

The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday May 24th

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on



Going, Going,...Gone?

Recently we remembered the seventy-fifth anniversary of VE Day celebrating the defeat and surrender of a foe who had seemed invincible five years before. That turnaround in history was achieved because of the suffering and sacrifice of those who took on the foe, even though for so many it meant laying down their lives.

A few weeks ago we celebrated Easter which declared the end of the greatest world war ever to ravage our planet and the defeat of the greatest enemies of mankind: sin, death, hell and the devil. That victory, too, was achieved by suffering and death, not of many but of one. Through the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrifice on Calvary he liberated men and women and through his resurrection from the dead he showed the triumph of God's eternal purpose.

Six weeks later we celebrate another event in God's great victory strategy – Pentecost - when the Holy Spirit came to empower Christ's people to face the mopping up operations after the decisive victory of Calvary.

But in between these great events there occurred another one which, sadly, is often neglected by the free churches. I mean the ascension of Jesus, which was remembered (or not) this Thursday. Perhaps our neglect stems from our not realizing its significance and the effect it had upon his early disciples.

The ascension was not just a tidy way of removing Jesus from the earthly scene; it was far more. The ascension was the official coronation day of King Jesus in heaven – compare Messianic Psalms 2; 68:18; 110 and Revelation 5. There the Saviour-King reigns until all his purposes are worked out, his foes totally subjugated.

This is the glorious truth Ascension Day reminds us of; don't you think that is something worth celebrating?

Those early disciples certainly did. Luke tells us they "returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Luke 24:52) for they knew their living Lord and Saviour had all power and would empower them for the task he had given to them.

The disciples also were impelled to come together to pray (Acts 1:12-14) with renewed confidence and assurance. And then, of course, they witnessed willingly and boldly at Pentecost, beginning to fulfil the responsibility Jesus had laid upon them (Acts 1:8). And we must remember that the coming of the Spirit was consequent upon the ascension.

Too often today churches seem to lack these marks: great joy, corporate earnest prayer and vital witness. Why is it, do you think? Is it because we feel the odds are too great against us in this materialistic world? Is it because we have become worn down in the Christian life and battle? Could it be that we have lost the vision of our Lord in majesty? Perhaps thinking about the ascension might be what we need to clear our minds and hearts, to strengthen our faith, to enliven and embolden our witness and to stir up our joy.

Dennis R. Read

Psalm 46v8-11.

Be Still and know that I am God

In this final part of the Psalm there is a call that goes out. 'Come and see what the Lord is doing'. Our faith may be wavering. Times have been hard. Our daily routine has been shattered. Things have not worked out as we had hoped. But the Psalmist is calling us to 'behold the works of the Lord.' To contemplate His mighty acts.

Contemplate what God did bringing the Hebrews out of captivity in Egypt. Some commentators suggest that from the city walls of Jerusalem some mighty acts of Israel's deliverance might be happening. In Ecclesiastes Solomon, speaks about 'A time of war and a time of peace.' Under His Sovereignty God causes wars to cease and His purposes are fulfilled.

The majority of the psalm is written in the third person as the psalmist speaks about God. However, God's voice comes through in verse 10, and the Lord speaks in the first person:

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Be still.

This is a call for those involved in the war to stop fighting, to be still. The word *still* is a translation of the Hebrew word *rapa*, meaning “to slacken, let down, or cease.”

This verse of scripture is often misused and misunderstood. Especially when the worship chorus 'Be still and know that I am God.' is softly sung.

This verse in the Living Bible states. 'Stand Silent! know that I am God' ”

God is Almighty, Awesome reigning while showing love and compassion.

In Philippians 2 v5-11 there is an early creedal statement about our Lord Jesus who humbled Himself and was obedient even to the point of death even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

One day every knee will bow before a Holy God, ALL of humanity, the Holy Angels, demons. ALL will be still and all will know God. This does not mean that everyone will be saved, but every tongue will recognise Jesus as Lord either with joy that the One who they believed and trusted as their Saviour will give them the inheritance of eternal life, or with utter despair that the Lord they rejected is now an eternity separated from a loving God. A place the bible describes as an eternity of anguish, away from God, eternally unforgiven.

But when we are still and surrendered to God, we find peace even when the earth gives way, the mountains fall (verse 2), or the nations go into an uproar and kingdoms fall (verse 6). When life gets overwhelming and busyness takes precedence, remember [Psalm 46:1](#), **“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”** Run to Him, lay down your weapons and fall into His arms. Acknowledge that He is God and that He is exalted in the earth. Be still and know that He is God.

