



Editor

Jeffrey Loh

Sub-editor

Cecilia Perh

Design

Joyce Wong

Contributors

Angela Leong

Jeffrey Loh

Joyce Wong

Mary Yong

Photographs

Soon Soo Guan



 **Correspondence
address:**

Entrusting the Word
300 Jalan Bukit Ho Swee,
#03-02

Equation Building,
Singapore 169566

 **Email address:**
jeffrey@etword.org

◀ Donations & Offerings ▶

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ETW CENTRE

@ EQUATION BUILDING



ETW Centre is located along **Jalan Bukit Ho Swee**.

There is a HDB carpark opposite the centre, free
parking on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Tiong Bahru MRT Station is @ Tiong Bahru Plaza. There
are many buses Tiong Bahru Road and Lower Delta
Road.



**Entrusting
the Word to
the Faithful**

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TIMOTHIAN TIMES



www.etword.org

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

BY JOYCE WONG

As we head into the new year and more natural disasters strike
and persecution arises, we are reminded from the book of Esther,

*Esther 4:14 - “For if you remain silent at this time,
relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from
another place and you and your father’s house will
perish. And who knows whether you have not
attained royalty for such a time as this?”*

We are here for a purpose, and God has raised us up for ‘such a
time as this’ to proclaim and establish His Word. We must continue
to pray “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may
give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him...
that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what
is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His
inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His
power toward us who believe” (Ephesians 1:17-19a).

In 2009, we celebrated the following Feast Days, starting with
Passover (Pesach) in April, Pentecost (Shavuot) in May, the Feast of
Tabernacles (Succoth) in October and the Feast of the Dedication
(Hanukkah) in December. We also celebrated the founding of ETW
in August. ETW Ekklesia also had our very first baptism service in
September with 6 candidates!



Continued on page 3

◀ FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK ▶

Greetings to friends of ETW,

2009 has gone and passed. The Lord is indeed good to all of us here at ETW. First, we started the ETW Ekklesia, a sub-ministry of ETW to encourage the assembly of like-minded people who want to follow God and His Word. ETWE was started after much waiting upon the Lord as there was a growing need among some of our ETW students to be joined into a body.

Secondly, we started observing the LORD's feast days as delineated in Leviticus 23, in order to learn more about the first and second Comings of our Messiah. The fact that Paul encourages us to "celebrate the Passover" in 1 Cor. 5:8, highlights the oft-hidden fact that the early Church celebrated these special days as part and parcel of their faith in the Messiah.

Thirdly, Cecilia has written new books, for example, Romans 101, 102 and 103 for evangelistic and for discipleship purposes. We invite you to use these materials under the MIBS series (Philippians and Obadiah are now available). Also, in the weekly classes, she has introduced a simplified structuring method using Ephesians, to enhance the reasoning and analyzing abilities of all ETW students. There are many testimonies of how blessed students have been as Ephesians is taught.

2010 will present a new year with new challenges. What does the Lord have in store for us? We can only pray and seek Him as we discern His will for ETW! Do pray for and with us.

*Shalom,
Jeffrey Loh*



Jacob Prasch
Conference 2010

Jacob is planning another world tour and he hopes to pop by and be with us in Singapore, 22-27 June.

He misses us just as we miss him and we hope that many of you will join us during this time.

Look out for more details!

◀ 2010 CLASS SCHEDULE ▶

⊕
MONDAY NIGHTS
(7.30PM-9.45PM)

> **BEGINNING 11 JAN 2010 <**
"What does the Bible Say about the Coming of our Lord and the Gathering Together of the Saints, Pt 2" (9 Lessons),
followed by Malachi (9 Lessons)

⊕
TUESDAY MORNINGS
(9.30AM-12.30PM)

> **BEGINNING 12 JAN 2010 <**
Revelation Pt 4 (14 Lessons),
followed by "What does the Bible Say about the Coming of our Lord and the Gathering Together of the Saints, Pts 1 & 2"

⊕
TUESDAY NIGHTS
(7.30PM-9;45PM)

> **BEGINNING 12 JAN 2010 <**
2 Thessalonians (9 Lessons),
followed by Revelations Pts 1, 2, 3, 4

⊕
WEDNESDAY MORNINGS
(9.30AM-12.30PM)

