



The Communiqué

August
2010

The Anglican Church Of India (Affiliated To The Worldwide Traditional Anglican Communion)

“BUT NOW IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD,
AND BECOME THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THEM THAT
SLEPT,
FOR SINCE BY MAN CAME DEATH,
BY MAN ALSO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD,
FOR IN ADAM ALL DIE,
EVEN SO IN CHRIST ALL BE MADE ALIVE”
(1 Cor. 15: 20 -22)

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK KNOWN AS THE BIBLE

1. Bible is a book of books

Bible is an ancient book of books written over a period of 1400 years during 1300 B.C. to 150 A.D. It contains a total of 66 books in two parts namely the Old Testament 39 books and the New Testament 27 books, (testament meaning covenant) some pertaining to Law (Cannons or rules) (Genesis to Deuteronomy), some historical (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Mathew, Luke etc), some poetical (Job, Psalms, Proverbs Etc) some prophetic (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Micah, Habakkuk etc) some of chronology 1 and 2 Chronicles etc) some Epistles – letters (Romans, I and 2 Corinthians etc) and some pertaining to Revelations (Revelation). These books were written by nearly 40 men with different Social and cultural standing, living in different nations and in different periods. It has been recorded mostly in three different languages, the whole of the Old Testament except for a few in Hebrew, and part in Aramaic, and all of the New Testament in Greek. Some of the writers are Moses (1571–1451 B.C) who was the leader of the Israelites, David (1018–978) and Solomon (978–938) were Kings, Isaiah, a prophet from a well-to-do family (760–698 BC), Ezekiel a priest's son (595–574 BC), Daniel a Prime minister (607- 534 BC), Amos a shepherd (Around 787 BC) Micah a farmer (Around 750 BC), Mathew a tax/customs collector (BC 5–AD 33) , Luke a physician, (BC 6–AD 33) John (AD 26–96) and Peter (AD 31–66) fishermen and Paul a much learned man. These books, even though written over a span of over 1500 years, yet they did not contradict each other, but blended and stayed together perfectly. These writings are historical, and not mythological. The Philosophical message is closely related to historical events, and Archaeologists and Historians confirm its contents to be true. They are also corroborated by the edicts and records, maintained by the then Kings and rulers and which are preserved even now, in museums in different countries.

2. God is the Author of the word of God

The author of the Bible, as declared in the Bible, is God himself. For we read in the book of Isaiah 34th

chapter verse 16 as "Seek ye out of the book of the Lord and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and His Spirit, it hath gathered them" and in 2 Timothy 3rd chapter verse 16, it reads as "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works " Exodus 34: 27 reads as "And the Lord said unto Moses, write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel", and 24: 3, 4 reads as "And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord,.. And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, ..." and in the book of Deuteronomy 6: 1,4 -7 it reads as "Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the Lord your God commanded to teach you,.. And these words which I command thee this day, shalt be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them, when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up". In the book of 2 Peter 1: 21 reads as " For the prophesy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake, as they were moved by the Holy Ghost". Hence the Bible is the word of God written by the chosen Holy men of God, and is error free, and is what God wished to reveal of himself, to men, His divine will, attributes, and His instructions, revelations etc at particular circumstances. God the author inspired holy men who were overshadowed by His Spirit, had liberty to use their own personalities, education and experience, but wrote only at His command, The Spirit of God guarded each thought, each word to preserve accuracy. Thus they were kept from all error, as they recorded things known, or unknown to them. Hence the Bible is infallible. That is how in spite of many odds in the ancient times, and in spite of many historical cultural and ethnical upheavals, these books have survived, got compiled into one book, even when there were no facility for easy recording or printing, and is now available in the whole of the world in all most all languages. Bible is the very widely read book in the whole world.

