

Youth Worship

BETHANY INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's kind of church, where God is touching lives, and people care for people.

WELCOME TO YOUTH WORSHIP!

"The LORD is the great God, and the great King above all gods." (Psalm 95:3) There is tremendous pride and joy to belong to our Lord Most High. Let us draw near with grateful hearts and lift our worship to our King.



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COME AND WORSHIP

His Right Hand

From humble beginnings as slaves in Egypt to becoming an organised nation in the Promised Land, Israel's history resounds with the power of God and gloriously reflects His faithfulness to His Covenant.

“
⁵⁴ And He brought them to His holy border,
This mountain *which* His right hand had acquired.
⁵⁵ He also drove out the nations before them,
Allotted them an inheritance by survey,
And made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.
”

PSALM 78:54-55

1. God's Promise to Abraham

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| a. Descendants as many as the stars in the sky | Genesis 15:5 |
| b. They shall inherit the land of Canaan | Genesis 15:18-21 |

2. The fulfilment of His Promise

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| a. He brought Israel to the holy land of Canaan | Psalms 78:54a |
| b. He acquired Mount Zion | Psalms 78:54b |
| c. He drove out the inhabitants of the land | Psalms 78:55a |
| d. He gave the Promised Land as an inheritance to Israel | Psalms 78:55b |
| e. Each tribe was allotted their dwelling place in the Promised Land | Psalms 78:55c |

3. It takes nothing less than the mighty hand of God to bring these events to pass!

AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE

1. Standing in awe of God
 - a. The profundity of His plan
 - b. His supreme power
 - c. His faithfulness to His Covenant
2. Be encouraged
 - a. To know the Lord's Promises
 - b. To believe in them wholeheartedly
 - c. To be faithful to the LORD alone



ORDER OF WORSHIP

YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE

16 AUGUST 2025

Prelude

Pianist: Lorraine Lai

Call to Worship

Pastor Benjamin Quah

Opening Prayer

Pastor Benjamin Quah

Song Leading

1. By Faith

2. Oh, How Good It Is

Ethan Ho and Thaddeus Heng

Pianist: Lorraine Lai

Scripture Reading

Text: Numbers 23:27-30; 24:1-14

Thaddeus Heng and Chloe Tang

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Eugene Seow

Message

“Who sees the vision of the Almighty”

Text: Numbers 23:27-30; 24:1-14

Pastor Benjamin Quah

Closing Prayer

Pastor Benjamin Quah

Offering

Postlude

Pianist: Lorraine Lai

MY NOTES

16 AUGUST 2025

“WHO SEES THE VISION OF THE ALMIGHTY”

NUMBERS 23:27-30; 24:1-14

WORSHIP SONGS

By Faith

By Stuart Townend , Keith Getty & Kristyn Getty

By faith we see the hand of God,
In the light of creation's grand design;
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness;
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth,
With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts,
Of a Holy City built by God's own hand:
A place where peace and justice reign.

We will stand as children of the promise;
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done;
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed for Messiah would appear
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go;
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost;
To deliver captives and to preach good news,
In every corner of the earth.



We will stand as children of the promise;
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done;
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail;
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name.

We will stand as children of the promise;
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done;
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

(end)



OH, HOW GOOD IT IS

By Keith and Kristyn Getty

Oh, how good it is
When the fam'ly of God
Dwells together in spirit,
In faith and unity;
Where the bonds of peace,
Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence here among us.

Chorus:

So, with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,
And with one heart we'll live out His word;
Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come,
For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh, how good it is
On this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy,
And weep with those who mourn;
For the weak find strength,
The afflicted find grace,
When we offer the blessing of belonging.

Chorus

Oh, how good it is
To embrace His command
To prefer one another,
Forgive as He forgives;
When we live as one
We all share in the love
Of the Son, with the Father,
And the Spirit.

Chorus

(End)

REVIEW OF GOD'S WORD

Let us review what we have learnt at our last Youth Worship!

YWS MESSAGE - 2 AUGUST 2025

“GOD IS NOT A MAN, THAT HE SHOULD LIE”

NUMBERS 23:13-26

INTRODUCTION

1. Balaam uttered three Oracles (sayings)
2. The First Oracle concerns Israel primarily Numbers 23:1-12
3. The Second Oracle focuses on the Person of the LORD Numbers 23:13-26

THE SECOND ATTEMPT TO CURSE ISRAEL

¹³ Then Balak said to him, “Please come with me to another place from which you may see them; you shall see only the outer part of them, and shall not see them all; curse them for me from there.”

¹⁴ So he brought him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bull and a ram on *each* altar.

Numbers 23:13-14

1. Balak’s attempt to reach out to God
 - a. He thought that if he were to offer a grand sacrifice it would bring good results
 - b. Seven altars were built
 - c. A bull and a ram were offered as a burnt offering

2. Balak's knowledge of God

- a. Erroneous
- b. Reflected popular religious thoughts of his time

BALAAM'S PERVERSITY FURTHER DEMONSTRATED

¹⁵ And he said to Balak, "Stand here by your burnt offering while I meet *the LORD* over there."

