

The Chronicle

The Magazine of West Worthing Evangelical Church

Rugby Road.

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Probably one of the most well known clerical Punch cartoons is the Curate's egg, where the Bishop realises that the young curate has been given a bad egg for breakfast. When the Bishop apologises the Curate in 'true humility' says that at least part of the egg is excellent. One wonders if the Curate is unwilling to offend the Bishop for he is trying to get a 'living' with a good stipend rather than being a poorly paid assistant minister.

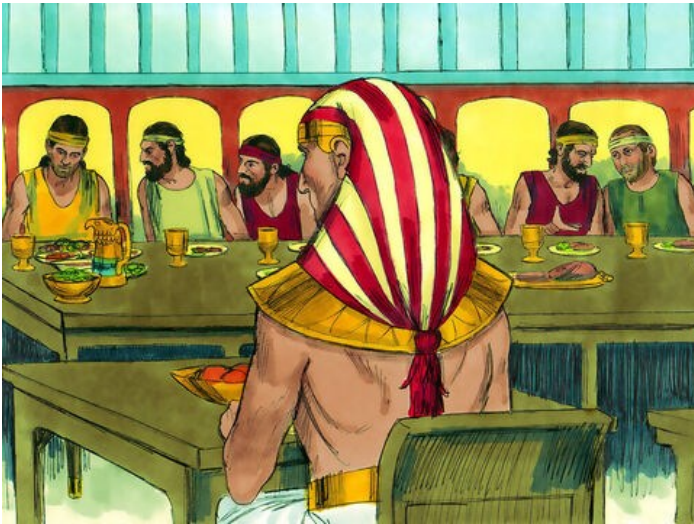
The Corona Chronicle has been produced since the start of the pandemic on a weekly basis and only one edition has been 'missing' over Christmas. With the government restrictions to a certain extent being lifted it was felt right to finish the 'Corona Chronicle' but to be replaced with a monthly Church magazine. The aim of the Corona Chronicle was to minister particularly to those who were unable to get to Church because of the lockdown. A devotional page, a quiz and a page for prayers, bible readings and a hymn to help those who did not have the internet and could not watch our streaming service. The Corona Chronical we hope was a little help in those difficult times.

The monthly Chronicle will include prayers, a hymn and a bible reading for each Sunday in the month as well as a quiz. I would invite any member of the congregation to submit an article, maybe a testimony of how the Lord helped you through the Pandemic say 500 to 700 words to be published. f

I hope the articles in the Corona Chronicle were not bad like part of the Curates egg, that some were good and some were excellent and helpful.

Genesis 43. Dealing with Jealousy.

They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. Deuteronomy 32v16



It can be said that Jacob's family was dysfunctional to say the least. Having sons by different wives and concubines bred jealousy within the family. The brothers' jealousy sent Joseph into slavery in Egypt. But God had designs on this covenant people, He would deal with the divisions in the family taking the whole family to Egypt where they would not be tempted by the pagan gods of Canaan. Egypt was a place where the Hebrews could be separate and grow as a nation. Egyptians would not even eat with those who worshipped other gods.

Over the twenty odd years that Joseph was in Egypt God's hand was upon him. He had grown from the ranks of servant and prisoner, through his prophetic dreams, to second in importance in the land. The man who the brothers had sent into slavery through good governance and being obedient to God's revelation was able to sell grain to the famine world including his brothers who did not recognise him.

God was dealing with Joseph's brothers. They did not want to talk about Egypt when the place was mentioned, when things went wrong they knew it was because they had sold Joseph, they saw the sorrow in the face of their father Jacob and had to lie about his fate but God was dealing with this family and would bring them united together fulfilling God's plan.

God used Joseph to 'test' the family. It showed to Joseph that the brothers had changed. One of the areas was jealousy. On their second trip to Egypt to buy more grain Benjamin, Jacob's youngest son, had to come too because Simeon was a hostage from their first visit. During the meal that Joseph had served to them Benjamin's plate was piled high with food while the others just had sufficient. Joseph whose identity was still unknown to the brothers wanted to see their reaction and noted there was no sign of Jealousy. The fractional life that marked the brothers was no longer there. Through the adversity of difficult circumstances and God pricking their consciences the family was coming together. The word Jealousy in the bible is used both in a good and a bad sense—to represent right and wrong passions.

