



# 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. 50

LORD’S DAY 15 DECEMBER 2024

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### *Morning Service – 11am*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

1 Chronicles 16:23-31

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 5 – “Command Thy Blessing From Above”

*Opening Prayer*

Jonathan Kim

*Responsive Reading*

Psalm 130

*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 130*

(to the tune of *Beatitudo*, RHC 63)

*Scriptural Text*

1 Samuel 30:1-19

*Pastoral Prayer*

Rev Paul Hanna

*Sermon Message*

*Spiritual Precepts for difficult times*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 130 – “I Waited for the Lord My God”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Rev Paul Hanna

*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 35

**Q: What is sanctification?**

*A: Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the IMAGE OF GOD, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.*

Comments:

*Sanctification* means making a person holy. It is here said to be a *work*, because it is done, not at once, but gradually, and a work of *grace* because it proceeds from God’s undeserved goodness, and is wrought in us from first to last by his own Spirit. It consists in our being made *like to God* – that is, in gradually learning to hate and cease from sin, and to love and practise holiness; and this is called a *renewing*, because it is restoring us to the state in which we were at first.

Justification, adoption and sanctification are thus seen to be all necessary to salvation. In justification, the sinner is pardoned; in adoption, he is brought into the family, in sanctification, his is cleansed from all sin.

Scriptural Reference:

Titus 3:5, Ephesians 4:24, Philippians 3:13-14, Proverbs 4:18

Dear brethren, we continue the 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 2)**

Jesus Christ is the only one who has fulfilled all of the Old Testament Messianic Prophecies. Last week in Christmas Prophecies in the Old Testament Part 1, we covered one of the key passages in Genesis 3:15. The book of Genesis also covers a few other prophecies concerning Jesus’ lineage and birth.

In Genesis 22:18, we have reference to another seed, the “Seed of Abraham”, from whom the Lord will bless the nations. We also find this prophecy mentioned in Genesis 12:3 and 18:17,18. These verses are some of the promises of the Abraham Covenant. God chooses one-person Abraham, who will bring blessings to all nations. Through the promised seed of Abraham, God will bless His people. Here the focus is not on the Jewish people but a seed of Abraham pointing to Christ. We know this for sure because Paul mentions this prophecy in Galatians 3:16: “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” Jesus is the descendant of father Abraham and the fulfilment of all of this promise.

The genealogies in both Matthew 1 and Luke 3 directly trace the roots of Jesus to the patriarch father, Abraham. “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham ...” (Matthew 1:1). Do you know this blessed news that Christ is the Seed of Abraham is a blessing to us? “And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:29). We are also children of God through our faith in Jesus, and this makes us spiritual descendants of Abraham and co-heirs of all the promised blessings. Scripture also prophesies that the Messiah would be born of the descendants of Isaac (Genesis 17:16,19; 22:18). The Jewish people, God's chosen race, are descendants of Isaac, not Ishmael (Gen 17:19). The ancestry of Jesus in the New Testament is through Isaac, the son of promise. “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ...the son of Abraham. Abraham begat Isaac ...” (Matthew 1:1-2).

In Genesis 28:14 and Numbers 24:17-19, we find another exciting prophecy concerning Jesus’ birth. The family tree, by God's sovereign choice, made Christ a direct descendant of Jacob and not his elder brother Esau. Paul mentions the election of Jacob as significant in Romans 9:13: “Jacob, have I loved, but Esau have I hated.” Just like what God promised Abraham and Isaac, God tells Jacob at Bethel, “In thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 28:14; 35:11). Luke 3:23-34 confirms that Jacob is Jesus' ancestor, a fulfilment of Genesis 28:14. Such Christmas prophecy fulfilment is also a reminder to undeserving great sinners like us to be ever grateful for God's sovereign mercy and call.

The Old Testament also records in Numbers 24:17-19 an uncommon prophecy linking Jesus to the star that comes from Judah. It is unusual because it is given by an unbelieving pagan named Prophet Balaam. All of Balaam's prophecies show God's blessings on Israel. But amid this one, he introduced “a Star out of Jacob” and “a Sceptre... out of Israel.”. “I shall see him, but not

now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel . . . . Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion” (Numbers 24:17, 19). Is this talking about the star of Bethlehem that the wise magi came seeking? Many scholars think so. But one thing is sure, a strong deliverer would arise from the line of Jacob. Christ's first coming is part of this fulfilment as mentioned in Luke 1:33: “And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

In Genesis 49:8-10, it is also prophesied that Jesus will be born of the tribe of Judah. Jacob has twelve sons out of which we have Israel and 12 tribes. But the future king of Israel will come from only one tribe - the tribe of Judah. One of the reasons why God did not handpick Saul is because he was from the tribe of Benjamin. God's choice was David, who is from the tribe of Judah. The prophecy in Genesis 49 holds out the promise that the divinely intended king will come from Judah and have dominion over the Hebrew people; the right to rule remains in that line until “Shiloh” comes. Only Jesus Christ can fulfil this. In the New Testament, Jesus is not only the descendant of Judah (Matthew 1:1-3), but in Revelation 5:5, he is called “the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.” “And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.” (Revelation 5:5)

According to the Old Testament prophecy in 2 Samuel 7:12-13,16, out of the Seed of David, a kingdom will rise that will last forever. In this prophecy, the Messiah had to be a direct descendant of King David. But God was blessing David and the Davidic covenant is pointing to the seed of David - Jesus. Christ, the royal heir to the eternal throne of God, the seed of the woman, the seed of Abraham, is also the seed of David. “And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.... And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever.” (2 Samuel 7:12-13,16)

God promised David a dynasty and his reign is the apex of the kingship rule in Israel. One of the David seed will establish a kingdom forever. In both Matthew 1 and Luke 3, we see genealogies of Jesus tracing His lineage back to David. Jesus is born the descendent of King David (2 Samuel 7:12-13; Isaiah 9:7; Jeremiah 23:5; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:25-30). The angel said Jesus would take this throne forever (Luke 1:31-33), and Peter said it was to be fulfilled in Christ (Acts 2:30).

When we look at the Old Testament, He is the coming Messiah. In the gospels, Christ has come and dwelt among us. And in the New Testament 'Christ is coming again soon'. There you have the story of the Bible. It's all about our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. He is coming. He has come. He is coming again. May the Lord grip our hearts this Christmas with His eternal love and cause us to use this occasion to give thanks, honour and worship to Christ.

# 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 Paul Hanna to minister to us this Sunday.**

**Do continue to pray for Rev Lim Chee Boon as he minister to us for the month of December and early January.**

**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 Hanna will lead the study entitled “*She hath done what she could*” from Mark 14:1-9 & Romans 12:1.

**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

*“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**

### This Week

*“And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.”*

**1 Samuel 30:6**

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

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,  
Task Force Members