



Sunday 12th July 2020: Worship at Home

Welcome to this week's edition.

If you can get online join us

Sunday 10.30am	ZOOM Sunday Worship
Sunday 12 noon	ZOOM Youth (11+)
Sunday 4pm	ZOOM Kidz Club (5 -12 years)
Tuesday 7pm	ZOOM Bible study this evening
Wednesday 7pm	Corps Council Meeting
Saturday 4pm	Merge -Youth Zoom (14 years plus)

Call Carl on 07900497326 or email carl.whitewood@salvationarmy.org.uk for the ZOOM information. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8651865167>.

And you can **ring into Zoom by phone!** If you ring 02034815240, followed by 8651865167# then you will hear the meeting! Calls charged at the normal UK rate.



"Clear lots of ground for your tents! Make your tents large. Spread out! Think big! Use plenty of rope, drive the tent pegs deep. Isaiah 54:2

Thanks to those able to join the presentation from Ivan last Wednesday.

For those who could not we are trying our best to keep you informed so that you can share your thoughts with us.

Some key questions were asked and it is important to respond immediately.

- Salvation Army have not purchased the properties next door. We hope this may still be possible – but it not guaranteed.
- Salvation Army have not committed to the cost of this. We are very much in the exploratory stage. Salvation Army HQ will need to be satisfied that the investment will allow us to engage in ministry more effectively and it something that Ramsgate Corps are committed to.
- This is all at the concept stage. There will be changes and opportunities for much more discussion stage. The plans were to show what might be possible with the space available.

Please keep praying and asking questions. We hope to be able to present to HQ during July – and to get a clear idea of your commitment will be very helpful.

Will you read this verse and pray this prayer regularly?

The God of heaven Himself will help us succeed; therefore, we will arise and build! We will trust His Word and believe in the Sovereign Lord who always keeps His promises. Nehemiah 2:20

Father, we thank You for Your faithful love for us that never ends and Your mercy which never ceases. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. Lord, You are God. You created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. You made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. You are the Lord and there is no other. You publicly proclaim bold promises; You do not whisper obscurities in dark corners. We thank You

for giving us the vision to build. We pray for the permission and the resources for us to build. Thank You, Father, for being a wall of fire and protection around our corps, our families and our community and all those involved in the planning of this new building.

NEXT SUNDAY

Joel and Emily (Carl and Heather's son and future daughter in law) finally get married next weekend. Carl and Heather will be on holiday Friday 17 to Sunday 19 and so we will be sharing Zoom worship with Captains Callum and Beri McKenna from Hythe Corps – details in next weeks newsletter.

Maggie is available with the constant prayer line where you can call or text for prayer. You can contact her on 07840 753 603

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.



Sunday on the BBC:

Sunday Worship – Radio 4 – 8.10am Sowing in a time of uncertainty

A service from South Wales Baptist College led by Rev Dr Craig Gardiner, with a reflection on the parable of the sower from College co-principal Rev Dr Rosa Hunt.

Songs of Praise – BBC 1 – 13.15

The UK's Favourite Hymn. From Leicester's De Montfort Hall, Aled Jones counts down the UK's top ten favourite hymns as voted for by you.

Birthdays

Jean Spearing	12-Jul
Diane Letts	16-Jul
Beryl Furlong	18-Jul

Prayers please for

Please continue to pray for Val, Maurice, David and Al.

For Tom – getting better but still in need of prayer.

Sally's aunt Helen and also for Debbie Smith recovering with family after her hospital treatment.

Officers and their families who will be moving in the coming days – especially Ian and Keeley with Niamh and Matthew and Glenn and Sharen with Bethany and Luke.

Prayers for Madeleine and Bernard who attend Maidstone Salvation Army, for themselves, their daughter Marie and grandson Steven.

Steven is 20 and has been battling leukaemia for many years. His latest battle is not going so well and urgent prayers are requested for a miracle of healing.

TURN YOUR TALENTS INTO
TRANSFORMING LIVES'
WITH A CAREER IN
THE SALVATION ARMY

JOIN OUR TEAM...

RECRUITING NOW FOR
Winter Shelter
Project Manager

Ramsgate Salvation Army, High Street, CT11 9TT

Thanet Winter Shelter is a coalition of churches working in collaboration with The Salvation Army Ramsgate, offering evening hospitality and overnight shelter to homeless people in Thanet through the coldest period in winter for 19 weeks from Monday 16 November 2020 to 28 March 2021.

You will ensure that between the hosting churches, cover is in place every evening and night of the week through this period. This project is supported by Thanet District Council, local agencies and charities.

Key Responsibilities:

You will be responsible for the set up; delivery and sustainability of achieving the aims of the project to provide evening hospitality and overnight shelter for homeless people in Thanet using a suitable venue (s) and volunteers through the colder period of the winter. To manage paid staff and engage volunteers with some of the most vulnerable people in Thanet without discrimination, expressing Christian compassion in building supportive relationships. To work with other partners to help homeless people move on to appropriate accommodation, reducing dependency on the shelter and to establish the funding and administrative support necessary to enable the provision of such a shelter to continue in future years.

To be successful in this role, it is essential that you will have experience of multi-agency partnership working and management of projects, particularly with initiating funding; logistics; data collection and reporting; leading and working closely with volunteers.

