



# Trumpet's Sound

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49<sup>th</sup> year, Australia

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Cover photo: "Armenian pottery", Photo by ACM team 2017.

**ACM prayer and praise points**

- We thank the Lord for the past 20 years of ACM and the many saved through the Gospel.
- We thank Him for His blessings on our two centres Cornerstone Chapel, and Grace Centre.
- We thank Him for our co-workers Ashod & Hasmig, Vatche & Manushag, Martun & Angela and Anni.
- Please continue your prayers for the 21 listed with us for urgent medical care.
- Pray for funds needed to ship container No 20 to Armenia.
- Pray for the approaching winter and Christmas, your support is much needed.

*The costs of the publication are covered by the gifts of believers, who donate out of the generosity of their hearts.*

## ***Who do you say that I am?***

*“Who do you say that I am?” is one of the questions Jesus asked his disciples. I love Peter’s immediate response which came with no doubt or hesitation “You are the Christ” (Mark 8:29). Christ is the Greek word for the Hebrew Messiah. The English is “The Anointed”. Peter recognised the greatness of the Lord Jesus.*

*The question is still asked today. “Who do you say I am?” We all have to respond to this question at least once in our lives, whether we are young or old, sick or healthy, poor or rich, or possibly on our death bed. The question will always be present. If we do not respond in words, our actions show our answer.*

*“Who do you say that I am?” The Lord Jesus came not only as God’s anointed but He came to be our Saviour. In fact, His name Jesus means “Jehovah is Saviour”.*

*And we need a Saviour. Why? Because of our sins past and present. He came to save us from sin and give us hope and joy; He came to restore our souls and make us new in Him.*

*While Mary sat at the feet of Jesus listening to His words, Martha was distracted with preparations for a meal. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” Jesus replied “Martha you are worried and upset about many things but Mary has chosen what is better”.*

*At times we worry about many things, and have no time for the most important thing in our lives. We think that if we help the poor and pray for our needs we will be good Christians. We think that if we make an effort and go to church on Sunday and ask for health this will make us acceptable to Him. However, Jesus is not an ATM machine. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one comes to the Father but through Him (John 14:6).*

*When did you last respond in your quietness to the question “Who do you say that I am”? You will have to respond or your actions will show.*

*Thomas said “My Lord my God” (John 20:28) and fell on his knees. This is who Jesus is when we come to Him. Then, and not before, we will start worshipping Him. We need to respond to the question before we start worshipping Him.*

*You may fear Him, respect Him and do things to please Him. But it is only when you come to the Saviour in repentance, only when you make Him Lord and king of your life, only when you call out, “my Lord and my Saviour” that there will be a change in your life.*

*“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in Spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).*

*My prayer is that you will answer this question here and now so that He may give you joy and peace. Jesus left the glory of heaven, took human form, was hated by all, and died on the cross for the salvation of all mankind. Who you say He is will be held against you because if you reject Him, you condemn yourself.*

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### **Ephesians 4:25-29 (ESV)**

*<sup>25</sup>Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup>Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. <sup>29</sup>Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

## **Lot's choice**

### **Read Genesis 13**

**A**braham and Lot returned from Egypt to the place where they had been before. It was not long before the different priorities of the two men were revealed.

Abraham returned from Egypt and made his way back to the south of Canaan. What is emphasised is his return to Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning and to the place where he had made an altar. Though we are not told in so many words, it would seem that the altar was not a characteristic of Abraham in Egypt. Now he has returned to where he belonged – possibly where he should have been the whole time. The important thing was that Abraham was again worshipping the Lord in a way that meant he was a faithful servant of the Lord God. He called on the name of the Lord.

However, a problem soon developed. Abraham was extremely wealthy but Lot also had considerable flocks and herds. Where once the two could live in harmony, complete agreement was no longer possible, not because of tension between them but because of tension between their herdsmen. There was just not enough pasture for the two men to live so close to each other. So they had to separate and go different ways. What made the matter more serious was the presence of the Canaanites and the Perizzites in the area. For followers of the one true God to quarrel before pagans would reflect on the God whom Abraham worshipped. The maintenance of a good testimony and family harmony made the separation not only desirable but necessary.

Abraham had the right as the older man to decide which way he would go. However, we see him make a very gracious offer to his nephew. Such was his determination to show that there was no strife between the families, that he offered Lot the right to choose which way he would go. If Lot decided to go to the

left, Abraham would go to the right. Alternatively, if Lot decided to go to the right, Abraham would go to the left.

Lot made his choice. There does not appear to be any thought that he should defer to his uncle; he lifted up his eyes and surveyed the scene. Whereas Abraham had left Egypt both physically and spiritually, Lot revealed different priorities. He looked towards the plain of the Jordan and saw how pleasant and desirable it was. It was like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt.

