



Faith at Home

Growing Faith | Week 11 | 8 June 2020

Thought for the week

Restoration and Rebuilding

By Graham Kissack Year 9 Chaplain

Some thoughts on Ezra and Nehemiah

In recent weeks I have been thinking about the Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah. They record the events of the return of the Jewish people to their land and city after 70 years of exile in Babylon. It was a difficult time for those that returned, but their experiences are relevant to us in our times. Let us take a brief look at three things that we can learn.

1. The goodness of the Lord. Names in the Bible have meanings. Look at the three names in Nehemiah 1 verses 1 and 2. Here they are; '**Nehemiah** the son of **Hachaliah**' and '**Hanani** one of my brothers' What do these three names mean? Firstly, Nehemiah means 'The Lord comforts', Hachaliah means 'Wait for the Lord' and Hanani 'means 'The Lord is Gracious'

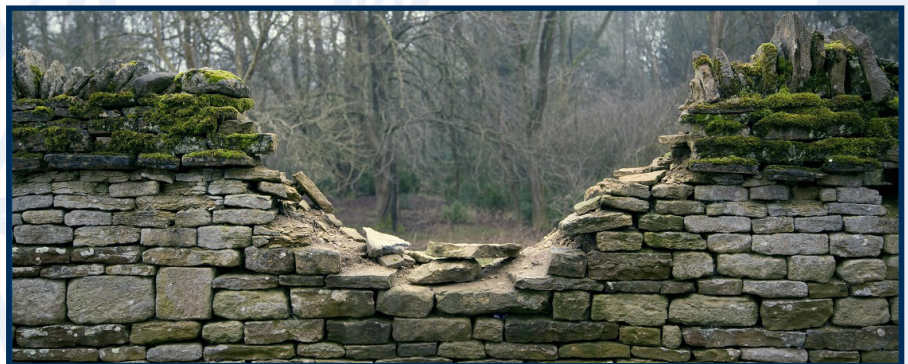
Putting these together, but not in the same order, we can form this idea about God, "The Lord is gracious, wait for Him, He will comfort you". Thoughts precious and true.

2. There are three main characters in the account of the return to Jerusalem. Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah. Space prevents us from doing an in-depth study of each, but let us observe this; one was just an ordinary member of society, one was a priest, and one was a highly placed official. Diverse, yet each one just serving the Lord in their own place. They did not choose to lead the three phases of the return from exile, rather it was God who chose and placed them in positions of leadership to accomplish His plans.

This draws us to Proverbs 3:5 & 6. "**Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding, In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.**" Rather than fretting and worrying about our plans for our lives and careers, we should rather ask Him to lead us, and allow Him to work what is best for us.

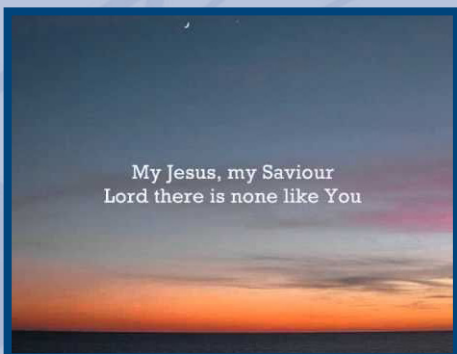
3. Our last lesson, but certainly not the only one we can learn, is this; despite opposition, danger, ridicule, misrepresentation and deception directed against the people and their leaders, the work of restoration was completed. It took many years, but God's plan to rebuild the Temple and the city was completed. His plans always are.

Child of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, hear His word to you; "I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future...When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you." Jeremiah 29:11 – 14.



Sunday 7pm School Song

Why not sing this as we light
our candles together!



Teenager's Tip The New is Here

By Stanley Jones from Year 11

It is important in a time of great struggle to always remember to try and remain strong. This lockdown may seem to be never ending, but with the support of family and friends we will get through this!

