



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. 34

LORD'S DAY 25 AUGUST 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1-2

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 31 - "Blessed be the name"

Opening Prayer

Joey Seow

Responsive Reading

Psalm 119:105-112

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 119 verses 105-112

(to the tune of Ballerma, RHC 130)

Scriptural Text

1 Samuel 14

Pastoral Prayer

Eld Foong Kon Yu

Sermon Message

Victory

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 406 - "Who Is on the Lord's Side?"

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Eld Foong Kon Yu

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

* *Congregation Stands*

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

THE LORD BLESS YOU

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 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 19

Q: What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

A: All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell for ever.

Comments:

We are here taught the extent of the misery which has come upon us through Adam's sin. We are told that we have, in consequence, no longer that intercourse with God which Adam enjoyed, but are living under his displeasure, and therefore exposed to all the sorrows of this life, the pangs of death, and the pains of hell for ever. This is the condition in which we all are by nature; and, unless God had taken pity on us, this is the condition in which we should all have remained.

Scriptural Reference:

Isaiah 59:2, Ezekiel 18:4, Genesis 3:17, Psalm 9:17

PREACHING ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Perhaps only few have heard of this message preached by King Abijah who was also known as Abijam. (1 Kings 15:1-8; 2 Chronicles 13). He was not godly nor a preacher yet he delivered a very God honouring message in a very unlikely place and time. Now when King Solomon died his son, Rehoboam, became the king of Israel. Jeroboam who was in charge of building and construction then rebelled and with the support of 10 other tribes wanted to become the king in place of Rehoboam. He fled to Egypt when pursued for his treachery and later became the king of the North Kingdom after the death of King Solomon thus fulfilling God's warning to Solomon that Israel would be split into 2 because he worshiped other gods of his wives. The North Kingdom was called Israel while the South was called Judah. Rehoboam died after reigning for 17 years and Abijah took over as king of Judah. However, Jeroboam was still the king of Israel (North Kingdom).

Jeroboam assembled an army of 800,000 soldiers to war with Judah. (the South Kingdom). Abijah had only an army of 400,000. Jeroboam's army was superior in that they were "men of valour". Jeroboam was a war veteran whereas Abijah was still wet behind his ears. He had not fought in any war before. At the battlefield Jeroboam's army surrounded Abijah's from both the front and lay ambush from the back. Judah was outnumbered, out-manoeuvred, and outclassed. Victory for Jeroboam was a sure thing. Instead of ordering a retreat or surrender, Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim and preached. Who would in the right frame of mind preach during a raging battle? Abijah did! He bravely faced the bigger enemy by preaching that the Israelites from the north were wrong to turn away from God.

He reminded the enemies that Jeroboam was a rebel who turned against the king appointed by God and led his people away from worshipping the Lord. He then made 2 golden calves in Israel (placed in Bethel and Dan) to prevent his people from going to Jerusalem to worship at the tabernacle. Abijah preached against the worship of these calves and that the people also betrayed everything decent and sacred according to the teaching of God. Abijah said the Jeroboam may be the victor in rebelling against Rehoboam, a mere man but now the army have sinned and was going into battle with the Lord Himself because they worshipped the 2 calves and idols instead of God.

"Remember that you (the Jews) have a God who took special care of you above all people. Why should you depend on such poorly elements as the golden calves and idols?" He pleaded with the enemies (soldiers from the north) to repent and to turn to God again. They were indeed fighting against God and not against the army of Abijah. They replaced the Levite high priests whom God appointed with

any person who were in the good books of the king or the people. Their priests were randomly picked and not true to God. They have turned against God indeed. 2 Chronicles 13:12 *And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.*

Brethren, Repent! As God spoke to the Jews then, He is speaking to us today. Turn to God again else He will turn against you. Only God can give you victorious living. Fighting against God is like knocking eggs at the stones. The result is obvious. It is fearful if God is not on your side. With God you are on the winning side. Romans 8:31 *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

Your trust in golden calves and idols is useless and have zero effects. Money and talents meant nothing if God is absent from your life. God recorded Abijah's preaching for our benefit. We are to learn from every word that God writes in the bible. Read 2 Chronicles 13 again.

Abijah's words fell on deaf ears! God then delivered victory to Abijah. He and his soldiers asked God for help. They struck 500,000 soldiers of the Israelite army dead! All because of a single reason; that Abijah and his army called upon the Lord to help. 2 Chronicles 13:18 *So Judah defeated Israel on that occasion because they **trusted in the LORD**, the God of their ancestors.* Jeroboam never recovered from the defeat and neither did he repent. From a human stand point it was impossible for Abijah to win against an army double the size of his. God honoured the preaching of Abijah though he was not a true repentant man himself.

Brethren there is no way that anyone can battle against God. He may allow "temporal victory". God is long suffering and patient to let you have time to return to His call. That is the reason He lets you have your way for a while. Soon you will find emptiness in life. He is waiting with doors opened to receive the prodigal son. Did you listen to the words preached by Abijah? Have you really paid attention to God's words?

Eld Foong

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begins with the **Worship Service** at **11.00 am** followed by a **Bible Study** 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 of worship 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 Eld and Mrs Foong to serve in London for the past 2 month. Do pray for them as they will be returning to Singapore on 29 August.

Tithes & Offerings – There is an offering box at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary for you to place your offerings in.

Children's Sunday School – held after Morning Service at 1:30pm.

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 – Eld Foong be presenting the mission work of Calvary B-P Church.

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people."

1 Samuel 12:22

This Week

"Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy."

Micah 7:18

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