If you want to know more about the role, please send an email to Care Whitewood:
carl.whitewood@salvationarmy.org.uk

SALARY:
£25,917 per annum

WORKING HOURS:
38 hours per week including working evenings, weekends and national bank holidays e.g. Christmas day

DETAILS:
23 days annual leave + bank holidays; a contributory pension scheme; season ticket loan; an employee assistance programme

CONTRACT:

Permanent

CLOSING DATE:
19 July 2020

INTERVIEW DATE:
TBC

Prayers for the appointment of the new winter shelter manager.

Prayers for the provision of shelter for this coming winter.

The government have said the dormitory style accommodation (i.e. church floors) will not be acceptable during the Covid pandemic.



For further details and to apply please visit: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/jobs

Appointment subject to satisfactory references, proof of right to work in the UK and DBS Check. CVs will not be accepted. Promoting equality in the workplace.

Prayers at our hall



The hall will be open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday between 10 am and 12 noon (other times by arrangement)

Please call or text to let us know you are coming (where necessary we may ask you to delay your visit to stop overcrowding)

Tables and chairs have been placed around the hall to ensure distancing. Prayer material will be available at each station – which you can use and then take away.

If you are in the high risk (shielded group) please talk to us before you plan to come and we will ensure there is no one else in the hall.

Any question please call or text Carl on 07900497326

This week in photos



Thanks to Mavis for re-starting this important ministry.

GUEST
CONTRIBUTOR
Next week...Anne



We take a break from the normal guest presenters to share testimony from our family. You will remember we looked at Elijah (1 Kings 17:14) who said “the jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.”

What does that mean to us? Where have we seen God providing for us even when we cannot see the way ahead?

Here are two testimonies

Testimony of an amazing experience of God at work for me

Around February 2017 I was in need of housing. I once had a beautiful one-bedroom house (yes one bed house – needle in a haystack) but was facing homelessness and had to bid on Thanet Council’s Home Choice web site to try to get housed.

I bid and came so close (between 1-5) on a perfect one-bedroom home - and actually cried when I lost it. I then bid on a one bed flat with Orbit – but because of arrears I was told not to bid anymore. So, I stopped bidding and worried about what would become of my housing problem. The experience from God then came: One day whilst reading scripture I felt some keys in my hand (not actual keys) and I carried on reading. A week later I then thought I heard the words “go bid on-line”. I felt strange (hard to explain) but I did look on the web site and amazingly one of the very same 1 bedroom houses (that I had come so close to getting) was available to bid on. I went ahead and bid – although it was with Orbit.

While I was outside of Iceland (Ramsgate) I had a phone call. It was Orbit offering the one-bedroom house. Truly amazing, I screamed out loud and people came out of Iceland and across the street to see what was wrong. But nothing was wrong at all. My friends were amazed too. (JH)

I have been living in my house for three years now. I continuously thank my heavenly Father for my blessing. JH I know we all have moments that we share in testimony of the Lords work, his grace and mercy. Generally, I see the Lords hand at work in the people I know and support. I see it so clearly, when they themselves may struggle to. Often its others that need to show me where he is at work in my life. Yet today there is no doubt in my mind that our father speaks just as clearly today to us, as he did two thousand years ago.

Today my friend telephoned me, I had asked her to find time to do so because she is so sad, so broken she tells me, after the breakup of her nineteen year marriage. The disbelief, the lack of self-worth and the shock, all pulling her down. As we spoke, I prayed silently for the right words, the wise words, God's words not my words. Something Lord, anything Lord that will provide some healing, some hope, some understanding to the mess my dear friend is now in. We chatted, I listened, she cried, and we chatted again. Just as we reached two hours of talk time, I found I was reading Ecclesiastes, There is a Season. A time to be born, a time to die and so on. Beautiful words that Carl read from his daughter's sermon and played from the sixties song by the Byrds a couple of weeks ago. After I finished, we prayed and I ended the call. Please God let something of that time be of worth, after all I will not know.

Then the door went, it was Royal Mail and I got excited, like a child at Christmas as I remembered I had ordered some fine art prints from a young lady I follow on Instagram. Leah paints stunning prints with bible verses and also prints of her hometown in Devon. She had thanked me

for my encouraging words to her the week before last, which is when I placed my order... A week before last.

I opened the parcel and there were the five A4 prints and in-between them out fell an A5 card, gift wrapped in tissue paper. The card read... Thank you Jacqueline for your encouraging words, a gift for you. The gift... A hand painted print, with the words 'For everything there is a season.' there could not be a clearer message that God knows the plans he has for us. That he is living with us today and talks through people and events around us. A week ago, Leah was promoted to gift a print to me. Today I prayed for wise words and today the Lord confirmed through Leah that I used the right words. He is an ever-faithful God. Amen. (JF)

THE TOWN RAILWAY STATION.

The Town Railway Station was on the corner of Station Approach Road and Margate Road now the site of a block of flats. The first train into the station was 13, April 1846. Last train 1, July 1926.

Bottom Photograph a S.E.C.R. No. 191 a class C. 0-6-0 awaits departure time and stands at the lengthened platform.



Thanks again to David Richards for this contribution.

Monday 13th July Look Up!

