



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 17 February 2019

Theme for the Year: "Strength in Weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	3 - <i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	James 4:1-12
Hymn	TP 37:1-9
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Joel 3:1-21
Hymn	84 - <i>Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"King Jesus Destroys and Redeems"
*Closing Hymn	492 - <i>I Love Jesus, Hallelujah!</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	
Announcements	<i>*Congregation standing</i>

†Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen.

††Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 10:00 am
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

Website: www.covenantbpc.org.au

Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Interpreting the Old Testament and Its Prophecies

We've been studying the book of Isaiah in the Adult Bible Class and the book of Joel in the main service.

These are prophetic books - and sections of them are often apocalyptic in nature - meaning, they deal with the end of the world. They also have imagery that is wild and fantastical.

Some people have interpreted these literally, literarily, and figuratively. It has led to many different conclusions as to how the world will end.

As a church, we are Premillennial. This means that we believe that many of the prophecies will be fulfilled in a literal way.

However, we are also Reformed. This means that we see a spiritual fulfillment of many of these prophecies as well.

Christ is building his kingdom. It is present already. In Luke 17:21, Jesus said that the kingdom of God is present in his believers. But at the same time, he taught the disciples to pray that God's kingdom come to earth and his will would be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

Similarly, Christ is exalted and has subdued all things under his feet - but at the same time, not everything is subdued under his feet.

Hebrews 2:8 - *"Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him."*

This is the principle called - "already and not yet."

So as we interpret the Old Testament prophecies, some have been fulfilled in

a spiritual way - but the ultimate and complete fulfillment happens when Christ comes again and ushers in, not only his millennial kingdom on earth, but the new heavens and new earth.

Therefore as Reformed Christians, we should take note of important ways to interpret the Scripture.

The New Testament Must Interpret the Old Testament.

God gives revelation progressively. When he preached the gospel to Adam, Eve, and Satan - he revealed that it would be the seed of the woman who would crush Satan's head.

But this progressed. It would be from the line of Shem that this savior would come. And it would be from Abraham's seed, the line of David, who would be this savior - God born of a virgin, in Bethlehem!

And the New Testament reveals to us and clarifies to us what the Old Testament means.

When Jesus spoke to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, he taught them a new way of interpretation. In Luke 24:27, he showed them how he fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies.

This is why Christ is the center of the Old Testament. The Old Testament is about Jesus - his sufferings and his triumph.

If we interpret the Old Testament by seeing Christ, then we will understand the thrust of the Old Testament. And that is important - because we see the principles rather than taking every passage and word out of the context of Christ.

This certainly prevents us from reading prophecy and omens into every

predictable and common astronomical event that happens.

The Old Testament Speaks to Us As Well the Original Hearers

Some of these prophecies had a very real and immediate application. The threat of judgment concerned their sins and the promise of deliverance was meant to comfort them - even though the deliverance could have been in the far distant future.

Old Testament Prophets Did Not Always Understand Their Prophecies and Fulfillment

In Daniel 8:27, we learn that Daniel didn't understand how the vision would be fulfilled. *"And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it."*

Similarly, Zechariah also didn't understand. Zechariah 4:13 - *"And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord."*

Old Testament Prophets Did Sometimes Understand Their Prophecies and Fulfillment

While Daniel may not have understood the various kingdoms that would come - who they would specifically be - after Babylon; yet he did know the characteristics of these kingdoms.

Similarly, there were things that were so clear about the coming of Christ that even those in New Testament times could understand the Old Testament because the prophecies were very plain.

It was clear that Micah understood where the Christ would be born - in Bethlehem - and not just any Bethlehem, but the one in Judah.

When Abraham heard the prophecies, he knew that there would be a Christ who would come to provide sacrifice. And Abraham rejoiced at it.

While many things were hidden, they were finally revealed by Christ. And while many things were hidden, there were things that were as clear as day.

Conclusion

So as we read the Old Testament, especially the prophetic books, it is dangerous for us to think that we can go beyond the knowledge of the prophet and the clear interpretation of the New Testament on the Old Testament to explain with certainty how many of the Old Testament prophecies will be fulfilled.

And how unfortunate that with every predictable astronomical event, we will be filled with fear or exultation. Rather, we should find comfort and joy in the promise of Christ and the message of the gospel in the Old Testament.

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 85. What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (17.2.19)	Next Week (24.2.19)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Jerome Ng
Welcomers	Johnny & Lydia Orchard	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	Chris Budiman, Rex Sriharan Jansen Ng, Ken Chong	Steven Lim, Vincent Chiu Yen Fye Yap, David Pang
Ushers	Joyce Ng, Wendy Gong	Jesslyn Leow, Angela Yap
Kitchen Duties	Helen Wong*, Ken Hong Rosemary Fitzpatrick	Grace Wang*, Val Withnell Jenni Budiman
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>22 February 2019</i>	<i>1 March 2019</i>
Chairman	Jacob Woo	Mark Chen
Pianist	Mark Chen	Ian Tay

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "Suffering from God's Perspective" (2 Corinthians 1:1-11).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "A Shut Door, an Open Heart, a Locked Prison" (Acts 16:6-25). Speaker: Chris Budiman.
4. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 26 February 2019, 10am. Message by Pastor Mark: "Sola Scriptura." Potluck lunch after meeting.
5. Church Prayer and Planning Day, today immediately after the service.
6. Bible Conference 2019. Dates: 22-25 April 2019. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Theme: Strength in Weakness. Speaker: Pastor Steven Tan. Registration forms available at foyer. Payment by cash, cheque or direct deposit to CBPC General Fund: BSB: 036-031, Acct: 316942, Ref: BC(Surname)(Initial). Any enquiries, please contact Micah Chiang or Vincent Chiu.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
<p>WED 10:00 am Craft Group</p> <p>FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p>General Fund - \$3,987.05 (*DD - \$1,200.00, #847 - \$600.00, #848 - \$180.00). Missions Fund - \$150.00. Building Fund - \$300.00 (*DD - \$300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,437.05.00. Attendance - 121.</p> <p>*DD: direct deposit</p>

Repayment of Building Fund

Next Payment: 1 June 2019	Total Paid To Date: \$130,000.00
Target: \$50,000	To Be Paid by 2025: \$310,000.00
Current Balance: \$43,748.04	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.

Johnson Lim 0402 145 682. Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.