

The Watford Word

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What's on

Sunday 23 July - 10:30AM. Mike Desouza speaking

Wednesday 26 July - Men's gathering

Friday 28th July - Women's gathering

Sunday 30 July - 10:30AM. Stefan speaking.

Sunday 27 August - 10:30AM. Barry Lamb speaking.

Sunday 17 Sept - 10:30AM. Dr Andy Boakye

Christians and Climate Change

"The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;" (Psalm 24:1 NIV11)

The earth is the LORD's and he has gifted it to us humans. How we treat it says something about how much we respect the creator. Climate change is a hot (no pun intended) topic. Some

feel it is a spiritual issue. Other disagree. Whatever our view, exploring the topic enriches our faith.

I was recently alerted to an event on this issue happening in Watford.



'An evening encounter with our creator God on Climate Change'

Sunday 24th September, 5.30pm, St Mary's church, 1 Church Street, WD18 0EG

Guest speakers: Dr Martin and Rev Margot Hodson; Rachel Johnson

Martin Hodson is a plant scientist and environmental biologist, and a former Principal Lecturer, and now Visiting Researcher at Oxford Brookes University. He is also an Associate Member in the Institute of Human Sciences, Oxford University and Operations Director for

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the John Ray Initiative. He writes and speaks widely on environmental issues. He has over 100 publications, mostly in international science journals. His books include, *Cherishing the Earth*, *The Ethics of Climatic Scepticism*, *A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues* and *An Introduction to Environmental Ethics* (all with Margot Hodson).

Format: Margot will give an epilogue based on Psalm 24 and Martin will introduce us to climate change and then moderate discussion. There will also be a panel discussion including local politicians and activists and an open debate on how Christian in Watford can engage in practical action such as the A Rocha Ecochurch scheme and work together more effectively to steward God's world. Afterwards the nascent Green Christian network will continue discussions down The Moon Under Water pub from 7pm.

I will be attending, and would welcome some company! Malcolm

Huldah and Josiah

This Sunday we will take a look at Huldah and Josiah. 2 Kings 22 and 2 Chronicles 34 tell us their story. We will focus on 2 Kings 22.

The Situation

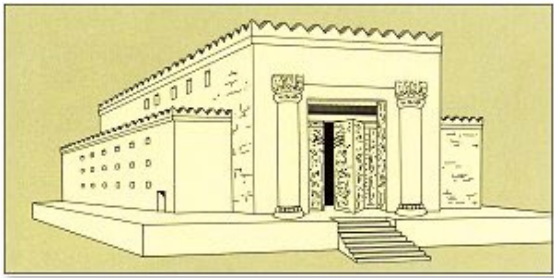
By the time Josiah came to the throne the



northern kingdom of Israel had already been in exile for around 100 years. Within 25 years of Josiah's death the southern kingdom of Judah would be in Babylonian exile, and

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the temple destroyed. These were dark times made even darker by the contrasting purity of Josiah's heart.



Solomon's temple looked something like the picture above, but it was in a sorry state of repair. Josiah decided to fix it up (2 Kings 22.3-7). He did something good for God and got an unexpected Brucie Bonus - a book.

The Book

What book was found in the temple? The law books (Torah) are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The 'book of the law' referred to here is probably Deuteronomy. Why is this the case? Josiah is concerned because, *'...our ancestors did not obey the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.'*" 2 Kings 22:13. Deuteronomy is the book with the clearest sets of blessings and curses.

"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn from the way that I am commanding you today, to follow other gods that you have not known." (Deuteronomy 11:26-28 NRSV)

Huldah

Huldah is one of a few women called prophets in the Old Testament. The others are Miriam, Deborah, and Isaiah's wife (Exod 15:20; Judg 4:4; 2 Kgs 22:14; Isa 8:3). She is unusual as a prophet, but by no means unique. Indeed, there is no

record to say that a woman as a prophet was either a bad thing, or something lesser than a male prophet.

There is, however, something truly unique about her. Not her status as a prophet, but her identifying Scripture as....Scripture. She 'holds a unique place in history. It was she who, for the first time, designated a written document as Holy Scripture. She began the process that culminated more than millennium later in the canonisation of the Bible.'¹

Some questions for reflection

- Why did Josiah react the way he did? What does it tell us about him? Why do you think he sent for Huldah?
- What does Huldah's response tell us about her?
- What do we learn about God?
- What do you think motivated Josiah's actions after he received the response from Huldah? Why did he do what he did?
- What can we learn from Huldah which could be useful for us?
- What can we learn from Josiah which could be useful for us?
- Where is Jesus in the story?
- What might our idols be?

God bless, Malcolm

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Watford Media

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj9Qa8D9zumJZdoAtARDUww>

Podcast: <https://www.podbean.com/pu/pbblog-aiinq-iaef90>

¹ <https://www.baslibrary.org/bible-review/6/2/5> - A Woman Was the First to Declare Scripture Holy