Psalm 8:3–4; Revelation 21:22–25

When filmmaker Wylie Overstreet showed strangers a live picture of the moon as seen through his powerful telescope, they were stunned at the up-close view, reacting with whispers and awe. To see such a glorious sight, Overstreet explained, “fills us with a sense of wonder that there’s something much bigger than ourselves.”

The psalmist David also marvelled at God’s heavenly light. “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?” (Psalm 8:3–4).

David’s humbling question puts our awe in perspective when we learn that, after God creates His new heaven and earth, we’ll no longer need the moon or the sun. Instead, said John the apostle, God’s shimmering glory will provide all necessary light. “The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. . . . There will be no night there” (Revelation 21:23–25).

What an amazing thought! Yet we can experience His heavenly light now—simply by seeking Christ, the Light of the world. In Overstreet’s view, “We should look up more often.” As we do, may we see God.

Reflect & Pray

What does God’s heavenly light teach you about Him? When you praise the glory of God, what do you experience?

Our wondrous God, I’m awed by Your holy glory, and I praise You for Your marvellous Light.

Tuesday 14th July. Look Up!

Revelation 21:25

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Wednesday 15th July Playing the Fool

James 4:4–12

My most humiliating experience ever was the day I addressed the faculty, students, and friends of a seminary on its fifty-year anniversary. I approached the lectern with my manuscript in hand and looked out on a vast crowd, but my eye fell on the distinguished professors seated in the front row, garbed in academic gowns and looking very serious. I immediately took leave of my senses. My mouth dried up and detached itself from my brain. I fumbled the first few sentences and then I began to improvise. Since I had no idea where I was in my lecture, I began frantically turning pages, while talking a line of nonsense that baffled everyone. Somehow, I made it through, crept back to my chair, and stared at the floor. I wanted to die.

However, I learned that humiliation can be a good thing if it leads to humility, for this is the key that opens God's heart. The Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble" (James 4:6). He shows the humble with grace. God Himself said, "These are the ones I look on with favour: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word" (Isaiah 66:2). As we humble ourselves before God, He lifts us up (James 4:10).

Humiliation and shame can bring us to God for His shaping. When we fall, we have fallen into His hands.

Reflect & Pray

What was your most humiliating and embarrassing moment? What good thing did you see come from it?

Loving God, help me to accept humiliation if it in some way brings honour and glory to You.

Thursday 16th July. Costly Joy

Matthew 13:44–46

At the sound of the digital melody, all six of us sprang into action. Some slipped shoes on, others simply bolted for the door barefoot. Within seconds we were all sprinting down the driveway chasing the ice cream truck. It was the first warm day of summer, and there was no better way to celebrate than with a cold, sweet treat! There are things we do simply because of the joy it brings us, not out of discipline or obligation.

In the pair of parables found in Matthew 13:44–46, the emphasis is selling everything to gain something else. We might think the stories are about sacrifice. But that's not the point. In fact, the first story declares it was "joy" that led the man to sell everything and buy the field. Joy drives change—not guilt or duty.

Jesus isn't one segment of our lives; His claims on us are total. Both men in the stories "sold all" (v. 44). But here's the best part: the result of this selling of everything is actually gain. We may not have guessed that. Isn't life in Christ about taking up your cross? Yes. It is. But when we die, we live; when we lose our life, we find it. When we "sell all," we gain the greatest treasure: Jesus! Joy is the reason; surrender is the response. The treasure of knowing Jesus is the reward.

Reflect & Pray

How have you experienced joy in your relationship with Jesus? What is He inviting you to surrender to Him?

Dear Jesus, open my eyes to see the treasure that You are! Direct my heart to You as the source of true and unfailing joy, and let me ever be fixed on You. Grant me the grace to surrender all to You.

Friday 17th July Light in the Dark

Psalm 18:28–36, 46–49

A severe thunderstorm passed through our new town, leaving high humidity and dark skies in its wake. I took our dog, Callie, for an evening stroll. The mounting challenges of my family's cross-country move grew heavier on my mind. Frustrated by the countless ways things had strayed so far from our high hopes and expectations, I slowed to let Callie sniff the grass. I listened to the creek that runs beside our house. Tiny lights flashed on and off while hovering over the patches of wildflowers climbing up the creek's bank. Fireflies.

The Lord wrapped me in peace as I watched the blinking lights cutting through the darkness. I thought of the psalmist David singing, "You, Lord, keep my lamp burning" (Psalm 18:28). Proclaiming that God turns his darkness into light, David demonstrated confident faith in the Lord's provision and protection (vv. 29–30). With God's strength, he could handle anything that came his way (vv. 32–35). Trusting the living Lord to be with him through all circumstances, David promised to praise Him among the nations and sing the praises of His name (vv. 36–49).

Whether we're enduring the unpredictable storms in life or enjoying the stillness after the rains have passed, the peace of God's constant presence lights our way through the darkness. Our living God will always be our strength, our refuge, our sustainer, and our deliverer.

Reflect & Pray

What verses help you trust God's constant presence? How can relying on God's sovereign goodness help you walk through storms with confident faith?

Father, please help me trust Your goodness and love even when I sometimes can't see You in the dark circumstances in life.

