

**Lap Yin Calvin Kwok**  
**CD602 - Proclamation and Communication**  
**Date: February 7h, 2023.**

### **Passage Analysis**

**Scripture:** Esther

**Subject:** The Omni of God

**Complement:** God is Omnipotence, is Omniscience, and Omnipresent and we can only acknowledge it through faith.

**Main Idea:**

The idea of the book of Esther is an illustration of God's Omnipotence, Omniscience and Omnipresent. First of all, there was no God mentioned anywhere in these 10 chapters of the book, however, the story between the King, Mordecai, Esther and Haman presented God's Omniscience (the state of knowing everything) to save the Israelites. Chapter 1-5 showed how Israelites stepped into the wrath of Haman and how God prepared Mordecai and Esther to save them. Although God was never mentioned in the book, the parallel illustration with the pivot at chapter 6 showed God's perfect plan to save the Israelites which became the observance of the Purim. When Esther and Mordecai were discussing having the King to save the Israelites, both of them demonstrated their faith in God even though none of the rites like offering were mentioned among the Israelites in the book. It tells us faith is the only key for us to acknowledge God's Omnipresent. Therefore, Faith to God is the key to survive in crisis and bring us to experience his present.

**Scripture:** Psalm 131,

**Subject:** Giving up on Me.

**Complement:** It is God who is in control of everything and we should yield to him.

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**Main Idea:** David is the greatest King to the Israelites and was flourishing in his country at that time. However, he wrote this psalm to express to God how much he wants to give up himself into God's hand. He particularly used a metaphor between a child and the mother as a manifestation on how much he would like to be totally dependent on God. David stated he is like a "weaned child to his mother; like a weaned child" that he is content. He praised the Lord that his success came from his trusting and depending on God. In verse 3, he called on Israel to put on their hope in the Lord right now and forevermore, as he acknowledged it is God instead of him who made Israel flourish. Therefore, he encouraged his citizens to do the same in order to have a better living as well as blessing the whole country simultaneously. Yield to God and cease trying to control our own living in order to pursue some "fake" happiness that does not last. Being totally dependent is indeed the key to having an abundant life in God's grace.

**Scripture:** Hebrews 13:5-6

**Subject:** Choose God instead of anything else.

**Complement:** God is the resources and protection.

**Main Idea:** Hebrew is a book which both the author and audience were not familiar with. It included illustrations from the Torah as well as a clear explanation of basic theology like another book for the gospel. In chapter 13:5-6, the author reminded the audience to not fall in love with money. It is indeed telling the audience to not seek help from outside sources like money or privilege that can be purchased but to put faith in God that he will provide. In chapter 13:1-4, the author indeed talked about lust and marriage and jumped into money in verse 5. It tells us that unintentionally we would seek fulfillment and security from many things that were self-gratifying or perhaps to avoid the wrath from the cruel living situation in the society. The

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author reminded the audience that God would not leave us alone, and be grateful to what we were provided from God. Therefore, choose God instead of those earthly objects that give false hope of security and comfort.

**Scripture:** Daniel 4

**Subject:** The Human faith to God

**Complement:** God is in control and humans are created and should always work under God.

Main Idea: The book of Daniel is telling the audience how humans defy God's authority naturally. Humans see achievement as being from their work instead of given by God in order to exalt themselves. God has the power indeed to take away or give something to a human, and we can see Daniel and his three friends are what God had planned as an opportunity for the King and the people to acknowledge his existence and repent. In chapter 4, was fearful about his dream and acknowledged what it was about from Daniel. Before he had that dream, he commanded the whole nation to worship the "god" he created. He later experienced what Daniel interpreted about his dream to return as king again as his time was fulfilled. We as humans should always adjust our focus to see our own position to God. God is the utmost high and we shall be humble in front of him all the time. We also need to acknowledge that God planned an opportunity for us to understand him like he planned to have Daniels and his friends to be the opportunity for King Nebuchadnezzar.

**Scripture:** Luke 17:1-10

**Subject:** Faithfulness and Forgiveness

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**Complement:** God is faithful but we are not. God forgives us all the time but we don't often forgive as we are supposed to.