What Lot knew about the garden of the Lord is open to surmise, but he did know about Egypt and how fertile that area was. In his heart he was still there and this was a golden opportunity to live in a similar place. Without a thought for his spiritual well-being Lot chose the plain of the Jordan and travelled east. Abraham and he separated from each other. Abraham continued to live in the land of Canaan, but Lot was in the cities of the plain. Unfortunately, he not only moved to the Jordan plain but it was not long before he moved his tent as far as Sodom. From there he was on a slippery slope; it was not long before he actually moved into the city.

The writer makes a matter of fact statement as if Lot should have known where he was heading. The men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinners against the Lord. Peter tells us that righteous Lot was very distressed by the lustful life of the wicked (2 Peter 2:7). If Lot were to maintain any testimony for the Lord, he was going the wrong way. A wrong choice at this stage sowed the seeds of calamity for the future.

All this should lead us to ask ourselves a number of questions. What principles do we follow when we have to make a choice? What are our priorities in life? Do we realise the consequences of a wrong choice?

Do we look merely at present material advantages when we make a choice? In other words, do we only look for the things of this life? We need to realise that there are eternal issues that

are involved. We are not here to live for present material advantages but we are here to live to glorify our Lord. It is important that when we have to choose between two or more alternatives, we seek to know the Lord's will and choose the way in which we will be able to serve Him best.

This will almost certainly mean spending time prayerfully considering the options and asking the Lord to show us which way to go. And He will do this. It may be that circumstances will combine to make the way ahead clear. We can expect that God will give us an inner peace that one way is better than another. And once God's plan is revealed, we walk that path with confidence.

Abraham, in effect, left the choice with the Lord. After Lot left, the Lord told Abraham to lift up his eyes, and look from where he was in every direction. God extended the promise He had made to Abraham by saying that all the land which he could see, He would give to him and to his offspring forever. God added that He would make Abraham's offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then his offspring could be numbered. Abraham was then instructed to walk through the land in its length and in its width because God intended to give it to him.

There is a delightful touch here. Abraham was back where he should have always been, enjoying the presence of the Lord. He now had the added assurance that God would care for him and in God's time the land would belong to his descendants. In this assurance he moved his tent, and lived by the oaks of Mamre, in Hebron. There he built an altar to the Lord.

Don Stormer

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*“Be very sure of this, -people never reject the Bible because they cannot understand it. They understand it only too well; they understand that it condemns their own behavior; they understand that it witnesses against their own sins, and summons them to judgment.” — J.C. Ryle*

## ***Capturing the moment***

*“Capture the moment!” The advertisements for developing colour photo prints are right. We all have those moments that we want to capture and keep forever. These moments can range from the simple pleasure of a family picnic at the beach, right through to the joy of a memorable spiritual event in your life. Whether we store the memory on film or in our heart, the purpose is the same. We want to somehow reserve the experience so it can be pulled out of storage and the pleasure of it relived again and again.*

*However it seems that many problems come when we lose sight of the difference between remembering the past and trying to relive the past. The frequent spiritual lows of the people of Israel often began when they no longer remembered God's past faithfulness. But they also found that trying to cling onto and relive past blessing, never gave them what they were looking for. For many of us today, this is a vital lesson to remember.*

*I certainly could not count the number of discussions I have heard or taken part in, about how good or bad various church meetings have been. We have to admit that the success or failure of the morning service is a common topic for Sunday lunch. It is interesting how often these discussions drift into questions about rearranging the format of the meeting or something similar. We seem to think that there is some formula that if only we could find, it would somehow capture the blessing of past services or experiences and recreate them for us on cue each Sunday.*

*In our personal lives we struggle with the same issue. We come upon some new devotional book that seems to wonderfully liven up our daily devotional times, but it is generally not long before we are again stuck in the same old problems of dullness we thought we had escaped from. However it seems that search as we might, we cannot find a formula or technique that will recapture former experiences and enable us to relive past blessing.*



*There is a valuable lesson to be found in the desert. As the Hebrews journeyed with Moses to the Promised Land, God provided them with miraculous food each day (Exodus 16:14-20). The food they gathered on one day was not to be held over to the next. Those who tried to keep food for the next day found the next morning that it had developed a vile smell and was full of maggots. No matter what formula or technique they resorted to, they could not live on yesterday's food. They could remember the blessing of God's provision yesterday, but they could not relive the experience and feed off it. You see the blessing is not found in the formula. In fact seeking blessing in itself will always disappoint. God is the blessing. God does not live in the past. His name is "I AM". Notice the present tense. So we cannot meet Him in the past because He is not there. For us He is only and eternally in the present.*