> **BEGINNING 13 JAN 2010 <**
Romans 102 (8 Lessons),
followed by Romans 103, 104

⊕
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
(7.30PM-9;45PM)

> **BEGINNING 13 JAN 2010 <**
Romans 102 (8 Lessons),
followed by Romans 103, 104

⊕
FRIDAY MORNINGS
(9.30AM-12.30PM)

> **BEGINNING 15 JAN 2010 <**
"What does the Bible Say about the Coming of our Lord and the Gathering Together of the Saints, Pt 1" (11 Lessons),
followed by Pt 2 (9 Lessons)

⊕
SATURDAY AFTERNOONS
(1.30PM-2.45PM)

> **BEGINNING 16 JAN 2010 <**
Knowing God through His Word - Ongoing (Structuring)
Colossians, followed by Titus

⊕
(3.15PM-4.30PM)

Reading God's Word - Ongoing (Newcomers/those who have questions about the faith)
Gospel of John followed by Acts

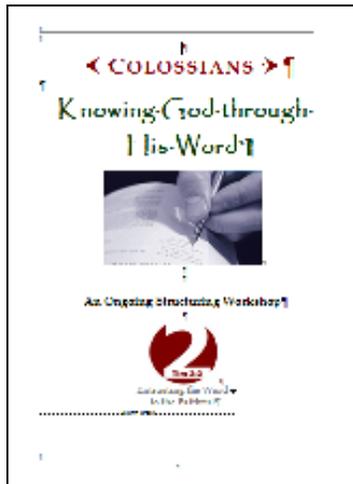
⊕
SATURDAY EVENINGS
(5.00PM-7.00PM)

> **BEGINNING 16 JAN 2010 <**
ETW Ekklesia - Ongoing
Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, etc

◀ ADVERTORIAL ▶

Cecilia has recently written a new series on the book of Colossians. This is taught as a workshop under the “Knowing God through His Word” series, to equip the saints with the necessary tools for evangelistic and discipleship purposes. This is in line with the ministry goal of entrusting the word to the faithful.

The method of structuring has been simplified from Precept days so that all students with whatever language ability may be able to grasp the method in a few sessions. It is hoped that as a result of learning structuring, more truths from God’s Word can be gleaned which would otherwise be hidden and embedded in a line of words not otherwise obvious.



◀ EPISTOLE ▶



Cecilia,

Thanks to God for the good opportunity and privileges to share the God’s Word to the government officials here in Baras Rizal.

On July 27, Aug. 3 before raising the flag ceremony, I am one of them to share the Word of God to bring them the message of salvation to all departments of municipality and also to the Baranggay officials and also to the police department.

Please pray for me that God use me and give me a power and inspiring words so that they understand and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Lord and Savior. May the Lord speak to them, that God open their hearts and minds and also pray for my wife for she believed my second Child daughter for this coming August.

Thanks and God Bless

In Christ Jesus

Ronaldo B. “ Jojo “ Dela Cruz

Full time Worker of Baras Christian Church

In memoriam: One of the last updates from Pastor Jojo who went home to be with the Lord on 9 Oct 2009 after a cardiac arrest while helping out with relief work for the flood situation. A very humble man and always giving thanks to God for whatever his circumstances. He leaves behind his wife and 3 young children.



✍ Write and share your thoughts with us!

Continued from front page

We continued our financial support for our brethren in the Philippines through the Bukas Puso scholarship scheme, where we have increased the number of recipients to 49 students (please refer to Philippines update on page 21). We also sent out an appeal for funds in October when strong typhoons devastated the Philippines, in particular Rizal province, and sent the monies as soon as they were received. Later we made another appeal for used clothing and sent two jumbo sized cartons in December. We thank God for your generosity and grace.

During this time, we received news that one of the workers we partnered with went home to be with the Lord (please see page 22 for more details). We also sent some money to help his wife and her 3 children.

We ended 2009 with a thanksgiving service on 26 December as we reviewed how Yahweh cared and guided us through 2009 as *Yahweh Rô’eh* (Yahweh our Shepherd).



