

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!

Let us come before the Presence of the LORD with thanksgiving! May we give earnest heed to His Word and desire that His light shine within our hearts!

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COME AND WORSHIP

HE FORSOOK THE TABERNACLE IN SHILOH

Did the generations of Israel understand the gravity of sinning against the LORD? History records God's righteous wrath against the children of Israel, yet these did not suffice to restrain the people from provoking the LORD with their idolatry. And even if God were to spare their lives, what purpose would it serve if the Lord's Presence was not with them?

⁵⁹ When God heard *this*, He was furious,
And greatly abhorred Israel,
⁶⁰ So that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh,
The tent He had placed among men,
⁶¹ And delivered His strength into captivity,
And His glory into the enemy's hand.

PSALM 78:59-61

1. God's reaction to Israel's sin of idolatry

- a. He was furious Psalm 78:59
- b. Greatly abhorred Israel Psalm 78:60

2. The LORD's response

- a. He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh Psalm 78:60
 - i. The tabernacle of God was established in Shiloh between the time of Joshua and Samuel
 - ii. It represented the Presence of the LORD among the people
 - iii. In forsaking the tabernacle, God withdrew His Presence from Israel

b. The Ark of the Covenant

i. This was at the heart of the tabernacle

ii. It represented God's Strength and Glory

c. God delivered the Ark into captivity

Psalm 78:61

i. Israel brought the Ark of God to wage war against the Philistines

1 Samuel 4

ii. They believed that the Ark would guarantee them victory

iii. Faith in God had been watered down to superstitious beliefs

iv. They were oblivious to the withdrawal of God's Presence from them

v. To the dismay of Israel, the Ark was captured by the Philistines

THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

For God to dwell among His people is such an awesome privilege. Moses understood this when he pleaded for the LORD's Presence to lead the people into the Promised Land (Exodus 33:15).

Let us seek to comprehend and treasure the Presence of the LORD greatly. When we have learnt to do so, we will also give diligence to keep the commandments of God and restrain from provoking Him to anger. May our faith not be a mere facade, but rather a genuine and deeply personal relationship with God!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE

6 SEPTEMBER 2025

Prelude

Pianist: Esther Tang

Call to Worship

Pastor Charles Tan

Opening Prayer

Pastor Charles Tan

Song Leading

1. Behold Our God
2. My Centre

Audrey Chia and Stanley Woo

Pianists: Lorraine Lai and
Esther Tang

Cajonist: Rayne Quek

Scripture Reading

Text: Numbers 25:1-18

Chloe Tang and Thaddeus Heng

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Mark Tan

Message

“Behold I give to him My covenant
of peace”

Text: Numbers 25:1-18

Pastor Charles Tan

Closing Prayer

Pastor Charles Tan

Offering

Postlude

Pianist: Lorraine Lai

MY NOTES

6 SEPTEMBER 2025

**“BEHOLD I GIVE TO HIM
MY COVENANT OF PEACE”**

NUMBERS 25:1-18

WORSHIP SONGS

Behold Our God

By Ryan Baird, Jonathan Baird,
Meghan Baird, and Stephen Altrogge

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice,
All creation rises to rejoice.

Chorus:

Behold our God seated on His throne,
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King—nothing can compare.
Come, let us adore Him.

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Chorus

Who has felt the nails upon His hands?
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man.
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Saviour, risen now to reign.

Chorus

(end)



My Centre

By Dennis and Nan Allen

So many decisions,
I don't know where to start.
Do I go with what my head tells me,
Or listen to my heart?
Standing in the middle,
I'm truly overwhelmed
By all I'm trying to handle all by myself.

Chorus:

Out on the edge with You as my centre,
The point around which
All my world revolves.
Every question can find an answer,
Every problem can be solved.
Things seem clearer
And I can see You work,
But only when I first, make You my centre.

It's so amazing, tho' it really shouldn't be,
How You work each day around the world
Without much help from me.
I know I've found myself
Sometimes in Your way.
Remind me, Lord,
When I should stay in my place.