When jealousy is attributed to God, the word is used in a good sense. It is based upon the feeling a husband has of exclusive right of his wife. God is conceived as having wedded Israel to Himself, and claiming, therefore, exclusive devotion. Disloyalty on the part of Israel is represented as adultery, and as provoking God to jealousy.

When jealousy is attributed to men, the sense is sometimes good, and sometimes bad.

In the good sense, it refers to an ardent concern for God's honour. We can say that **God does not need defending**. But God uses us to act for Him so that His name is honoured.

In Jesus' time God's temple was defiled by the moneychangers and Jesus overthrew the tables. God's house was dishonoured.

We might not knock over money tables but we are to honour God by praying and speaking out when He is dishonoured.

In the bad sense

It begins with negative feelings of inferiority, progressing into nasty feelings of resentment. Even when jealousy gets what it wants—the destruction or removal of another person's good gift—it is left with empty energy that must be redirected to a new object of hatred.

1 Corinthians 3v3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

2 Corinthians 12v20 For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;

When we use the word "jealous," we use it in a sense of being envious of someone who has something we do not have.

This kind of jealousy is a sin and is not characteristic of a Christian; rather, it shows that we are still being controlled by our own desires.

Galatians 5:26 "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other."

How do we deal with jealousy in our heart?

1. Thank God for the success of the person you are jealous of. Jesus commanded us to pray for our enemies as one way of doing good to them (Matt. 5:43–48). But the envious heart turns even friends into enemies. Whether or not it's accurate, your heart believes that a friend or acquaintance is an enemy to your happiness—just because he or she has (or is) something you would like to have (or be).

2. Ask God for the further success of the person you envy. That's right. Pray specifically for their continued success, especially in whichever gift you're envying them for. Ask for things for your friends the way you would ask for things for yourself.

3. Enjoy the gifts God gave to the person you envy. Many of the things we envy in others aren't possessions but personal traits, such as intelligence, beauty, talent, and interpersonal skill. The wonderful thing about these divine gifts, though, is that they can be possessed by one person and enjoyed by others—simultaneously.

4. Praise the person you envy. Ephesians 4:29 commands, "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."

David Page

Joseph

Use the key to complete the phrase below.



KEY

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	K	L	M	N	O
4	P	Q	R	S	T
5	U	V	W	X	Y
6	Z	.	,	'	

EXAMPLE:

H A V E
 23 11 52 15
F U N
 21 51 34

Joseph's and

23 35 34 15 44 45 55

32 35 52 15 35 21 22 35 14

never failed to keep him

44 11 21 15

and

41 43 35 44 41 15 43 35 51 44

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A glimpse at the Majesty of the Lord

Isa 40, 25, 26.

He is clothed with majesty and honour. Ps. 93v1; 104v1-3

Heaven is His throne, the earth His footstool. Isa 66v1

He inhabits eternity. Isa 57v15

His right hand spanned the heavens Isa 48v13

He spreads them out as a tent to dwell in. Isa 40v22

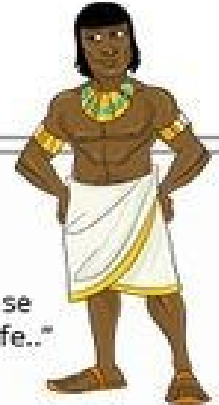
All nations are to Him as a drop of a bucket; the small dust of the balance; less than nothing. Isa 40, 15, 17



As rivers of water in a dry place,
as the shadow of a great rock
in a weary land. Isaiah 32:2

*He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life with the depths of His love,
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.*