¹⁶ Then the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, "Go back to Balak, and thus you shall speak."

¹⁷ So he came to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab were with him. And Balak said to him, "What has the LORD spoken?"

Numbers 23:15-17

1. Balaam had already been

- a, Instructed by God
- b. Instrumental in pronouncing a blessing on Israel
- c. Yet he was still seeking a way to earn his reward from Balak

2. Both Balaam and Balak were in for a surprise

- a. God did not give Balaam a word immediately
- b. He would use Balaam as His mouthpiece shortly

THE SECOND ORACLE OF BALAAM

¹⁸ Then he took up his oracle and said:

“Rise up, Balak, and hear!
Listen to me, son of Zippor!

¹⁹ “God *is* not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent.
Has He said, and will He not do?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

²⁰ Behold, I have received *a command* to bless;
He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.

²¹ “He has not observed iniquity in Jacob,
Nor has He seen wickedness in Israel.
The LORD his God *is* with him,
And the shout of a King *is* among them.

²² God brings them out of Egypt;
He has strength like a wild ox.

Numbers 23:18-22

1. What God is NOT

- a. He is not a mere man
- b. He is not a whimsical human being

2. What God IS

- a. He is a God who speaks
- b. Every word He speaks will be fulfilled
- c. His power and majesty are beyond human comprehension

ANOTHER BLESSING PRONOUNCED ON ISRAEL

²³ “For *there is* no sorcery against Jacob,
Nor any divination against Israel.
It now must be said of Jacob
And of Israel, ‘Oh, what God has done!’

²⁴ Look, a people rises like a lioness,
And lifts itself up like a lion;
It shall not lie down until it devours the prey,
And drinks the blood of the slain.”

²⁵ Then Balak said to Balaam, “Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all!”

²⁶ So Balaam answered and said to Balak, “Did I not tell you, saying, ‘All that the LORD speaks, that I must do?’”

Numbers 23:23-26

1. No sorcery or divination will be effective against Israel
2. Israel is compared to a pride of lions
3. God Himself will protect and bless Israel

CONCLUSION

1. Balak's response
 - a. Frustration
 - b. Fury
2. Balaam's reply
 - a. He is only a mouthpiece
 - b. He is but a man
3. What is your response?

REFLECTIONS



YOUTH WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

—

BY ASHLEY TAN

Two weeks ago we learnt from Numbers 23:13-26, where Balak brought Balaam to a high place and made expensive offerings to God, wrongly thinking that God could be persuaded and swayed to allow Balaam to curse Israel. Unlike men and false gods, God cannot be impressed by the quantity of one's effort and resources in order to win His favour, worse still if for the wrong reasons. This was not appreciated by Balak. God had to proclaim to Balak through Balaam's oracle:

"God *is* not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent.
Has He said, and will He not do?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"
Numbers 23:19

God's covenant with Israel

Whether in prohibiting Balaam to pronounce a curse on Israel, or in keeping His covenant with the Israelites, God has shown us that His word holds absolute authority and surety of fulfilment. Why did God go through all the trouble of teaching, chastising, providing for and protecting the Israelites anyway? We know that the Israelites were not particularly faithful or obedient—

they rebelled, complained, and at times even rejected God. But God in His mercy and grace, was honouring His promise to Abraham, “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” (Romans 11:29) And because of this covenant, Israel will always have a special place in God’s heart. This is a longstanding promise that echoes down till today.

God’s covenant with us

Like the Israelites, our faithfulness can be said to be “like a morning cloud, and like the early dew it goes away.” (Hosea 6:4) This verse reflects my personal struggle to be consistent in keeping up with my study of God’s word—some days I feel more “energised” and ready to learn from His word, other days I feel so down that I do not even want to begin. Knowing my own sins and shortcomings, I can appreciate so much more that His faithfulness does not depend on me, but on His immutable grace and mercy seen through His covenant with Israel, and now us through our Lord Jesus Christ. It is because of His unchanging nature that in His forbearance and longsuffering, God gives us many chances to repent and return to Him. We cannot fall so far from God that we can never come back and be reconciled to Him. Let this truth remind and encourage us that firstly, God’s promises are not to be taken advantage of—He is righteous and holy, He forgives our sin in His mercy. Secondly, we cannot let the guilt and shame we feel from our sin discourage us from seeking Him—we can always come back to Him.

Called to be saved, and to be fruitful

Beyond this, just as God made Israel great, He can establish us in our faith. Clearly, Israel was formidable, which was why Balak turned to divination as an alternative way to defeat them in the first place. But it was only because God had chosen to set Israel apart from other nations, and reveal His power and glory through them that Israel could be the great nation it was. Israel was blessed because, “The LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a King is among them.” (Numbers 23:21)

I am reminded of 1 Corinthians 1:26, “For you see your calling brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.” God did not choose Balaam, who had fame and acclaim, nor did He choose Balak, who had power and wealth. But He had chosen Israel as His special people, that they may have a relationship with Him and be His witnesses to the world. Likewise, God has called us—not just to salvation and redemption, but to be fruitful, that we may glory in Him and glorify Him.

