



WELCOME

We welcome all visitors this morning. We believe that you will be blessed as we worship God. Please feel free to ask any questions regarding our worship or about God's Word.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY - 9 am.

We are at present studying the four Gospels. Johan is facilitating the class. Please join us during this time of learning God's Word.

For this Sunday, please keep reading into your Gospel choice, or all 4 for the brave! Concentrate on what Jesus taught and how it was received. What about today?

Song Leader: Mike Baisley

Opening Prayer: Johan Smulders

Closing Prayer: Chris du Preez

Servers: Carry, Mike, Johan & Chris

Scripture Reading: Mike Baisley

Lord's Table: Carry Hagemann

Attendance last Sunday: 22

Website: <https://churchofchrist20keam.co.za/>

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Leadership: Braam Le Roux - 072 195 6104

Mike Baisley - 083 500 7271

SUNDAY TIMES:

BIBLE STUDIES: 09H00

WORSHIP: 10H00 TO 11H00

28 DECEMBER 2025

Preacher: Ordene Engelbrecht

Sermon Topic: "Blessing and Woes"

Scripture reading: Luke 6: 20 - 26

Text:

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the members in our congregation who are in need of God's grace, healing and strength through difficult times. Please pray for Taida Marembo (Geraldine's mother), Petro, Ian, Kate and Landon, as they are going through a very difficult time.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Vicky and her family during this time of immense sorrow. We are heartbroken to share that her grandson was tragically lost in a motor vehicle accident. Please keep the family in your thoughts as they navigate this unimaginable loss.

BIRTHDAYS

Thelma Lothian – 29 December

Chester Woodhall – 02 January

May God bless you as you celebrate this joyous day! Wishing you only the best for this coming year.

VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Zephaniah 3: 17, "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

The verse is widely considered the most powerful and well-known verse in the Book of Zephaniah.

Zephaniah 3: 17 is often highlighted, because it presents a beautiful and intimate picture of God's love and redemptive character, especially in contrast to the surrounding verses in the book which focus on judgment and punishment.

The Prophet Zephaniah, which means "The Lord protects"

Zephaniah was a prophet in Judah during King Josiah's reign (7th century BC), known for his fiery warnings of God's judgment ("Day of the Lord") against Judah's idolatry, but also offering hope for righteous remnant and ultimate restoration, uniquely tracing his lineage to King Hezekiah, making him potentially royal and serving as a contemporary to Jeremiah and Habakkuk.

Key facts about Zephaniah:

- **Meaning of Name:** "Yahweh Hides" or "the Lord protects," reflecting divine protection for the faithful, thereby reflecting his message of hiding and protecting the humble remnant.
- **Royal Lineage:** His genealogy (Zephaniah 1: 1) traces him back four generations to King Hezekiah, suggesting he was a cousin to King Josiah and possibly of royal blood.
- **Prophetic Ministry:** He prophesied in Jerusalem during King Josiah's reign (around 640 - 609 BC), before Judah's Babylonian exile.
- **Message of Judgment:** He strongly condemned Judah's sins, including idolatry, social injustice and moral corruption, warning of a coming "Day of the Lord" (judgment) against all nations, including Judah.
- **Message of Hope:** Amidst the stern warnings, he proclaimed hope for a purified remnant and future restoration, where God would dwell with His people.
- **Context:** He prophesied while King Josiah was initiating religious reforms, but Zephaniah foretold that deeper unfaithfulness would persist, leading to God's judgment.
- **Literary Style:** His book in the Old Testament uses vivid apocalyptic imagery and is part of "The Twelve" Minor Prophets.
- **Contemporaries:** He prophesied alongside other major prophets like Jeremiah and Habakkuk.

WHAT ARE YOU FOCUSED ON?

(Read Matthew 14: 22 – 33)

He said, "Come!" So Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was frightened, and he began to sink and he cried out, "Lord, save me!" (Verses 29 - 30).

So often we seem to focus on all that's wrong with us - our issues and struggles - that we fail to believe God's power in the midst of those struggles. We may even quote scriptures about God's truth and power, but still walk away exactly the same. Why? Because we don't dare to *believe* what God says or take Him at His word.

If we have weaknesses (which we all do), why are we so fixated on them? We speak them over ourselves as if they are part of our identity. We continually confess them to others for prayer, yet we don't believe that God's strength shows itself most effective in our weaknesses. We focus on the 'weakness' rather than 'God's strength', which is perfected in our weakness and results in us being *empowered* in that moment of weakness. If we feel defeated in any area of our lives, we focus on the 'defeat' or 'failure', rather than God's victory over it.

Can you see that our focus needs to change? When Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on water, what was his focus on? He was focused on Jesus. It was only when his focus shifted to his circumstances that he began to be overcome by it.

We continue living in our weakness, defeat, failure, hopelessness, fear, condemnation, bondage, despair and even sin, because of what we focus on and so it becomes our reality! If we don't want to live this way anymore, then we need to choose 'daily' to shift our focus.

We need to focus on:

- His strength instead of our weakness.
- His victory instead of our defeat.
- His hope instead of our depression.
- His love instead of our fear.
- His peace instead of our anxiety.
- His forgiveness instead of our condemnation.
- His freedom instead of our bondage.
- His joy instead of our despair.
- His provision instead of our lack.
- His righteousness instead of our sin.

Philippians 4: 8, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable. If anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things."