

GLEN PARK GOSPEL CHURCH 6th SEPTEMBER 202
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL THE DAD'S.

INTROIT: *Blue Book No 425 vs 1,2 & 5. E May Grimes 1868 - 1927*

Speak, Lord in the stillness, while I wait on thee,
Hushed my heart to listen, in expectancy.

Speak, O bless-ed Master, In this quiet hour;
Let me see thy face, Lord, feel thy touch of power.

Speak, thy servant heareth, Be not silent, Lord;
Wait my soul upon Thee For the quickening word.

PRAYER:

Dear Lord and father we come before You today to thank and praise and Worship your Holy Name and for what you have done for each one of us when giving your life so that we could be redeemed and made perfect in your sight, Please, help us to continually keep you foremost in our minds thoughts and actions. Help us to Hear your Word, understand and obey what you have for us today, open our hearts to receive your blessings and instruction.
We now commit this time to You.

Verse of encouragement: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage: do not be afraid. Nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go". Joshua 1: 9

HYMN: 191. *Blue book At the name of Jesus*
Caroline M. Noel 1817 - 1877

1.

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess him King of glory now;
"Tis the Father's pleasure We should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning Was the mighty Word.

2.

At His voice creation sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces, All the hosts of light,
Thrones and dominations, stars up – on their way,
All the heavenly orders, in their Great array.

3.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name
From the lips of sinners un – to whom he came,
Faithful ly he bore it spot less to the last,
Brought it back victorious when from death he passed.

4.

In your heart enthrone him: There let him subdue
All that is not holy, All that is not true:
Crown him as your captain in temptation's hour;
Let his will enfold you In its light and power

5.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus Shall return again,
With His Father's glory, With His angel – train;
For all wreaths of empire, Meet upon His brow,
And our hearts confess Him King of Glory now.

READING: Philippians. 2: 1 – 11

CHURCH PRAYER

Please fill out this reminder if we have missed anything. Add your specific needs

We give thanks to our God for His goodness in these difficult times, for the ability to meet financial and care responsibilities, for our neighbours, for our church neighbours.

It is time to pray for one another, our older members in care, Muriel Smith, June Ashley, Rae & Georgina, for Betty with Doug, Sue, for our singles living alone, Joan, Coralie, and Eirene with Ashlen but distanced from home, for Arthur & Jeanette, Ann Hutchinson, Darrell, Wendy and in particular healing and sustaining care for Wendy, for Laurie, Valmai and David, Chris, Doreen and Philip. Please add to this schedule any that may have been missed. We pray for the wider members of our families. We remember our responsibility to reach out to others, both with a kind word or a greeting that will tell them that in these days of isolation we have missed them. Help us to be outgoing and caring. We pray too for those serving overseas or in mission here in Australia.

We remember our governments, the Prime Minister and the Premier and those carrying responsibility. We pray for those in care homes, the staff and residents. In this regard please protect Eirene from infection and missed income from continued isolating. We remember Joan's friendship group and those who have responsibility to contact others.

We bring to you our failures and limitations. We confess our sin and give thanks that in Jesus there is abundant salvation. Fill us with love for you and care for others. In this we would be like Jesus. Now bless to us the message that awaits us. Aid our understanding. Give us something to meet our need and some precious thought to pass on to others. For these things we pray, In Jesus name, Amen.

HYMN: 759. *Blue Bk. Come, Ye thankful people come. Henry Alford 1810 - 1871*

Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin;
God our maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied:
Come to God's own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take His harvest home:
From His field shall in that day All offenses purge away;

Give His angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast;
But the fruitful ears to store in His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, Bring thy final harvest home;
Gather thou thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There forever purified, In thy presence to abide:
Come, with all thine angels, come Raise the glorious harvest home.

The following message has three parts. The two divisions come logically. You can read as far as you wish, or take a break or stop as it meets your need.

The Conditions of Earth and the End of this Age

First read Luke 2.25 - 38.

Part 1

At the time when Jesus was born to be this world's redeemer, His people were actively looking for the appearance their long awaited Messiah. But there was confusion about where, when and how it would happen. There were three options. Was it to be Bethlehem? The Scriptures said that He would come from Bethlehem. Was it to be Egypt as Scripture could certainly be read that way. But come of the teachers said, no, it is Nazareth! Each had their favourite verse or theory. But in fact it turned out to be all three locations. Amazing. They were all correct. He came from Bethlehem and Egypt and Nazareth in Galilee.

Prophecy given by the Holy Spirit is always fulfilled to the letter. Sometimes we understand and many times we only think we understand. So let us read and ponder this problem and its resolution. We might learn something.

Read Matthew 2:1-6, 15 and 23. Then read Micah 5:2, Hosea 11:1 but not a single prophet forecast that Jesus would come out of Nazareth a city in Galilee. No, not one. See John 7:52!

