

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 11 July 2021

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: Exodus 1-2

“GOD REMEMBERED HIS COVENANT”

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL IN EGYPT

There was a time when the children of Israel fared well in ancient Egypt. Joseph was the right-hand man of the Pharaoh. Under his leadership Egypt prospered. The children of Israel were allowed to dwell in Egypt and they were even given a special land of their own called Goshen (Genesis 46:28-34).

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MEDITATION

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A DRASTIC CHANGE

Years passed, and a new Pharaoh now sat on the throne. He saw the children of Israel as a security threat to Egypt. Policies began to change and in time Israel became slaves to the Egyptian masters!

ISRAEL GROANED UNDER SLAVERY

The children of Israel had no recourse to justice except to cry out to the Lord their God.

²³ Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. ²⁴ So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged *them*. Exodus 2:23-25

1. Bondage

- a) Twice it was mentioned
- b) The children of Israel had become slaves!

2. Groaning

- a) Again, twice this was mentioned
- b) The children of Israel could not help but groan

GOD'S RESPONSE

How did God respond to the cries of the children of Israel? Four things were carefully noted.

1. Hearing prayers

God heard their groaning (prayers were offered)

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MEDITATION

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2. Remembering the Covenant

He remembered His covenant with the patriarchs
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Cf. Genesis 12, 15, 17 etc.)

3. Looking

God looked upon the children of Israel

4. Acknowledgment

He acknowledged them. He will care for the children of Israel

WHAT THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL NEEDED

They needed a spiritual shepherd. God chose Moses who had spent the last 40 years as a shepherd literally. There were many things that he learned that would apply. God would send him to lead His flock out of Egypt!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today. May your heart be blessed richly!



CATECHISM CLASS

1. We will resume Catechism Class again
2. This will be in preparation for the Christmas Baptismal Services
3. First Catechism Class
 - a) Saturday, 14 August 2021
 - b) Time: 1.00pm
 - c) Church Sanctuary

ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS

⁵You carry them away *like* a flood;
They are like a sleep.

In the morning they are like grass *which* grows up:

⁶In the morning it flourishes and grows up;
In the evening it is cut down and withers.
Psalm 90:5-6

1. Imageries used

a) Like a flash flood

It appears swiftly; it disappears just as quickly.

b) Like sleep

One sleeps and all too soon, one wakes up

c) Like grass

i) Grass does not take long to grow unlike trees
It is compared to a morning

ii) Grass is soon cut down
It is compared to an evening

2. The point of these imageries

a) To communicate an important truth

b) Our life on earth is very brief

c) It ends all too quickly

Let us be challenged to live as meaningfully as we can!



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 119:71-72

⁷¹ *It is good for me that I have been afflicted,
That I may learn Your statutes.*

⁷² *The law of Your mouth is better to me
Than thousands of coins of gold and silver.*

1. A special view about "Afflictions" suffered
 - a) It was called "good"
 - b) Important lessons were learned along the way
2. One of the results of having suffered afflictions
 - a) There was a deeper appreciation of law of God
 - b) The law from God's mouth was of greater value than thousands of gold or silver coins

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 11 July 2021

Text: Genesis 6:8 Noah found grace
But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

1. The grace of God is often taken for granted
2. In the context of impending destruction, the grace of God
Was of tremendous significance
3. May we learn to treasure the value of God's grace given to us!

NEXT SUNDAY: 18 July 2021

Text: Genesis 6:9 Noah was a just man
This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations.

POETRY CORNER

1

GOD REMEMBERED HIS COVENANT

The children of Israel must have wondered about God;
Life had become very hard in Egypt; where was the LORD?
The days of living happily in Goshen was but a memory;
Every day, the children of Israel endured much misery.

The hardship saw the children of Israel groaning in despair;
Painful groans punctuated their words uttered in sad prayers.
The children of Israel had fallen into terrible bondage;
The suffering inflicted on them was such an outrage!

The cries of the children of Israel grew stronger by the day;
But they had no justice from the wicked Pharaoh in any way.
More and more cruel ways were planned to hurt the people;
The Pharaoh had no care nor respect for the children of Israel.

But God had remembered the Covenant He gave to Abraham;
He had already revealed to him, His great master plan.
God had not forgotten the children of Israel in any way;
He would send a deliverer to them without further delay.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Exodus 2; Genesis 15, 46-47

POETRY CORNER

2

The Good Shepherd

Sheep without a shepherd wander aimlessly and are lost
They face constant danger as they are not led to food and water
Jesus was filled with compassion as He knew how much it cost
The poor souls lacking guidance and direction without a leader

A worthy shepherd knows his sheep intimately by name
They recognize his voice as he goes before them
Leading them out and bringing them in to loudly acclaim
Our heavenly Father with His gift of salvation to the condemned

The Son of God came to earth to lead mankind to His Father's kingdom
Words cannot express enough His goodness as He willingly obeyed
Despite knowing of the pain and suffering in His journey to martyrdom
The grace and mercy of the good Shepherd for His own considering the price He paid

Pastors are modern shepherds tasked to direct the congregation
They are called by the Lord to help followers grow their faith
May they be blessed by God in undertaking the occupation
To minister to the church in their response with fond embrace

Jessie Quek
(Inspiration: John 10:11, Numbers 27: 15:16)

ORDER OF WORSHIP



CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

INVOCATION

MESSAGE

“Let the LORD set a man over the congregation”

Text: Numbers 27:15-17

BENEDICTION

