desert and defeated the Amorites. He put two and two together and concluded that if he wasn't strong enough to stand against the Amorites, and if the Amorites weren't strong enough to stand against this horde that's come out of the desert, then obviously he's not strong enough to stand against them either. Furthermore, Balak had gotten

reports that two of his northern neighbours, Sihon and Og, had also been defeated by the Israelites.

Balak didn't know that God had forbidden the Jews to attack Moab. (We don't know this either until Deuteronomy 2:9). Balak thought that two million people are simply going to overwhelm his kingdom, and the only thing he could think to do in circumstances like that was to appeal for supernatural aid. He remembered that there was a prophet named Balaam, who lived near the Euphrates River — quite a distance away — who, if the reports were right, was really successful in his blessings and curses. When Balaam blessed somebody, they seemed to be blessed, and if he cursed them they seemed to be cursed. Balak thought this was who he needed, so he sent for him:

*Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me: Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed” (Num. 22:5-6).*

From this, we ought to think back to some of the things that God said to Abraham when He had first called him: *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” (Gen. 12:3).* The language used by Balak is similar, as this pagan king approaches Balaam to curse the Israelites.

### **Study Questions:**

1. Why is Balak concerned about the Israelites?
2. Who is Balaam, and why does Balak approach him?

**Reflection:** What opposition do you encounter for being a Christian? What opposition is internal, and what is external?

*Extracted from Think and Act Biblically by James Montgomery Boice is 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, 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 - £144.38

**Church Maintenance Fund Total:** £9,340.50

## MEMORY VERSE

### Last Week

*“And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light: to go by day and night.”*

**Exodus 13:21**

### This Week

*“Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.”*

**1 Corinthians 3:13**

### Next Week

*“The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.”*

**Exodus 15:2**

## 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](http://www.newlifebpc.org.uk)) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,  
Task Force Members