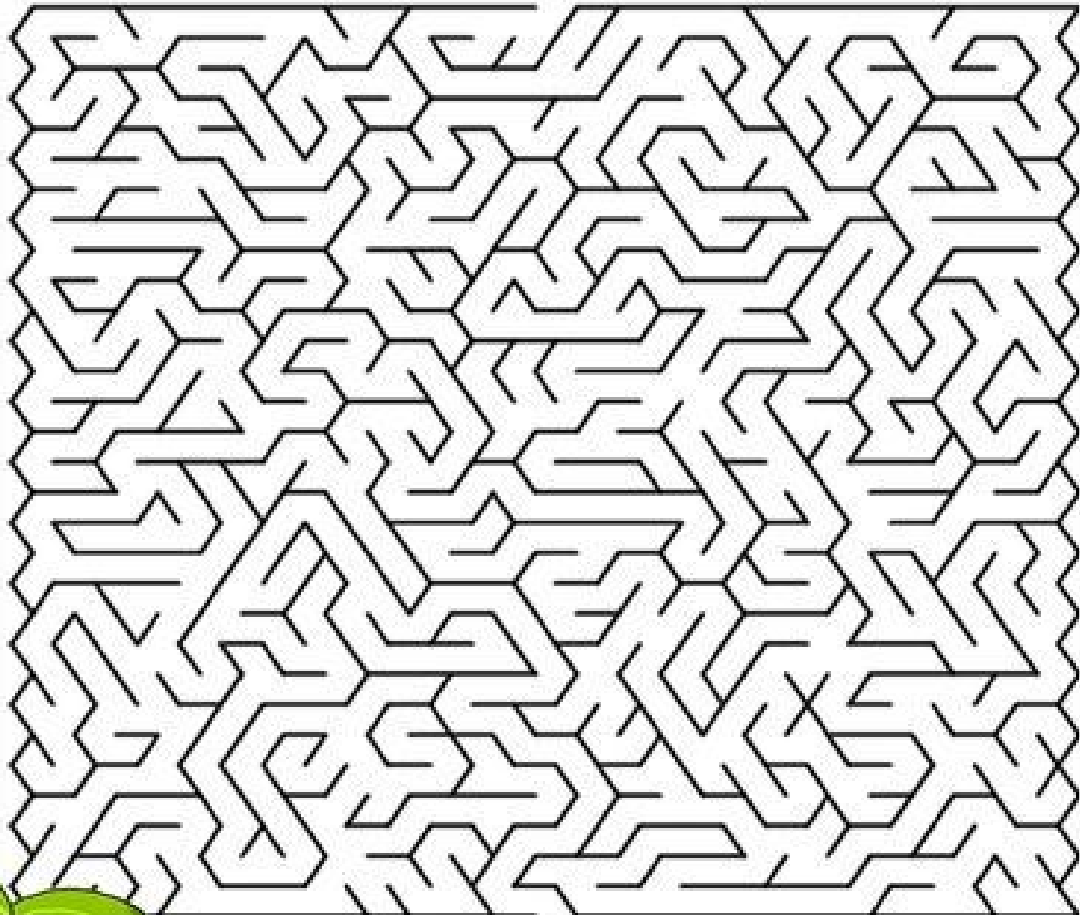
Fanny Crosby



SOLD INTO SLAVERY

"And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for Yahweh sent me before you to preserve life.."

(Genesis 45:5)



Devotional Pages for Sundays.

Especially for those unable to get to Church

There are 15 Psalms of Ascent, **Psalms 120 to 134**. These Psalms would have been memorized and sung as people made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. All males were required to appear in Jerusalem three times a year at the major festivals.

Sunday August 1st

Read Psalm 120.

V1 The Psalmist cries out to the Lord in his trouble, yet he is confident the Lord has heard him. We can always be confident that the Lord will hear us when we come to Him.

V2-4 He is specific. He is hurt by the lies and deceit against him. This hurt is real like a sharp arrow but the Lord will bring healing.

V5-7 He laments that he has spent time with those who want war. Are we prone to listen to those who just want to gossip and speak negative thoughts rather than being with encouragers?