3. Contents of the Bible

(a) **The Title:-** The word "Bible" was derived from the Greek word, "Byblus" meaning, "books", and also referring to Papyrus reed, which formed the material for ancient books. "The book of generation of Jesus Christ", so reads Matthew 1:1. The Bible is also called as "Scriptures" or the "Holy Scriptures" meaning sacred writings. 2 Timothy 4:15 reads as "And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures which are able to

make thee Wise unto salvation through faith". **It is also known as the "Testament " meaning "covenant", or, "will", and it is the "Dispensation" or Expression of God's gracious promises to his people, and also their consequent relationship to Him.**

UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE - Part V

It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4)

Holy Baptism

Introduction:-- The word baptism in English is derived from the Greek term "baptizo" which means "to immerse". The Jewish religion had many statutes and judgments to be followed and to practice the same, there were religious ceremonies. One such was the ceremonial washing with water as a sign of purification from defilement. Hence the culture of washing of hands before eating, (Mark 7:3,4) washing of feet before entering the house (Genesis 18:4) washing as a mark of humility (John 13:5-14) have been recorded in the Bible.

Baptism is God ordained:- God ordained John the Baptist to prepare the way before the Messiah Jesus Christ was manifested. Saint Matthew records the activities of John the Baptist, in his gospel as, "In those days came John the Baptist, "preaching in the wilderness of Judaea and saying repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand, for this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esais (Isaiah 40:3) saying "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"... And were baptized of him in Jordon, confessing their sins.(Matthew 3:1, 2,3,7)

Jesus Christ also endorsed this act of his, when he questioned the Chief priests, by saying "the baptism of John, was it from heaven or of men?" (Mark 11:30)

Baptism is commanded of God:- Jesus Christ has commanded by saying "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (Mark 28 :19,20)

Jesus Christ himself sets an example of obedience:- Even though Jesus Christ was sinless and needed not that he should repent, he obeyed and immediately he was acknowledged as the Son of God the Father. Saint Paul records about this as, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8) St Mathew has recorded the event of Jesus Christ getting baptized by John the Baptist as "But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness". Then he suffered him. And lo a voice from heaven saying "This is my well beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". (Matthew 3:1,2,3,17) Hence as baptism is God ordained and commanded to be done, it is

observed as sacred and hence it is one of the sacraments known as "Holy Baptism" in the church.

The statutes:- God commanded Israelites after their deliverance from Pharaoh King of Egypt, by saying "Sanctify unto me all the first born whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel both of man and beast, It is mine" (Exodus 13:2) "And it shall be in time to come saying what is this, that thou shalt say unto him... therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all that openeth the matrix being males, But all the first born of my children I redeem and it shall be a token upon thy hand..." (Exodus 13: 14-16) Thus it was a ceremony to acknowledge God's redemption and deliverance and a token to remember God and to give thanks to God. This was a statute in Israel.

The instructions for purification of women have been recorded as, And when the days of purification are fulfilled, for a son or for a daughter (66 days) she shall bring a lamb... unto the door of the tabernacle unto the priest, who shall offer it before the Lord" (Leviticus12:6) These statutes of presenting the first born on the eighth day and presenting the woman (now known as churching of woman) after purification was followed even during Jesus Christ's days on earth as seen from what is recorded in Luke 2:24.

It is a remembrance of the covenant:- The Psalmist says in Psalm 127:3 as "Lo children are an heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his reward". And in Isaiah 8:18 we read "Behold I and the children whom the Lord hath given are for signs and wonders in Israel from the Lord". Again in Deuteronomy 30:9 we read "And the Lord thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand and in the fruit of thy body... for the Lord will again rejoice over thee for good. If though shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God and keep his commandments and his statutes". These are the statutes...Then there shall be a place which the Lord you God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God ye and your sons, and your daughters and your man servant and your maid servants..."(Deuteronomy 12:1,11,12) From all the above one can understand the importance of presenting oneself before God for the sake of the covenant made of God.

The type of things to come:- The fore ordained occurrence recorded in Exodus 14:19-22, has been explained by Saint Paul as "Moreover brethren, I would not ye that you should be ignorant, how that all our forefathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea. And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea" (1 Corinthians 10:1,2) In this passage Moses is a type for Jesus for pleading and for liberation and the cloud being the element of separation.