**Main Idea:** God is faithful and he forgave our sin. However, we sin again and again unintentionally after Adam and Eve fell. We are required as God's redeemed ones to forgive our brothers and sisters even if they betrayed "7 times" and "repent 7 times". God knows we are unfaithful to him and he wants us to learn more about him through forgiving each other. We sometimes ask God for more faith in order to be able to forgive, but we have to understand faith is already in us as long as we are willing to forgive others like God is willing to forgive us. Thus, learn to be a person who forgives in order to become a faithful person for real.

**Scripture:** Isaiah 7:1-17

**Subject:** God's hint.

**Complement:** God always leaves us some hints, and offers us himself that we don't know.

**Main Idea:** In this passage, King Ahaz and Judah faced a critical moment in terms of international relationship. King Ahaz acknowledged the country will be invaded, and the King of Israel and Syria became an ally against Assyria. They even threatened King Ahaz for destroying Judah and install the son of Tabeel as Judah's new King just to force King Ahaz to ally with them. While Assyria is coming and the Israel and Syria are threatening, God sent Isaiah to reassure King Ahaz that Israel and Syria's invasion will not happen. Isaiah was being directed by God to ask King Ahaz to request for a sign of confirmation (v.11) to handle such kind of political crisis. However, King Ahaz refused and stated he does not want to test on God's. From the ignorance of Kings Ahaz's refused to God sent hint by Isaiah, we learnt that 1st, God is in control of everything small or large. He does not allow the invasion happens, it did not happen

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(verse 7). 2nd, God always prepare something for us to face the challenge. It is a matter we trust and use it or not. 3rd, God will have a plan B (The Emmanuel from verse 10-17) in order to make his plan happens. In this case, God still protected to bloodline of David from the war in his own way without the involvement of King Ahas. In the time of trouble, do we look for our own way to resolve the problem? Or choose to find the answer (Hint) God has planned to given to us like Prophet Isaiah sent to King Ahaz?

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 5:1-4,

**Subject:** The relationship should be open and receptive between the old and the young.

**Complement:** The old brothers and sisters to pastor (nurture spiritually) the younger one in church, and the young should be humble and be compliant to the teaching of the old's.

**Main Idea:** A healthy church family is about the older brothers and sisters who have the passion to teach, pastoring, and lead the younger ones. There will always be generations as the church grows, and the harmony should root within its relationship with each other. For the elder (or older brothers and sisters), they must be open and share their experience, or even live with the younger one. The younger one must accept the authority of the elder, as to respect those who have more life experience and to be able to guide you to the right way. The elders should be the leader of the church as they can utilize their experience and be more capable to identify what is right or wrong for the church to grow. The younger one should also bring their new ideas and should always consult and think through the pros and cons with the elder, because you don't have the experience and life knowledge they have. Thus, an open relationship of acceptance between the elders and the younger ones is the key for the church and brothers and sisters to grow spiritually and maturely.

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**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 8

**Subject:** Knowledge is a two way sword.

**Complement:** While a person is pursuing knowledge, the knowledge itself can be a benefit also a trap for us and others.

**Main Idea:** Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthian church as they were combating all knowledge of philosophy that was being admired by the citizens of the place. Paul first tells brothers and sisters that love is greater than our knowledge because knowledge makes us proud. Paul emphasized there is only one God and he is omniscient. He targeted brothers and sisters who debated about food that were being offered to idols. Brothers and Sisters at that time thought eating food that was being offered to idols would violate the holiness of God. Paul indeed taught brothers and sisters by stating, it's freedom out from our pride that caused people with "weaker consciences to stumble". Paul also added at the end that if he would choose to not eat something that would "cause another believer to stumble ". In summary, Paul thinks knowledge is something good to have in order to grow spiritually and be more holy. However, overly pursuing knowledge may cause us to be trapped inside the ivory tower, and be a trap that stumbles others as well. Therefore, we should acknowledge that God is the only omniscient God, and what we know is to our well-being in spiritual life. However, Love is something we should have for brothers and sisters who have weaker conscience, and have an opportunity to learn for us, a "more knowledgeable one".

**Scripture:** Luke 8:1-18

**Subject:** We should react and respond to God's calling.

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**Complement:** God has grace and offered his way of life (salvation) to everyone. We should react and respond to God with our own motivation with a whole heart.