**1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;**

**2 Under the shadow of Your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure.
Sufficient is Your arm alone,
And our defence is sure.**

**3 Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting You are God,
To endless years the same.**

**4 A thousand ages in Your sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

**5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away.
We fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.**

**6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.**

Lord, You are our light and our salvation; You protect us from danger, You remove our fears from us, You invite us to worship You: Our greatest desire is to live in Your presence: here we marvel at Your goodness and ask for Your guidance:

Here, with joyful acclamation, we offer the sacrifice of our love, our gifts and our lives:

Here we sing Your praise, here we seek Your forgiveness, here You teach us Your will, and lead us in safe paths:

Lord, You are our light and our salvation.

We trust You and will not despair;

we know we shall see Your goodness in our lives;

and we look to You for the life to come;

through Jesus Christ our saviour. Amen.

Sunday August 8th

Read Psalm 121

V1-2 The help that we get from the Lord is higher than the Hills. It is the Lord who helps us.

V2-4 The Lord never sleeps He is always there at every moment and time.

V7-8 We are under His plan and He keeps us even when times are painful.

The Pilgrims going to Jerusalem went through rough patches so must we but He is always there.

Hymn

Up to the hills I lift my eyes and ponder:

Whence shall my help arise?

From God the Lord, who made the mountains yonder

And all the earth and skies.

He'll hold you fast and keep your feet from stumbling:

Unworn watch He keeps;

Israel's guard, indeed, is never slumbering:

He neither tires nor sleeps.

He keeps you safe: the Lord's unseen resources

Shield and protect each one;

He shades you from the moon's mysterious forces

And from the noonday sun.

He'll keep your soul from every kind of danger,

Guarding you with His power

In all your ways, at home or where a stranger,

Now and for evermore.

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Prayer

For those who have watched over me,

For those that have protected me,

For those that have shielded me,

Thanks be to the Lord,

Maker of heaven and earth.

For the roof that shades me from the sun,

For the walls that shield me from the storm,

For the bed that warms me in the night,

Thanks be to the Lord,

Maker of heaven and earth.

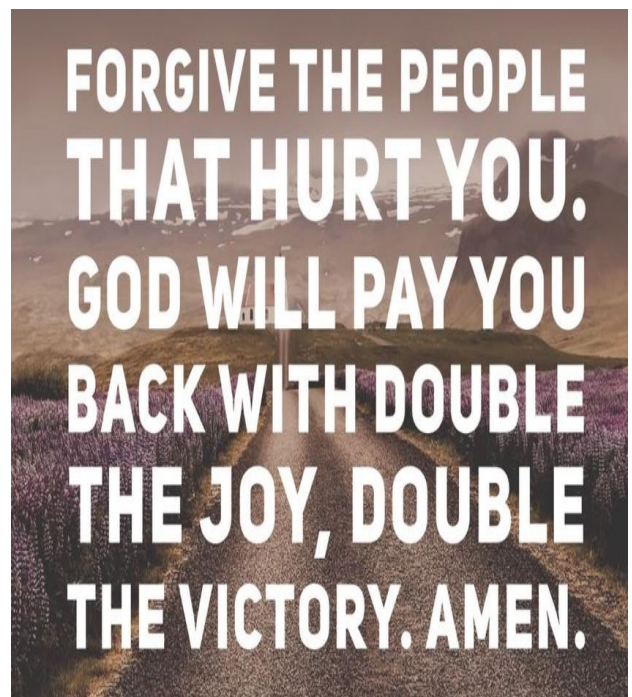
To the one who keeps me from evil,

To the one who preserves my life,

To the one who watches over my coming and going,

Thanks be to the Lord,

Maker of heaven and earth.



Sunday August 15th.

Read Psalm 122

V1-2 David was so glad to go to the house of the Lord. Those of us who can't make it to the gathering of the Lord's people need our prayers.

V3-5 The tribes of Israel go there to thank the Lord. God Himself is the Testimony of Israel and those who are able to go to Church are a testimony to the Lord.