Psalms 46:1-3 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

In these strange times, it may be a perfect opportunity to try something new. Perhaps you could try a new activity with your family such as arts and crafts? Maybe you could try to appreciate the smaller things in life, perhaps something as simple as just playing a board game. As we approach the end of spring, the new life we see has begun to blossom. Remember this as we step into 'the new normal'.

2 Corinthians 5:17 "The old has gone, the new is here!"



Have a fantastic week.

Poem for the Week

By Mrs Kay - Teaching Assistant

This reminds me that a few of our staff are bringing babies up in lockdown. I'm sure many of you in our school and church community will know someone in this position. I also think in a world of these difficult times, God still shines through with the gift of a new born baby!

For the Lockdown Babies

"Sure you were only a baby" I'll tell her
when she asks,
About that time in photographs when
everyone wore masks.
"You don't remember the chaos when
the world was forced to rest."
"You had all you needed in my arms
and at my breast"

"You never even noticed" I'll tell her
then I'll say,
"I held you as the weeks went by, we
took it day by day"
"We were safe and happy, right where
we needed to be".
"I fed you snuggled in my arms,
protecting you was key".

"You were only a tiny baby" I'll tell her
and explain,
Why so many people were afraid,
anxious and in pain.
"It wasn't always easy, those isolating
newborn days,
But feeding you flooded me with love,
got me through the haze".

"You were a lockdown baby" I'll tell her
when it's time.
"I was your whole world back then,
just as you were mine",
"And now though it's just a memory, I
still smile when I see,
A rainbow in a window, put there for
you and me."

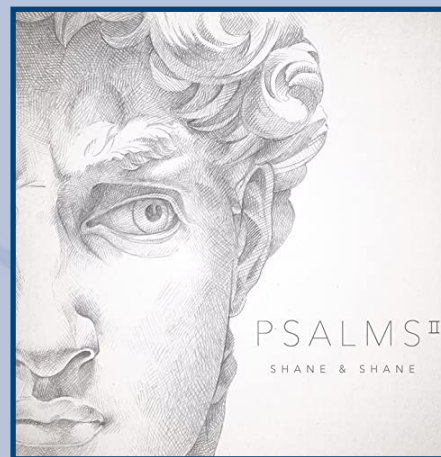
By Gráinne Evans @thebreastofrhymes



**"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my
name, will teach you all things and
will remind you of everything I
have said to you.."**

John 14:26

Song of the Week



Far too Wonderful!

**Here is a reminder from a view
from Mr Pountain's house this
week, that God's promises still
shine through despite the storms
of life!**



Church Support

Here are links to some alternative services and ways to contact some of our School Chaplains or their Churches. You are not alone!

VISION: Vision Live Stream for 11-18s runs every Friday night from 7:30pm. Games, lockdown challenges and chance to think about God + life + faith. Find out more [here](#).

Revd Ian Enticott: Accrington St. James and St. Paul, find their YouTube Channel [here](#).

Revd Hugh Scriven: Huncoat St. John's and Augustine's is happy to send news, some written prayers and Bible reflections each week to anyone upon request. Please email him [here](#) or on their YouTube channel [here](#).

Revd Mark Pickett: Clitheroe St. James, Virtual Prayer Space and weekly online services can be found [here](#).

Father Chris Holden: Rishton St Peter's and St Paul's is happy for you to get in touch with him use this [email](#).

Pastor Matthew Clay: Great Harwood Christian Fellowship, find their channel [here](#).

Rev Toby Webber: Clayton All Saints have short family friendly times of worship at 10:45am each Sunday followed by a fuller service at 11am, and Friday Praise each Friday at 6:30pm. Night prayer daily at 9:30pm and other times as announced. Visit their [Facebook Page](#) for more info.

Father Andy Froud: Clitheroe St Mary Magdalene, prayers and worship online can be found [here](#).

A Church Near You: A website to help you find out what is going on in a Church local to you. Follow this [link](#).

Further links will be provided in future weekly bulletins.



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