



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWS-SHEET

8th JUNE, 2020

Hello

Into June, another week, and another Newsletter:

From Fear to Faith

Last week, Jim Flett wrote that 'faith is more important than fear'. During the week that phrase – faith not fear – has been echoed frequently in different situations. And, significantly, John, starting a fresh series on the Book of Habakkuk, highlighted the assuring truth of being able to move, by God's enabling, from such fear to faith.

Habakkuk's times were remarkably similar to our contemporary situation with genuine fear prevalent across the world that is seemingly out of control. What troubled Habakkuk was that it appeared as if God was not interested so, in genuine desperation, he cries out to God. And, by doing so, was encouraged to believe and exercise faith, not because the circumstances had changed but because he was given an insight into what God would do by His sovereign power.

Habakkuk's complaint was because of violence and injustice in the land: rampant godlessness. Yet, God's answer was not what Habakkuk expected but it provided assurance. God would use a heathen power to judge the nations and bring His people back to where they should be. God uses drastic measures to fulfil His purpose. Is that what is happening today? We need to be similarly burdened, cry, and turn from fear to faith.

Lessons from Lockdown

There has been a real sense of prophetic ministry in the Sunday sermons over this lockdown period. Summaries of each sermon have been included in the newsletter. Now, they have been collated into a little booklet which is available electronically in two format sizes. The A4 version can be printed as a simple A4 document. There is also an A5 version which can be made into a booklet by printing on both sides in landscape orientation and folded to become an A5 booklet. For those not on the internet, or anyone else, a hard copy of the A5 booklet can be made available. Contact howeljones@outlook.com or 956 5866.

The Elders

The Elders, discharging their duties very diligently, have been meeting by Zoom each Monday morning exercising the oversight of the Fellowship, maintaining ministry, encouraging prayer, facilitating communication, showing pastoral concern, carrying out administrative work and actively planning for such times as restrictions might be lifted allowing us to meet in gatherings again, albeit in modified forms. All that they are doing is very much appreciated as we continue to pray for them and their pastoral and preaching work.

Prayer Requests

Christine Harvey wants to thank people who prayed for her during the time of the painful sciatica attack. Jim McKellar asks prayer for Helen, his wife.

Street Connect

It was good to see and hear from Ricky McAddock last Tuesday evening when he joined us for our Prayer Meeting. We give thanks to God that, despite restrictions, contact is being maintained and plans are in place going forward.

God has wonderfully blessed this work using Ricky, Julie, Adam and other staff workers to help and transform lives. As Ricky informed us, we do need to remember that the work remains challenging and not without setbacks and disappointments. We give thanks to God for the recent funding of £100,000 received and pray that this will be used to bring glory to God. Please remember this work in your prayers.

Blessings of Lockdown

While so many experiences in lockdown have been very sad: severe illness, deaths, job losses, etc, some have been a great blessing. Ibbie shared that, for her, it has been a time of blessing to abstain from

Finally:

I came across a programme on YouTube that gives a short daily review of world news. Thankfully it focuses on more than Coronavirus and always has a 'good news' story. It is run by a Christian organisation and each bulletin ends with the Newscaster saying, "No matter the news, the purpose of the Lord will stand".

It's a great sign off for a News programme, but it is also a great assurance for all who watch. There is a lot happening in the world today that is disconcerting, but we can have certainty that the purpose of the Lord will stand.

John Macleod

being caught up in the potential frenzy of excessive zooming and optimising the time for reflection and prayer. Others have said they appreciate more time with family and friends, albeit at a distance. Betty Mackay has reached the end of Chronicles in her marathon continuous Bible Reading project and came across the verse in 2 Chronicles 36: 15: *"The Lord sent word to them through his messengers because he had pity on them, but they mocked."* With disastrous consequences.

Someone once said: *Stop the world, I want to get off!* Maybe this is such an opportunity. It would be good to hear of other experiences during this period. Send them in so that they can be shared with others. Thank you.

Bible Study

Some of the folk who follow the Bible Study using the phone are denied opportunity to see the weird and wonderful drawings on the whiteboard! By way of compensation some of the diagrams are included on the attached sheet.

