

## Commentary for each day on week three: (3 to 9 March 2021)

### GRATITUDE AND LIVING WITH GOD'S PROMISES

This week we consider the characteristics of God. With gratitude we note how compassionate he is, how majestic the heavens are and which scream to the whole world that there IS a marvellous God who created all these things. The awesome ways in which he shows us his presence fills us with wonder, amazement and gratitude. We consider God's plan to establish a holy people by using the Cornerstone of Jesus to build a Holy Temple. We are grateful for this and cling to the promises of God that He will bless those who accept Jesus as the One who takes away the sin of the world, through His crucifixion, death and resurrection. The promises of being with the Lord are real and one can always hold the hope the God DOES not change his promises. For those who are humble and worship the only God of the nations and of the universe, the promises of ultimate blessings fill us with love peace and gratitude.

Day 13 Wed 3 March 2021

References Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45. Jeremiah 30:12-22. John 12:36-43

**God is a compassionate God.** Jesus knew Lazarus very well. He had often been to visit at Mary's and Martha's home. When people reported to him that Lazarus was ill, Jesus did not urgently hurry to his bedside. Jesus knew of His divine capabilities. We need to remember these capabilities too. The people saw Jesus weeping as he shared the sorrow of the family. Jesus certainly does have compassion and a great love for those who are dear to Him. The people noticed this and said to themselves, "Look how He loved him!" Do we really know how much Jesus loves us? When we realise the greatness of God's love for his created beings, we too will agree with the Psalmist that we really must make it known in the world how great God's deeds are. People need to honour God and seek him in their lives. As we remember His works and Who He is, we can remember His faithfulness in His promise to Abram. Yes, we have been injured by our own sins and attacked by oppressors. God promises that the oppressors will be dealt with and that we will be restored. How much faith did the people at Lazarus's home have that Jesus CAN restore what is dead? Their little faith thought that Jesus could have stopped Lazarus from dying. Their faith must have grown immensely when they realised that even after a time lapse, Jesus can restore life to the dead. Do you feel dead in your spirit? Let God into your life and let Him restore you and then you can give him praise for his wonderful, abundant works!

Day 14 Thurs 4 March 2021

References: Psalm 19. Exodus 19:1-9. 1Peter 2: 4-10.

**The heavens declare God's absolute glory** to the whole world. The regularity of all the movements in the heavens revive the soul. All the ordinances and rules are so perfectly followed that they are in fact absolutely priceless and SO pleasurable. The Psalmist asks God to help him not to sin wilfully so that he may be blameless of any transgression. He too wants to be perfect. God wanted the Israelite nation to be perfect too. In the Sinai desert, God told them that if they obeyed everything He commanded them, they would be His treasured possession over and above all the other nations in the world. God wanted them to be a holy nation, a kingdom of priests. Peter writes to Christians in a similar vein citing Jesus as a Living Cornerstone. We, as living 'stones' because of Jesus, are to be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God. A well-placed cornerstone is important to build a building correctly and flawlessly. Our relationship with God needs to be in accordance with His leadership, allowed by us, and through the promptings of the Holy Spirit within each one of us.

Day 15 Fri 5 March 2021

References: Psalm 19. Exodus 19:9b-15. Acts 7: 30-40.

**The glorious heavens tell of a marvellous creator and the very existence of God.** Moses told God that the people had agreed that they would do everything the Lord wants them to do. God then commanded the people to consecrate themselves because the Lord was going to come down onto the mountain within their sight. Moses was to consecrate the people on the first two days and their clothes were to be ready by the third day. The outward preparation symbolizes the inward preparation of their minds and thoughts. Before the third day they were also told to abstain from coitus as that would render them 'unclean' (Leviticus 15:18). i.e. their minds/thoughts would be otherwise incorrectly focussed. Moses had been born in Egypt. He ran away from there to live in Midian in the Sinai and it took forty years of time for him to be prepared, to follow God's directive. A burning bush that was not being burnt made him aware that he was in the presence of God. God identified Himself and gave Moses instruction as to what to do

about the people he had left in Egypt. The people had previously asked Moses who he was that he was to judge them. Now Moses had authority and a commission from God Himself. What have you left undone in your life? Has God a message for you at this time, to now go and do what God wants you to do? Will you consecrate and prepare yourself to meet God and listen to His voice?

