

HongKongLens

No. 9
Nov10



Dear Friends,

Choice greetings from Hong Kong in the wonderful name of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ!

I cannot help but sit up and ponder when I observed all the events that unfold around us in the world. I look to Heaven and said "I am listening, Lord. Please speak!"

1) The World in Turmoil

a) Shelling of South Korea by the Northern Neighbour



The aftermath – damaged houses



The aftermath – damaged vehicle

Some quarters are saying this is North Korea's way of show of power when they prepare for leadership succession. The young Kim was recently made the 2nd most powerful man, despite of his relative lack of standing in the army. The aging father needs to do something to shore up the son's status, preparing for the inevitable.

Whatever the reason, it shows that not every country in the 21st century world would play by the same rules. The world stability can be fragile, especially when a potential nuclear power behaves this way.

b) The Stampede in Cambodia



Scene of the bridge



People killed in the stampede

What was supposedly a jubilant occasion celebrating the Water Festival in Cambodia has ended in great tragedy. After the joyful celebration, some 7000 to 8000 of revelers on the way home were trapped in a bridge that was probably not designed/checked for such exceptional overloading. The crowd began to panic when the suspension bridge began to sway. Fear of collapse gripped the crowd, creating a stampede that resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives when they stepped on one another to escape.

c) The vulnerability of the Euro (or EU)



Irish protest 1



Irish protest 2

The enlargement of the European Union was based on the premises of a united and stronger Europe. But the ripple of the near collapse of the banks of 2 years ago is becoming a tsunami for a few weaker economies which were built on inflated property markets.

Ireland has finally agreed to receive financial help from the European Bank and IMF. This will be on conditions of some fairly stiff austerity measures that will result in many years of belt-tightening and hardship. The question is not on how well it will go down with the Irish public (who are protesting like mad) but who is next? Portugal?

2) Our Response

I have come to Psalms 119 in the past week as part of my Bible readings. It is an amazing chapter of Psalms that focuses our mind on the Word of God.

The readings truly bless my mind and my spirit. Here are a few excellent examples:

[Ps 119:65-72 NIV]

65 Do good to your servant according to your word, O LORD.
66 Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands.
67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.
68 You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.
69 Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart.
70 Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law.
71 It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.
72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

[Ps 119:57-64 NIV]

57 You are my portion, O LORD; I have promised to obey your words.
58 I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.
59 I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes.
60 I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.
61 Though the wicked bind me with ropes, I will not forget your law.
62 At midnight I rise to give you thanks for your righteous laws.
63 I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts.
64 The earth is filled with your love, O LORD; teach me your decrees.

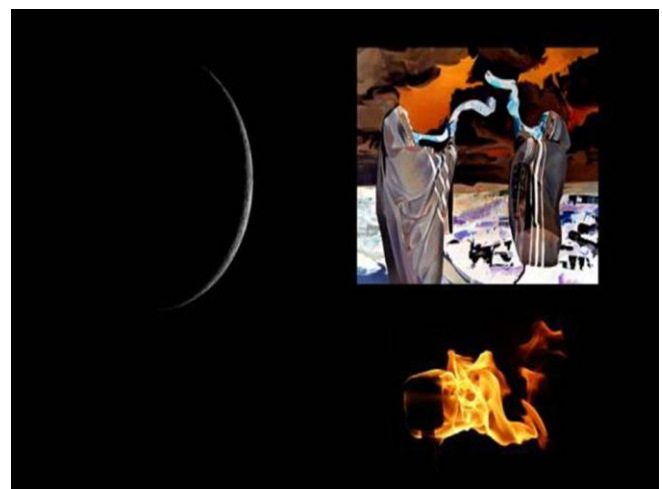
Actually all of Psalms 119 are excellent. I encourage you to read them. ☺

We are living at a time of shaking like never before. It shows that the end is approaching fast. The Jews know this well.

Each year, the priests would blow the trumpets on the 1st Day of July (of the Jewish Calendar) to mark the Jewish New Year's Day, preparing the people for the Day of Atonement on the 10th Day.



New Moon marks the New Year's Day



Trumpets to announce it

I sense that the Church should also start “blowing the trumpets” to alert and warn our people of the impending “Day of Atonement”, preparing ourselves for the return of the Lord!

It is a posture of readiness. There is nothing that prepares us better than to know the Word of God well and remain steadfast in our faith in a time of turmoil.



A strong tree with a strong foundation

This tree is a beautiful picture of a Christian who is rooted in the Word of God. The deep root will allow the Christian to remain steadfast in his or her faith in a time of trials and shaking!

3) My Situation

I share with some of you that I have finished my 6 month contract at the end of August and I still have not got a job with a steady income, although savings from the 6 month contract will support me for a while.

At present, I am helping a couple of engineering consulting firms in preparing tenders. The success of one of them will provide for my needs for 18 months and longer.

In the meantime, I am trying to establish my ministry in Hong Kong from scratch!

Although I have been through longer waiting time back in 2005, but the church ministry was fairly well established at the time. That provided me with a lot of peace.

I had lunch with a senior professional today (26th Nov.) to find out if he could help with any job opportunities. Over lunch, I worked out that he is Free Mason, although he is also a Methodist. In the conversation I found out that a few other senior professionals that I know are also Free Masons. I knew when he referred to them as fellow Lodge Members!

May be you can begin to have a sense of the size of the battle I have in my hands. I can really feel how daunting the task of advancing God's Kingdom is in Hong Kong after the meeting.

But there again my God is greater. His Word really helps me to refocus.

[Ps 119:89-96 NIV]

89 Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

90 Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

91 Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.

92 If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

93 I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life.

94 Save me, for I am yours; I have sought out your precepts.

95 The wicked are waiting to destroy me, but I will ponder your statutes.

96 To all perfection I see a limit; but your commands are boundless.

I have made up my mind. I will continue to be faithful unto death or until His glorious return, whichever is sooner. But I hope it is the latter. ☺

May I encourage you to fix your eyes on Jesus and ground your faith firmly in His Word, like the tree in the picture. May the Lord bless you with His peace and His joy no matter what challenges you have to face in the process. ☺

With love & prayers in Christ,



Pak-kin TSE
HIM-Hong Kong-China
26th November, 2010