



Grace Bible-Presbyterian Church

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Grace to you and Peace from God

**Our Mission: "To bring people to salvation in Jesus Christ
and disciple them in their relationship with Christ"
(Matt. 28 : 19, 20; 2 Tim 2:2)**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Congregational Preparation		Sis Lim Sue San & Dn Jeremy Hor
Prelude		
Silent Meditation		
Call to Worship		Dn Chea Oei Kiang
Opening Hymn		"O God Beyond All Praising"
*Gloria Patri		
Congregational Singing		"The Compassion Hymn"
	143	"I Stand Amazed in the Presence"
Responsive Reading	John 16:7-15	
Offerings		
** Doxology		
Scripture Reading	Hosea 11:1-11	
Hymn		"How Deep the Father's Love"
Pastoral Prayer		
Message	"A GOD WHO WILL NOT LET GO"	PR WANG WUN LONG
Closing Hymn		"In Tenderness He Sought Me"
Benediction		
Threefold Amen		
Welcome & Announcements		

* Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the
beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen

** Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

MAKING BIBLE GEOGRAPHY MEANINGFUL

Dr. Jack (John) Beck, my teacher in the Holy Land Study Tour, with Jerusalem University College says,

“We all have real needs; and the Bible tells a story that meets them. This is a story about Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, David, and Jesus. It is also a story about Bethlehem, Shechem, Jericho, and Jerusalem. Does God expect us to pay attention to places like these as much as we pay attention to the people? Yes! These places do much more than provide a stage for God’s plan of salvation. Geography actively shapes the message of the Bible. If we ignore it, we will miss some of what God is anxious to share with us. If we engage it, we will discover new and exciting insights into stories we thought we already knew. For the story that addresses my deepest needs is a story intimately bound to place. That is why there is geography

in the Bible.” (The Lands of the Bible: Places that Shape Scripture, pp.1-2)

Bible geography? I did not think much about it until I attended a two week study program with the Jerusalem University College (JUC) in Jerusalem, Israel in 2011. Situated on Mount Zion and only a 15 minutes’ walk from Jaffa Gate stands JUC, which is also known as the Institute of Holy Land Studies. Interestingly, the late Rev Timothy Tow also attended this Institute in the 1960s.

In 2011 I met Dr Jack Beck and for the next three occasions when I returned to JUC, I had the opportunity to have him as my teacher. He is an authority on the history and geography of Israel, having been there for the past 18 years and written several books on Israel.

My perception of Bible geography has taken a new perspective in my study of Scripture. You have seen me explain in my preaching on the back-

ground (historical perspective) and also the geography (geographical perspective) of the biblical passages that I have been preaching from.

If *all Scripture* is the inspired Word of God as seen in 2 Timothy 3:16, then we must also pay special attention to history and geography in the Bible. To skip it in our Bible study, be it in Bible class lessons or in our preaching is to ignore 2 Timothy 3:16.

Of course, one need not go to Israel to be able to interpret the historical and geographical context of the passage. There are many good books to help us do so. It only takes more effort on our part to study it. I am glad to have the opportunity to visit Israel eight times and each time I seek to learn some new lessons as I visit different places of biblical significance. The next time when you read the Bible, make an effort to look into the geography and historical lessons of the places.

Let me give you one exam-

ple:

“For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.”

Hosea 8:14

When the prophet Hosea wrote this book, it was during the days of King Hezekiah. He had to deal with two Assyrian Kings (2 Kings 18). The above were the words of Hosea which tell us they built “fortified cities” (ESV), and one of those cities was Lachish (2 Kings 18:13-16). Bible geography will show us where this place is and its distance to Jerusalem. A major battle was fought there and Lachish was overwhelmed by the Assyrians. If you skip the study on the fenced cities; e. g. Lachish, you will miss the geographical significance of this place and the importance of this city in defending Judah, especially, Jerusalem.

Pastor

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

WED	Prayer Meeting	8.00 p.m.
SAT	Adult Fellowship	5.30 p.m.
	<i>(Last Saturday of every month)</i>	
SUN	Worship Service	9.30 a.m.
	Junior Worship	9.30 a.m.
	Bible Class	11.30 a.m.

Last Week's Collections

Offerings	\$ 2, 590.20
Tithes	\$ 3, 926.00
Building Fund	\$ 1, 827.50

APPOINTMENTS

Prayer Meeting — Wednesday

Attendance on 8 May: 10

Pastor takes devotion on 15 May

Worship Service Next Sunday :

Speaker: Bro Lim Chien Chong

Chairman: Dn Jeremy Hor

Pianist: Sis Chea Ruei Jean

Organist: Sis Loretta Wong

Ushers

This Week: Bro Richard Tan/Dn Daniel Tan

Bro Lee Kee Min

Next Week: Bro Tan Teck Shi/Bro Jonathan Sam

Sis Evonne Tee

AV

This Week : Sis Evonne Tee/Bro Chea Ruei-E

Next Week: Sis Janice Lee/Sis Melinda Chan

Junior Worship (7-12 years old)

This Week: Bro Lim Chien Chong

Next Week: Bro Lee Min Sen

Pre-Primary Worship (3 - 6 years old)

This Week: Sis Leong Ling Ling

Next Week: Sis Lim Sue San

Flowers and Refreshment

This Week: Sis Jasmine Blundell & Sis Naomi Neoh

Next Week: M/M Chan Beng Hock

Refreshment Duty

This Week: Sis Lynna Seah & Sis Hannah Yeo

Next Week: M/M Philip Wong

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kindly turn off your mobile phones or put them on silent mode!

***“The Lord is in His holy temple:
let all the earth keep silence before Him.”***

Wishing all mothers and grandmothers a Blessed Mother's Day.

Pray for Bro Chien Chong as he prepares to speak from Hosea 12. Message title: *“When We Repeat Our Past Mistakes.”*

Pastor will be preaching in the Mandarin Service today at 11:30 am. Pr Wun Long will take Pastor's Bible Class.

Adult Fellowship on Saturday, 18 May 5:30 pm in church. Title: ***“Understanding How Today's Younger Generation Sees the LGBTQ Issue.”*** Speaker: Mrs Lisa Wang. Young adults are welcome to attend. Please note the change in the date of meeting. All meetings will now be held in the church sanctuary.

Church Camp, June 12-15 (Wed-Sat). Camp theme: *“True Discipleship in the Community.”* Speaker: Dr David Pardini. Let us come together for camp at I Hotel Baloi, Batam, Indonesia. Please sign up as soon as possible.

Floral/Refreshment slot is available on 26 May.

Pastor will be on leave from 24 May –10 Jun 2019.

Pastor (mentoring): Rev Tan Eng Boo : 9784-2761(Hp) email: Eng_Boo_TAN@gracebpc.org.sg

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