



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

44 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6NN

Charity No. 1060655

Tel: 020 7328 0869 (Manse)

Email: newlifebplondon@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.newlifebpc.org.uk

Supervisory Pastor: Rev Lim Chee Boon

Email: pastor@newlifebpc.org.uk

“For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 28 No. 51

LORD’S DAY 22 DECEMBER 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Micah 5:2-4

Opening Hymn *

RHC 172 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Opening Prayer

John Poh

Responsive Reading

Psalm 131

Second Hymn *

Psalm 131

(to the tune of Bradford, RHC 214)

Scriptural Text

Nehemiah 4:1-23

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Sermon Message

Overcoming Discouragement

Closing Hymn *

RHC 145 – “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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 36

Q: What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A: *The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God’s love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.*

Comments:

Here are five blessings enumerated for us, which, in this life, necessarily either go along with or flow from the three just described. They who are justified, adopted, and are being sanctified, enjoy for that reason: 1. Confidence that God loves them; 2. Freedom from the sense of guilt and fear of condemnation; 3. Gladness of heart in feeling that the Holy Spirit is dwelling in them; 4. A greater and greater increase of spiritual endowment; 5. The power of persevering in the enjoyment of all these graces to the end.

Scriptural Reference:

1 John 4:16, Romans 5:1-2, Romans 15:13, Philippians 1:6

Dear brethren, we conclude 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 3)

Propheesied in the Old Testament from Genesis onwards is the glorious incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us consider some Christmas prophecies from the book of Isaiah forward.

In Isaiah 7:14, we have another classic text of Christmas in the Old Testament. God's promise given in Genesis 3:15 and later to David is further revealed in this passage. The seed of women and seed of David is pointing to a virgin birth. Isaiah was making a prophecy about a young woman who is a virgin, and by the miracle of God, has a virgin conception and will give birth to the Messiah. The virgin conception and birth of Messiah are fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Even though this prophecy is given in a particular situation during King Ahaz's days, it is only fulfilled 700 years later in the New Testament. Matthew, the gospel writer, applied this prophecy to Mary and Jesus, which leaves no doubt of its fulfilment (Matthew 1:22; Luke 1:34-38). Mary is the virgin prophesied by Isaiah, and Jesus is the child. When the angel stated this virgin conception truth to Mary she was baffled as she had not had relations with any man. "Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God....For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:34-37). It was a miracle. The virgin birth is a fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith. The virgin-born Jesus is the only Savior.

In Isaiah 9:6-7 Scripture proclaims that the Messiah would not only come as a child but also as God and King. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:6-7). You will notice here that Isaiah's prophecy begins by speaking of a child that is born but ends up with a description of His kingship, His glorious reign. These two images of Christ must always be in our thoughts at Christmas. Christmas is not just about Jesus's birth as Jesus is no longer a baby, no longer a child. He is the great almighty King, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is entirely man "for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...", and he is altogether God as called here "mighty God, The everlasting Father".

And this virgin-born child in Isaiah 9:6 is called by beautiful names fitting the character of Jesus Christ aptly. Prophet Isaiah describes for us the nature of this child. Jesus is the wonderful counsellor as he is wiser than Solomon and has unfathomable and incomparable wisdom and knowledge. Jesus is also the Mighty God described in Isaiah 9:6. Jesus himself said to the disciples, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30). The nature of God, the father and Jesus is the same. The Messiah is all-powerful, holy, living, true God, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. Jesus is God Himself, and He is able to save all who believe in

Him. He is also called "everlasting Father". His beginning is from eternity, and He is a loving, tender provider and protector. Jesus is full of grace and truth. And as apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 8:15-18, we too in the Spirit of God call him Abba Father. Jesus indeed is also the "prince of Peace". He gave us peace with God (Romans 5:1) and even the peace of God. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27. Do you feel helpless and confused in this world? Seek the wonderful counsellor. Are you carrying a heavy burden alone? The Mighty God is your strength. He is able to save all who believe in Him. Do you feel insecure and like no one cares? The Eternal Father will never leave you or forsake you. Are you anxious and restless? Trust in Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Now in Isaiah 11:1-10 we also have this branch prophecy, which is a crucial Messianic prophecy in the Old Testament. Jeremiah's prophecy in Jeremiah 23 verse 5, also mentions the coming of the branch. It's an important theme or term that is used for the coming Messiah. "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord;" God gave a sign of promise to His people here in Isaiah 11. The branch from a stump prophecy is about the Lord Jesus Christ who will restore all things to perfection like that during the garden of Eden.

Many prophecies also describe the nativity scene in the Old testament. The nativity scene and location of Matthew 2:11 where Christ would be visited by distant kings who would bow down and bear gifts is prophesied in Psalm 72:10-11. "The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him."

The horrific and sad story of innocents slaughtered by King Herod the great in Matthew 2:16-18 is prophesied in Jeremiah 31:15 "Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not."

Even details like Christ would have to flee to Egypt as described in Matthew 2:13-15 is the fulfilment of the prophecy in Hosea 11:1, "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt."

In the prophetic book Micah 5:2, Micah 700 years ahead of time pinpoints the location of where He would come from in Judah — Bethlehem — the little village outside of Jerusalem. "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2). Both the learned men like the magi and the ordinary people like shepherds knew that the Messiah would come from this small Judean town (Matthew 2:4-8; John 7:42). And, indeed, so it happened (Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7).

Christmas prophecies in the Old Testament reveal to us all about Jesus. He is the only begotten Son of God, the One who is the seed of the woman, descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, of the royal line of King David. He is the wholly sinless man born by the supernatural act of God and fully Almighty God, born of the virgin Mary, born in Bethlehem, the only one Messiah. Christ who fulfils all the Christmas predictions in the Old Testament is our Saviour and Lord.

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 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 thank Rev Lim for providing today's lunch.

Afternoon Bible Study – Rev Lim will lead the study from 1 Thessalonians. This week, we shall cover Chapter 5, Vs 1-11.

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

“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

This Week

“So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.”

Nehemiah 4:6

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) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,
Task Force Members