



FROM OUR PASTORS

This month two situations have focused our attention, the possibility of the end of lockdown on June 21st, and the violence in the Middle East, we give thanks for the vaccine roll out and continually pray for peace in the Middle east, that all would come to know true peace that is only found in accepting the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, who will bring a stillness to mind and heart.



Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May those who love you be
secure.

Psalms 122:6

NIV84



The One who calms the raging
storm
The One who walks upon the
sea
Earth and Heaven are Your own
Yet You're watching over me

There is none like You
There is none like You
Together we proclaim
The power of Your Name
There is none like You

Who can stand before Your
throne
Your kingdom will forever reign
So we will lift a song of praise
To the Ancient of Days

How majestic is Your Name
How majestic is Your Name
How majestic is Your Name
In all the earth



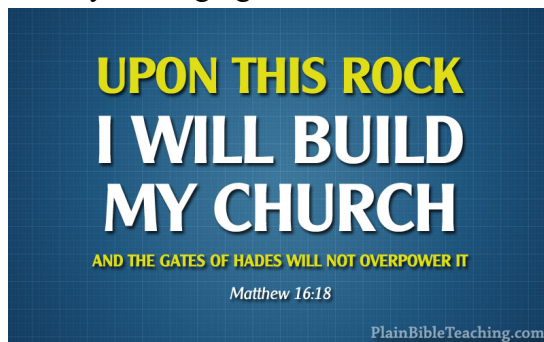
CHURCH? PART 2

From last month we saw that Jesus is building His church and nothing or no one can stop it, His followers are called living stones are built into the dwelling place of God.

But what does church mean?

I am sure you are aware that the New Testament was not written in English but in Greek, and the word for church is Ekklesia, which simply means to call out, in the times in which the New Testament was written this word Ekklesia was used to call out people to gather together for discussion and decision making, so the word church means a group of people called out to meet together with a common purpose or cause.

In fact, the word is not always translated church it is sometimes translated as assembly or congregation.





Church continued

But you might think is the word church found in the Old Testament and if we look at the Septuagint the Greek version of the Old Testament, we do in fact find the word Ekklesia, used for example in Psalm 22:22 where the word assembly or congregation is used in the English version, the word Ekklesia is found over 50 times in the Old Testament.

So, we need, if possible, to get away from the bricks and mortar, the church is those who assemble, those who form a congregation, those who are called out to meet together.

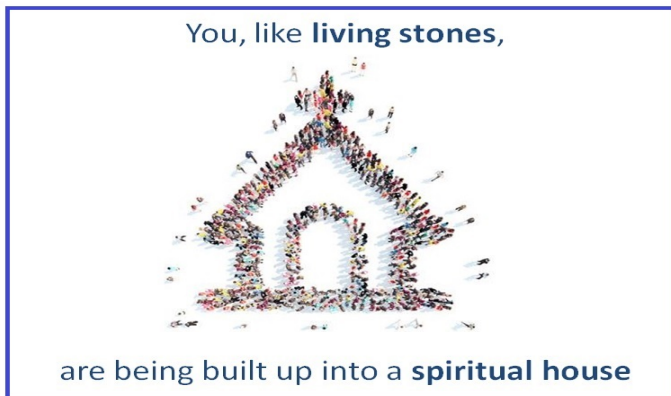
Acts 7:38 (NKJV)

“This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us,

You’ve guessed it the word congregation is Ekklesia, church, so you could say “the church in the wilderness” so the idea of the church being people is not new, it has always meant a group of people, in fact it was not until the 3rd Century that Christians began to meet in buildings.

The only buildings you will find in the New Testament is when they met in each other houses for Bible study, prayer and sharing the communion.

Next month we will continue with looking at the church.





Over the last few weeks in our online house group we have been looking at the book of Habakkuk.

This is a summary of our studies.

Why study Habakkuk?

As this quote says, “Most people, even in the Bible, who have longed for the privilege of arguing with God, of questioning the way he does things, of seeking God’s explanation of his ways, have not been given that opportunity.... What Habakkuk has recorded here is something rather extraordinary: a dialogue in which he twice complains to God about the world’s injustice, and twice God answers him.”

If we ask over and over again, “How long, O Lord? How long?” “Why? O Why?” and as long as these questions continue to plague us, the need for Habakkuk’s message is a must study.

This book not only answers to the questions we have about our world and yes we can apply it to our present situation concerning the virus.



Habakkuk continued

In this book we can also gain answers to other questions that cause concern for Christians.

The problem of squaring the goodness and justice of God with the presence of what seems like unbridled evil and wickedness among men and nations. Other passages in the Bible tackle this problem, but few come to as clear a resolution of many aspects of the problem as Habakkuk does.