**Main Idea:** Luke chapter 8:1-18 illustrated how Jesus preached with parables. Jesus first taught people about faith with the parable of the farmer scattering seed. And later on, he was being inquired by his disciples about the reason and the meaning of the parable. Jesus provided his disciple the meaning of the parable. When Jesus preached about the farmer scattering seeds, he added “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand”. And after he explained to his disciples, he also added “You’re permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.” It is telling us God wants everyone to hear his message and he wants everyone to react to it. We have lost the fellowship with God since the day Adam and Eve fell. Jesus wants to see the faithfulness and motivation of humans in showing their love to him. Jesus sees how people would react to his teaching, and he has his plans to tell everyone on earth about his message. However, He already knew that we all react differently to the message. Therefore, he purposely used parables to teach in order to examine people's hearts. Starting from verse 10, Jesus used the parable of a lamp to tell his disciple, that if a person has faith in God’s teaching and lives it out, they will be easily seen as God’s disciples. In John 13:35, “You love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” Everyone should listen to God’s teaching whenever and wherever that can. We should act on Jesus’s teaching with Love and we will be bright like a lamp, so people would recognize we are God’s disciples. Luke chapter 8: 18, “So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them. (NLT) ”If we

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don't react or react to God's message with our whole heart, the grace from God will just slip away from our own ignorance.

**Scripture:** Matthew 18:15-20

**Subject:** Relationship between brothers and sisters.

**Complement:** How to live righteously with each other in church?

**Main Idea:** This is a passage on God's teaching about the relationship between brothers and sisters in terms of dealing with sins. The 1st priority is to win the person who sins back by addressing them righteously. Matthew asked brothers and sisters to tell the person who sins individually, and allowed them to repent in a privately and mutually safe environment. If he/she refuses, move on to 2-3 people (a small group of people to keep each other accountable during the process). He also asked brothers and sisters to not bring the issue publicly in church unless he/she refused to repent in front of a small group; and treat the person who sin like a pagan or tax-collector if he/she refuses the church. From verse 18 to 20, Matthew also reassured brothers and sisters that God is with them during the whole process but the major purpose of the procedure is to try the best to secure a fellowship between brothers and sisters and the church.

**Scripture:** Matthew 18:21-35

**Subject:** The importance of forgiving.

**Complement:** Correlating with Matthew 18:1-20, forgiveness is something brothers and sisters ought to do as God has been doing the same thing to us.

**Main Idea:** This set of bible verse is correlating with Matthew 18:15-20. When God was teaching about the procedure to address people who sins against each other in church, these 14

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verses are indeed reminding as well as emphasizing how important forgiveness is. Verse 15-20 told us the first priority is the secure fellowship between brothers and sisters when handling sin, and verse 21-35 is telling us that we have to forgive the person although they sin against us and refuse to repent. The reason for that is that forgiveness is what God has been doing to us. As what the book of Daniel mentioned about the Kings trying to exalts themselves with their achievement, and God allowed the King Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged his own sovereign and authority. We understand that not only the brothers and sisters would sin against God and us continuously, we also need God's forgiveness in order to see his grace. God also utilized an example about the servant who was forgiven for his debt but refused to forgive his fellow's debt, to tell his disciples what God would do if they don't forgive their brothers and sisters. Therefore, make FORGIVING the 1st goal on all issues that you encounter.

**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

**Subject:** Faith, Suffering, and Perseverance

**Complement:** Putting up our life to God is an act of faith. It led us to suffer as it is counter cultural. In God's grace, we act, suffer, and we will stand with the joy he plants into our lives.

**Main Idea:** "And Endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love."

Roman 5:4-5 (NLT). This is a letter Paul wrote to brothers and sisters in Thessalonians Church as a spiritual support and reassurance in faith. It resonates to what he wrote in Roman 5:4-5 at some point. Back in the time of 1 Thessalonians, brothers and sisters were being oppressed as the people there thought they betrayed the pagan god. Nowadays, we may be teased by our friends

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for having some lifestyle of our own, and they were being hit, stoned or tortured for just believing in Jesus back in the Thessalonians time. This is a passage Paul reassured brothers and sisters in Thessalonians of their integrity in Christ, also a reminder of us nowadays, that we have to build our character in Christ. We need to learn to persevere and suffer from living a little bit differently than others. And Ultimately, God will give us joy and bring us his salvation by the time it ends. Suffer must come when you take a leap of faith in Jesus. We indeed should believe that being a Christian is bringing suffering to our own life. However, taking on such challenges is a way to build our Christian character and receive the happiness from God gracefully.