

- How do we live when days of darkness come?
- 4 voices/conclusions come out of the events of this chapter

1. Pharaoh - The Voice of Power

- Egyptians believed Pharaoh was a god - this is a clash of the Gods
- Pharaoh tries three methods to limit the growing nation of Israel
- v7, 12, 20 – they keep on growing in spite/because of the oppression
- v17 – thwarted by the midwives – “they feared God”
- v23 - Enlists help of Nile god but (2:6) thwarted by his own daughter
- Thwarted at every turn, by some power working behind the scenes

Pharaoh – “There is a power much greater than me”

2. Satan – The Voice of Evil

- Evil doesn't simply come from inside people, but outside also
- Bible speaks of a dark evil being behind all human evil - Satan
- Gen 3, Rev 12 – Satan wants to destroy the promised child before it gets him
- Bible marked by attacks on children - Cain/Abel, Egypt, Bethlehem
- Satan's two great aims: to destroy people, to destroy his destroyer
- He too is thwarted (and mocked) at every turn

Satan – “There is a God who is determined to rescue people for himself”

3. Israelites – The Voice of the Hurting

- Where is God? Why is he silent? No answers, just promises kept
- Promised they'd go to Egypt (Gen 46:3), for 400 years, as slaves (Gen 15:13,14), become a great nation (Gen 15:5, 17:6), and leave (Gen 15:14)
- We live by faith in his promises, not by sight.
- God is faithful amidst the silence. Hang on to his promises

Israel – “You can trust God's faithfulness amidst the dark silences”

4. The Voice of Hope – Jochebed (Moses' mother)

- Was Jochebed's hope based on her circumstances turning out nicely?
- God doesn't promise that he will avert every tragedy for the Christian
- She was still a slave. Her hope lies in a rescue through the miracle child

Jochebed – “Place your hope in God's rescuer, not in your circumstances being changed”

- God's solution to suffering isn't simply to mop up the problems, but to step into the suffering so that he can bring an end to it.
- In Jesus, God comes and suffers so that he can deal with root of evil, both in us and outside of us. This is where our hope lies.



new life fellowship

SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sabbath 17th January 2010

Notices

- Sun Evening service at Day Centre - Prayer time for wider church
- Tues Midweek meeting at Mark & Judith - fellowship prayer time
- 5-7 Feb Adult Conference - Portrush
Theme - A Fragile Stone - Lessons from the life of Peter - Rev Gareth Burke
Application forms available

Please speak to Caroline if you would like to receive either the Messenger or Covenanter Witness magazines

If you would like to receive bible reading notes for this year speak to Mark about Let's worship God (Airdrie RP Church's own reading notes). €15 for the year. Notes can also be freely downloaded from www.airdrierpcs.org/pubs.php

getting to know the WIDER CHURCH

Congregation: Kilraughts
Location: Near Ballymoney, Co Antrim
Presbytery: Northern
Pastor: David Fallows, married to Jennifer with 4 children
Stuart, Rachel, Ross & Erin
Attendance: about 80



Prayer points:

- Give thanks for the work Debbie Pinkerton did with missionaries in Sudan and give thanks that she has returned safely.
- Pray that the session may have wisdom as they make plans for 2010.
- Give thanks for 40 young people who attend the youth groups and 30 children and their parents who attend Parents' and Toddlers. Praise God for the opportunities this provides to share the Gospel.

Next week's passage: Exodus 2

Opening Psalm: 110

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