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Book XXIV

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VOL. VIII

INDEPENDENCE DAY

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Worship Service -
Saturday 5:30 pm

Sunday School Online
-
Sunday 10:00 am

Youth Fellowship on
Zoom Tuesday 5:30
pm

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Greetings to you all in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

1. Gaining Independence (Exodus 15:1-8)

We, in India were under the rule of the British for over three centuries. Our land, which was rich in natural resources, culture, traditions, were exploited and impoverished. The wealth of the land was exploited to enrich the lords of the British Empire. Our independence was gained by peaceful means of nonviolence.

The Israelites gained their freedom from the land of Egypt by the mighty hand of God. Pharaoh was jealous and afraid of them as they grew exceedingly mighty in numbers and the land was filled with them. He devised methods to kill the newly born male children by drowning them in the river. However, the future leader of the Israelites was not only saved by the Pharaoh's daughter, but by a twist of circumstances, he was brought up by Pharaoh's daughter as her own son.

God used Moses to bring out the children of Israel out of Egypt. By great miracles and the mighty hand of God, they were liberated from slavery. God destroyed Pharaoh, his chariots and horsemen. The sea swallowed all of them and none escaped. The Israelites saw Egypt's dead on the seashore.

Then Moses and all the children of Israel with Aaron and Miriam praised God's name, saying, “I will sing unto the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously. The Lord is my strength. He is my God and I will praise

Him (Exodus 15:1). A great salvation indeed for the children of Israel, who suffered under the yoke of Pharaoh.

2. Praise the name of God with song (Psalm 69:30-36)

David, the blessed psalmist was all praise for God. He says in Psalm 69:30, "I will praise the name of God with song and I will magnify Him with thanksgiving. For God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah: that they may dwell there, and have it in possession (v 35).

The Psalmist declares, "Let the heaven and earth praise Him, the seas, and everything that moves in them (v 34). The Lord hears the poor and does not despise his prisoners (v 33). The descendants of his servant shall inherit it and those who love his name shall dwell in it (v 36).

For peace and democracy to succeed, the poor and needy should feel that they are part of it and this comes only with the love of God, justice and equity.

3. Debate on Gentiles keeping the law (Acts 15:1-8)

In Acts chapter 15, we see the debate developing regarding the faith, namely, those who were converted from among the gentiles should be circumcised like all Jews and should observe the Law of Moses, if they are to be saved.

A great debate arose about this view and Peter argued that God has made no distinction between Jews and Gentiles as he gave his Holy Spirit to the gentiles also in equal measure. Peter was against imposing the Law of Moses and its observance on the neck of disciples which the Jews themselves were not able to observe.

Paul and Barnabas supported this view and declared how numerous wonders and miracles of God had worked through them among the gentiles. St. Paul explains this further in Galatians 2 : 16, thus knowing

that a man is not justified by the Law (Law of Moses) but, faith in Jesus Christ, for by the works of Law, no flesh shall be justified. He rejected the demand for and the observance of the Law of Moses for the newly converted disciples.

Democracy means the right to express one's opinion, to differ and to dissent. When it comes to spiritual matters, it is not the majority opinion that should prevail, but the truth has to be examined in the light of the word of God.

4. Freedom from sin (John 8:31-36)

Jesus said to the Jews who believed in him "If you abide in my word you are my disciples indeed. You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31 & 32). He also said, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin (v 34). Freedom from sin comes with the repentance of sins. Only the son of God can give you the freedom from sin.

But the Jews who heard Jesus mistook that he was referring to political freedom from slavery. They said we are Abraham's descendants and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, "You shall be made free?"

The evil influence of sins was not understood by the Jews. Christ referred to the influence of sin and how sin made the sinner its slave. Christ spoke of the freedom from sin, which alone could make man truly free. The central thought running through these passages is freedom from slavery. Freedom has been given a new dimension as real freedom from sin.

Discussion and debate is a part of democracy, but the truth has to be examined in the light of the word of God.

May we be able to enjoy real freedom through the redemption of Jesus Christ.

Happy Independence Day to You All

Rev. Dr. Murphy Soans

Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is LIBERTY. II Corinthians

WORD OF GOD - BIBLE

As everyone knows the BIBLE contains 66 books divided mainly into TWO sections: OLD and NEW TESTAMENTS.

OLD TESTAMENT: This was written in the Hebrew language over a period of 1500 years by 28 writers, who wrote these 39 books. The last book, Malachi was written around 400 BC.