*C. S. Lewis once remarked that God was so infinitely original that He would never repeat Himself. It would take all eternity for God to do everything He could do just once. For this reason we could never ask God for an encore or a rerun of the past. Theologians will enjoy debating this. God calls us to remember His past faithfulness with grateful hearts. However, rather than seeking to relive the past we should move forward and seek to meet not just a fond memory of past blessing but the actual living God Himself in the present reality of each moment as it comes. When we go to a church service, or enter a moment of personal devotion, or face any situation in everyday life we should not try to relive a past blessing. It is not blessing we seek, it is God Himself we seek, as He is and as we are in that moment.*

*Like the Hebrews in the desert, it takes faith to let go of yesterday's blessing and bring an empty bowl each day. The Living God is there for us in this moment and He is all we need. That is faith that truly captures the moment.*

*God is not in the past. He dwells in the eternal present and it is in this present moment that we will meet Him and be sustained by His living presence.*

## ***For I am the Lord, I change not*** ***Malachi 3:6***

### **Changing world**

*So many changes have taken place in the past hundred years. The rate of change is so great that we hardly catch our breath before another blast of change slams into us. People are coming and going 24 hours every day. Change is a constant companion in our lives.*

*Do you know that every day in the USA*

- 108,000 of people move to a different home and 18,000 to another state?*
- 40 Americans turn 100 years of age and 5,800 turn 65?*
- More than 6,300 people get divorced while 13,000 get married?*

*More information has been produced in the last 30 years than in the previous 5,000 years. 90% of all the items in the super-market today did not exist ten years ago. It is estimated that 50% of college graduates are going into jobs which did not exist when they were born.*

*Relationships are changing. 50% of marriages now end in divorce. The probability is that when a couple walk down the aisle to be married their marriage will last no longer than seven years. 42% of our young people say they are sexually active; and one in every 16 teenage girls has a baby each year. Our society has abandoned God's laws of relationships.*

### **Our changeless God**

*We must keep in mind that God is still in charge and that He never changes! God is in control. He never loses track of what's going on. He never gets confused. He always makes the right*

decision. He always knows what He will do even before the circumstances arise. God has a grip on the reins of the world and His purposes will be carried out.

The Bible speaks of our changeless God in this changing world: "For I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:6). These truths were spoken to Malachi in a time of great change:

- *Worship had become superficial as people gave their "left-overs" to God.*
- *The moral law of God was being disregarded, especially concerning marriage.*
- *Divorce was a national disgrace.*
- *The Lord's command to tithe was being ignored to the economic disadvantage of the nation.*
- *Neither priest nor people took the threat of approaching judgment seriously.*

*In that kind of world, God was reminding and warning His people that He had not changed.*

*We must have a renewed vision! We must have a passionate and clear vision of what God has called us to do and of what we need to be. Someone has said "If we have more memories than dreams, life is over". We must know where we are going and what we are going to do!*

*God told Isaiah: "Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new" (Isaiah 43:18-19). God is a God of new ideas, of innovation. God is a God who uses change. We must pray for a new vision. We must long for what God can do!*

*If I want to be upset, I have to look within me. If I want to be conquered, I have to look back. If I want to be diverted, I have to look around. If I want to be distressed, I have to look ahead. If I want to be delivered, I need to look up! Only when I focus my attention upon the Lord will obstacles turn into opportunities and barriers will turn into blessings!*

*There are lessons we can learn from Moses. "By faith he left Egypt not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen" (Hebrews 11:27). Moses' eyes were on God and he was able to endure. Moses had staying power, even with all the changes. He kept his eyes on God, not on the obstacles. He endured regardless of the contempt of Pharaoh. He endured the stubbornness of the Hebrews who grumbled, complained, and rebelled against him. He endured amidst the criticism of those closest to him: Miriam, his sister, Aaron, his brother, Dathan and Abiram, his companions. He could do that because he fixed his eyes on the Lord, and he never looked back.*

*We can also change the world! When the enemy seems to prosper. When the wicked seems to be winning. When the pressure seems to be awful. When the critics are getting more and more active. When we feel as though we are all alone. When wrong is enthroned and truth is fighting for its existence. Whatever we are facing, we need to look to the Lord Jesus! The change goes with Him!*

*God still uses ordinary people totally committed to Him to make a difference in a changing world. A Boston shoe clerk heard that it still remained to be seen what God could do with a man, woman, young person, totally dedicated to Him. We know that shoe clerk was D. L. Moody, who said, "I'll be that man!" God used his evangelistic meetings to lead thousands to the Lord Jesus. It still so far remains to be seen what God can do with a person fully dedicated to the Lord!*

*Life gets exciting when we give our all to God! And when we do so, God will take us beyond where we thought we could never go, to do things we thought we could never do! This will be to His eternal glory!*

*Dr. Czeslaw Bassara*

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## ***The journey and the destination***

**R**ecently I travelled from Australia to Europe to spend time with some family members. It was good to see them after a trip of over 26 hours. The people at the destination made the tiring trip worthwhile.