Day 16 Sat 6 March 2021

References: Psalm 19. Exodus 19:16-25. Mark 9:2-8.

**God's glory is often described as absolutely awesome to behold.** Moses was leading the Israelites in the desert when God said He would come down onto the mountain to talk to Moses. The mountain must be cordoned off and no-one would be allowed to touch it. The people were to be consecrated and prepared for the instruction that God was to give them. The magnificence of the sight on the mountain was astonishing indeed! Everyone trembled! The people were to be warned again that they must not force their way through to see the Lord.

Jesus invited only Peter, James and John up a high mountain with him. There, Jesus was transfigured and his clothing was whiter than any bleach could make them. Meeting with God, requires one to be pure in every way. Peter and James and John suddenly could not see anything as a cloud enveloped them. God spoke and said, "This is my Son whom I love. Listen to Him!" Then suddenly they were again alone with Jesus. When you are in a cloud, you cannot see where to go or what to do. Is it perhaps a cloud of God's presence encompassing you? Are you burdened with indecision as the disciples were? "Listen to Jesus", is the instruction.

Day 17 Sun 7 March 2021

References: Exodus 20:1-17. Psalm 19. 1Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22.

**God is a jealous God.** There are to be NO OTHER gods in people's lives. There are to be no idols or any worship of anything else, except God Himself. He will punish a child for the parent's sin up to the fourth generation. Yet He will show love to the descendants of the righteous person for one thousand generations. He makes it clear that no-one is to desire anything with evil intentions in mind. Thoughts of disobedience inside a person is regarded the same as disobedience manifested on the outside. God has made foolish the wisdom of the world. Worldly wisdom should not be the means of knowing God. Jesus cleansed the temple by removing all that was not good. As a temple of the Holy Spirit, so we too, should be cleansing our 'temple' to make it a house of prayer and dedication to God.

Day 18 Mon 8 March 2021

References: Psalm 84. 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22. 1 Corinthians 3:10-23.

**Here is one who is longing to be with the Lord,** with people who are blessed and who praise God. He wants to experience the strength that God gives. He would rather spend time in God's courts than anywhere else. The Lord does not withhold any good thing from those who walk blameless in His sight. One who trusts in God is one who is blessed by Him. Solomon built the temple of great size with much of the interior overlaid with pure gold. The Christians in Corinth were told that a builder must be careful of how the foundation is laid. A Christian must have his faith founded on the Lord Jesus Christ. A Christian must realise that he is a Temple of the Holy Spirit and far more valuable than anything in the world. He is sacred. God will avenge anyone who destroys His temple. Again we are told that the world's wisdom is foolishness in God's sight. We need not boast about men! To a Believer in Jesus, ALL things are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

Day 19 Tues 9 March 2021

References: Psalm 84. 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19. Hebrews 9:23-28.

**To be in God's presence** with a longing for peace and joy and contentment, we, as a temple of the Holy Spirit, still need to be "purified". Everything that was not supposed to be inside the temple was removed. The purification of the temple of old was done by sprinkling blood on the articles in the tabernacle. This is no longer done since Christ was crucified, for it is His shed blood that we believe in, which is the blood that was shed for each one of us. As we acknowledge that Jesus' shed blood takes away the sin of the world, we symbolically take part in a replica of the Last Supper, where Jesus asks us to remember Him by sharing the contents of the cup and by the breaking of the bread to be shared amongst the believers. We acknowledge Jesus and what He has done for us, each time we take part in our church's communion service.