So what do we do when everything seems lost, hopeless, where is God in all this, again this book contains answers.

Habakkuk teaches us how to rejoice when the lid has blown off everything and nothing that we once counted on as a reference point remains fixed: everything is gone, including the food that we once, took for granted. “What we will do then?” asks Habakkuk. He although anxious, fearful of what was going to happen to God’s people still had peace.

He knew what was coming but still had faith, trust in His God.

He had a peace in his heart that passed all understanding. How he maintained a sense of peace in the face of such savagery, brutality and shocking demolition of everything he had held dear (not to mention everything that God had built up through the nation of Israel over the last millennia and a half) is a lesson worth learning in our own day.



Habakkuk continued

And so as we look into this book we will see how to live by faith in a God who is alive and active in the current affairs of life, distasteful and unappealing as those affairs seem at times, and to have hope, confidence in the future because of who God is.

So with all that is currently happening in our country and in the world, look at the six words that Habakkuk used to describe the world in his day, : “violence,” “injustice,” “wrong,” “destruction,” “strife” and “conflict.” The times were not good at all! Therefore it was that the prophet continually lifted his prayer to God that something would be done about the unbearable amount of wrong he was experiencing

We will continue next month.

THEME

HABAKKUK

Evil may seem triumphant,
but God is on the throne and
deals with evil in his own time.



From our WhatsApp Groups.

This morning I want to share the words of a song written by a dear sister in the 1970's of which I have no recording.

God who made the earth in just a day,
 God who formed the wonders of the deep,
 God who flung the stars in space,
 We worship at Your feet;
 Great Creator may You now be exalted as we meet.
 Jesus Christ who came to earth to die,
 Vanquished death and he'll for you and I,
 Lives and reigns with God on high,
 We worship at Your feet;
 Saviour may Your own dear name be exalted as we meet.
 Holy Spirit, Comforter Divine,
 Sent by God to give us power to shine,
 Free those lives by sin entwined
 And stir our hearts to love;
 May You come upon us now in blessing from above.

More from Adolph Saphir:- "All the miracles (in the OT) which form a stumbling block for people, are ratified by Jesus Christ and by the apostles; so that if you do not believe the miracle of Jonah, it is not with the book of Jonah that you have to contend, it is with our Saviour Jesus Christ Himself; or if you don't believe in the Flood, or in the turning of Lot's wife into a pillar of salt, you have to do with Jesus, who said, 'As it was in the days of Noah,' and 'Remember Lot's wife'; ...there is no miracle spoken of in the OT that has not been ratified by the authority of our divine Lord Jesus and of His inspired apostles." and again, "The OT and the NT have exactly the same structure. No twins could be more alike in figure and in feature. It is God who is the beginning, who redeems, who teaches, who guides, who commands; first come the manifestations of God in creation, Supplied by Eddie



WhatsApp continued

"Be joyful always; pray continuously; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil". The Lord knows we are few. He knows our strength and our faithfulness.

Our faith and love are in Jesus Christ, in the hope we have in him and his word of truth. We have been chosen and we are saved not only through his blood, but through the work of the holy spirit in us and our belief in the truth. It is he who encouraged and strengthens us, in all that we do and say. For we have been created to do the good works which our father has prepared in advance for us to do. There is no greater privilege than to serve our Lord, who gave his life for us.

All that we are, all that we may be, rests in him. We no longer live our lives for ourselves, or are free to do as we please. But, we, have greater freedom in Christ, who has broken the shackles that chained us to the evil and corruption of this world.

We serve our Lord and one another. We have unity, togetherness, a bond that cannot be broken, for our Lord is faithful to those who are his. I feel that our Lord will touch the hearts of people and open the eyes of many. But we have our part to play. To take up every opportunity afforded to us to share the truth of the gospel to all those who would listen. I pray that the Lord's message may spread rapidly and that we would stand firm and persevere for his sake.

"And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance". Supplied by Mack



Weekly services.

Sunday - Service at 11.00am now on WhatsApp

Tuesday - House group 7.30pm on WhatsApp

Wednesday - Praise and Prayer meeting now on WhatsApp

For your Diary

June 6th Pastor Kirk

June 13th Pastor John

May 20th Pastor Kirk

May 27th Pastor John

Useful Contacts.

Pastor John: johngowing@willenhallfreechurchcoventry.com

Pastor Kirk: Tel: 07852650870

Church email: wfc@willenhallfreechurchcoventry.com

Church facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WillenhallFreeChurch/>

Church web site: www.willenhallfreechurchcoventry.com

FIEC web site: <https://fiec.org.uk/>

If you would like to join one of our WhatsApp groups please contact John.