Joshua 24:26 and Nehemiah 1:1 suggest that the writings were done by the authors mentioned therein. The structure of the Old Testament, 39 books to be precise, is as follows:

PENTATEUCH - Genesis to Deuteronomy - 5 books

HISTORY - Joshua to Esther - 12 books

POETRY - Job to Song of Solomon - 5 books

MAJOR PROPHETS - Isaiah to Daniel - 5 books

MINOR PROPHETS - Hosea to Malachi - 12 books

"GOD'S FAITHFULNESS" is the main theme that runs through all these books. God kept the promise He made to Abraham. This shows that God **"*Inspired*"** people to write these books.

Initially, all these were written in the form of 'scrolls'. But a scroll of 8 meters could hold only one book of an average of 25 chapters. Thus it became bulky to have many books in the same scroll.

Then the "Codex" form of writing (book form) was discovered, which could hold many books in one set of papers. That's how the present form of the Bible came into existence.

NEW TESTAMENT: This was written in Greek over a period of around 50 years, by 9 different authors. There are 27 books in this section. This is mainly divided into FOUR major divisions:

[1] Four Gospels.

[2] Book of Acts .

[3] Twenty one (21) Letters.

Out of 21 letters Paul has written 13 letters.

JESUS CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Of the 21 letters, Paul alone has written 13 letters.

[4] The Revelation.

CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Psalms 110:4 David wrote this Psalm by the "Inspiration" of the Holy Spirit, because he wrote about a person whom he was not aware - God confirmed that Jesus would be the Priest after the order of Melchizedek, Most High, King of Salem.

Hebrews 5:6 & 10th verse categorically state that Jesus was made a Priest after the Order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 7:4-10 and 17th verses confirm Jesus as High Priest of the Order of Melchizedek. Since our Lord Jesus came from non-priestly tribe of Judah, He could not have served as Priest without there being another order of priests, the Melchizedek.

In Genesis 3:15, Jesus is referred as the offspring of Eve, who will be bruising Satan's head and Satan will bruise Jesus' heels (which is the picture of the Cross).

Genesis 12:3 - Through Abraham's descendant, all the families of the Earth will be **"Blessed"** (past, present and the future), all those who have accepted Lord Jesus as their Personal Saviour.

The same blessing is repeated in Genesis 22:18. Jesus is referred as the bronze serpent in Numbers 21:9. Those who desirously look at Jesus, who is displayed hanging up on the Cross, will be **"Saved"**.

John 1:45 - Philip, one of the disciples whom Jesus chose, said to Nathaniel, "we have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth.

In John 5:46, Jesus told the Pharisees and Scribes, "If you believed Moses you would believe Me for he wrote of Me.

CONFIRMATION OF INSPIRATION OF GOD OBSERVED IN THE BIBLE

[1] Psalms 22. It may be noted that Psalms were written around 1000 years before

Christ. The first verse is one of the seven words spoken by Jesus on the cross.

Verse 6 - Rejection of Jesus by all.

Verse 8 - People, passerby, jeered at Him when He was hanging on the Cross.

Verse 16 - Kinds of wounds inflicted on Jesus on the cross.

Verse 18 - Fulfilled when the soldiers decided how the garment Jesus wore, should be divided.

[2] Isaiah wrote around 800 years before Christ. Isaiah 9:2, and 6-7 verses, birth of Jesus foretold so vividly.

[3] Isaiah 53rd chapter. Clear description of suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

[4] Zechariah 12:10 - Wounds of Jesus on the cross.

Further confirmation of *Inspiration* of the "Bible; II Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is

given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

WORD OF GOD as SWORD OF THE SPIRIT:

"Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is Living and Powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of Soul and Spirit and joints and marrow and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart". Luke 5:1-13, Obedience to the voice of Jesus Christ changed the life of Peter, his profession and his outlook to life. He left everything and followed Jesus.

Let us examine our lives in the light of His calling to each one of us.

Leslee Birnur

"Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord." (Exodus 14:13)

These words contain God's command to the believer when he is reduced to great straits and brought into extraordinary difficulties. He cannot retreat; he cannot go forward; he is shut upon the right hand and on the left. What is he to do now?

The Master's word to him is "***stand still.***" It will be well for him if, at such times, he listen's only to his Master's word, for other and evil advisers come with their suggestions.