Saturday 18th July. When the Splendour Is Gone

Lamentations 3:13–24

I can never recapture the splendour that was our daughter Melissa. Fading from my memory are those wonderful times when we watched her joyfully playing high school volleyball. And it's sometimes hard to remember the shy smile of contentment that crossed her face when we were doing family activities. Her death at age seventeen dropped a curtain on the joy of her presence.

In the book of Lamentations, Jeremiah's words show he understood that the heart can be punctured. "My splendour is gone," he said, "and all that I had hoped from the Lord" (3:18). His situation was far different from yours and mine. He had preached God's judgment, and he saw Jerusalem defeated. The splendour was gone because he felt defeated (v. 12), isolated (v. 14), and abandoned by God (vv. 15–20).

But that's not the end of his story. Light shined through. Jeremiah, burdened and broken, stammered out "I have hope" (v. 21)—hope that comes from realizing that "because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed" (v. 22). And here is just what we need to remember when the splendour is gone: God's "compassions never fail. They are new every morning" (vv. 22–23).

Even in our darkest days, God's great faithfulness shines through.

Reflect & Pray

How has God encouraged you when you felt hopeless? How might He want you to use that to encourage others?

Thank You, Father, that You're the God of compassion. Even while I walk through the valley of darkness, morning will follow as I remember Your compassion and Your faithfulness.

From Major John Amazing Grace

Some of you with long memories may remember in the 60's Judy Collins had a smash hit with 'Amazing Grace'. Methodist Minister John Jackson broadcast a 'Thought for the Day' for the BBC. At the time of Judy Collins hit, the following was part of his broadcast.

'The other day I got a bit of a shock. I was passing a shop and in the window was quite a large sign and it read "Amazing Grace – no stocks available until next month." Well I suppose it was true in a sense because the shop was a record shop and they must have sold all their records of Amazing Grace.

But the 'Amazing Grace' of the song, you know, is the Amazing Grace of God and this is one thing on which there is no limit. In fact, I know a hymn that says:

Grace is flowing like a river,
Millions there have been supplied.
Still it flows as fresh as ever
From the Saviour's wounded side'.

(I remember well Judy Collins hit in the 60's, I also remember singing the 'Flowing River March' with the Singing Company at Stapleford in the 50's. We sang it again just two years ago at a Singing Company reunion at Stapleford.)

Time to Smile

A guest goes to the reception desk at a hotel. 'Excuse me, but a card in my room said I should alert management of any complaints.' 'That's right, sir' says the receptionist. 'What's the matter?' The guest replies, 'Not much. Just a touch of rheumatism and some dandruff.'

Two friends were bound for a holiday abroad. One of them looked out of the cabin window of the aeroplane and exclaimed, 'wow! Look at all those people down there! They look just like ants!' His friend peered over his shoulder and said, 'They are ants. We haven't taken off yet.'

A woman on a holiday trip to the New Forest stood in awe in front of an enormous tree. 'Oh, how marvellous an ancient oak tree!' she enthused. 'If it could only speak to us what would it say? 'Well' said the tour guide, 'it would probably say, pardon me madam, but I'm an elm.'

First bus passenger: 'Pardon me, I'm on holiday in London. Where do I get off for the Tate Gallery? Second bus passenger: 'Keep your eye on me and get off two stops before I do.'

Why?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and put our junk in the garage?

Why is it that if someone tells you that there are over a billion stars in the universe, you believe them, but if they tell you there is wet paint somewhere, you have to touch it to make sure?

Why is there a light in the fridge but not the freezer?

Why is it that if we're here to help others, what are the others here for?

Quiz

- 1.What colour are the seats in the House of Lords?
- 2.What was wrestler Big Daddy's real name?
- 3.Which breed of dog does not have a pink tongue?
- 4.Who was the author of 'Gunga Din'?
- 5.What is an Italian motorway called?

Plant World

- 1.Which term is used for plants which store moisture in their thick, fleshy leaves?
- 2.What shape is a campanulate flower?
- 3.What is another name for a Lime tree?
- 4.Which tree did archers cultivate to make bows?
- 5.The loganberry is a cross between which fruits?

What is the only English anagram of PATERNALISM?

Answers

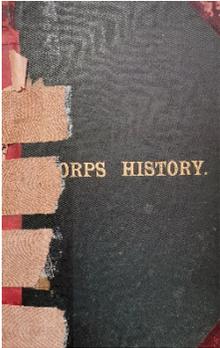
Quiz

1.Red. 2.Shirley Crabtree. 3.Chow. 4.Rudyard Kipling
5.Autostrada.

Plant World

1.Succulent. 2Bell shaped. 3Linden. 4Yew. 5Raspberry
and Blackberry.

What is the only English anagram of PATERNALISM
PARLIAMENTS.



Hello everyone! Today I want to bring you to the 25th and 26th of May 1946, where we were blessed with a visit from the Assurance Songsters, from Chelmsford in Essex.

It seems our Corps was full to the brim for these meetings. Our gallery was reserved for paying ticket holders, and we were also very privileged to hold meetings on Saturday at the Westcliff Hall in Ramsgate for which a Mr F. J. Warden paid a hiring fee of £3 and 3

Shillings, which in today's money costs is £111.99. For the event in the West Cliff Hall (you may remember this as Ramsgate's Motor Museum), our Corps Officer sent out 500 special invitations. For this, he gathered names from the telephone directory (I wonder if this is something Carl and Heather could do in modern times?). 450 people accepted their invitations for the West Cliff Hall, and it was a good event, but the scribe for the history book notes down that having the event in our own Corps Hall is better.