Chorus x 2

(end)



REVIEW OF GOD'S WORD

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

YWS MESSAGE - 30 AUGUST 2025 **“A SCEPTRE SHALL RISE OUT OF ISRAEL”** **NUMBERS 24:15-25**

INTRODUCTION


1. Prophecy offers:
 - a. Insight concerning the future
 - b. Intriguing promises of God
2. The challenges
 - a. To fathom
 - b. To exercise faith

¹⁵ So he took up his oracle and said:

“The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor,
And the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened;

¹⁶ The utterance of him who hears the words of God,
And has the knowledge of the Most High,
Who sees the vision of the Almighty,
Who falls down, with eyes wide open:

¹⁷ “I see Him, but not now;
I behold Him, but not near;
A Star shall come out of Jacob;
A Sceptre shall rise out of Israel,
And batter the brow of Moab,
And destroy all the sons of tumult.



¹⁸ “And Edom shall be a possession;
Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession,
While Israel does valiantly.

¹⁹ Out of Jacob One shall have dominion,
And destroy the remains of the city.”

²⁰ Then he looked on Amalek, and he took up his oracle and said:
“Amalek *was* first among the nations,
But *shall be* last until he perishes.”

²¹ Then he looked on the Kenites, and he took up his oracle and said:
“Firm is your dwelling place,
And your nest is set in the rock;

²² Nevertheless Kain shall be burned.
How long until Asshur carries you away captive?”

²³ Then he took up his oracle and said:
“Alas! Who shall live when God does this?

²⁴ But ships *shall come* from the coasts of Cyprus,
And they shall afflict Asshur and afflict Eber,
And so shall *Amalek*, until he perishes.”

²⁵ So Balaam rose and departed and returned to his place; Balak also
went his way.

Numbers 24:15-25

THE ORACLES OF BALAAM

1. First Oracle/ Utterance Numbers 23:7-10
 - a. Disclaimer
 - b. Declaration about Israel



2. Second Oracle

Numbers 23:18-24

- a. God
- b. Israel

3. Third Oracle

Numbers 24:3-9

- a. Vision/ Word of God
- b. Jacob/ Israel
- c. King of Israel
- d. Brief history of Israel

4. Fourth Oracle

Numbers 24:15-19

- a. The Messiah
- b. Edom/ Seir

5. Fifth Oracle

Numbers 24:20

Amalek


- a. Destruction
- b. Amalek was the first enemy that attacked Israel

6. Sixth Oracle

Numbers 24:21-22

Kenites

- a. Nomadic tribe
- b. Associated with Midianites



7. Seventh Oracle
Cyprus, Asshur, Eber, Amalek

Numbers 24:23-24

- a. Distant future
- b. But all would fall

SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE ORACLES

- 1. The Promise of a Messiah
- 2. The Power of the Messiah
- 3. The Presence of God
- 4. The Profundity of Prophecy

OUR CHALLENGE

¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:19-21

- 1. Take heed to God's word
- 2. Let Light shine in a dark place
- 3. Awaiting the day when the morning star rises in the heart

REFLECTIONS

YOUTH WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

By Joel Tan




Hello everyone! Welcome back to another week at Youth Worship. It is always good to take time to reflect on the truths we have been learning from God's word.

Last week, Pastor opened his message on Balaam's fourth prophecy by teasing out aspects of who Balaam really was. What we read in Numbers 22:6 indicated that Balaam was a person of reputation and acclaim, showing marks of a prophet in the eyes of Balak. However, it is written in Isaiah 41:21-24, that God presents a test to sift out true prophets from the false. They were to be able to "bring forth and show us what will happen", "show the former things, what they were," and "show the things that are to come hereafter." These were all things that Balaam could not prove to do. His fame and renown proved to be lacking in substance. Through Balaam as a contrasting example to the true prophets and holy men of God, I was able to appreciate this lesson in different angles:

Relationship with God


In the first part of Numbers 24:17, Balaam spoke of seeing the Lord, "but not now" and beholding Him, "but not near." This tells us of the distant relationship that Balaam had with God. Though his eyes were "wide open", he could not see the Lord presently nor intimately. In contrast, the prophets of



the Bible experienced a close relationship with the Lord. He would relate to them, explain His Word and at times discipline and correct. In turn, they would interact with the Lord and seek understanding and guidance from Him. They were not simply utterers of God's word like Balaam, they possessed a real and personal relationship with Him that sustained their life and ministry.

Receiving God's Word

The title of this message was "A Scepter shall rise out of Israel". This was part of the second portion in Numbers 24:17 where a prophecy of the Messiah was uttered by Balaam. Along the way, Balaam (and Balak) had multiple instances of receiving the Word of God. Contained within the oracles were not only blessings on Israel but lessons for Balaam and Balak to learn as well. Balaam had even gained some understanding and insight as we read earlier in verses Numbers 24:3-4. Nevertheless, the grim reality was that "Balaam rose and departed and returned to his place; Balak also went his way". They did not make any effort to inquire or seek explanation of all they had heard.