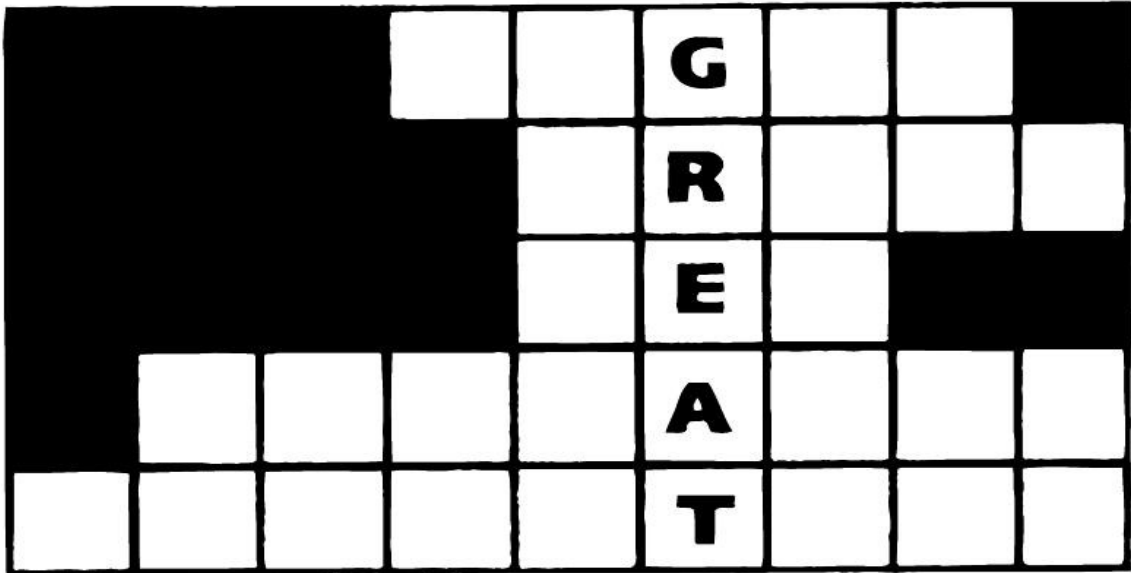
David Page



OUR GOD HAS MADE ...

Can you fill in the missing words in the puzzle below using the Bible verses listed at the side?

Isaiah
45:7
Amos
5:8
Psalm
95:5
Job
9:9
Psalm
104:26



Now:- solve these clues from 1COR 12:12-27 then use the numbered letters to find the mystery verse.

1. Who is likened to a single body made up of many parts?

10	20		12	13	25
----	----	--	----	----	----

 (vs.12)

	5	9
--	---	---

 (vs.16) or the

--	--	--	--

 to the

2. Who has put this body together?

	6	17
--	---	----

 (vs.18)

24	19	23
----	----	----

 (vs.21), "I don't need you" or

3. So the

4	21	3	14
---	----	---	----

 can't say to the

11	7	22
----	---	----

 (vs.15) or the

	1	8
--	---	---

 to the

"I'm not like you so I don't

15	2	16	18
----	---	----	----

 (vs.15 & 16).

1 2 2 3 4 5 6 u 7 8 9 10 11 8 12 13 14 13 15 16 17 5 1 18 17 19 7 10 20

21 22 23 12 13 7 P 7 8 14 6 24 12 25

Psalm 46 v8-11

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before Him with thanksgiving
and extol Him with music and song.
For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before Him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving
and His courts with praise;
give thanks to Him and praise His name.

Prayer based on Psalm 46 v10

Be silent, and know that I am God!
I will be honoured by every nation.
I will be honoured throughout the world.

**The Lord Almighty is here among us;
the God of Israel is our fortress**

Hymn

1 God is our refuge and our strength,
our ever present aid,
and, therefore, though the earth gives way,
we will not be afraid;
though hills amidst the sea be cast,
'though foaming waters roar,
yea, though the mighty billows shake
the mountains on the shore.

2 A river flows whose streams make glad
the city of our God,
the holy place wherein the Lord
Most High has His abode;
Since God is in the midst of her,
unmoved her walls shall stand,
for God will be her early help,
when trouble is at hand.

3 The nations raged, the kingdoms moved,
but when His voice was heard,
the troubled earth was stilled to peace
before His mighty word.
The Lord of hosts is on our side,
our safety to secure;
the God of Jacob is for us a refuge strong and sure.

4 O come, behold what wondrous works
the Lord's great might has wrought;
come, see what desolation great
He on the earth has brought.
To utmost ends of all the earth
He causes war to cease;
the weapons of the strong destroyed,
He makes abiding peace.

5 Be still and know that I am God,
o'er all exalted high;
the subject nations of the earth
My name shall magnify.
The Lord of hosts is on our side,
our safety to secure;
the God of Jacob is for us
a refuge strong and sure.

Source: [Trinity Psalter Hymnal #46B](#)

Bible Reading Psalm 46v8-11

Come, behold the works of the Lord,
Who has made desolations in the earth.
9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
He burns the chariot in the fire.
10 Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!
11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah