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Feature

God Hated the Splendor of Jacob

Yang Chi

Foreword

During the reign of Jeroboam II, the king of the northern kingdom of Israel, God remembered His promise to His chosen people and could not bear to see them afflicted and oppressed by their enemies. He delivered them through Jeroboam II, who restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the Lord God of Israel, which He had spoken through His servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet who was from Gath Hopher (2 Kings 14:25-27). However, Jeroboam II did evil in the sight of the Lord and led the Israelites into the sin of idolatry (2 Kings 14:23-24).

The northern kingdom of Israel was successful in its military advances and obtained power among nations. Israel enjoyed a period of peace, political stability and economic boom, leading to a trend of indulgence in luxury and pleasure. This type of splendor, riches, and prosperity is hated by the Lord.

Lessons

Amidst today's craze to pursue splendor and indulgence, the prophet Amos' rebuke serves as a timely warning to remind us that:

1. God hated the riches of the people: Many officials and leaders usurped their position for illegitimate gain, and many unjust factors led to the wide gap between the wealthy and the poor.
 - a. In society, people only regarded for self-interest and disregarded for God's righteousness. They oppressed the poor and crushed the needy (Amos 4:1), stored up violence and robbery in their palaces (Amos 3:10), tread down the poor, took grain taxes from them, afflicted the just, took bribes and diverted the poor from justice at the gate (Amos 5:11-12).
 - b. There was only deceit and none of the goodness pleasing to God (Hosea 6:4-11). Businessmen used deceitful scales and remained self-righteous even after obtaining dishonest gain (Hosea 12:7-8). God said, "Surely I will never forget any of their works" (Amos 8:4-7).
 - c. There was only concern for money but no mercy. These people sold the righteous for silver and the poor for a pair of sandals (Amos 2:6-8). God wanted His chosen people to build a society based on mercy, justice, and righteousness (Amos 5:24). However, they did just the opposite.
2. God hated the people's indulgence: These people were complacent and at ease, completely without a sense of crisis regarding their spirituality. They blindly pursued indulgence in pleasure and were not grieved for the coming affliction (Amos 6:1-6). A contemporary prophet, Hosea, further pointed out that the power of the nation was weakening rapidly. Like an elderly who grows gray hairs and ages without knowing it, the nation failed to see God's just punishment that was at its door (Hosea 7:8-12 ; Amos 3:10-12). Having wealth is not a wrong in itself, neither is having pleasure a sin, but the people's faith and actions were corrupted; they thought that the days of judgment were far away and refused to deeply repent and return to God. They still usurped their positions to practice violence and aroused the wrath of God. The prophets earnestly pleaded with the people to seek good and not evil, and to seek God and live (Amos 5:4,14).
3. God hated the feasts held by the people: The people despised the laws of the Lord and did not keep His commandments (Amos 2:4). They went astray in their faith and worshiped the God in heaven and false idols at the same time (Amos 2:4; 5:25-27). God chose His people out of all the families of the earth and led them out of Egypt, but they had forsaken their covenant with God. God would hold them accountable for the sin of idol worship (Amos

3:1-2, 13-15). By adding numbers to their altars of sacrifice, they multiplied their sin. They offered sacrifices in accordance with their own pleasure instead of what God favored; they offered sacrifices to satisfy their own stomach (Hosea 8:11-13; Amos 4:4-5). Such superficial, impure faith without substance and sincerity aroused God's wrath:

"I hate, I despise your feast days,
And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.
Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.
Take away from Me the noise of your songs,
For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments" (Amos 5:21-23).

Concluding Remarks

God hated the splendor of Jacob, but loved the ways taught by the prophets:

"So you, by the help of your God, return;
Observe mercy and justice,
And wait on your God continually." (Hosea 12:6)

"Sow for yourselves righteousness;
Reap in mercy;
Break up your fallow ground,
For it is time to seek the Lord,
Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.
You have plowed wickedness;
You have reaped iniquity.
You have eaten the fruit of lies." (Hosea 10:12-13)

"Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
Ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,

And to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:7-8)

May this sharing serve as mutual encouragement.

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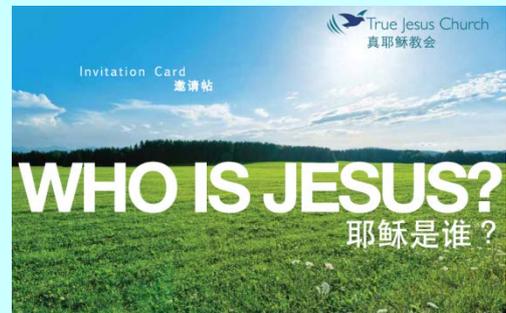
 [Church News](#)

Singapore Current Report

Submitted by True Jesus Church Coordination Board (Singapore)

Praise the Lord Jesus Christ, the True Jesus Church in Singapore continues to enjoy the grace of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

TJC-SCB held its Year-End Spiritual Meeting at TJC-Telok Kurau and at TJC-Adam Road simultaneously from 28th November to 1st December 2013. The theme for the Spiritual Meeting was “Unchanging Faith” and the sermon speakers included Elder Chiu I-Hsiung of GA Taiwan and local SCB preachers. Altogether there were four (4) persons who received the Holy Spirit, and thirteen (13) persons baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, while participants of the Holy Communion Sacrament numbered 363 at TJC-Telok Kurau and 430 at TJC-Adam Road. The offerings collected at TJC-Telok Kurau were S\$38,577.95 and MR\$450, and at TJC-Adam Road were S\$56,154.80, MR\$420, CAD\$100 and GBP20. The sermons based on the theme were focused on the Ten Basic Beliefs of the True Jesus Church and the aim was to re-enforce the understanding of the faith in the Truth and in the Lord Jesus Christ according to the Bible.



A three-night Evangelistic Meeting was conducted at TJC-Adam Road on 13th, 14th & 15th December 2013 and the sermon speaker was Elder Chiu I-Hsiung. The titles of his sermons were “Jesus is the Way”, “Jesus is the Truth”, and “Jesus is the Life”. There were 14 non-baptized persons who came for the first time at the 1st night service, 18 on the 2nd night and 15 on the third night.



SCB Religious Education Department held its New Teens Camp from 2nd to 4th November 2013 at TJC-Adam Road. The aim of conducting such a camp is to establish the faith of the youths from ages 12 years to 14 years of age as they enter into a new phase of life, to inculcate right concepts of value in handling life's challenges, to impart living skills to these teenage children, and to provide the opportunity for the participants from the three churches in Singapore to come together and interact with one another. There were 36 participants including six from Johor Bahru Malaysia and one from Batam Island Indonesia.

SCB Training Department held its 37th Annual Student Theological Course for participants between the ages of 14 years to 20 years old at TJC Adam Road from 3rd to 24th December 2013. The lecturers included Elder Chiu I-Hsiung, Pr. Peter Shee, Pr. Barnabas Chong, Pr. Chin Aun Quek, Pr. Ho Jung Yu and Pr. Simon Chin. There were 49 participants, four of whom were from Brunei, nine from Perth in Western Australia, and one from Sabah. About twenty counsellors comprising mainly of local university and working youths assisted in the training of the participants. Nine (9) of the participants were blessed with the Holy Spirit.



Graduates of the 3-semester SCB Annual Student Theological Course also convened at TJC Adam Road from 17th to 24th December 2013 for the 'Camp for Skill Training in Evangelism & Pastoral Care' conducted by Elder Chiu I Hsiung and Preacher Peter Shee. The topics covered were Pastoral Theology, Evangelism and Study on the Book of Deuteronomy.



Election of the SCB Council for the term 2014/2015 was held on 9th March 2014. The following ministers and brothers form the new SCB Council. Chairman: Pr. Simon Chin; Secretary: Bro. Derek Lim; Treasurer: Sis. Choo Pik Sin; Council Members: Dn. Jason Hsieh, Dn. Chin Chung Ling, Dn. Ezra Yeow; Dns. Anna Khoo; Dn. Isaac Tan, Pr. Peter Shee, Pr. Barnabas Chong; Bro. Chong Hon Fah, Bro. Hsieh En Chia, and Bro. Lee Zshen Chou.

SCB meets many challenges in its program to strengthen the work of evangelism and pastoral care of the brethren. Also to perform its duty well to pastor the sheep in Singapore and Myanmar, and to assist in the church work in Vietnam and Batam Indonesia and also in Batu Pahat (Peninsular Malaysia), more human resources must be employed. SCB requests prayers from all True Jesus Church to Jesus Christ to increase His laborers to go into His field.

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🍌 *Church News*

Current Situation of Ministry in HK and Macau

Thanks to the guidance and protection of our heavenly Father, the ministry in Hong Kong develops steadily day by day. The brief situation is to be described as follows.



On Dec 2013, the choir of Yong Fu Church in Taiwan came to Hong Kong Church for assisting hymnal evangelical service. A fellowship service was held for choir of Yong Fu Church and choir representatives of churches in Hong Kong after the evangelical service at the night of Sabbath.

Hong Kong National Church Conference (NCC) in 2013- Election for the 2nd Executive Council of Hong Kong Coordination Board (HKCB) was held. To increase two quotas, Bro. Rimen Liu of Tsuen Wan Church (Coordinator of Youth Committee and Sacred Music

Committee) and Sis. Norma Lee of Hong Kong Church (Coordinator of Children Department of Religious Education), in addition to the nine members of executive council was elected. The newly elected executive council members carry out the ministry of HKCB in 2014 to 2015. The bylaws of HKCB's Youth Committee, Marriage Counselor Committee, and Sacred Music Committee were also approved during this NCC. May God guide the newly executive council for their work.

January 2014

HKCB Youth Committee paid visit to Guang Zhou Church- about 30 members of HKCB Youth Committee paid visit to Guang Zhou Church. They joined the Sabbath service and shared the reflection of servitude with the youth of Guang Zhou Church. Guang Zhou Church's zeal and determination for evangelism touched the hearts of the Hong Kong members. May God also remember the warm hospitality of Guang Zhou Church.

February 2014

Marriage Counselor Committee is newly established- Sis. Man-Fund Cheung (Dn. Luke Yip's wife) of Kowloon Church serves as the coordinator. The Marriage Counselor Training was held in February.

Election for Sacred Music Committee- In accordance with the bylaws of the Sacred Music Committee which was just approved in NCC, Sis. Hiu-Yeung Lam was elected as the coordinator. Sacred Music Committee mainly serves to promote various holy works relevant to sacred music which includes the preparation works of National Evangelical Service which is held every two years, and annual Sacred Music Camp. May God lead us, so the ministry of Sacred Music Committee can be smooth.

March 2014

Eastern Hemisphere Volunteer Group Training- Eastern Hemisphere Evangelical Center held the first EH Volunteer Group Training during February and March in Hong Kong. Eld. Joshua Phoong, the director of Eastern Hemisphere Department of World Mission (EHDWM) and Pr. Daniel Chin, preacher of Malaysia GA, came to Hong Kong to conduct this event which enabled the participants to understand the organization of EHDWM, the ministry of pioneering areas, and the spirit of evangelism. This will be beneficial not only in the promotion of oversea evangelism, but also in the evangelical work in the local areas.

Ushering and visitor accompaniment training- A national training was held at Kowloon Church and instructed by the residential preacher, Zhen-Guang Huang. Over 80 ushers and visitor attendants attended in this event.



2014 Eastern Hemisphere Volunteer Group Training

Current Situation of Macau ministry

The ministry in Macau is carried on by Hong Kong Church and Pr. Zhen-Guang Huang. Recently some lost sheep who have moved to Macau for many years came back to join the service. And some members from Mainland China who came to Macau for work also come to church. May God continually guide the ministry here.



Worship in Macau

 *Intercession*

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
7/1-25	Sabah	Theological Course	SQ Chen
7/1-21		Theological Camp/Divine Workers & Wivies' Spiritual Nurture/Preacher Seminar Divine Workers' Training Seminar	MY Chao
7/7-24	Indonesia	Advance Bible Study Seminar/ Spiritual Convocation	MC Wang
7/1-31	West Malaysia	Pastoral Work	HC Chou
7/19-27	Hong Kong	RE Teacher Seminar	EG Lee
7/1-14	Philippines	Spiritual Convocation/Pastoral Work	Lemuel Leong/ James Yapp / Jerwen Maglasang/ 1 VMT
7/2-20		Seminary 2nd yr Semester 1	Malachi Lee
7/18-25	Cambodia	Tertiary Students Summer Bible Camp-in Dian-Guang Village)	WF Chen/AL Li
7/20-24		Tertiary Students Summer Bible Camp-Phnom Penh	RC Siao
7/1-23	US	e-Learning Project	HH Ko
7/19-25	Argentina	Spiritual Evangelical Convocation/ Student Spiritual Convocation	Jonathan Chou
July	Bolivia	Evangelical & Pastoral/Training	CM Chu
7/11-21	Dominican Rep.	Pastoral Work / Street/Park Evangelical Team	Samuel Kuo
7/21-27	Germany	National Youths Fellowship for German-speaking-area	CW Chan
7/26		Special Service - Heidelberg Prayer House	HH Ko
7/27-30		Students (10-17 years) Spiritual Convocation for German-speaking-area-Heidelberg Prayer House	
7/3-20	South Africa	Pastoral Ministry- Cap Town/ Youth Service/ Spiritual Convocation	Steve Hwang

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 *You Could Help the Worldwide Evangelism Mission Simply by Contribution
a dollar a day...*



How You Can Help

You are called to take action for the sake of worldwide evangelism and the spreading of the gospel...with **a dollar a day**. If everyone could daily extend one dollar towards the International Assembly World Evangelism Fund, we could, together, accomplish the commission that our Lord Jesus Christ left behind. Your financial commitment will open up possibilities and resources that will lead us to save many souls.

Please take time to fill out the offering sheet available at your local church, to pass this message on to loved ones and family, and to pray for God's ministry. May the Lord be gracious to you!

To find out more about the dollar-a-day program and donation options, *please contact ia@tjc.org or tjciatwn@ms25.hinet.net.*

✧ *May our Lord remember your contribution and bless you abundantly!*

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