Sunday worship

Join online

http://bit.ly/3TSxxek

Watch on YouTube

http://bit.ly/3aCxmjW

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you, if you are worshipping with us for the first time. We believe you've become a member of our church family by God's grace.

Please ensure you speak to the Pastor or one of today's facilitators before you leave.

May God bless you richly (Amen).

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, the shield of your help and the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, and you shall tread down their high places.

Deuteronomy 33:29 (NKJV)

THEME FOR THE YEAR

Year of opportunities
John 4:35-38 AMP

"For in this case the saying is true, 'One [person] sows and another reaps." ~ **John 4:37** (AMP).

DID YOU KNOW?

Every Sunday, we worship together at Unit 13, Skylines Village. When unable to attend, do visit our website or YouTube channel for recorded sessions.

WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY? THE LORD STRONG AND MIGHTY, THE LORD MIGHTY IN BATTLE. - PSALM 24:8



WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

RCCG Bethel Parish

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WEB: www.rccgbethel.church

Our 'must-visit' website



Our website is a treasure trove of information, and not only about our focus and mission. You could subscribe to our podcast or listen to past sermons too (http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/). This is particularly useful for when you are unable to attend services or for refreshing your recollection as an essential part of your private Bible study.

There's more! Details of events and outreach will almost certainly be available from relevant pages on our website and updated regularly, along with downloadable copies of our Sunday bulletins (http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/).

So, why don't you set our homepage as one of your **startup page(s)** in your browser now? The following instructions for most of the common browsers may help.

Google Chrome

- Open the browser and the Settings menu (or the three vertical dots to the right of the menu bar).
- 2. Scroll down and click on Advanced Settings.
- 3. Select Open a specific page or set of pages under On Startup.
- 4. Select **Set pages** and enter or add http://rccgbethel.church/.

Mozilla Firefox

- Open Firefox. Press Alt-T on the keyboard and select Options from the drop-down menu or go to Tools >> Options from the main menu.
- In the Home section, select Homepage and new windows and Custom URLs... from the field's drop down.
- Enter or paste the URL: http://rccgbethel.church/ or click Use Current Page if you are already on our website.

Microsoft Edge

- 1. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar.
- Select Settings and select A Specific Page or Pages from the Open Microsoft Edge With section drop down options.
- 3. Enter http://rccgbethel.church/. (Click the Plus sign to add more pages if required).
- 4. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar again to close **Settings** menu.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The sword of men

Text: Isaiah 31:4-9

Our text today foretold the destruction of the Assyrians, "but not by the sword of men" (Isa 31:8-9). The sword of men can be formidable. For example, drones have become innovative in current wars and while prisons are heavily guarded, inmates are still able to get drugs in, using drones. Also, advances in weapon systems now include hypersonic missiles that can travel faster than the speed of sound, staying below detection radars and beyond defenses.

However, there are limitations. More offensive / defensive weapons are being developed as quickly as there are advances and they may be useless if no one's able to operate them or if unable to afford / access them. Also, having the most powerful weapons does not always guarantee victory. Goliath was said to be 9ft tall, with many weapons. Yet David killed him with a sling and stone (1 Sam 17:4-7; 50).

Men can also be heroic. David's men were described as such, renowned and mighty in battle (2 Sam 23:8-39). In modern times, men are given medals of valour for their bravery at a particular point in time. There are also men able to perform incredible acts in the spiritual, through divination, witchcraft, black magic or sorcery.

The scriptures testified that the Assyrians were destroyed in one night by the sword of God, just as was predicted (Isa 57:36-37). We sang a song this morning that there's nothing God cannot do or turn around and that's true. He's able to do anything, but do we really believe these stories when we read them? Do we believe every firstborn died in Egypt, in one night, before the Israelites were set free (Exo 12:29-31)?

There may be a sense of disbelief when we hear these stories. Otherwise, we won't be afraid of the sword of man (Rom 8:31). We may see ourselves behaving like the church members praying for Peter to be saved from prison, and yet they couldn't believe it when he appeared (Acts 12:13-17; in context Acts 12:5-17).

Isaiah described the Assyrians' devastating destruction of other nations, but Zion would be the exception (Isa 10:28-34). God knows our problems and he knows how our battles will end (Isa 37:21-29). It will always end in praise because God gave us so much power that we can shape our lives by our thoughts (Pro 4:23).

Bottom line:

The sword of men may be formidable, but the sword of God is far, far greater and powerful. Are you afraid of the sword of men? Have faith that God is able to defeat anything the enemy brings across your way.

RCCG Bethel Parish

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