

ALTON BAPTIST CHURCH

eService

Sunday 18 April 2021

Welcome

Our Lord leads and guides us all, as He has done in the preparation of this Service; and we will all receive a blessing.

In bringing His message to the people Jesus had 'form' in using hyperbole, in saying things that were outrageous and not possible, to make a point about The Kingdom. Today I am doing the same about one of God's attributes as I want to use a visual display that when we see and/or use this we will be reminded of this Godly attribute – a jar of strawberry jam! So, God is a jar of strawberry jam...!!! Well, an encrypted message – after all our media messages are sent as this. So, taking this further we use another word for 'jam'? Preserve -- so our heading becomes 'God is a jar of strawberry preserve'. We can drop the strawberry (just to make it appear real) and the jar (as we normally see it in jars). So, we now have 'God is a preserve'. We are nearly there -- what about 'God is preserving ... Who? Or What? Well that surely must be us. So **"God is preserving us ..." In the same way that a jar contains strawberries that have been preserved by cooking them in sugar to make jam. We will look at this further.**

God is preserving us.

Opening Prayer

O Lord we ask that you give us open minds and hearts as we come to You at this time of worship with You and others. That you will strengthen our belief in You as we listen to the YouTube videos, read Your Word, speak with you in our prayers and as we consider what Your Word has to say to us to encourage and enrich our lives.

Our 1st hymn.

Our first hymn is about 'preserve' and is not in our hymn book; so please listen and read the words.

Preserve me, O God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lPp8ZtmPvc&ucbcb=1>

Reading for today

A short while ago there was a media report about shoes that had been made looking like a Nike shoe (who were outraged). The red fluid in the soles contained a drop of human blood. In naming the shoes the seller had quoted the saying of Jesus as seeing Satan falling from heaven. This caused upset and indignation amongst Christians that the scriptures were being quoted in this way for commercial gain and having no connection with Christianity. Taby sent me as message on 'Facebook's Messenger Chats' linking the BBC online News article, to which I replied; and our Lord led me to this scripture for today. We have an open scripture and without copyright and thus we are open to such abuse. We are instructed not to take the law into our own hands but leave any vengeance to God. Romans 12:19 ¹⁹ *Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.* ²⁰ *On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."* ²¹ *Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.*

So, we must pray that people will respect our Holy Scriptures.

The words about Satan falling are in

Luke 10 : 1 - 24

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

⁵ "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸ "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has

come near.’ ¹² I tell you; it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.^[b]

¹⁶ “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects Him who sent me.”

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

¹⁸ He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

¹⁹ I have given you authority.

to trample on snakes and scorpions and

to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you,

but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

²¹ At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²² “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

²³ Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

2nd hymn

In our second hymn we are giving thanks to our Lord and God.

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King
His love endures forever

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGTZq3uCPm0&ucbcb=1>

Intercessory and Praise Prayers

- Praise You for your guidance and loving arms around us and for preserving us.
- For those suffering from Covid19 and other illnesses that continue to afflict us.
- For those who have recently lost loved ones, including our Queen, and saying goodbye in a much-restricted circumstances.
- For the continued success in vaccinating people and all will see the need for such. The benefits grossly outweigh the risks from Covid19.
- For a return to normality, whatever that is.
- Our leaders in whatever post they hold, including Ginny as Town and District Councillor.
- For the persecuted church by way of the Barnabas Fund prayer.

3rd hymn

As we need Jesus near us all the time, this hymn asks for such.

He will hold me fast.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=936BapRFHaQ&ucbcb=1>

Let us look at His word.

God is preserving us ...!!!

Question: "What did Jesus mean when He said, '*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven*' in Luke 10:18?"

Answer: The context of these words is the return of the 72 disciples that Jesus had sent out to evangelise and prepare His way to Jerusalem v1. When the 72 return and give their report, they are joyful and a little surprised that "*even the demons submit to us in your name*" v17. Jesus' first words in reply are, "*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven*" v18.

In referencing Satan's fall from heaven, Jesus most likely had in mind Isaiah 14:12 ¹² *How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!*

The fall of Satan that Jesus saw happened after Satan had lifted himself up, but God had cast him down out of his original place in heaven (although he retains limited access to heaven for now, according to Job 1:6 ⁶ *One day*

the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. .) Jesus' statement in Luke 10:18 speaks of Jesus' pre-existence, as how else could He say *"I saw Satan fall ..."* (This means God / Jesus / Holy Spirit where always in existence) and in seeing Satan falling from heaven this also meant the Lord's defeat over the power of Satan in a general sense. As an electrical power engineer - lightning is the bane of our life because of the destruction it causes, and the need to take mitigation measures. Whilst lightning appears to fall from heaven (as that is where the power is generated in the clouds) the lightning is driven earthwards by great power and energy. The houses around us were struck by lightning where the arc stops short of earth, but still imparts a massive magnetic energy burst of the kind seen during the explosion, for example, of a neutron star or an atomic bomb; (ours was small in comparison!) quite what force God used is a guess. So, in my opinion -- **God powered Satan out of heaven with great force. Forceful eviction.**

When Jesus' disciples came back to report their joy over their authority over demons, Jesus, in so many words, tells them they should not have been surprised. **Satan is a fallen foe and has always been subject to the authority of the Son of God.** Jesus had sent the 72 out in His authority, which extends over the demonic realm. Satan's fall "like lightning" indicates that His (God / Jesus) judgment in heaven was swift and obvious. Not only did Jesus give the 72 authority over devils, but He also enabled them as in v19 *"to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy"*

As the 72 are celebrating that the demons were subject to them in Jesus' name, in v17 Jesus redirects their excitement by pointing to an even bigger blessing: -- their salvation! Jesus says, *"However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven"* v20. Casting out demons has a temporal, limited benefit in this world, but having your name written in heaven is an eternal, unlimited blessing!

Jesus has power over Satan and power to save us. Still today, believers face a spiritual battle against forces of evil Ephesians 6:12 ¹² *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.* -- With God's Spirit, we do not need to fear Satan or evil spirits; rather, we depend on the Lord's strength for victory in our spiritual struggles for in 1 John 4:4 it says, *"The one (Jesus) who is in you is greater than the one (Satan) who is in the world"* So, remember that jar of strawberry jam -- that is **US** being **PRESERVED** by **GOD**

trust that -- God will preserve us -- for heaven's inheritance.

4th Hymn

A rousing hymn!

God will make a way.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsMAXhc0QTs&ucbcb=1>

COMMUNION

A time of Communion

5th Hymn for Communion

As we prepare for our remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper

We come as guests invited.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jafdLyZ0Dw8&ucbcb=1>

Closing Prayer

The Grace

“May the **grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and
the **love** of God, and
the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.”**