Despair whispers, "Lie down and die; give it all up." But God would have put us on a cheerful courage, and even in our worst times, rejoice in His love and faithfulness.

Cowardice says, "Retreat; go back to the worldly ways of action; you cannot play the Christian's part; it is too difficult. Relinquish your principles."

But, however much Satan may urge this course upon you, you cannot follow it, if you are a child of God. His divine fiat has bid thee go from strength to strength, and so thou shalt, and neither death nor hell shall turn thee from thy course. What if for a while thou art called to stand still; yet this is to renew thy strength for some greater advance in due time.

Precipitancy cries, "Do something; stir yourself; to stand still & wait is sheer idleness." We *must* be doing something at once - we must do it, so we think - instead of looking to the Lord, who will not only do something but will do everything.

Presumption boasts, "If the sea be before you, march into it, and expect a miracle." But faith listens neither to presumption, nor to despair, nor to cowardice, nor to precipitancy, but it hears God say, "Stand still," and immovable as a rock it stands.

"Stand still"- Keep the posture of an upright man, ready for action, expecting further orders, cheerfully and patiently awaiting the directing voice, and it will not be long before God will say to you, as distinctly as Moses said it to the people of Israel, "***Go forward.***"

In times of uncertainty, wait. If you have any doubt, wait. Do not force yourself to any action. If you have a restraint in your spirit, wait until it is all clear; do not go against it.

Dr. Charles Spurgeon

YOUTH FORUM

TAMING THE TONGUE

“The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.” (James 3:5)

Mankind has tamed every kind of beast, bird, serpent and things of the sea, but has not been able to tame the tongue, which James describes is an unruly evil and full of poison.

Most Indians love cricket and cricketers and are keen followers of the gentleman's game; but recently, two Indian cricketers, Hardik Pandya and K. L. Rahul made news sometime ago for all the wrong reasons. During a talk show, Koffee with Karan, they made some misogynistic comments. This issue raised a huge controversy all over the country and they were subsequently banned from playing matches which impacted their career.

Now let us see, why the Bible says you need to watch your tongue. Though tongue is small it has caused many to fall. James says that when we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we have the reins to control the animal as we wish. Similarly, when large ships are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder, enabling the captain to take the ship where he wants it to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.

Here tongue is represented as a powerful weapon. It is not to be considered as small organ but a very powerful one. Many believers have failed to overcome the tongue in spiritual warfare. The reason behind their fall is failure to recognize the power of the tongue. James compares the tongue to a fire, corrupting the whole person into a world of wrong doing. A small spark can set ablaze a fire and incinerate everything to ashes.

So, we cannot consider our talk as small because it can cause a great impact. Since, it is powerful weapon it needs to be overcome by the power of the Spirit and the power of God's word. James is telling the Jewish believers to look into their own sin which they are committing by their own tongue. Many times, we tend to see others' sins and say oh! I am better than him or her. Our tongue is enough to make us to fall or to make others to fall.

Here is a joke I came across the internet regarding the tongue. The tooth once said to the tongue, “If I press you a little harder, you will be cut”. The tongue replied, “If I use myself wrongly, all 32 of you will fall down.”

Taking practical application, now that we know how powerful weapon our tongue is, let us examine ourselves how we have used our tongue. If at any time you have hurt people by your harsh words or if anyone has hurt you with their words, do we realize how much pain words can cause? Now take a moment to write down the names of those whose hearts have been hurt by your harsh words. Ask God's forgiveness and take time this week to seek forgiveness of those who you have hurt with your words. Ask God to empower you with divine wisdom to use our tongue carefully. Let us learn to tame our tongue to build people's lives and not to destroy.

Franklin Benjamin

SERENITY PRAYER

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.” Reinhold Niebuhr

The intention of the Serenity Prayer is to bring peace, faith and certainty to the mind and heart of those seeking God's support. It asks God for wisdom and ability to gracefully accept “what is” (what cannot be changed) and for the willingness to manifest, with God's support that which is one's highest good.

ALMANAC FOR AUGUST 2020

Date/Day/Time	Nature of Service	Lessons	Reader	Preacher
02 Sun 7.30 am	9th Sunday After Pentecost MISSION SUNDAY H. C. Service Mission: Good News to All	Isaiah 55: 1 – 6 Acts 10: 34 – 43 Psalm 146 Matthew 4: 17 - 25	Mr Suresh Sadamal Mr Prasann Bangera Mrs Vishala G James ELEMENTS Mr & Mrs Hannikeri	Parish Priest
06 Thu	*Transfiguration of Christ	2 Peter 1: 16 – 19	Luke 9: 28 – 36	
09 Sun. 7.30 am	10th Sunday After Pentecost H.C. Service: Marriage: Celebration of Covenant/ Sacrament	Genesis 2: 18 – 25 Hebrew 13: 1 - 6 Psalm 127 Matthew 19: 3 – 6	Mrs Reeta Gudsalmanni Miss Anna Gouder Mr Sydney Gandhi ELEMENTS Mr & Mrs Noel Chelli	Parish Priest
15 Sat	*Independence Day	Exodus 23: 1 – 9	Galatians 5:1 – 6	Luke 6:20 - 26
16 Sun 7:30 am	11th Sunday After Pentecost H C Service Sacrament of Baptism	Exodus 14: 15 – 31 Titus 3: 3 - 8 Psalm 32 John 3: 1 - 8	Mrs Diana Swaminathan Mrs Lucy Lewis Mr Arool Birnur ELEMENTS Mr & Mrs Edwin Birnur	Parish Priest
23 Sun. 7.30 am 6.30 pm	12th Sunday After Pentecost H C Service Sacrament of Holy Eucharist PRAISE & WORSHIP	Genesis 14: 17 - 24 I Cor 10: 15 - 17 Psalm 104: 14 – 30 Mark 14: 12 - 26	Mr Ashish Johnson Mr Samson Alice Miss Jovita M. Dara ELEMENTS Mr & Mrs L. Luwis	Parish Priest YOUTH
24 Mon	*Bartholomew, Apostle & Martyr	Genesis 28:10 - 17	Ephesians 4: 7-16	Luke 6:12-16
30 Sun. 7.30 am	13th Sunday After Pentecost H.C. Service Christian Presence in Multi Faith Society	Daniel 1: 1 - 21 Acts 10: 9 - 16 Psalm 67 Matthew 13: 31 - 33	Mr Alfonso Joseph Mr Leslee Sullad Mr Richie Lawrence ELEMENTS Mr & Mrs T V Thomas	Parish Priest

* Days of Remembrance

NEWS

BIRTHDAYS

1	Miss Sharon Lydia Sathuri	15	Miss Anna Gouder
2	Mr. George A. James	17	Mrs. Nirmala Chelli
2	Mrs. Rosaleen Sullad	18	Mr. Samson Alice
2	Baby Khushi Carol Gokavi	18	Mrs. P. Saroja George
4	Mr. Prasann Bangerra	19	Mrs. Diana Swaminathan
5	Mr. Suresh Sadamal	20	Mr. Leslee Samuel Sullad
7	Mr. Sujith C. Joseph	20	Mrs. Emma Elizabeth Birnur
8	Mrs. Liza R. James	21	Mr. Arool Noel Birnur
9	Mrs. Hemalatha Hannikeri	23	Mr. Ashish Elmer Johnson
9	Dr. Reeta Harsha	25	Master Joshua I Koti
11	Miss Gayle Lawrence	26	Miss Jovita M. Dara
14	Miss Deeksha K.	26	Baby Gideon Luwis
15	Rev. Murphy Soans	28	Miss Cheryl Lawrence
15	Mr. Jaisheel Bhasme	28	Master Abhishek Enoch Babu
15	Mrs. Lucy Lewis	28	Miss. Manjari Kumari
15	Mr. Sydney Gandhi	30	Mrs. Stella Luwis

Praying for heaven's choicest blessing on each one of you to have a happy and blessed birthday and many happier ones to come

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

7	Mr. & Mrs. Darryl Lawrence	25	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas V. Thomas
16	Dr.& Dr (Mrs) Naveen Salins		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! Wish you Happiness, Love and Joy in the years ahead.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS - AUGUST 2020



02/08/20 Dr. (Mrs) Pushpa Gokavi & family
09/08/20 Mr. Sydney Gandhi & family
16/08/20 Dr. Sarala Bolledu and family
23/08/20 Mr. & Mrs. Rohan S. James & family
30/08/20 Mr. & Mrs. Simon Lewis and family

SNAPS / SNIPPETS / NEWS



Mr.



Sanitizing the church



Youth Meeting on Zoom



Pastor Cedric Babu, Asst Pastor at St. Peter's Church, Hubli, entered heavenly abode on July 9th. Please remember the bereaved family in your prayers.