Ramsgate's Town mayor at the time, Alderman Austin, kindly held a Civic Reception on the Saturday and entertained Ramsgate's Songsters. After this the Mayor Presided over an Opening Festival.

Our local MP, Howard Carson, attended the Sunday afternoon meetings and was supported by the Mayors from Ramsgate and Margate, as well as the Chairman of Broadstairs Town Council. The paragraph underneath is

particularly exciting; 1700 people attended over the weekend! Many people were billeted to help with this event, and a great deal of money was raised.

The Saturday collection raised £10.15.10 which would now be equivalent to £384. The Sunday morning meeting raised £2.11.1 (equivalent to £91 today) Tickets for the Saturday event on the Westcliff raised £55.15.6 (£1,983), and programmes raised £9.18.6 (£353).

The expenses for the hall for the Saturday event are also listed here. Our hire of the Hall is listed above, plus travelling expenses which cost us a whopping £37 (equivalent to £1,315. today). The printing and postage for the tickets and postage to the people selected from telephone directory cost £17.11.6 (£624 today). We also provided refreshments for the Saturday event, a tea, which cost the Corps £2 and two shillings (around £75).

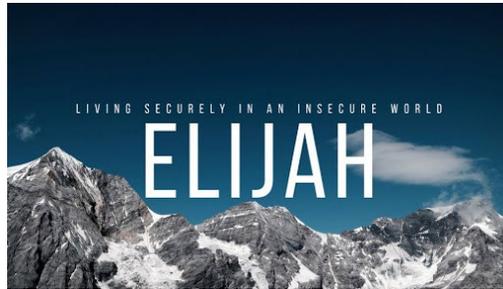
A final profit of £62, twelve shillings and two pence profit. This is equivalent to £2,225.82 in today's money.

Blessings to you all!

Mrs Walker (2) Mrs. Mrs. Blackman (2)			
Mrs. Tuttle (2) Capt. Fellows (2) 2			
Mrs. J. Warden billeted			
Col. Howard.			
Finance:-			
Collection: Sat.	£10.15.10		
Sun. M.	2.11.1		
A.	13.6.10		
N	11.1.8		
		£	37.15.5
Tickets	£55.15.6		65.14.0.
Programmes	£9.18.6		16.5.0
Donations			2.14.3
Less on Sunday			<u>£122.8.8</u>
Expenses. Hire of Hall	£3.3.0		
Travelling	37.0.0		
Ptg. + Postage	17.11.6		
Tea	2.2.0		
			<u>59.16.6</u>
		Profit	<u>£62.12.2</u>

Our thanks to Hollie for compiling this.

Worship at Home: Sunday 12th July



Call to worship

Where should I look for help in my need?

To majestic mountain peaks that probe our skies
or to giants of industry that clog our land?

To satellites that circle our world
or to computers that store our knowledge?

The answer to my problems and the fulfilment of my needs
must come from God Himself,

from Him who created skies and mountains
and men and women to dwell in their midst.

He is a great God who knows our every desire,
whose watchful eye is upon us night and day.

We can make no move without His knowledge.

His concern for His children is constant,

His love for them eternal.

And thus, the Lord will keep you, shielding you from the forces of evil
as a shade tree shields you

from the rays of the blazing sun.

He does care for you, and He will fight with you
against the enemies of your soul.

Whether you are coming or going,

He knows the course you take,

and He will go before you.

Psalm 121 (Psalms Now Leslie F Brandt)

Sing Song 992 (Tune 140)

Who is on the Lord's side?
Who will serve the King?
Who will be his helpers
Other lives to bring?
Who will leave the world's side?
Who will face the foe?
Who is on the Lord's side?
Who for him will go?

2 Not for weight of glory,
Not for crown and palm,
Enter we the army,
Raise the warrior psalm;
But for love that claimeth
Lives for whom he died;
He whom Jesus nameth
Must be on his side.

3 Jesus, thou hast bought us
Not with gold or gem,
But with thine own lifeblood
For thy diadem.
With thy blessing filling
Each who comes to thee,
Thou hast made us willing,
Thou hast made us free.

4 Fierce may be the conflict,
Strong may be the foe,
But the King's own army
None can overthrow.
Round his standard ranging,
Victory is secure,
For his truth unchanging
Makes the triumph sure.

By thy grand redemption,
By thy grace divine,
We are on the Lord's side;
Saviour, we are thine.

Final chorus

Master, thou wilt keep us,
By thy grace divine,
Always on the Lord's side,
Saviour, always thine.

Frances Ridley Havergal
(1836-1879)



How long will you waver
between two opinions?

If the Lord is God, follow him;
1 Kings 18: 21

Song 326 Tune 294

O God of burning, cleansing flame:
Send the fire!
Your blood-bought gift today we claim:
Send the fire today!
Look down and see this waiting host,
And send the promised Holy Ghost;
We need another Pentecost!
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

2 God of Elijah, hear our cry:
Send the fire!
And make us fit to live or die:
Send the fire today!
To burn up every trace of sin,
To bring the light and glory in,
The revolution now begin!
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

3 It's fire we want, for fire we plead:

Send the fire!
The fire will meet our every need:
Send the fire today!
For strength to always do what's right,
For grace to conquer in the fight,
For power to walk the world in white:
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

4 To make our weak hearts strong and brave:
Send the fire!
To live, a dying world to save:
Send the fire today!
Oh, see us on Your altar lay,
We give our lives to you today,
So crown the offering now we pray:
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!
Send the fire today!