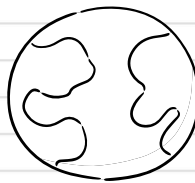



This was juxtaposed with 2 Peter 1:19-21 where it speaks of a far richer and more purposeful way in receiving God's word. By heeding the Messianic prophecy as one that has already come to pass and "as a light that shines in a dark place", the reception of God's word is likened to the process and progress of the dawning of a day until it climaxes into the morning star rising in one's heart. This can be our reality if we seek the Spirit's guidance (John 16:13), choose to heed His word and be conscious to lay aside our own thoughts and will, and focus on the pure Word of God.



Reflection and Response

As I reflected on these, I examined my own relationship with God and reception of His Word too. The Word of God is being preached each week at Youth Worship and Morning Worship. Though I may be listening, taking down notes and reviewing the lessons learnt at home, I admit that I do not always take the extra effort to relate to God about what I am learning, nor seek the answers to questions I may have. Just like the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:18-23), the seed of the Word of the Kingdom either ends up on the wayside, the stony ground, or the thorns in my heart. I've come to remember that God's Word is the way in which He relates to us and teaches us. The manner in which I receive His Word is indicative of my love and my response to His desire to relate to us. It is also the basis on which my relationship with Him can grow and deepen. As a student, I am dedicated to doing my readings diligently and clarifying any doubts with my professors. When it comes to God's Word, I am challenged to do the same and more - to view it as Light shining in the darkness and to be diligent in seeking understanding through the Holy Spirit, till the morning star rises in my heart and I bask in the close presence of the Lord.



YOUTH WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

BY MICHELLE CHOO

Hello everyone!

Last week at Youth Worship, we continued with our study on Numbers 24 about Balaam. Balaam had received the fourth oracle from God, but had not understood it. Understanding comes with a revelation from God, which was given to true prophets. Prophets were elected by God, those whom He had a relationship with. Yet, this relationship with God was what Balaam lacked, and he had not sought understanding or the spiritual sight to see what the prophecy was about.

Regard for the Scriptures

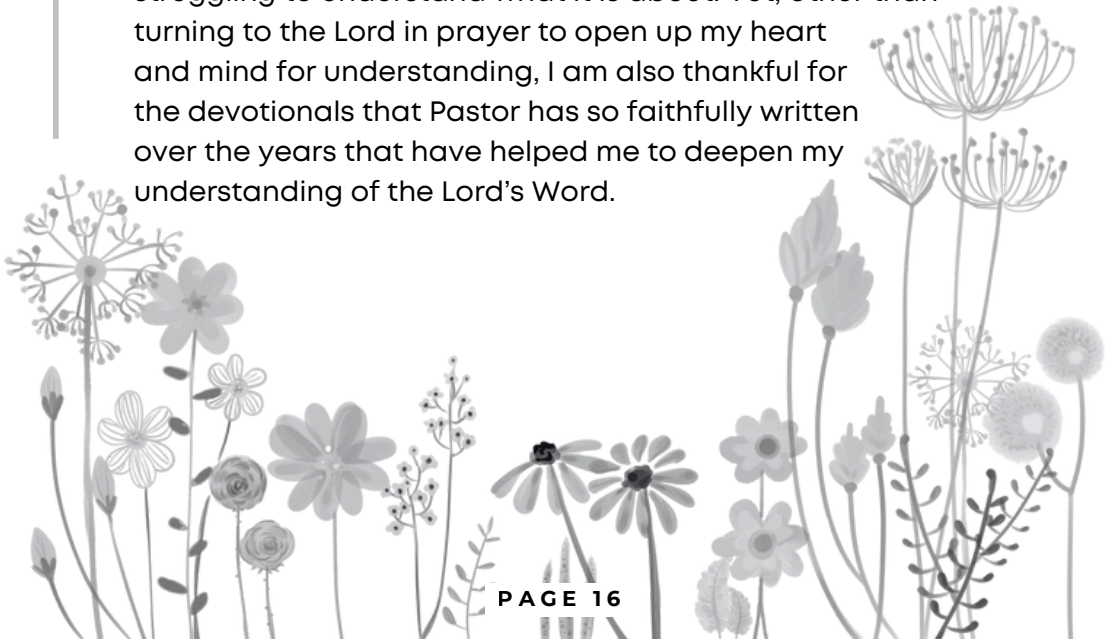
One very important thing about God's Word is that it is Holy. When we use our own will and understanding to interpret it, our sinful nature corrupts the very Holiness of it. We read in Revelations 22:18-19 that we are not to add or take away from the Word of God. Therein also lies the danger of not knowing the Word well or having a strong foundation of faith. Hence, we must be able to discern and identify when things are not Scripturally sound. This is especially so in this perverse generation and world we live in- there have been verses