The 6 baptism candidates with Mary Yong and Cecilia Perh:

L-R: Esther Goh, Jerri Chee, Wong Yew Ying, Lucy Fung, Angela Leong, Michelle Righetti (with his son, Micah)

IBS WORKSHOPS

INTRO TO IBS SKILLS

Those with no knowledge of IBS

- IW 001 Psalm 1 (1.5 hr)
- IW 002 1 Thessalonians 1 (2 hr)
- IW 003 Matthew 6:24-34 (1 ½ hr)
- IW 004 1 Corinthians 12 (2 hr)

BASIC IBS SKILLS

- BW 101 Overview of Philemon (4h)
- BW 102 Overview of Obadiah (4h)
- BW 103 Overview of Haggai (4h)
- BW 104 Overview and Chapter Study of Jude (1 day)
- BW 201 Overview and Chapter Study of 2 Peter (2 days)
- BW 202 Overview and Chapter Study of 1 Thessalonians (2 days)

STRUCTURING SKILLS

- SW 101 Structuring of Philemon (1 day)
- SW 102 Structuring of Jude (1 day)
- SW 103 Structuring of Titus (1.5 days)
- SW 201 Structuring of 2Peter (2 days)
- SW 202 Structuring of Philippians (2 days)
- SW 203 Structuring of Colossians (2 days)



ETW EKKLESIA – BEARING WITNESS TO THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD

BY MARY YONG

E*phesians 3:8-12-⁸ To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,⁹ and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things;¹⁰ in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,¹² in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him*

ETW Ekklesia worshipped together as a family of God in its first service on 18th April 2009; and whenever His family gathers, Father God blesses with His promised presence. In light of what has been revealed to us through God's word on the Second Coming of the Messiah, many of us who have been drawn to the Ekklesia continue to yearn for more of God, even as we seek a greater understanding of our role in His kingdom, in times such as these.



The Greek word, *ekklesia*, ἐκκλησία literally means 'called out ones'. When Father God called us out of the world and into His kingdom, He placed us in the family of God. For us, as believers, the call to salvation is also a call to be on mission with God, that we bear witness to "the manifold wisdom of God" not only on earth but also "to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places."

How do we go about such a God-sized task, humanly speaking? Perhaps the words of that great missionary to China, Hudson Taylor, can point us in the right direction:

God's work done in God's way shall never lack God's supply.'

Indeed, God has supplied us with all that we need to glorify Him (see Ephesians 1-3; 2 Peter 1:1-11).

◀ PHILIPPINES UPDATE ▶

Hello Ate C,

Good evening!

Sorry for the late response. I finalized the additional 15 recipient's information sheets. Attached are final list of recipients (Old and New) and the list of the additional 15 recipients. I pray that I have it all in order. I will be mailing their Thank you letters soon.

Please thank ETW for the generosity and the desire to partner with us in this ministry.

Ate C, I'm really grateful for the tapes you have given me. I'm using the Thessalonians tape for my preaching in Tayuman. I'm on the third Chapter already. Ed Lucas has left for Saudi Arabia so I'm working full- time in Tayuman. I have been reading Jacob Prasch "The Final Words of Jesus" and it has inspired me so. I also finished reading the "Names of God" and learned things I never realized before.

The cell groups are using the book of Romans. Thank you very much for these materials. I'm doing all inductive lessons for my lessons. We are praying for Bro. Jacob, that the Lord will care for his afflictions.

Paul Washer's tapes given by Ate Esther were also very useful.

Please pray for the new believers in Tayuman. We have a family whose wife is a Muslim. He was converted to Islam when they got married but he and his son are now attending services in Tayuman. His son Jun is one of the new recipients of Bukas-Puso.

Ate C. Please pray for the team as we commute at night after the Friday prayer meeting.

I really thank God that you are fine now. We will continue to pray for you.

The young people had their first home evangelistic meeting last Sunday. It was really a joy and a blessing to see the YP's boldly share the Gospel of YHWH.

The response was overwhelming and many attended the Youth Prayer meeting last Friday. Please pray for them that God will give them wisdom as they courageously spread the Good News of the Lord.

God bless you all! Warmest regards to all.

In His Grip,

Murel & Jesmar.

UPDATE ON JACOB PRASCH



Jacob Prasch Conference 2009 from 25-28 June was cancelled due to a medical emergency while Jacob was preaching in Cape Town on 21 June. Jacob, who has a history of health problems, noticed phlebitis (inflammation of the veins) in his ankle and asked a Jewish doctor who happened to be at the church meeting in Cape Town and she rushed him to the hospital. At the hospital they found the Jacob had such high blood pressure due to the medications he takes for his neck injury he went into arterial fibrillation. Had he boarded the plane to Bangkok as scheduled, he would have suffered a massive and probably fatal stroke. But thanks be to God, he noticed the inflammation and heeded the Jewish doctor's advice.

The cardiologist concluded that weight issues, heavy travel schedule with long international flights, as well as sleep apnea (constricted airways usually due to obesity, resulting in heavy snoring and poor quality of sleep) didn't help although not the main cause of the arterial fibrillation. Thus Jacob was ordered to rest for at least a month and not allowed to travel on long distant flights. He was approved for medical evacuation back to UK on 28 June after doctors managed to stabilize his condition.

He is now back in the UK. He has persistent arrhythmia (irregular heart beat) even when sleeping. There are no signs of thrombosis (blood clot) or vascular degeneration. The source of the problem seems to be prolonged sleep apnea, aggravated by frequent jetlag, moderate obesity and possible renal side effects of Diclofenac taken for anti-inflammatory pain management.

From Jacob "Essentially I have 79% oxygen saturation (as opposed to normal 94%-96%) in sleep causing heart, kidneys, and liver to 'work overtime when I should be resting' due to chronic respiratory acclusion with resulting sleep hypoxia. Your prayers are much appreciated."

We praise God for His timely intervention and sustaining Jacob through the time of crisis and that he has recovered now and back on his feet teaching and preaching in Moriel Ministry.

All works of service begin and end with God, and the answer to how human beings can glorify God lies in the nature of God Himself: God is love (1 John 4:16b). We need to "know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge" (Ephesians 3:19) and of primary importance, we need to realize that when God chose us, He called us into a love relationship with Him. For each believer to enter into the fullness and greatness of God's salvation, each must learn to love God and His people in a body of believers that He formed. This is in obedience to His word in *Matthew 22:37-40*:

³⁷ And He said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."



To love God is to love God's people, and to love His people is to fulfill the whole law (Galatians 5:14). Henry Blackaby reminds us that 'we cannot be on mission with Him (God) effectively unless we are vitally connected to the church (that is, to one another)... God has a purpose for every person in His family. His purpose, however, is never for the individual; it has a corporate dimension. Unless the corporate dimension of salvation is understood, a person will never fulfill the purpose God had for his life when He chose to save him Significant evangelism is a by-product of what God does with His people. If we by-pass the people of God, we have shut down evangelism.'

"God's work done God's way" is for us to obey His commandments and to walk in a right relationship with Him and with one another; for by this shall all men then know that we are His disciples (John 13:34-35), and in this manner shall we bring glory and praise to Him. Without putting God in first place, we are no more than an ordinary human society engaged in religious busyness.



Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth” and “You are the light of the world” meaning that we will, by our very nature *in Him*, impact the people we encounter. The influence we exert is always *the influence of who we are in Christ, and in Christ alone*.

By our human nature alone, we are people of little love; *but thanks be to God that He has given us His Holy Spirit, that wonderful Counselor and Enabler*, to strengthen and guide us into laying hold of His word so as to have first love for God and His people.

The Apostle Paul has given us a wonderful prayer in *Ephesians 3: 16-19*, which I have encouraged all of us in ETWE to pray regularly for our family in Christ, so that we may grow as a body of Christ and be built up in love, as each one of us plays our part.



In these times of increasing turmoil and turbulence, there is a great need for a purified body of Christ to whom is given a vision of an understanding of the times (see 1 Chronicles 12:32a). My heart’s desire for ETWE is that we will be people who seek to obey God by taking Him at His word (that is, to love Him and to love one another). As we walk in obedience as a body with Christ as our Head, we shall then bear testimony to the manifold wisdom of Almighty God, for the praise of His glorious name.

1 Peter 1:22-23 - *22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.*

Blessings and Shalom,
Mary Yong for ETWE
June 2009



The Feast days of the Lord have a few functions:

- **Seasonal:** Israel was an agrarian society. In this instance Shavuot is the start of the wheat harvest.
- **Memorial:** Feasts are to be a reminder of what God has done. Shavuot is a celebration of new revelation of God’s will at Mount Sinai through the giving of the Torah. (Exo 21:1-8,26-28)
- **Prophetic:** This gives us the timetable of God as the Feasts are a rehearsal of the coming Messiah and His return. In this case the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost (Acts 2:38-41) at the 1st Coming. There will be a future fulfillment at the 2nd Coming.

The counting of the ‘Omer’, the 50 day countdown from the first Sunday after Passover to Pentecost also has great significance. The Omer is a sacrifice which contains an omer-measure of barley which was offered in the Temple in Jerusalem. It was a time of great anticipation of preparing to meet God. Cecilia also drew spiritual truths from the preparation of the omer for the sacrifice which parallels our own preparation in our lives as we prepare to meet with God.

We performed the waving of the *Bikkurim* (wave offering) while singing ‘Bringing in the sheaves’. Traditionally 2 loaves of bread made from an omer of fine wheat flour, each about 3 feet long and 9 inches wide were waved. They are waved from South to North, then East to West, then upwards, then downwards.



Our Pentecost celebration ended with a nasi lemak meal. It was indeed an insightful time of worship, thanksgiving, intercession and learning as we glean more truths from the Word of God.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - *26 “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”*

SHAVUOT (PENTECOST) DAY OF PRAYER

BY JOYCE WONG



Shavuot or Pentecost, also known as Feast of Weeks, was on May 31 2009. We held a prayer meeting at the Centre, attended by about 70 people. Shavuot is one of the feast days of the Lord as commanded by God in the Torah,

Lev 23: 15-16,21 - ¹⁵ 'You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths. ¹⁶ You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD. ²¹ On this same day you shall make a proclamation as well; you are to have a holy convocation. You shall do no laborious work. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.'

Cecilia led the prayer meeting, using the booklet she has written, 'Prayer in the Upper Room'. We had a time of worship, prayer in small groups, teaching on the Shavuot.



Continued on page19

JUST A CLICK AWAY....

The lesson notes and a whole collection of information are available through a click on the internet!

The location is @
<http://www.etword.org>



LET'S LISTEN

Cecilia's teachings can now be found on Youtube @

<http://www.youtube.com/user/entrustingtheword>

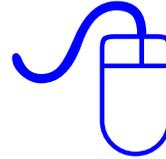


LET'S READ

Bankruptcy of our nation: "takes complex topics such as the subprime mortgage crisis and rising levels of U.S. consumer debt and takes them apart - reassembling them in simple English for the average consumer," WorldNetDaily said.

"That gives readers the means to protect their assets and profits - with 12 straightforward strategies. The book "exposes the immoral financial excesses of the American economic empire and explains the impending danger that awaits a nation built entirely upon debt."

Available at the Centre.



MY TESTIMONY

BY ANGELA LEONG

I first wrote my testimony 3 years ago when I first got saved. It was just a simple and straight forward account on how Yahweh turned my life around by giving me His Holy Spirit, a new birth, a new heart and new life in Christ. Now I would like to tell you more details of how my life was before I knew the real and living God and I pray the Holy Spirit will lead me to share my testimony effectively so as to witness to those who do not know my wonderful Lord God and Saviour, Yeshua HaMashiach, (Jesus Christ).

I was born a Roman Catholic and have, throughout most of my 50 years, paid lip service to Catholicism even though in practice, I was 'pagan' to the core. I leaned towards Buddhism and Hinduism, and even harbored thoughts of going to an ashram in India to go deeper into meditation. I also frequently dabbled in the occult - did fortune-telling, consulted in horoscopes and even had a hand in black magic!



In 1997/98, I went through a very rough patch in life. Divorce, death of my mother (my one and only living kin then), loss of my job and failed relationships drove me back to seeking God. I went to Novena in order to confess to the priest the sins that were the result of my hideous lifestyle. I expected a string of "Hail Mary's" as penance to atone for my sins then, but was sent for a series of "Inner Child healing" sessions. That did not really work because after feeling the initial relief from guilt, I was back to my usual unrighteous self in no time. Now looking back, I realize that the Roman Catholic church's way of dealing with sin does not conform to the Bible they claim to subscribe to, nor do they adhere to the word of God. Otherwise they would have used the Scriptures in their dealings with me instead of some 'mystical clinical psychology' which does not solve spiritual problems anyhow. Sadly I also now know that this method of 'Inner Healing' is prevalent in many other evangelical churches and is not only unScriptural but demonic in nature.

The Royal Priesthood

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Exodus 19:6 - 'and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

The expression "a royal priesthood," has been interpreted in many different ways. By now, you should have a better understanding of what this term could mean. The word "royal" suggests a kingly line and "priesthood" basically means an order of priests. What order of priests was Peter referring to? Most commentators forgot to ask how Gentile Christians can become priests of God. The fact that Peter lumps ALL believers (with Gentiles included) into the category of priests means that the Levitical priesthood is not in view here. How is it that Gentiles can act as priests and offer sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5), albeit spiritual ones?

The answer lies in the fact that David served as a priest following the tradition of Melchizedek. Subsequently, David's sons followed the same tradition based on the authority delegated by their father David, who was a king. Yeshua (Jesus), David's descendant, exercised the same priesthood, following the tradition of Melchizedek. What about us believers? We become priests of the Melchizedekian order, not because of any physical descent but because of the authority bestowed on us by our Lord Jesus, who is the King of kings.

In conclusion, we now know that there are priests that exist in the Bible, not of the Levitical lineage. Jethro, for one, was a Midianite priest who ministered to God in the days of Moses. Melchizedek was another, who pre-existed the Levites, commanding a line of priests from David to Christians that is superior to the Levites (Hebrews 7)!



Although this Psalm is referring to the Messiah, this is no doubt a secondary reference to king David. That David and his descendants would be priests according to the order of Melchizedek is clearly expressed in 2 Samuel 8:18.

ESV 2 Samuel 8:18 - and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David's sons were priests.

The phrase, "David's sons were priests", is controversial amongst translators. The Hebrew word for "priests" is "kohanim". The English Standard Version accurately translated this word as "priests" consistently in the Scriptures. Other translators translated it as "chief rulers" (KJV), "chief ministers" (NAS) or "royal advisers" (NIV). It seems that these other translators were unwilling to accept the fact that David's sons could be priests and so they have translated "kohanim" as something else. They considered it impossible that there could be non-Levitical priests. Even the Septuagint (LXX) translated it as "princes of the court".

But we prefer to take *kohanim* as priests and we see that David performed priestly duties including the regulating of worship. He wore the linen ephod (2 Sam 6:14), offered sacrifices and blessed the people (2 Sam 6:13, 17-18; 24:25). Even Solomon, David's son, offered sacrifices (1 Kgs 3:4, 15) as priest, whereas Saul lost God's endorsement as Israel's king because he wasn't one, being from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Sam 13). During the dedication of the Temple, Solomon blessed the people (1 Kgs 8:14) which ought to be the function of the Aaronic priests (Num 6:23). Also Ahaz followed the tradition of Solomon in offering sacrifices to the LORD (2 Kgs 16:10-16).



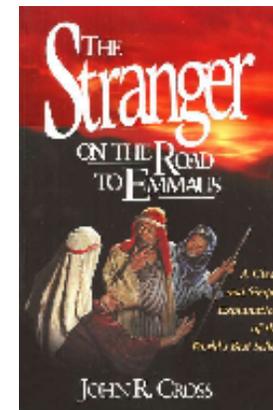
Since David's priesthood extended to his sons as 2 Samuel 8:18 suggests, does the Bible have anything to say about Yeshua (Jesus), who Himself is a descendant of David? Since Yeshua was from the tribe of Judah and the high priest had to be a descendant of Aaron, it is impossible for the author of Hebrews to say that Yeshua is a high priest of the Aaronic tradition because He was a descendant of David. Instead the author of Hebrews said that Yeshua became "a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek" (Hebrews 5:10; 6:20; 7:17) and a legitimate successor to the king-priest legacy left by Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4).

Continued on page 17

This stint with "Inner Healing" made me attend Novena and brought me back to Roman Catholicism so when I was in Shanghai in 2004, I also naturally attended the Catholic Church when I got relocated over there because of business. In the Roman Catholic church, I would partake in the Eucharist (which is unscriptural) and I would be tearful during the masses I attended but I could not put my finger on what emotion was taking over me; be it remorse, despair or a desperate feeling of helplessness - but more like a combination of all three I now realize. In retrospect, I now know that it was the awful weight of sin that was weighing on my heart.

But in 2006, God began to lay hold of me and He led me back to Singapore because of some health issues. The initial operation was performed badly and I had to have more operations to correct the botched job which resulted in a fistula, a rare medical case related to abnormal bleeding which could only happen in undeveloped countries! The trauma of this brought me even more pain and caused me to be in greater despair. Thus God began to press on me and when I was ready to hear, He sent me His "messenger".

One day, whilst recuperating, my friend Esther gave me a book "The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus". I was touched by what I read as this book presents the Bible in a nutshell. Never have I read the Bible before (most Catholics don't read as well). So this was indeed new revelation to me - about fallen man and his sinful nature, our separation from God and how the blood of Yeshua Mashiach alone can redeem us when we repent and let Him rule our lives. Indeed I spent some days crying, confessing to Him my sins. I was eager to get hold of the Bible to know my Saviour.



I knew briefly about the gospel due to my Roman Catholic background. However, it was only at that point that I “saw” Jesus Christ in a different light: that His death on the cross was *for me!* He must love me deeply! I was humbled by His great love: for Christ, Son of God to take on human flesh and to lay His life down for me! For me, unworthy, vile sinner that I am! How many of us love enough to give our life for another? It puts me to shame that I won’t even offer a kidney to my mother in her time of need.

The irony of it all was that all this happened as I was recuperating in an aunt’s house that was full of idols of Buddhism and Roman Catholicism! This indeed proves that Yahweh is the Great and Almighty Living God and that the graven images made by man were powerless and had no effect on God’s Holy Spirit that was working repentance in my heart that led me to salvation in Christ.

John 1:12-13 - ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.



My life was such a mess before I have my heavenly Father to lead me. He is also my Teacher, Counselor, Friend, Protector, Provider and Healer. He is the first Person I have on my mind when I wake up and the last Person I think about before I sleep. I am sure most of us have experienced this sort of feeling, especially when we are in love with someone. This experience with my heavenly Father is not an illusion but is very real to me, as I dialogue with Him daily through prayers and through reading His word. I yearn to know more about God, His character and His plan because I want to live for Him in every way. In His Word, I find that all that God says are meant for us a blueprint for living. My Father is also an excellent “storyteller” and some of the stories He tells in the Bible are humorous.

Melchizedek met Abram when he returned from his pursuit of Chedorlaomer and the other Mesopotamian kings who took Lot captive. He was introduced as the king of Salem (the ancient name of Jerusalem) and priest of God Most High. Scholars over the centuries have debated on who this person might be. And since the Scriptures are silent on this, it would be prudent to leave it as that and try and understand what might be known about him.

What we do know about Melchizedek is that he was a Canaanite king who reigned in Salem (later known as Jerusalem during the days of Joshua) at the time of the patriarch Abram. Through him, Melchizedek combined the two offices of king and priest. This has important implications because God would later reveal to David that David’s throne would be established forever. This meant that kings would have to come from David’s line, i.e. from the tribe of Judah. And who were the priests at that time? The Levites!



The Davidic Priesthood

Most of you probably have not heard this term “Davidic priesthood”, which to many is an oxymoron because we have been taught in churches and Bible colleges that the kings of Israel have to come from the tribe of Judah whereas the priests have to come from the tribe of Levi, in particular, Aaron’s family.

David was a priest of the people who lived in Jerusalem, not because he was a Levite, but because he continued in the tradition that was established by Melchizedek, who was both a king and priest. Both Melchizedek and David ruled over the Jebusite city of Jerusalem (or ancient Salem).

Psalm 110:4, which was addressed to the king David stated it very clearly.

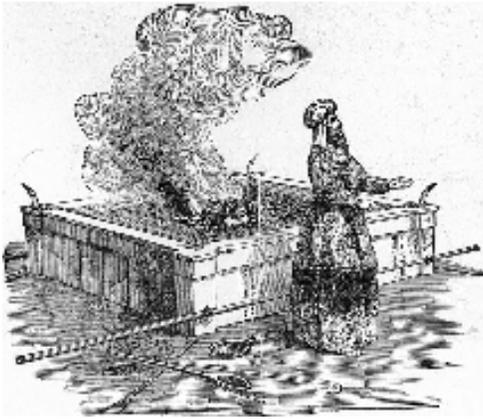
Psalm 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, “Thou art a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

However 1 Chronicles 6:33-38 traces his genealogy to that of the tribe of Levi. Therefore, Samuel must have been a Levite living in the territory of Ephraim.

1 Chronicles 6:33-38

33 *And these are those who served with their sons. From the sons of the Kohathites were Heman the singer, the son of Joel, the son of Samuel,
34 the son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliel, the son of Toah,
35 the son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai,
36 the son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah,
37 the son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah,
38 the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel.*

Other than the Israelites, we have the examples of Jethro (Moses' father-in-law), a Midianite priest who is a worshiper of God (Exodus 18) and Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20), also a non Israelite priest.



The Melchizedekian Priesthood

In Genesis 14:18-20, we meet a peculiar priest who appeared out of nowhere.

Genesis 14:18-20 *And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tenth of all.*

The most significant change in me is my attitude towards my relationships with men. As an only child, I never knew my father, for he died when I was a few months old. I was brought up in the household of my paternal grandmother in Malaysia while my mother was teaching in Singapore. At the age of 9, I went to live with my mother who was torn between me and the man of her life then. Most of the time, I was left on my own and learnt independence from a very early age. However, I lacked fatherly love, guidance, comfort and protection. My nights were spent crying, yearning for my father. In my puberty and adulthood, I thought of various ways to keep a relationship, even as I eagerly sought for some man to love me. I was insecure and, as a result, men exploited me, leaving me with heartaches to the extent that I once attempted suicide.

When I recovered both physically and spiritually, I returned to Shanghai. This time, I started cleaning out and throwing out all my occultic paraphernalia such as 'good luck charms', Roman Catholic tracts, and the rosary. By Yahweh's grace and mercy, He had freed me from being a slave of sin and made me a slave of righteousness for His sake; from a life of idolatry and a destiny of eternal damnation and certain death, to a Child Of God who has no fear of death and have direct access to God and inherits Eternal Life in Christ.

Now, I *know* I have a Heavenly Father. His words give me wisdom and guide me in my life and are to me as a light unto my path. I no longer have any anxiety to be in a BGR relationship because I have a love relationship with my Heavenly Father. I have learnt that it is best to fear Yahweh, seek Him and know Him in order to revere Him. To me, He is my Heavenly Father but to those whom do not have a relationship with Him, He will be their Divine Judge. My heart's desire is for as many as possible to know Him as their heavenly Father.

"Therefore come out from among them and be separate," says YHWH. "Do not touch what is unclean and I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me", says YHWH Almighty. 2Cor6:16-18.



NON LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD IN THE BIBLE

THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD



BY JEFFREY
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Most Bible students are pretty familiar with the priesthood of Levi. During the time of the Exodus, God had sought to take the first-born male of every family to serve as priest unto Him (Num 3:12). However, because Israel sinned through worshipping of the golden calf at Horeb (except the tribe of Levi), the privilege of the priesthood was given to the tribe of Levi (see Exodus 32:25-29). The high priest, a subcategory of the Levitical priests, has to be a descendant of Aaron. However, few of us know that besides Aaron and the Levites, non-Levitical priests do exist in the Bible. It is hoped that this article will at least attempt to correct the idea that priests can only be from the tribe of Levi.

During the time of the Judges, Levitical priests were living among the tribes of Israel since they do not possess any land. In Judges 17:7, there is mention of a Levite residing in Bethlehem of Judah.

Judges 17:7 - Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah, who was a Levite; and he was staying there.

At first glance, this may seem contradictory. How can this young man be from both the tribe of Judah and Levi at the same time? This young man is indeed from the family or tribe of Judah. One explanation is that the term "Levite" then was not referring to the tribe of Levi per se but rather, someone dedicated to the service of the LORD, irrespective of tribal affiliation. This was the case during the days of the Judges, where everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

One did not have to go far to see how this was so. In Judges 17:5, we see that Micah who was of the tribe of Ephraim consecrated one of his sons as priest even though this was strictly forbidden in the Torah.

*Judges 17:5-6 - ⁵ And the man Micah had a shrine and he made an ephod and household idols and consecrated one of his sons, that he might become his priest.
⁶ In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.*

The other explanation is that Levites, because they do not have an inheritance, became affiliated with the tribe in whose territory they live in.

We have the example of Samuel, whose father was mentioned as an Ephraimite.

1 Samuel 1:1 - Now there was a certain man from Ramathaim-zophim from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