The outward significance of observance of Baptism:- Baptism signifies observance of ordinance or sacrament, in an outward expression. Our Lord Jesus Christ testified and said "For I say unto you among those that are born of woman there is not a greater prophet than, John the Baptist... And all people that heard him and the publicans justified God being baptized with the baptism of John," (Luke 7:28, 29) Purification through cleansing by water

was God's counsel and the publicans immediately obeyed and practiced.

Signifies Saving of soul by answering God's call:- Saint Peter while expounding the saving of eight souls during Noah's time, records as, when once the long suffering of God waited in the days of Noah while the ark was a preparing wherein a few that is eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of filth of flesh) but the answer of a good conscience toward God." (1 Peter 3:20–22)

Signifies affirmation of faith by publicly following instructions:- In Acts of Apostles the obedience to instructions have been recorded. "And a certain Jew named Appolos... This man was instructed in the way of the Lord and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord knowing only the baptism of John (Acts 18:23–25) "Save yourselves from the untoward generation. And they that gladly received his word were baptized. (Acts 2: 40,41) In both the above narratives the affirmation of faith by baptism is seen.

Inward spiritual working signified by outward sign:- John the Baptist testified saying "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but he that cometh after me... He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire"(Matthew 3:11) In the baptism of Jesus Christ also the same could be made out. "And Jesus when he was baptized went up straight away out of the water and lo the heavens were opened unto him and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon him And lo a voice from heaven saying This is my beloved Son in whom am well pleased (Matthew 3:16,17) Jesus Christ when he fulfilled all righteousness in the matter of baptism he was acknowledged as his beloved Son by God the father. Further the spirit of God comes down to take his abode in the believer.

Renewed to life from death:- Saint Paul declares "Therefore we are buried with him (Christ) by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so also should walk in newness of life". (Romans 6:4) In the same passage he exhorts, "Now if we be dead with Christ we believe that we shall also live with him, knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more". (Romans 6:7 –9) Likewise also reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed into sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 56:11) This signifies that you bury your old life in water baptism and live a renewed resurrected life.

Baptized into Christ signifies inheritance according to promise:- Saint Paul explains the way by which God's promises could be inherited and has recorded the same in different passages, as "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male or female, for ye are all are one in Christ Jesus: And if ye be Christ's then ye are Abraham's seed and heirs according to promise" (Galatians 3:27) He states "For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free and have been made to drink into one spirit (1

Corinthians 12:13) Now ye are the body of Christ and member in particular" (1 Corinthians 12:37)

Signifies Baptism with Holy Spirit by Christ:- John the Baptist has declared by saying "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire". (Matthew 3:11) Jesus Christ himself has warned "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:16) He has commanded "Go ye therefore... Baptizing them in the name of the Father, The Son, and of the Holy Ghost... Lo I am with you always" (Matthew 28:29, 20) God is unchanging and it is for us to get his promises and blessings.

MEDITATION

Blessed is the man... But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night (Psalm 1:1,2)

Trinity Sundays

The Church celebrates the Trinity Sundays, to remember the mercies of God, in that, in spite of our unworthiness, God bestows on us all the promises by upholding us with his grace. We are living in the period of grace, and we are comforted by God in three persons.

Father God

God purposed to be amongst the human beings. The first man Adam and Eve enjoyed his presence. Man fell from his grace but still God, as per his intended purpose made even before the creation of the world, promised his son Jesus Christ to be with mankind.

The Son of God

"And they shall call his name Emmanuel which being interpreted is God with us: (Matthew 1:23) Our Lord Jesus Christ also expressed in his prayer to his Father as, "As thou father art in me and I in thee, that they may also be one in us, and the world may believe that thou hast sent me". (St John 17:21)

The Holy Spirit

Our Lord also promised by saying "But the comforter which is the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name, he shall teach you in all things, and bring to remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you". (St John 14:26)

How have we have acquired such God provided privileges? Let us examine ourselves in the light of the following

"Whosoever **believeth** that Jesus is Christ is born of God. (1 John 5:1) "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son (St John 3:16) Whosoever shall **confess** that Jesus is the son of God, **God dwelleth in him and he in God** (1 John 4:15) "If we love one another, God dwelleth us, and his love is perfected" (St John 4:12)

How is the love of God perfected in us? Do we love God, and do we love others?