Before leaving Australia, I attended a funeral where it was said that it's not our destination that matters, but the journey along the way. This was probably a creative way to say that life is better than death. That is, we focus on the present and enjoy it instead of worrying about what will happen at the end of life.

### ***Bible journeys***

Abraham travelled from Mesopotamia to Canaan, a distance of about 1770 km (1100 miles). His descendants, the Israelites, travelled from Egypt to Canaan. This took 40 years and most of the adults died along the way. Later, after their exile in Babylon, the Jews travelled back to Judah. The purpose of these journeys was achieved when the people reached their destination.

Jesus travelled within Palestine preaching the good news about the kingdom of God. Then He travelled to Jerusalem to give up His life sacrificially. After the resurrection and ascension of Christ, Paul and the apostles took missionary journeys across the Roman Empire. For Paul, the journey was sometimes difficult (2 Corinthians 11:23-33). Likewise, the purpose of these journeys was achieved at their destinations.

### ***The journey of life***

A journey is also a great metaphor for life. Life is a difficult journey and a time of testing, challenges, and possibly even persecution. Like Job we have many questions about life and its unfairness. But God steers His people through difficult times (Isaiah

43:1-7). May God help us trust in Him for what we don't understand (Job 42:3). And may we take up the opportunities to trust in God's faithfulness over and over again.

But the business of life can distract us from the important things of life like being aware of God's presence and His willingness to help in times of need. Life is a journey in history, with a past, present and future. As time goes by our present becomes past memories and our final destination comes closer. Death and life after death is our ultimate destination.

### **Lessons for us**

Let's face the reality of our journey of life. Few of us would think of taking a two-week vacation without any plans as to where we will go or what we will do. But we often forget to consider our personal eternal destination.

Many opinions about this topic are available on the internet. But the best ones are in the Bible because God is the "author" (or "source") of life (Acts 3:15). And Jesus is the "word of life" and the "bread of life" (John 6:35, 48; 1 John 1:1). These metaphors describe God's role in both physical and spiritual life.

Although the journey of life is better than death, it isn't better than eternal life. Physical life ends, but spiritual life doesn't end. And the purpose of life isn't to enjoy ourselves or accumulate wealth or possessions. Instead our spiritual destination is more important than the journey. Is our future destination secure? At the end of our earthly life journey we will leave everything physical behind. So our enjoyment, wealth, and possessions provide no security for our future destination. But if we put God first instead of material things, we will be rewarded in heaven for the things we do that have eternal value (Matthew 6:19-24). Have we started on that spiritual journey? Do we focus on things of eternal consequence? Do we follow Jesus? Do we help other people to follow Jesus? Do we live by faith, and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)? Are we motivated by what lies at the end of

*the journey (Hebrews 11:13-16)? Are we progressing spiritually (2 Corinthians 3:18)? Are we becoming more Christ-like (Philippians 1:20-21)?*

*George Hawke*

## ***The village of Arevshad***

**A**revshad, meaning lots of sun, is a small village in Armenia. Some years ago I was taken there to pray for some needy families. We walked into a large room with nothing in it. There was no furniture and no pictures. All it had was one window and one door facing us. As I walked into the second room I saw four beds, one in each corner.

*The farmer was married and had two disabled daughters. One who was about 20 years old had had no understanding since childhood, had never walked or responded to anything. She was in bed 24/7. The other was in a wheelchair and looked somewhat disturbed.*

*Their mother did not want to care for the disabled daughters and she left the house. The father remarried and his second wife was the one who was caring for both girls.*

*The father asked the daughter in the wheelchair to give her testimony. I was quite shocked as I did not know she could talk but to give her testimony was a bigger surprise. She looked at me with a smile and asked if I would like her to recite it for me.*

*I had goose bumps all over me as she started to recite her testimony which went like this:*

*“From birth no one loved me and my mum abandoned me from childhood. I did not want to live any more till I heard of Your love. My whole life was changed. You brought me a new joy and a hope, but I have one wish to ask You. It is not that you*

*make me better so I can get up and walk, but that You make me better so that I can come on my knees and worship You.”*

*My eyes were teary, not for the conditions they were in, nor for her situation, but because I was amazed at the faith she had in Jesus. 12000 km away from home, in the distant village of Arevshad, I started to wonder where faith like this comes from.*

*The Lord is faithful and loving. He “will neither slumber nor sleep.” We may forget the poor and the widows but His watchful eyes are always upon them.*

*Yes we visit Armenia to encourage these people in Christ but most of the time they encourage and amaze us by their faith.*

*Remember those who are in need and oppressed, and keep them in your prayers. ACM is committed to take the Gospel to the poorest of the poor.*

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This is ACM's central building "Cornerstone" in Gyumri. Our co-workers from the left Vatche & Manushag, Hasmig & Ashod, Martun & Angela. please keep them in your prayers.