



The Weekly Jog

Volume 2, Issue 34 Jog: to nudge, to give a reminder, *jog* the memory

20th August 2008

“The New Plymouth Church Family Experiencing and Sharing the Transforming Power of Jesus.”

Think about this!!!

In 598 B.C., the army of Babylon, led by their king, Nebuchadnezzar, besieged the city of Tyre. This ancient city was one of the wealthiest cities of the world because of their merchant ships which traversed the known world. However, the city did not immediately fall. In fact, it was thirteen years later that the merchants of Tyre sailed away taking their treasures with them. When the Babylonians entered the city, it was abandoned. In anger, they leveled the city and left it in ruins.

Nebuchadnezzar had been God’s tool to bring heaven’s judgment against Tyre, because she had rejoiced when Jerusalem was sacked (Eze. 26:2). The Babylonian king had accomplished God’s will, *even though he did not believe in God*. He had done God’s will, but he had not been rewarded. Even more amazing is the insight this story gives us into the nature of God. Here the words of Ezekiel, “Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon caused his army to labor strenuously against Tyre; every head was made bald, and every shoulder rubbed raw; yet neither he nor his army received wages from Tyre, for the labor which they expended on it. Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Surely I will give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; he shall take away her wealth, carry off her spoil, and remove her pillage; and that will be the wages for his army” (Eze. 29:18-19). Here is the truth so many have failed to see. *God always pays His debts*. The absence of the spoils in Tyre was replaced by the riches from Egypt. God always pays His debts! Even the smallest debt!

Now think about how this applies to your life. “For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Ecc. 12:14). If God notices *every* idle word a man speaks, will He not also note *every* kind word you have ever spoken (Matt. 12:36-37)? You have never given *even one* cup of water (tea, coke, or coffee) to another which He will not reward (Matt. 10:42). You have never brought a *single* can of food to the church building which He did not see, nor which He will not reward. You have never made a *single* visit to a hospital, an assisted living facility or to a shut-in which He will not repay (Matt. 25:37-40). He rewards *every* coin, *even the smallest*, contributed by the poorest person (Luke 21:1-3).

Think about it. If our God did not fail to reward the deeds of an evil king, He will never fail to reward you! God always pays His debts—just ask Nebuchadnezzar! Amen.

“God, a very present help in the time of trouble.”

The way that God chose to thoroughly describe certain things in the Bible is a wonderful blessing and often provides an added layer of comfort and assurance. In Psalm 46 is this thrilling consolation—“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

God is our “**help in trouble**”! He told us, “Fear not...I will help you” (Isa. 41:10). But, God is more than our “help in trouble”!

God is our “**present help in trouble**”! In that same verse in Isaiah 41, God said, “Fear not, for I am with you...I will help you...” But, God is more than our “present help in trouble”!

God is our “**very present help in trouble**”! Read all of Isaiah 41:10—“Fear not, for **I am with you**; Be not dismayed, for **I am your God. I will strengthen you**. Yes, **I will help you, I will uphold you** with My righteous right hand.” Five “I” statements from God in one verse. It is enough to know that He is our “help”; how thrilling that He is our **very present help**.

Bits and Pieces:

Bring a friend day 31st August. Bring a friend maybe even two. Cards available on table in foyer.

Prayers for those who are not well and been suffering with flu and viruses over the past few weeks. Also those studying the word of God.

Ladies Challenge: Palmerston North. 30th Oct-1st Nov 08.

Welcome to Noel and Dorothy now having placed membership with the New Plymouth Congregation.

Allan



It's Cold Out There!

By Teresa Hampton

Brrr... there's a chill in the air. It's time to find my old coat. Often when I put on a coat, I think of long ago when I put on Christ in obedient faith. I wanted to be in him. I wanted Jesus to surround me, so I put him on in baptism. *"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ"* (Galatians 3:27). Putting him on was not complicated. Thankfully, it didn't require an act of Congress or the intelligence of a rocket scientist – this preteen was able to understand the simplicity and importance of putting on Christ.

However, as the years unfolded, I soon came to realize that just as easily as one can put on Christ, one can take him off. He's just as removable as a winter coat. Infact, Satan is ever at work to entice **all** Christians to take Jesus off. He tries to convince us of the practicality of wearing Jesus when it suits us. When we want to satisfy our desires or feed our pride, we conveniently take him off for awhile. He tries to persuade us that Jesus is cumbersome, out of date or doesn't fit anymore, and we should shop for something new.

Truth is, Jesus is a perfect fit for anyone who chooses him. He's never out of date, but has clothed willing souls for nearly two thousand years. He's not cumbersome or heavy (Matthew 11:29-30). We could shop the world over, but being clothed with Jesus is the only way to have eternal life (John 14:6).

The world in which we live is a spiritually cold, sinful place. The only way to survive is to be clothed **at all times** with Jesus, surrounded by the warmth of His love.

Today's verse: *"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord. My soul shall be joyful in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation. He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels"*
Isaiah 61:10.

PRAISE THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD!

"I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, **praise** the greatness of our God!"

[Deut 32: 3](#)

"Therefore I will **praise** you, O LORD, among the nations; I will sing **praises** to your name."

[2 Samuel 22:49-51](#)

"Sing to him, sing **praise** to him; tell of all his wonderful acts."

[1 Chronicles 16:8-10](#)