William Booth (1829-1912) Adpt. Lex Loizides

1 Kings 18

After a long time, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land." 2 So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab.

Elijah on Mount Carmel

16 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. 17 When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

18 "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals. 19 Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

20 So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah went before the people and said, **“How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”**

But the people said nothing.

22 Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the LORD’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. 23 Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. 24 Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire — he is God.”

Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”

25 Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” 26 So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” 28 So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. 29 Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. 31 Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.”

32 With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. 33 He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.”

34 “Do it again,” he said, and they did it again.

“Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. 35 The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. 37 Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. 39 When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”

Sing Song 376 Tune 676

This is my desire, to honour you:
Lord, with all my heart I worship you.
All I have within me, I give you praise:
All that I adore is in you.

Lord, I give you my heart,
I give you my soul;
I live for you alone.
Every breath that I take,
Every moment I'm awake,
Lord, have your way in me.

Reuben Morgan

There was a pastor who had a parrot. All that the parrot could say was 'Let's pray. Let's pray.'

The pastor tried to teach him to say other things but to no avail. He learned that one of his deacon's got a parrot. That parrot would only say 'Let's kiss, Let's kiss.'

The pastor decided to invite the deacon and the parrot over to his house. When the deacon arrived they put the parrots into the same cage to see what would happen. The deacon's parrot said, 'Let's kiss, Let's kiss.' The pastor's parrot head sprung up, got excited and said 'Thank you, Lord. My prayers have been answered.'

1 Kings 18: 1-40 Will you choose God or the World?

Let's picture the sceneElijah has come out of hiding, he has confronted the evil King Ahab is now standing with the King, 450 prophets of Baal, and representatives from all over Israel and the people on Mount Carmel. Th prophets and Elijah are building altars to the idol Baal and one to our God. Mount Carmel is a high plateau in the middle of Ahaz's nation.

But what is this all about?

After all it started with Elijah's prophecy that the rain would stop.

I believe the answer to that is in this question which Elijah.

'How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is god follow him.'

The Hebrew word used for 'waver' in this passage can be translated several different ways. It could mean:

How long will you

- hobble back and forth between two opinions,
- sit on the fence,
- hesitate between two opinions,
- be divided between two ways of thinking.
- go on limping with two different opinions
- jump back and forth between two positions?

Some commentators liken this to birds hopping from one branch to another, not staying on one branch very long until they hop to another one that looks better.

It's about INDECISION

This question, 'Will you follow God?' is the most important question the human race must answer as upon the decision depends the momentous issue of life and death, heaven and hell.

We are not all decisive people but indecision here is bad news.

Consider the fable about a hungry donkey that stood between two bundles of hay. It looked at the one, then at the other, and could not decide which to eat first. Eventually it died of starvation.

Or the sad tale of the indecisive squirrel who is in the middle of a busy road and is unable to decide which side to run to, so stays in the middle until

Indecision about whether to follow God or the world doesn't end well.

Neither does it end well for a Christian to believe both. In the end that they discover they have lived neither.

So, who is Elijah directing this question to?

We read on the next line (v22)

'But the people said nothing.'

THE PEOPLE.

Should they follow God?

This was a tough time for the people. No rain had caused a drought and then a famine and probably all they really wanted was rain, not this spectacle on the Mount. And they said nothing - neither for nor against God.

- Maybe this wasn't a priority at this moment.
- Maybe they just followed the crowd and didn't think for themselves.
- Maybe they were content with Baal and really didn't want change.
- Maybe they were too afraid to speak out against King Ahab who supported the god Baal.

Bernard Levin, perhaps the most influential Times columnist of the twentieth-century, described his experience of trying to decide about the Christian faith in these terms: 'People such as me who hover on the edge of the swimming pool, simultaneously longing and fearing to jump...'

ELIJAH

Elijah, the prophet of God, who asked the question, is on fire for God. He has chosen God. If we have chosen God, then we should have some of these characteristics that Elijah demonstrates.

Man of Action

Edmund Burke: 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.'

When Ahab meets Elijah, he calls him (v17) 'the troubler of Israel.' Elijah denies this by saying the people of Israel have brought this drought upon themselves but I believe in some sense he does become a troubler. On top of the Mount Carmel he is causing the people to be troubled over which god to worship. He is encouraging them to choose God. He knows that it is only God

that brings joy and satisfaction, nothing else brings fulfilment and nothing else brings eternal life.

If only we could be as confident as him at challenging people to think about God and their life and death decision.

Courage

He stands alone. I am the only prophet left (v 22) he says. Of course, we do wonder what has happened to the 100 prophets hidden by Obadiah in the cave.

He is decisive and bold. He does not waver. He takes risks. He knows that whoever is on the Lord's side is on the winning side.

A W Tozer said: 'Whoever is on God's side is on the winning side and cannot lose; whoever is on the other side is on the losing side and cannot win.'

