



## *Sin Unveiled: Difficult Lives*

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD,  
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,  
and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and  
shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”*

*(Jer 19:11)*

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### 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.

**May the words of our mouths  
and the meditations of our hearts  
be acceptable in your sight,  
our Rock and our Redeemer.**

*(Ps 19:14)*

**Amen.**

## Psalm 1

How blessed the man  
who does not walk  
Where wicked men would guide his feet,  
Who does not stand in sinners' paths  
Or sit upon the scorners' seat.  
The law of God is his delight,  
His meditation day and night.

He prospers like a tree, which has  
Been planted by a flowing stream,  
And in its season yields its fruit;

Its leaves are always fresh and green.  
In every act and every word  
He knows the blessing of the LORD.

Not so the wicked:  
they are like  
The chaff the wind will blow away.  
They will not in the judgement stand,  
Nor sinners with the righteous stay.  
God knows the way the righteous go;  
The wicked's way he'll overthrow.

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## Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”* (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

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

God's word tells us:

*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 Jn 1:8-9)

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

*Please kneel or be seated.*

## *Prayer of Confession*

Almighty and most merciful God,

**We confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean,  
and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed;  
not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires  
that we are not able to understand, but which are all known to You.  
For this reason, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy,  
seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## *Assurance of Pardon*

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him  
should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

## *Oh, the Mercy of God*

Oh the mercy of God,  
the glory of grace.  
That You choose to redeem us,  
to forgive and restore.  
And You call us Your children,  
chosen in Him.  
To be holy and blameless,  
to the glory of God.

Oh the richness of grace,  
the depths of His love.  
In Him is redemption,  
the forgiveness of sin.  
You called us as righteous,  
predestined in Him.  
For the praise of His glory,  
included in Christ.

*To the praise  
of His glorious grace.  
To the praise  
of His glory and power.  
To Him be all glory,  
honour and praise.  
For ever and ever,  
and ever, A-men.*

Oh the glory of God,  
expressed in His Son.  
His image and likeness  
revealed to us all.  
The plan of the ages,  
completed in Christ.  
That we be presented,  
perfected in Him.

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## **God's Word**

*First Reading: Matt 4:18-25, p. 809. Jesus and the Disciples*

This is the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

## *Psalm 114*

When Israel went out from Egypt,  
the house of Jacob from a people of  
strange language,

**Judah became his sanctuary,  
Israel his dominion.**

The sea looked and fled;  
Jordan turned back.

**The mountains skipped like rams,  
the hills like lambs.**

What ails you, O sea, that you flee?  
O Jordan, that you turn back?

**O mountains, that you skip like rams?  
O hills, like lambs?**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the  
Lord,

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

**who turns the rock into a pool of  
water,**

**the flint into a spring of water.**

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 21-29, p. 648*

This is the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

## *Sermon: Sin Unveiled: Difficult Words (Mark Payne)*

## *Psalm 45 (O King)*

O King, you are most worthy,  
of men you are the best  
Your words are true and gracious,  
you are forever blessed  
Take up your sword in splendour,  
ride forth in majesty  
For justice and mercy  
and true humility  
Your arrows pierce your enemies,  
you march across the land  
The peoples and the nations  
against you cannot stand

Your throne will last forever,  
with justice you shall reign  
You love all that is righteous  
and hate all evil gain  
So God has richly blessed you  
with joy abundantly  
Your robes are all fragrant,  
your courts are ivory  
There princesses attend you,  
sweet music from of old  
Your future queen awaits you  
arrayed in finest gold

O bride forsake all others,  
don't give your love abroad  
The king desires your beauty;  
so honour him your Lord  
The gown he gives is glorious,  
the threads are twined with gold  
In shimmering colours  
the envy of the world  
A joyful crowd is with her,  
with gladness now they sing  
And finally she enters  
the palace of the king

This king will reign forever,  
his sons upon the earth  
And ev'ry generation  
will tell of his great worth  
All nations will soon praise him  
and fall down at his feet  
His kingdom established,  
where truth and mercy meet  
O Jesus we adore you,  
our lover and our king  
Your church, your bride is waiting  
and so to you we sing

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### *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, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.*

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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.**

*The stewards will distribute the wine and bread.*

*Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.*

## *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for reassuring us at this meal of your favour and goodness towards us, of your word for us. We thank you that we are truly members of the body of your Son, that we are heirs, by grace, of your eternal kingdom. We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, to draw us together in love and unity, that we may serve through those good works which you have prepared for us to do through Jesus Christ our Lord, and for His glory. Amen.**

## *Gifts and Offerings*

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall.

*"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you." (Deut 16:17)*

## Psalm 146

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,  
O my soul, Jehovah praise;  
I will sing the glorious praises  
Of my God through all my days.  
Put no confidence in princes,  
Nor for help on man depend;  
They shall die, to dust returning,  
And their purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses  
Israel's God to be his aid;  
He is blest whose hope of blessing  
On the Lord his God is stayed.  
Heaven and earth the Lord created,  
Seas and all that they contain;  
He delivers from oppression,  
Righteousness He will maintain.

Food He daily gives the hungry,  
Sets the mourning prisoner free,  
Raises those bowed down with anguish,  
Makes the sightless eyes to see.  
Well Jehovah loves the righteous,  
And the stranger He befriends,  
Helps the fatherless and widow,  
Judgement on the wicked sends.

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,  
O my soul, Jehovah praise;  
I will sing the glorious praises  
Of my God through all my days.  
Over all God reigns forever,  
Through all ages He is King;  
Unto Him, your God, O Zion,  
Joyful hallelujahs sing.

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## Benediction

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

**Please diarise and pray for the items below:**

THIS WEEK		
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Fellowship Group (Alan)	
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Food and Chat	At church at 6.30pm
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Fellowship Group (Mark)	
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Prayer Meeting	Online at 7.15pm
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Sunday Worship	Jer 30-33 (Restoration Promised: Rejoice in Hope)
FURTHER AHEAD		
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Sunday Worship	Eph 4. Also: Ordination, Baptism & Lunch

*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV)*

## 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 Lives (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)