From glory to glory

We need not look too far for an example of God’s power and glory made manifest to those who prioritise Him and His word in all things. As we remember and celebrate Bethany’s 50+2 Anniversary, we see how God has blessed the various ministries, providing always when there were needs, protecting when challenges arose, and ultimately prospered the work of the Church. There is no doubt that

God's presence is real and evident in Bethany. We too, can see such growth and fruitfulness, that we may glorify Him with our lives. Let this be our challenge as we remember what God has done in Bethany!





YOUTH WORSHIP REFLECTIONS


By Claire Tan

Welcome back to Youth Worship! Two weeks ago, Pastor taught important lessons from Balaam's second prophecy.





Balak's Stubbornness

Balak instigated Balaam to reach out to God and “negotiate” with His unchanging word in order to achieve his personal objectives. While I may not have such wicked intentions such as to curse anyone, I could not help but observe some similarities between myself and how Balak acted. Balak, despite having heard the Lord's firm word from Balaam to not curse the people of Israel, still insisted on having his way time and time again. Similarly, there may be times when we know that God's word does not align with what we want to do - yet, we still try to work around His word in order to justify our actions and go back to our sinful ways. For me, an example of this could look like giving in to the temptation to take part in gossip, despite knowing very well that it does not align with God's word. (James 4:11; Ephesians 4:29)




As humans, sin is a part of our nature and we will likely find it easier to revert to our sinful ways over wholly obeying God's Word. However, God has graciously given us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us live according to His will!





"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

John 14:26



Believing in God's promise of the Helper, I asked the Lord and His Spirit to work in my heart, and open my spiritual eyes and ears to His Word! When I did so, I was finally able to draw on His strength and overcome the stubbornness of my old ways. Whenever I found myself in tempting situations, the Spirit indeed brought to remembrance God's word and gave me the strength and wisdom I needed to resist worldly temptations!



God's Unchanging Word

"Then he took up his oracle and said:


*"Rise up, Balak, and hear!
Listen to me, son of Zippor!"*

*"God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent.
Has He said, and will He not do?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*

Numbers 23:18-19




Balaam's second oracle highlights the finality of God's word, and how all that He speaks will be fulfilled. God's Word and His promises will not change for anyone, and this a lesson that gave me much hope! When we go through hardships in life, there may be times when we find it difficult to clearly see God's hand at work. I personally find myself even doubting God at times, especially when I encounter challenges I can barely see a way out of with my limited human mind. If you are going through a difficult or dark time, take heart that God does not see time linearly like we do, and there is no hurdle He cannot carry you over!



"Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us."

Hebrews 6:17-18

God's promises have withstood the test of time, and we can all have hope in the fact that He will remain faithful to His word no matter how difficult the situations we find ourselves in! As we face a busy year-end with examinations and other challenges, may we continue to anchor ourselves and find refuge in God's unchanging word. It is my prayer that these lessons that we have been learning from Numbers will encourage your hearts, just like they have encouraged mine!



POETRY CORNER

AN EGYPTIAN DELIVERED US

Moses came across some shepherdesses;
They were bullied and were in some distress.
Gallant Moses rose up to the occasion at hand;
Bad people could be found in every land.

The shepherdesses were the daughters of Jethro;
Moses was honoured and welcomed as a folk hero.
Jethro was a respected priest in the land of Midian;
Moses decided that he would settle down in the land.

He could not go back to Egypt because he was a fugitive;
He had killed an Egyptian though he may have a good motive.
He was now in the land of Midian, and he soon settled down;
But he was still concerned for his people trodden to the ground.

Moses had two sons in his marriage to Zipporah;
The sons brought some happiness and laughter.
The names given to the boys reflected his sadness;
The Lord's Call to Moses waited for forty years!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Exodus 2:16-19



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating BETHANY'S 50+2 ANNIVERSARY

Theme: "From glory to glory"

The LORD has bestowed bountiful blessings upon our Church! May we unite our hearts to offer grateful worship as we celebrate our Anniversary!

Date: 24 August 2025

Venue: Shangri La

Time: 10.30am (Worship)
12.00nn (Fellowship Lunch)

Main Lunch Programme:

This is the last weekend to sign up.
Scan the QR code to book your seat today:





The background features a stylized illustration of a church building with a prominent cross on its roof. The building is rendered in shades of gray and black, with a grid-like pattern on its facade. The background also consists of diagonal rays of light in various shades of gray, creating a sunburst effect. There are several four-pointed starburst graphics scattered throughout the page, some in white and some in black.

No Youth Worship next week

Given the preparation needed for our Church's Anniversary celebration at Shangri-La, there will not be Youth Worship next Saturday (23 August 2025). Youth Worship resumes on 30 August 2025.

NEXT YWS



30 AUG 2025

**30
AUG**

“A Sceptre shall rise out of Israel”

Text: Numbers 24:15-25

Balaam went on to utter more oracles concerning the future. These prophecies would have greatly humbled Balaam whose finite human mind could not comprehend the profundity and magnitude of the utterances. Let us, with faith, seek to fathom the significance of these prophetic words concerning the Messiah.



Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church