V6-9 We pray for the peace of Jerusalem. For Christians both Arab and Jewish Christians.

**1 I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go to the house of the Lord,
For my heart was so thirsty for Thee,
And so hungry to feed on Thy word.**

Refrain:

***I was glad, I was glad,
Glad to go to the house of the Lord;
I was glad, I was glad,
To be fed on His life-giving word.***

**2 I was glad when I entered thy gates,
O Jerusalem, city of God;
Here the promise of Israel waits,
In the courts where the fathers have trod. [Refrain]**

**3 I will pray for thy peace, blessed home,
And that plenty within thee be found;
For to thee in my hunger I come,
Where the grace of my God doth abound. [Refrain]**
F. G. Burroughs

Prayer.

Merciful God, You have made all people and hate nothing that You have made, nor do You desire the death of sinners but rather that they should be converted and live: have mercy on the Jewish people and all who do not know You or who deny the faith of Christ crucified. Take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt for Your Word and bring them home to Your fold, blessed Lord, so that we may all become one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

An English Prayer Book Church Society

Sunday August 22nd

Read Psalm 123

V1-2 As you look at period dramas you are struck by the way the best servants are eager to serve all the needs of their Masters and Mistresses. We are to constantly look to the Lord for mercy

V3-4 Twice more the Psalmist asks for 'mercy on us'. He has seen the easy living and pride of his adversaries who would persecute the Lord's people.

Hymn

**Still Nigh Me, O My Saviour, Stand,
And Guard In Fierce Temptation's Hour;
Hide In The Hollow Of Thy Hand,
Show Forth In Me Thy Saving Power;
Still Be Thine Arm My Sure Defence;
Nor Earth Nor Hell Shall Pluck Me Thence.**

**Still Let Thy Love Point Out My Way:
How Wondrous Things Thy Love Hath Wrought!
Still Lead Me, Lest I Go Astray;
Direct My Work, Inspire My Thought;
And, If I Fall, Soon May I Hear
Thy Voice, And Know That Love Is Near,**

**In Suffering Be Thy Love My Peace,
In Weakness Be Thy Love My Power;
And When The Storms Of Life Shall Cease,
Jesus, In That Tremendous Hour,
In Death As Life Be Thou My Guide,
And Save Me, Who For Me Hast Died.**
Charles Wesley

Prayer based on Psalm 123

Lord of heaven and earth of all nations and peoples
Reveal Yourself to those who are suffering,
Reveal Yourself to all who are refugees,
Reveal Yourself to those who are powerful,
Reveal Yourself to all who are powerless,
Reveal Yourself to ordinary people
In their everyday lives, that this world
Might reflect Your love and Your glory.



Sunday August 29th

Read Psalm 124

V1-5 What ever the situation as believers find themselves going through the Lord is on our side. We thank God that He is thinking about the fact that if He was not on our side we would be swamped!

V6-7 We thank God for His many mercies to us even in the most difficult of times. So often He gives us a way of escape.

V8 Our help comes from the one who created us.

**1 Had not the LORD let Israel say
Had not the Lord been on our side,
When men who took us for their prey
Attacked us like a surging tide;**

**2 The waters would have stopped our breath
And stifled our despairing cries,
We should have been engulfed in death,
So swiftly did the waters rise.**

**3 The LORD be praised: our cries were heard,
The wolves were not to seize their prey;
We kept our freedom like a bird
That slips the net and flies away.**

**4 Our help is in our Maker's name,
The LORD who built the earth and sky:
He that upholds that mighty frame
Will guard his own with watchful eye.**

Psalm 124, David G. Preston based on Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748)
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Ever-present God, forgive us for our lack of trust in You, and teach us more about Your constant care, and especially Your steadfast love, that never changes and is totally reliable. Give us that trust and confidence we have in our God of deliverance and security.

May we always cling to that belief and hope, and celebrate our spiritual freedom to worship God.

"We escaped...Our help is from the Lord, who made the heavens and the earth."

Amen

Author unknown