How can we account for all this? Just where in Israel would Messiah, God's chosen one first be found? Did you notice that in Matthew 2:23 the word 'prophets' is plural, suggesting that it was not the teaching of one, but the teaching of many, the collusion of corporate wisdom. How did this tradition arise?

Beware of tradition that is not thoroughly Biblical. Scripture is the word of the God, not the opinions or habits of men. Jesus constantly battled the Pharisees over that. God could, if He choose, move in a way that confirms His preachers. But He is not bound by them in any way. And he never goes against His revealed word. He is totally in charge, not we. Psalm 69.5&6, (just for the feeling it carries.)

The name Nazareth in Hebrew indicates a branch, a shoot from the root of a plant. Compare John 1.46 & 7.52 with Isaiah 53:2 - 4, Psalm 22.6 - 8. The name is identified one way or another with Nazareth. This isolated area, cut off from the main thrust of social, political and economic activity had bred a sect of austere, holy and politically active people who sometimes were the hothead reactionaries of the day, The Nazarenes. You can develop this theme for your own interests and information.

Our point here is that there may be prophecies that seem to contradict one another. Don't get hung up on any one or a number of them. We dare not hold one prophecy at the expense of another. A point, for example, is the question, "Will Jesus return before, during or after the great tribulation?"

You think you know. But if I think 'yes', God wouldn't put His people through that. He will provide a way of escape for me just like Noah and his family in the days of the flood. And then my assumption is wrong, I will be unprepared and confounded by events that take place. People in Noah's day were unprepared and were taken by the flood.

But if my answer is 'no.' God allowed His people Israel to suffer the holocaust, with all its freezing cold, its lack of liberty, medicines, and food, its illness and lice and rats, endless fear, intimidation, persecution, death, lost family. All that. Why do I think I am someone special to escape?

Ought I close my eyes to questions like these and just enjoy each day as it comes. Maybe a better answer is, 'Wait and see. Time will tell. But be ready for either!'

The prophecies of Daniel put us right into the midst. Events are such as are happening in our world today, nationally and internationally, corporately and individually demand that we at least begin to think about the dangers and possibilities. Look at today's mass demonstrations that are becoming world wide. Surges that are dividing our peoples. What is happening to your savings and investments. Will the old rules of management be enough to meet the future. After all where do we go from here? What is Covid19 doing to our national economy. What is it doing to our life-philosophy? Have we created a people who are dependent on Government to supply our needs?

Daniel was a prophet to a Gentile community and the predictions that he gave were applicable to Jew and Gentile alike, but they were given in a Gentile economy. Today we begin to understand what God was saying to this wider community and we will discover that God does have a great plan of the ages that takes care of the overthrow of the evil one, the machinations of the saints, indicators of the commencement and the continuity of conflict, the victory of the Son of Man (the name that Jesus also adopted during His humanity) which comes with judgement by the Ancient of Days.

(The term 'Ancient of Days' is only found in Daniel. It is from the Chaldee language with which earlier chapters of Daniel were written (up to chapter 7). This term is picture language but it simply means an old person, full of days. It is not found in the rest of the Bible. Don't read too much into it, and interpret each usage only by its own immediate context. Otherwise you can make some errors in understanding.)

Read the whole of Daniel 2:1- 49 right through in one sitting in the one sitting. Let the Scripture impact your thoughts despite any questions that arise. Discuss any idea that presents to you with a family member or friend if you can, and before you proceed with these notes. Do that now before you proceed.

Then Read Daniel 7:1-8. This is a repetition but it comes 62 years later to different people who are in charge. Daniel himself is now an old man. The viewpoint has changed somewhat. Babylon changed hands in Chapter 5:30&31, at the time of the famous writing on the wall. Belshazzar the Chaldean was killed and Darius the Mede took control aged 62. Babylon was under new management, However the decrees and purposes of God are constant. Thus we have this prophetic repetition. The book Daniel is not in date order, and it helps to know what is that date order.

Read Daniel 7.9-12 and as you do be aware that you are reading about God the God and Father of the Son for God the Father has given all judgement to the Son John 5.22&27. The court sat in judgement and the records were opened and Judgement began. God keeps records not only of the lives and actions of men, but all intelligent beings including demons and angels. The horn, the antichrist began his accusations of defence but judgement went against him and his sentence was carried out. See John 12:31.

John Stott says that Jesus the man “understood His mission in the light of Old Testament prophesy, recognising and declaring Himself to be both Daniel’s son of man and Isaiah’s suffering servant.” (See ‘But I Say To You’, p85.)

The vision is then interpreted in the remainder of the chapter. Read it with thought. Do not let your favourite doctrine restrict your understanding of Scripture. Scripture, not doctrine is the word of God. An over-all summary is given in v17&18. Then detail is added about the fourth beast, v19, about the confederate kingdoms, v20, about the persecution of the saints v21, about the judgement of the Ancient of Days.

