



Sin Unveiled: Deceitful Idolatry

²³ Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practises steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.” (Jer 9:23–24)

Call to Worship

Behold, God is our salvation;
We will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD God is our strength and our song,
and he has become our salvation.

(Isa 12:2)

**Sing praises to the LORD,
for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.**

(Isa 12:5)

Let us pray.

**Sovereign Lord, our Heavenly Father,
it is our heart's desire, our deepest longing,
to know you, to love you, and to worship you.
It is our greatest pleasure,
our highest privilege, our chief delight,
to meet with you, the one true and living God,
and experience your grace and favour.
Grant us power by your Holy Spirit
to worship you now, in spirit and in truth.
Amen.**

Valley of Vision

Psalm 34

Tell his praise in song and story,
bless the Lord with heart and voice;
in my God is all my glory,
come before him and rejoice.
Join to praise his name together,
he who hears his people's cry;
tell his praise, come wind or weather,
shining faces lifted high.

To the Lord whose love has found them
cry the poor in their distress;
swift his angels camped around them
prove him sure to save and bless.
God it is who hears our crying
though the spark of faith be dim;
Taste and see, beyond denying
blessed are those who trust in him.

Taste and see, in faith draw near him,
trust the Lord with all your powers;
seek and serve him, love and fear him,
life and all its joys are ours:
true delight in holy living,
peace and plenty, length of days;
come, my children, with thanksgiving,
bless the Lord in songs of praise.

In our need he walks beside us,
ears alert to every cry;
watchful eyes to guard and guide us,
love that whispers 'It is I'.
Good shall triumph, wrong be righted,
God has pledged his promised word;
so with ransomed saints united,
join to praise our living Lord!

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Confession and Assurance

Hear what God's word says:

"O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether." (Ps 139:1-4)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

God's word tells us:

*"Whoever conceals his transgressions
will not prosper, but he who confesses
and forsakes them will obtain mercy."*

(Prov 28:13)

Therefore, let us confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,
first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.
Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin!
For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.**

**Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgement.
Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.
Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.**

**O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise.
For you will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Ps. 51)**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (1 Pet 2:24-25)

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation,
you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith
in his excellent word!
What more can he say
than to you he has said –
to you, who to Jesus
for refuge have fled?

In every condition –
in sickness and health,
in poverty's vale,
or abounding in wealth;

at home or abroad,
on the land, on the sea,
as days may demand,
shall your strength ever be.

Fear not, I am with you,
O be not dismayed!
For I am your God
and will still give you aid:
I'll strengthen you, help you,
and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous,
omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials
your pathway shall lie,
my grace all-sufficient
shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you;
I only design
your dross to consume,
and your gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus
has leaned for repose,
I will not, I cannot,
desert to his foes;
that soul, though all Hell
should endeavour to shake,
I'll never, no, never,
no, never forsake!

Richard Keen (c.1787) MMRecords

God's Word

First Reading: Matt 3:1-12, p. 808

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 112

Praise the LORD!

Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in his
commandments!

**His offspring will be
mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright
will be blessed.**

**Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his righteousness endures for
ever.**

Light dawns in the darkness
for the upright;
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

**It is well with the man who deals
generously and lends;
who conducts his affairs with justice.
For the righteous will never be moved;
he will be remembered for ever.**

He is not afraid of bad news;
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.

**His heart is steady;
he will not be afraid,
until he looks in triumph
on his adversaries.**

He has distributed freely;
he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures for ever;
his horn is exalted in honour.

**The wicked man sees it and is angry;
he gnashes his teeth and melts away;
the desire of the wicked will perish!**

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and shall be forever,
age after age.**

Amen!

Second Reading: Jer 7-10, p. 634

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Sin Unveiled: An Idolatrous People (Mark Payne)

Psalm 90

Lord, you have ever
been our dwelling place.
Before you made the
world of time and space,
Before you made the
mountains and the earth,
You are eternal God;
you gave them birth.

You turn all people
back to dust and say,
“O human race,
to dust again decay.”
Because a thousand
years are in your sight
Like yesterday
or like a watch by night.

Into death’s sleep
you sweep them all away,
For they are like the
grass at break of day—
Although it springs up
new with morning light,
It dries and perishes
before the night.

Your wrath consumes us;
we are terrified.
Before your gaze our sins
we cannot hide.
Under your anger
all our days pass by;
Our years come to their finish
with a sigh.

© Sing Psalms 2003

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, simply allow the bread and wine to pass by, and reflect on what is taking place.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Father, as we have received these gifts of bread and wine,
you have fed us with the spiritual food of the body and blood
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,
and that we are members of his body.**

**Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. *"Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce."* (Prov 3:9)

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Notices

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

IN THE COMING WEEK		
Mon 5 th June	Fellowship Group (Alan)	
Tue 8 th June	Prayer Meeting	Online at 7.15pm
Sun 11 th June	Sunday Worship	Sin Unveiled: Struggling with God (Jer 11-20)

The Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah was called to take God’s words to the people of Judah during a revival under King Josiah in 627 B.C. and continued doing so until the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians forty years later. His task was to hammer home the message that their fall was not due to any lack on God’s part but was due entirely to their unfaithfulness, to listening to false prophets rather than true ones, and to living lives in service of evil.

Theme

In ch 1:9, 10 we’re given the theme of the book in poetic form, which is also the heart of God’s message to Judah through Jeremiah. We can summarise the message for us as:

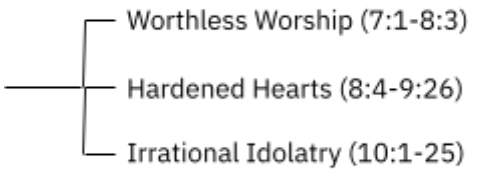
Hearing Hope in Words of Judgment. *“Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, ‘Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.’”*

Structure

The book is not set out chronologically, but rather moves between different camera angles, giving various perspectives of God’s dealings with the people of Judah and of the full unfolding of redemption in Christ. The structure can be confusing as *Restoration* features before *Judgement* (see below). It does, however, reflect the thematic verse above of *plucking up* and *destroying*, but not without hope - the promise includes *building* and *planting*. Jeremiah foretold a return from exile and a new covenant in which God’s people would at last be His people, and would truly look to Him as their God. Israel and Judah would be reunited and finally fulfil their calling to bring light to the world.

Commentators differ significantly on how the book reflects this thematic verse, but broadly speaking we have the following, which frames our sermon series:

Outline

1. Prologue
 - a. God’s Word in Jeremiah (ch. 1)
 2. Sin Unveiled
 - a. Despicable Adultery (ch. 2-6)
 - b. Deceitful Idolatry (ch. 7-10)
 - c. Dark Times (ch. 11-20)
 - d. Difficult Words (ch. 21-29)
 3. Restoration Promised
 - a. Rejoice in Hope! (ch. 30-33)
 4. Judgement Assured
 - a. Judah Faces Judgement (ch. 34-45)
 - b. The Nations Face Judgement (ch. 46-51)
 5. Epilogue
 - a. The Fall of Jerusalem (ch. 52)
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- Worthless Worship (7:1-8:3)
Hardened Hearts (8:4-9:26)
Irrational Idolatry (10:1-25)