But as many as **received** him (Jesus Christ), to them gave he power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on his name. (St John 1:12) I am the living bread, which came down from heaven that a man may eat thereof and not die... **Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood dwelleth in me and I in him**" (St John 6:51,54)

How do we receive Jesus Christ in our lives?

"In whom also ye believed, **ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**" (Ephesians 1:13) Hereby know we that we dwell in him and he in us, because he hath given His Spirit" (St John 4:13)

Or do we grieve the Holy Spirit?

WORSHIP

I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy, and in thy fear will I worship toward thy Holy Temple" (Psalm 6:7)

Do we feel God's presence in our lives?

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people and praise him in the assembly of the elders (Psalm 107:31,32)

LIVE WITNESS

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Matthew 5:16)

OUTREACH

As part of the ongoing outreach programme of Memorial Church – Anglican, Whitefield, 2000 notebooks were donated for 200 less fortunate children of St. Thomas' Parish in Kolar Gold Fields.

INFORMATION

The members of St Peter's Church at Kerakkunu near Chelakara in Tirusur District, along with their Deacon Reverend Jacob Theerankulam have joined in the Anglican Church of India in Madhya Kerala Diocese. They are from the Anglican Orthodox Communion. The Deacon was ordained as Priest on 13.06.10 by Right Reverend Kuruvilla C PUthett

Five Churches from the Anglican Orthodox Communion, St John's Church at Kadika, CMS Anglican Church at Enath with its Priest Reverend Alexander, St Paul's CMS Anglican Church at Adoor, all In Pathanamthitta District, St Andrew's Church at Villoor, and Bishop Chennampallil Memorial Church at Chathakulam in Kollam District joined in the Anglican Church of India in T & C Diocese. All of the Parish Committee members of these Churches, met The Visiting Bishop of T & C Diocese Right Reverend Samuel T Ponniah at Adoor in Pathanamthitta District, on 18.07.10 Sunday Evening. This is In sequence of two Churches CMS Anglican Church at Iverkala in Kollam District With their Priest Reverend Sam Zacharia and St Andrews Church at Chelakompu in Kottayam District joining in November

last year. The Priest was conditionally ordained on 15.11.09.

FEED BACK

Some who have read the magazine have expressed their desire for regular dispatch to their addresses.

The readers are requested to have the above in mind and to pray for those who are to be sustained in intercessory prayers, and for God's guidance and grace

Readers are informed that copy of the Bible Study and Catechism could be furnished at request, for filing as their personal record for future reference, and also to others for their edification but we require the feedback

For further particulars Contact,
Anglican Church of India Diocese of Madras 83, 4th Cross, Thiru Nagar Salem 636007 Tamil Nadu State 0944 362 1237.

FEED BACK

*Editorial Office
Grace Cottage,
83, 4th Cross, Thiru Nagar,
Hasthampatty Post,
SALEM 636 007
Tamil Nadu State,
INDIA
Phone 91 427 240 3652
E Mail: ponniahbp@yahoo.co.in*

The Anglican Church of India for private circulation amongst its members, and for others at their request with the objectives publishes this magazine

To defend the Christian Faith defined in the Holy Scriptures and as enshrined in the Book of Common Prayer

To work for the unity of the Church under Christ, based on sound Doctrine and discipline as exemplified by the Chicago – Lambeth Quadrilateral of 1886 - 88

To restore the Church to her primary mission of proclaiming the Gospel

GENERAL PRINT POLICY

Contributions of articles under the given heads of topics are welcome. The Directors reserve the right to print, all or part, or in any changed manner as it deems fit for them. Contributions by way of donations or in kind for printing publishing and mailing are welcome. They may be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer MDTA Fund of ACI, Canara Bank A/c No. 0684101030814 Lal Baugh West Bangalore 560 004 under intimation.

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FREELY SEND DETAILS OF WHAT YOU HAVE
EXPERIENCED. THAT'S OUR REQUEST...**