taken out of context to conform to what is deemed socially acceptable, and some may call this 'progressive Christianity'. This very concept defiles God's Holy Word. An example would be of people quoting that God is love and hence there should be an acceptance of a LGBTQIA+ community. Yet we know in Romans 1:26-27 that it is a sin before God.

Having the right regard for the Scriptures is important every time we approach it. The Scriptures have to be held in high regard for it is the Word of God. In order for us to understand the Scriptures, we will need God to reveal what He wants us to hear and learn. Which is why personally, before I do my quiet time, or before messages (during the prelude), I always pray for the Lord to grant me understanding of His Word, and for me to give His Word that due regard.

Recognising Room for Growth

There are times when I open up a text, I find myself struggling to understand what it is about. Yet, other than turning to the Lord in prayer to open up my heart and mind for understanding, I am also thankful for the devotionals that Pastor has so faithfully written over the years that have helped me to deepen my understanding of the Lord's Word.



While there are times when the struggles to comprehend certain passages or lessons becomes disheartening, it is also a reminder that there is always so much more for us to learn! They are opportunities for us to grow further in our faith, and to deepen our understanding of the Lord and His Word.

There also comes a profound sense of joy when the Word becomes alive to us. For me, it almost feels like a eureka moment and it makes me want to discover more about the Scriptures and who God is. When the Word becomes so real to us, it guides us, and governs the way we live. A verse I was reminded of during this message was Psalm 119:105. It reads:

“Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.”

As I continue in my walk with the Lord, my prayer is that the Lord would not hide His Word from me and that His Word will continue to be my compass to help me navigate through life. May we all learn to cultivate the right regard for the Lord’s Word, and to keep seeking Him and His Word, to become beacons of light in this world of darkness!

POETRY CORNER

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL GROANED

The old Pharaoh had passed away finally;
But life was still filled with great cruelty.
The children of Israel were in despair;
Their life in Egypt was so unfair!

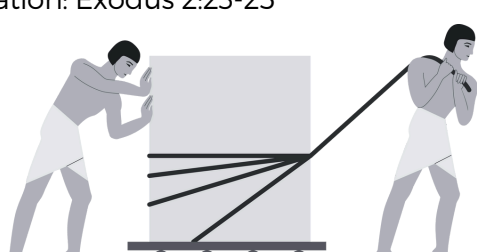
God heard their cry of despair;
He had never ceased to care.
He had given to Abraham a Covenant;
He looked upon them from Heaven.

God acknowledged their awful plight;
He knew their hearts were full of fright.
They were in despair every single day;
They needed a leader to show the way.

Prayers to the Lord are never uttered in vain;
God understands that life is full of stress and strain.
He will respond to the cries of His children;
He attends to their needs though He is in heaven.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Exodus 2:23-25



ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH CONFERENCE 2025: "Reconciled to God"

2 Corinthians 5:20

The much anticipated Youth Conference is around the corner! As we learn about being reconciled to God, may we appreciate our salvation so much more, and may it inspire us to live for Him in every aspect of our lives.

Details

Dates: 1-4 Dec 2025 (Monday - Thursday)

Venue: Bethany IPC

Time: 9.00am to 5.00pm daily

Age

Open to youths aged 13 and above.

Fellowship Lunch

Lunch will be provided every day. It would be an opportunity for us to relate to and fellowship with one another.

Fees

\$25.00

Do sign up early to assist in the planning of the programme.

If there are any queries, please feel free to contact Joshua Phang at 8028 6194.

You can register online by scanning the QR Code:



13 SEP 2025

**13
SEP**

“A man in whom is the Spirit”

Text: Numbers 27:12-23

Moses was an esteemed servant of the LORD, a man of God who had grown in compassion, caring for the children of Israel and leading them as a shepherd leads his flock. But who would take his place once he was gathered to his people? It would take one filled with the Spirit of God to step into his shoes. And so, the LORD chose and anointed Joshua to lead the congregation, with Eleazar the priest standing by his side to support.



Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church