

PLEASE NOTE...

1. Is God anti-gay? Join us tonight for our next Big Questions with an interview and discussion led by Andrew Latimer. 7 - 8 pm, upstairs at the Greenwich Tavern, SE10 9JH.

2. Jesus: A Sceptic's Guide: please take note of events planned so far, and think whom you could invite, and what other events we could hold.

29th June - Summer in the Park

30th June - If heaven were opened, what would you see?

30th June - Big Questions

1st July

2nd July

3rd July

4th July - Wine tasting at the Fan Museum

(book through jessica.livesey@gracechurchgreenwich.org.uk)

5th July

6th July

7th July - What is life: Tragedy or Comedy?

3. Grace Groups meet this Wednesday: we encourage all members of the church to join a Grace Group to get to know each other, to pray, and to hear from God's word. Why not come this week to try it out? 7.30 pm for food, groups from 8 - 9.15 pm, King William Court, Old Royal Naval College.

4. Christianity Explored: a DVD-based course that we run for sceptics, enquirers or anyone wanting to go over the foundations of Christianity. There is plenty of opportunity to ask questions, or just to listen if you prefer. It usually runs for seven Wednesday evenings but why not just come once to see if it is for you. explore@gracechurchgreenwich.org.uk.

5. Looking further ahead:

- Autumn Weekend Away
11th - 13th October 2019

6. Giving: Grace Church is funded by the donations of its members. To support our work and give tax efficiently please email treasurer@gracechurchgreenwich.org.uk (40-52-40 / 00027789).

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Sunday 26th May 2019

Welcome!

Andrew Latimer is leading
Andrew Sach will be preaching

"The Hard Stare"

*"Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked,
declares the Lord God,
and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?"
Ezekiel 18:23*

SONG: Great is thy faithfulness

CHILDREN'S TALK

CONFESSION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
We have sinned against you
And against our fellow men,
In thought and word and deed,
In the evil we have done
And in the good we have not done,
Through ignorance, through weakness,
Through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
Forgive us all that is past;
And grant that we may serve you in newness of life
To the glory of your name. Amen.

Common Worship, © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2006

NOTICES (children leave for Sunday school & crèche)

CONGREGATIONAL READING: Micah 1:7a, 8

SONG: His mercy is more

SONG: Jesus, thank you

READING: 2 Kings 8:7-15 (p. 314)

SONG: Sing unto the Lord a new song

READING: 2 Kings 8:7-9:13 (p. 314)

SERMON

PRAYERS

SONG: Day of judgement, day of wonders

BLESSING

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Next Sunday 2nd June - 2 Kings 9:14-10:36
"The Assassins Arrive"



“The hard stare”

2 Kings 8:7 – 9:13

INTRODUCTION: Beware the scoffer

Back story: three assassins were announced

“And the LORD said to [Elijah], ‘Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint **Hazael** to be king over Syria. And **Jehu** the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and **Elisha** the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. And the one who escapes from the sword of **Hazael** shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of **Jehu** shall Elisha put to death. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him. (1 Kings 19:15–18)

But judgment was delayed, as the first assassin kept offering salvation instead!

So maybe judgment will never come? Maybe it’s not in God’s nature? Maybe it was an empty threat?

Elisha anoints the first assassin, Hazael, but with tears (8:7-15)

Elisha anoints the second assassin, Jehu, with a promise of total destruction (9:1-13)

It reminds us of someone else...

... who was also anointed as King
(e.g. John 1:41, cf. 2 Kings 9:3, 6)

... whose path was also paved with people’s cloaks (e.g. Mark 11:7, cf. 2 Kings 9:13)

... who also foretold terrible judgment on God’s enemies, with tears (Luke 19:41-44, cf. 2 Kings 8:11)

APPLICATION

PS. Don’t get caught up with those on whom God’s judgment is coming (8:16-29)

[Jehoram] walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done	<i>for</i> the daughter of Ahab was his wife. (v18)
[Ahaziah] also walked in the way of the house of Ahab and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD	<i>for</i> he was son-in-law to the house of Ahab. (v27)

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore, do not become partners with them”
(Ephesians 5:6-7)

APPLICATION

COFFEE QUESTIONS

- 1) Have you been influenced by the scoffers, who deny that God’s judgment will come at all?
- 2) Does your mental picture of Jesus include the fact that he is the terrifying bringer of judgment (but with tears)?
- 3) Have you aligned yourself with those upon whom God’s wrath is coming?