

## Cornerstone Prayer Breakfast 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### HIDDEN IN CHRIST—BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

A REFUGE under the shadow of HIS WINGS      Ps. 36 Isaiah 32:2

Noah, a farmer and Shepherd, was a righteous man in God's sight. He found grace in the Lord's sight. God ordered him to build a ship to save him, and his family, from the great flood. With the heavens open and rain pouring down to destroy all life on earth, Noah and his family were secure. God preserved them and He can preserve us.

O Lord, you preserve both man and beast how priceless is your unfailing love. Both high and low among men find refuge under the shadow of your wings... with you is the fountain of life... (Ps 36: 5–10)

P.S. Many centuries later out in the desert, on the edge of the Sahara, we found fossils, trilobites, and seashells. People there have told us that they believe that water covered that part of the world in the past. It was 2,000' above sea level and 800 miles from the sea.

King David the Shepherd boy who was God's chosen future king to Israel, had to hide in desert caves, not because of a killer virus, but because Saul was chasing him to kill him. David hid (above all or first of all) in the spiritual Rock. His trust was in the Lord his God, not in an earthly refuge.

Rock of ages cleft for me...

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,  
That shadows a dry thirsty land;  
He hideth my life in the depths of His love,  
And covers me there with His Hand.

This past month we have seen very few people venturing out. Lots of grown-ups and children have to "hide" in their houses. For many it will be a huge trial, for others a mixed blessing. David turned to the Lord for comfort and deliverance and Lord did deliver him. In Ps 34, he says "I will extol the Lord at all times: his praise will continually be in my mouth." The Psalms he wrote have brought comfort and blessing to past, present, and future generations, around the globe. The most loved Psalm is Ps. 23: The Lord is my Shepherd.

**IN HIS PRESENCE there is FULLNESS OF JOY, and PEACE.**

In John Ch.20, the sorrowful disciples locked themselves in, fearing that the Jewish authorities, having crucified their teacher and Lord, might now kill them too. They had been Jesus' associates faithfully following Him for three years. The trial of their faith only lasted three days. The risen Lord came back to them and His comforting words "Peace be with you" (John 20:21) filled them with great joy, and a new hope. Jesus is saying to all of us, "In the world you will have trials, but I have overcome the world." (Ps 19:14), and "Pleasant words are sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." (Pr.16:24)

"BECAUSE HE LIVES and He is our life, we can face tomorrow" (and today)—Mission praise 52—and joyfully join His co-workers in His great plan of Redemption before His promised Return.

## CO-WORKERS WITH HIM FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF HIS KINGDOM Proverbs 3:5,6

Joseph's trials were a stepping-stone towards the task the Lord had for him to do. Joseph, with God our provider, saved Egypt and his family from starvation.

Moses was in the desert looking after his father-in-law's sheep when God, the great I AM, called him to be His Shepherd, leading the sheep of God's pasture (Ps 100:3), the Israelites, out of bondage, into the promised land. This heavenly calling is for all of us (Act 1:8).

In Acts Ch.8, Philip was called to meet a foreigner on a desert road. The steps (and stops) of a good man are ordered by the Lord. He is planning the course of our lives.

## A MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Job was blameless and upright and feared God. It was his custom early in the morning to sacrifice a burnt offering for each of his children. He prayed for his children until disaster struck and they lost their lives. This shattered, sorrowing man of God fell to the ground and worshipped. "May the Lord be praised who has given and now has taken away" (Job Ch. 2). Job left everything in the Lord's Hands.

Our God, our blessed heavenly Father is merciful. As Job obtained mercy and forgiveness so he wanted lost sinners to know His forgiveness. In Ch.42:8, we read that the initiative came from God. God said to Job's self-righteous, accusing friends, "Offer sacrifices for yourselves ... my servant Job will pray for you and I will accept his prayer. So they did what God asked them to do, and the Lord accepted Job's prayer."

Jonah running away from the Lord caused great trouble for himself and for all on board the ship to Tarshish. The perilous sea journey in a storm caused the sailors great distress. Each one cried to his own god. The captain of the ship went to Jonah and said: "How can you sleep, call on your God! Maybe He will take notice of us, and we will not perish." The great fish sent by the Lord became Jonah's sanctuary, a 'hiding place', his prayer room. Now in its belly, a most unbearable place to be, he had time to repent and cry to God for his own deliverance. "In my distress I called to the Lord and he answered me. From the depth of the grave I called for help and he listened to my cry."

## A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND LETTER WRITING: Giving hope to the hopeless

Paul's journey to Rome became very hazardous when the Centurion ignored Paul's wise counsel. A storm that went on for days caused everyone to give up all hope of being saved, including the Lord's disciples. Paul a man of prayer and strong in faith, giving glory to God, was an instrument in the Lord's hands to encourage them all. He said: "Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul, you must stand trial before Caesar, and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as He told me." (Acts 27:23-25) So Paul did get to Rome in the Lord's time. The letters he wrote have been a blessing to Christians down the centuries.

Reading testimonies of what the Lord has done in people's lives has always been a blessing to us.

The early Christians had no church buildings. The Jerusalem believers shared bread together in their houses. Prayer and teaching carried on. In Romans 16, Paul greets twenty-five individual saints and mentions about five households where they meet. He prayed for them all by name. He commends to them Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchræa. He also mentions eight people

in Corinth who send their special greetings to the saints in Rome. God's Spirit was there in the saints then, and He is in us now. With church buildings closed, believers in Jesus, now probably more than before, are becoming aware of home fellowships. A large group of churches in India are starting a million house churches! Others all over the world are linking up with the benefit of Zoom. Christians are getting more aware of the geographical and ethnical spread of Christ's church.

Cornerstone has a part in all this in fulfilling of God's mission on earth.

"He is always alive to make intercession for us," (Hebrews 7:25) so let us be "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God."

May the Lord bless us all. (Numbers 6:24-26)

When I stand in glory, I shall see His face,  
And there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.  
Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,  
And leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Maurice and Marthe Glover