He speaks out with courage. He dares to be different. Consequently, he is in a dangerous position.

The martyred missionary Jim Elliott gave this challenge about how Christians are no longer so different with these words: 'The world cannot hate us: we are too much like its own. Oh, that God would make us dangerous

Trust and belief in God

Elijah, like with the raising of the widow's son has not seen do this miracle of sending fire before but he believes God will do it

Our Christian life will not have much power, if we do not believe that God can do what we know he can do. Nor will it have much power if we are praying for "our will be done" and not "thy will be done or praying both.

KING AHAB

He is on the losing side.

He puts a lot of energy into maintaining his own power. In the early part of the chapter he is out looking for food for the animals to ensure his army remains strong. The King spends lots of time building altars for the idols, Baal and Asherah that he and his wife worship. They are trying to drive out the Jewish prophets.

There are many "idols" today. It is whatever people seek fulfilment in. Many people spend their time trying to succeed in world terms, to become powerful; yet we know that does not make them happy or ensure eternal life. Ahab worships gods that do not answer.

Many people strive after stuff of the world instead of God, but it does not bring them happiness. We know that even those who succeed in worldly terms are often missing something...that something being God.

There are many stories of people who have succeeded in worldly terms but are desperately sad.

- Bernhard Langer was one of the best golfers of his generation, twice winning the US Masters and at one time topping the world golf rankings. He said, 'I had... won seven events in five different continents; I was number one in the world and I had a beautiful young wife. Yet there was something missing.

- In one of his last songs, Freddie Mercury, the lead singer of the rock group Queen, asked the question: 'Does anybody know what we are living for?' Even though he had amassed a huge fortune and had attracted thousands of fans, Freddie Mercury admitted in an interview shortly before his death in 1991 that he was desperately lonely. He said, 'You can have everything in the world and still be the loneliest man, and that is the most bitter type of loneliness.'

OBADIAH

Obadiah, we meet at the beginning of the chapter. He is King Ahab's administrator, yet it says in brackets that (he is a devout believer of the Lord). He is in a dangerous situation as he must be living a double life. We discover that he is hiding 100 Jewish prophets in caves and secretly feeding them yet also supporting the King who worships idols. Serving two masters must lead to a life of fear. This is what we see as he encounters Elijah. He fears Ahab and God (12,14)

We are told many times through scripture that we cannot serve two masters, but this is what Obadiah appears to be doing.

LUKE 16:13: 'No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other'.

We are warned not to be of this world.

John 17:16 Jesus said, 'They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.'

We are in the world, but we are not of this world. This world does not set the standard for which we are to live.

Romans 12:2 'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'

Perhaps Obadiah is living what J I Packer calls 'a compartmentalized life.'

Some Christians today might be like that too. They worship God, go to church, and do their "religious" bit on Sundays. Then they switch that off and pursue their professions, weekday work, weekend hobbies, and all their relationships as though these were matters entirely separate from their Christian life. The result of this is dissatisfaction. Neither parts of their lives are fulfilled.

So let us come to the drama. After the Baal prophets receive no answer from their god... a silent nothing. God sends a fire that burns through the bull, the wood, the stones and the water. It is spectacular and the people see the almighty power of our God Lord our God is the true God and they fall flat on the ground in acknowledgement of who he is.

So what does this passage say to us?

People who have been on recent Alpha courses and come to faith have said:

- 'My life has completely changed. I now look at the world through different eyes... I feel love for everyone and an inner peace that I never imagined could exist.'
- 'I had been living my life in a dark hole, I was carrying a great weight on my shoulders... that burden has gone... and I am filled with great hope, joy, excitement and love, and all I want to do is to serve Christ in whatever form he chooses.'
- 'I feel like I have found love and conquered death in one day.'

The difference Jesus makes is massive, eternal, and impossible to fully comprehend.

People who have fully committed to God will sense peace, courage, and joy. The Holy Spirit will be burning within them as they live selflessly and enthusiastically strive to build God's kingdom. They will have confidence in God to answer prayers and meet their needs and the needs of the world. Their lives shine out like the blazing fire of Elijah's altar to those around them. People who are still wavering feel constant doubt, stress, fear. They will have less of a desire to see God's kingdom come because they are still very much part of the world too. The compartmentalised life that fails to bring fulfilment.

People who choose not to follow God find they are living in a world with no answers. They spend their lives looking for something else ...but never find what they want.

When we commit ourselves to God what do we offer?

There are three answers: none, all or part.

Do you mean these words: 'All to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give.'

Seek his fresh anointing on your life today. Sing Song 636 Tune 333

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
In his presence daily live.

*I surrender all, I surrender all.
All to thee, my blessèd Saviour,
I surrender all.*

2 All to Jesus I surrender,
Humbly at his feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

3 All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Saviour, wholly thine;
Let the Holy Spirit witness,
I am thine and thou art mine.

4 All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to thee;
Fill me with thy love and power,
Let thy blessing rest on me.

5 All to Jesus I surrender,
Now I feel the sacred flame;
O the joy of full salvation,
Glory, glory to his name!

Judson Van de Venter (1855-1939)

Sing song 843 Tune 80

I know not why God's wondrous grace
To me he hath made known;
Nor why, unworthy of such grace,
He claimed me for his own.

