



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. 28 No. 49

LORD’S DAY 08 DECEMBER 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Opening Hymn *

RHC 227 – “O Glorious Day”

Opening Prayer

Joey Seow

Responsive Reading

Psalms 129

Second Hymn *

Psalms 129

(to the tune of Ballerma, RHC 343)

Scriptural Text

Nehemiah 3:1-15

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Sermon Message

Making a Difference

Closing Hymn *

RHC 182 – “Lead Me to Calvary”

The Lord’s Supper

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Rev Lim Chee Boon

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 34

Q: What is adoption?

A: Adoption is an act of God’s free grace, whereby we are received into the number – and have a right to all the privileges – of the SONS OF GOD.

Comments:

*Adoption denotes the taking of a child who is a stranger into a family, and treating him as a member of it. Such is the adoption meant here. It too, like justification, is an act of pure favour on God’s part, and confers blessings to which we had lost all claim. It confers upon us both the *rank* and *rights* of children, and makes us feel that we have both a *place* and a *portion as sons* in God’s family.*

Scriptural Reference:

1 John 3:1, Romans 8:17

Dear brethren, we begin a 3-part article entitled "Christmas Prophecies in the Old Testament" written by Rev Matthew Abrahams. This was originally published in Lively Hope (the bulletin for Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church, Australia).

Christmas Prophecies in the Old Testament (Part 1)

The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the most significant moments of human history. Often the birth of Jesus and the first Christmas recorded in the gospels is only viewed as a 2000-year-old event. As we approach this Christmas season, let us remember that Christmas did not begin with infancy narratives in the Gospel of Matthew or Luke. Christmas didn't start in Bethlehem or Jerusalem. The real Christmas story was God's idea which goes way back before the foundation of the world. God who is love had crafted a love story through the beautiful gift of Christ His only begotten Son. Ephesians 1:4 declares this beautiful truth. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love". It was God's eternal plan before the foundation of the world to send Jesus to save His people from their sins.

Yes, Christmas was God's idea. Christmas was not God's second thought. In fact, the Christmas story begins before the beginning of the earth. The prologue to John's Gospel further points to this truth, Christ the divine Logos before the beginning of time. Based on the Gospel of John verses 1:1-3 and John 1:12, we learn about the eternal sonship of Christ and His human incarnation. Christ, who dwelled in heaven above with all His glory, is the one who became flesh and dwelt among us. This incarnation of Christ is the beautiful Christmas story, ordained before the foundation of the world.

God's chosen people Israel longed to see the Messiah's birth. For centuries believers read the prophecies in the Old Testament regarding the first Christmas and looked forward to the Messiah. Their wait was long, which carried through many centuries continuing all the way to Jesus' birth. The testimony of Simeon in Luke 2:24-30 gives us a clear example. Simeon held the baby Jesus and proclaimed he had seen his Saviour and David's Lord. New Testament authors and Jesus himself highlighted this truth. Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad." "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:56, 58b) "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. (John 5:46) In John 5, verse 39, Jesus asked the disciples to "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

Jesus is not only the fulfilment of all the Old Testament prophecies concerning Him, but He is also the perfect fulfilment of the law and the prophets -- the entirety of the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus did a Bible study with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:27). Those two disciples were downcast because of Jesus' death. He wanted them to see God was working out a plan and that plan had not changed from the beginning. Jesus showed the other disciples the same incredible truth. "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law

of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.” (Luke 24:44). Jesus is the central figure not just of the New Testament but also the Old Testament.

For the next three weeks, we will look into the prophecies concerning Jesus Christ's first coming in the Old Testament. Scholars have counted roughly around two hundred and forty such prophecies concerning the first coming of Jesus. Let me highlight a handful of such prophecies.

Let's begin with Genesis 3:15, which is the first prediction in the Bible about the birth of the Lord Jesus. This prophecy speaks of His birth, and it also speaks of the purpose of His birth which is to die and ultimately defeat Satan. Genesis 3:15 is known theologically as the protevangelium, the first promise of a coming Redeemer for Adam's fallen race. God curses the serpent (Satan) in Genesis 3:15 which is a foretelling of what will be the history of humanity. While uttering a curse upon the serpent, God also prophetically announces the first promise of the gospel. The gospel is spoken in Scripture for the first time from the Creator and Redeemer himself.

Genesis 3:15 mentions two seeds: “thy seed and her seed” – the seed of Satan and the seed of the woman. The prophecy here concerns “the seed of the woman” not “the seed of man”. The seed, all through history, is always traced through the male line, with one exception to the rule – Jesus Christ. Christ was born without a human father being the “seed of the woman”. When Jesus was born to virgin Mary, God fulfilled the prediction. Galatians 4, verse 4 reminds us of this fulfilment too. “But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.” Note also Isaiah 7:14a, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Matt 1:23 and Luke 1:27 reveal the virgin birth, and as shown, the revelation of this miracle goes back to Genesis 3:15. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ is a fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith.

Christ is the seed of the woman, and in Genesis 3:15, and He will one day crush Satan. “And I will put enmity between thee (the serpent) and the woman, and between thy seed (the serpent) and her seed (the woman); it (the woman's seed) shall bruise thy (Satan) head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” In this prophecy, a descendent from the seed of women would crush the serpent's head. At the cross, our Savior's heel was bruised, but Christ will ultimately destroy Satan's head at the Second Coming of Christ. The hostility and struggle which begins in Genesis 3:15 goes all the way to the revelation. The seed of the woman will give the accuser of the brethren and father of lies, Satan, a fatal blow, he will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10).

Genesis 3:15 places us in one of two categories. You belong either to the seed of the serpent or to the seed of the woman. To which group do you belong today? Without Christ, you are without hope (Eph. 2:12). Christmas season is a reminder of the blessed hope through Christ Jesus. Christmas reminds of God's agape love for the fallen, sinful man. Let us praise His name and worship whenever we think of Christmas - God's eternal love for us through Jesus.

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begin with the **Worship Service** at **11.00 am** followed by a **Bible Study & Children's Sunday School** at **1:30pm**. 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 worshipping with us today.

For those unable to attend Church in person, please join our Worship Service and Bible Study on our live-stream via YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@NewLifeBPCLondon>

We thank God for providing Rev Lim Chee Boon to minister to us for the entire month of December and early January.

Lord's Supper, 8 December – We will be observing the Lord's Supper today.

Tithes & Offerings – The offering box is located at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary.

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

Afternoon Bible Study – Rev Lim will continue the study from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Children's Sunday School – held after the After-Service Fellowship at 1:30pm.

Christmas Service, 11am on 25 December – Please join us for our Christmas service. We will have a carry-in lunch. Please inform Mark if you would like to contribute a dish.

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there."

Nehemiah 1:9

This Week

"Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work."

Nehemiah 2:18

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

Dear all,

When attending the church Worship Service and Bible Study, we will continue to observe the following precautions:

- We continue to urge those who feel unwell (especially with Covid symptoms) to stay home and join us online.
- Please place your offerings in the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- During worship services, please continue to sit with your own households.

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