Know this, dear believer, as your faith is in Jesus Christ and you are trusting in His shed blood, you will never stand in this court, for your sins are prejudged in the death of the Redeemer. Read John 5:24. Believe it with all your heart and praise Him for your great salvation. Although we must give answer for our stewardship and may be punished for our naughtiness and indolence, we have no part in the resurrection of judgement John 5:29.

Part 2.

Read Daniel 7:13&14 which tells us prophetically what occurred in Heaven when Jesus ascended to His Father after His resurrection, but before His public ascension, which is intimated in John 20:17, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' ”

Now, answer these questions from our chapter. Who or what are the four great beasts? (One by one.) They are world controlling empires. The empire rather than their ruler is our focus. Can you identify each of them. First. The lion corresponds to the head of the colossus, in chapter two. Second, a flesh eating bear corresponds to the silver chest of the Colossus. Third a leopard (which is translated from a word really meaning a panther, a most aware and responsive animal.) It corresponds to the copper midriff and thighs of Daniel’s image.

Who are they? 1. Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonian empire 626-539BC. 2. The bear is assumed to be the Medo-Persian empire but this is not stated in the text. The Persian’s part was the greater horn and dominates the Median. 3. The panther identifies with Alexander of Greece who moved very swiftly and effectively, but he died of a disease after conquering all the kingdoms of the then major world. “It devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet.” His conquests were then divided between his four generals. But they did not have Alexander’s drive and ability and eventually lost control of what they had received.

4. This fourth beast is different. It is not a single nationality, as Daniel records it, "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns." It identifies as the ten nation kingdom of Antichrist.

In 7. 9&10 The picture moves to the 'Ancient of Days who "took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. The description reminds us of Revelation chapter 1.10. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgement, and the books were opened." We remember Revelation 17:12-14.

"And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."

To Daniel was given the privilege of seeing, albeit by a vision of the presentation before the Father of His blood borne sacrifice for the redemption of mankind

When the European confederation was formed some decades ago, even though it was many, many centuries later, many Christians were convinced that we had the beginning of this fourth beast revived re-forming before our eyes and started counting the nations that comprised it. It corresponded to the legs and feet of Daniel's visionary man in Chapter two. The material from which it is made is a combination of iron mixed with clay. This is often said by commentators to be dictatorship and democracy. It was seen to be the Roman empire which by then had been revived. But it is now a different and very weak authority.

While Daniel watched and considered his vision, another horn or authority emerged. which exhibited the same virility and aggression. It destroyed three of the others. It's habit was to "devour and break in pieces and stamp any residue beneath its feet. (For those who are up with it, this is kin to the Amalekite style with whom the Lord will have war from generation to generation.) It was thus terrifyingly different from all the beasts that were before it" This detail is repeated and expanded from 2:40-43.

"And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay."

Part 3

The text of Daniel at this point, chapter eight, changes. It is now written in Hebrew. This signals a shift in emphasis away from Medeo- Persian interests. But Israel then is still dominated by Gentile rulers, for it is still the times of the Gentiles, and was until 1948 when the fledgling nation Israel was ceded out of Palestinian control by the United Nations to allow Israel take full control of its own affairs. When Daniel in 7:28 says that the things of the great tribulation that troubled him were brought to an end, the Hebrew word for that means, 'swallowed up.' This is a change of focus and application beginning with the vision of the ram and the goat and ending with the time of great trouble. The events prophetically described in 7:15-28 and then on to 12.13 are reviewed with an Hebrew emphasis.

In Daniel 12:1-13. 'Our generation' can refer to the people to whom the message was given as in Matthew 12:42 "this* generation", or it may refer to the generation referred to by the speaker, First read Matthew 24:30 and 24:32-35. Now the question comes, what is meant by a generation. It was commonly believed some years ago to be about 40 years, and as Israel was restored to her land in 1948, $1948+40=88$, so some years ago it was commonly believed the Jesus would return in or around 1988. It didn't happen. So some who were disappointed then looked to 70 years. Three score years and ten. $1948+70=2018$ And a good case can be made out for this, for it happened about 70 years after the birth of Jesus. That would make the Lord's return in 2018. It didn't happen in that year, but can we be as precise as all that with dates that are so long and times so fractured? Jesus can come at any moment. Are you ready to meet Him?

(* this is from the Greek της the, a genitive article as a demonstrative pronoun, 'from.')

Last HYMN: 495 (. Blue) *Love Divine: Charles Wesley*

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; All thy faithful mercies crown,
Jesus thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe , O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit, Let us find the promised rest;
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all thy grace receive!
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love

Finish, then , thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee:
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our Crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, Love, and praise

Benediction:

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.