*But I know whom I have believèd,
And am persuaded that he is able
To keep that which I've committed
Unto him against that day.*

2 I know not how this saving faith
To me he did impart,
Nor how believing in his Word
Wrought peace within my heart.

3 I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin;
Revealing Jesus through the Word,
Creating faith in him.

4 I know not what of good or ill
May be reserved for me,
Of weary ways or golden days
Before his face I see.

Daniel Webster Whittle (1840-1901)

Benediction

If the Lord is God, go now, and follow him,
and do not be tempted to share your loyalty with other gods.
Stay true to the gospel that has been revealed to you in Jesus.
Call on the name of the Lord,
tell of God's salvation from day to day,
and live in righteousness and truth.

And may God bring you grace and peace;
May Christ Jesus heal you and raise you up,
and may the Holy Spirit's fiery glory strengthen your hearts.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Finally

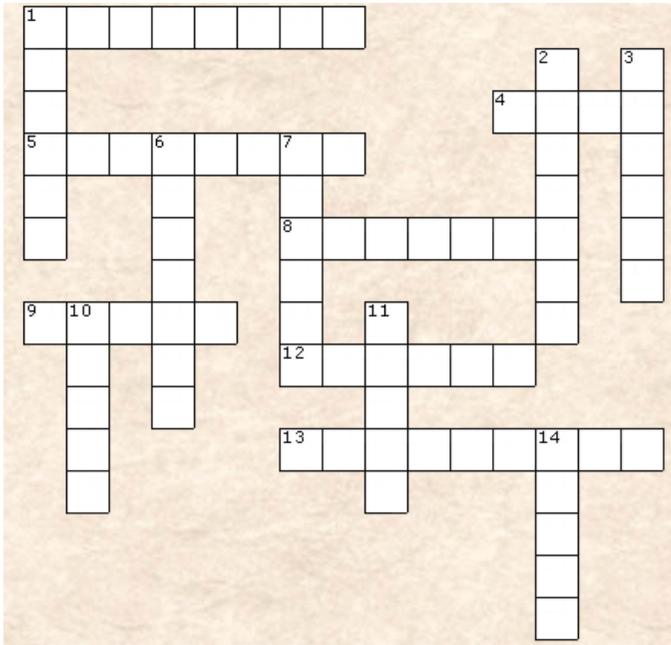
We see Elijah calling on the name of God,
responding to the forces of evil with an appeal to a higher power.
May we be a people of faith.

We see Elijah caring for the most vulnerable,
offering bread to the widow and a healing touch to her child.
May we be a people of compassion.

We see Elijah speaking truth to power,
daring to deliver words of judgment to the King.
May we be a people of justice.

We see Elijah ascend in the whirlwind,
offering the promise of the still unfolding future.
May we be a people of hope.

Bible Quotes



ACROSS

1. Let the little ___ come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God
4. It is more blessed to ___ than to receive
5. The Lord is my ___, I shall not want
8. ___ is a lamp unto my feet
9. For God so ___ the world that he gave his one and only Son

12. Enter by the ___ gate: for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction
- 13 He hath made everything ___ in his time.

DOWN

1. Many are called, but few are ___
2. Seek ye first the ___ of God, and his righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you
3. To everything there is a ___, and a time to every purpose

- under the heaven
6. Love is ___, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud
7. For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou ___.
10. I am alpha and ___, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord
11. Man shall not live by ___ alone.
14. The spirit indeed is willing, but the ___ is weak

Elijah on Mount Carmel

Z	E	N	E	Y	L	R	E	L	B	U	O	R	T	T
U	R	T	B	T	W	L	E	E	J	X	O	H	M	W
W	E	O	A	H	S	H	G	T	A	Y	B	X	G	E
T	O	Z	A	H	A	B	R	U	A	Y	A	U	T	L
N	P	L	L	U	B	I	S	W	Z	W	D	E	H	V
E	F	O	T	W	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	E
X	N	I	A	S	H	E	R	A	H	Y	A	X	L	S
L	E	M	R	A	C	T	N	U	O	M	H	O	O	T
A	C	K	X	E	B	O	C	I	D	V	C	T	R	O
A	E	X	S	S	M	C	T	S	M	O	H	O	D	N
R	N	L	E	D	R	C	U	R	T	A	O	L	I	E
F	H	D	I	K	E	Y	P	A	E	Z	F	W	S	S
X	Z	J	K	J	O	N	H	E	M	N	F	U	G	Q
R	H	H	N	I	A	R	J	L	R	Y	C	F	O	L
T	S	P	R	O	P	H	E	T	S	P	P	H	D	G

AHAB
ALTAR
ASHERAH
BAAL
BULL
ELIJAH
FAMINE

FIRE
ISRAEL
MOUNT CARMEL
OBADIAH
PROPHETS
RAIN
SACRIFICE

THE LORD IS GOD
TRENCH
TROUBLER
TWELVE STONES
WATER
WOOD

ANSWERS	9 Loved	3 Season
Across	12 Narrow	6 Patient
1 Children	13 Beautiful	7 Return
4 Give	Down	10 Omega
5 Shepherd	1 Chosen	11 Bread
8 Thy word	2 Kingdom	14 Flesh

Choose today Whom
You Will Serve



But as for me and
My House We Will
Serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15