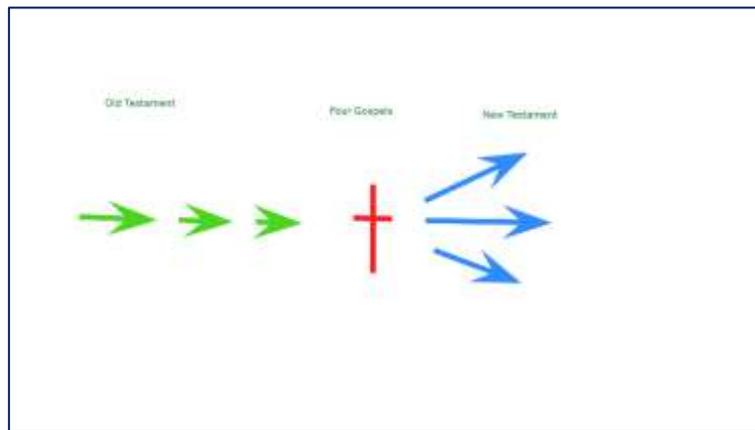
Allander Church Newsletter 956 5866

SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET: BIBLE STUDY DIAGRAMS

Some of the folk who follow the Bible Study using the phone are denied opportunity to see the weird and wonderful drawings on the whiteboard! By way of compensation here are some of the diagrams used during the studies.

THE BIBLE

The Bible can be depicted as a set of arrows pointing to the coming Messiah and the Cross and then away from it as believers bear witness in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and beyond.



THE OLD TESTAMENT

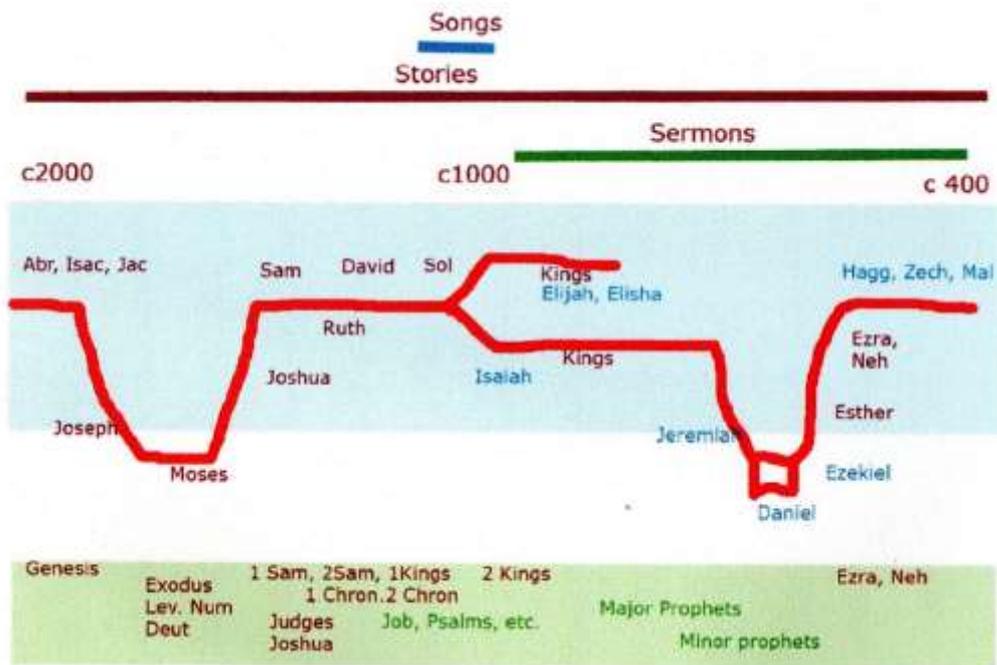
The Old Testament is made up of three groups of books: The History, the Books of Experience and the Prophetic Books:

The Old Testament

Stories	Genesis to Esther	How they lived
Songs	Job to Song of Solomon	How they felt
Sermons	Isaiah to Malachi	How they failed

OVERVIEW OF THE OT AND BOOKS

The master diagram, covering the history, showing: the story of the nation from Abraham onwards; the main personalities, and the books where these details are recorded is included below. The blue background is the Promised Land, the thick red line is the progression of the nation. Missing (but included in another diagram) is the graph showing the ascendancy of the nation as they put God first and then the decline and apostasy after Solomon even though they had everything they needed: territory, Law, and Temple.



APPRAISAL

That story can be graded as 'successful' despite mistakes during the first half, up to David. That is when the praise was most evident. After Solomon there was decline and apostasy which called in the prophets to warn and offer redemption.



THE END-PIECE

The OT finishes with the Temple rebuilt but with no incumbent: waiting for the Great High Priest – Jesus. Two groups are there. The one grown to become independent of God (despite much religious activity) and the other who feared the Lord, spoke to one another, and were promised the Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings.

Expectant	Feared God	Blessing
Rebellious	Despised God	Curse