

▼ **Keep Praying!**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday August 3, 2025

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<http://www.LifeChurchBoston.org/>

▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Welcome!**

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ **Transition**

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG
- We are starting Luke 18.
- We will have life group after the message.

▼ **Thoughts**

- ...

▼ **Overview**

▼ **In today's message we will do the following:**

- Review passage - Luke 1:1-4.
- Review passage - Luke 4:14-21.
- Review our passage - Luke 17:11-19.
- Explore what Jesus is asking of us.
- Transition to Q&A / Discussion.
- Sunday Connection

▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Welcome!**

- **Luke 1:1-4**

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

▼ **Embrace Jesus' Mission**

▼ **Luke 4:14-21 (NIV) - The Lord's Spirit Is Upon Me**

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

- ▶ Setting the Stage
- ▶ Key Previous Lessons.

▼ **Feed on the Life of Jesus**

- **Are you “worded up”?**
- **Eat his flesh; Drink his blood - John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17**
- **Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?**

▼ **What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?**

- The Gospel of John in August (8/1 – 8/21)
- The Gospel of Matthew in September (9/1 - 9/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in October (10/1 – 10/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in November (11/1 – 11/24)
- The Gospel of John in December (12/1 – 12/21)

▼ **For August this means:**

- Read John 2 on August 2 (yesterday).
- Read John 3 on August 3 (today).
- Read John 4 on August 4 (tomorrow).
- etc.
- **As you read, write down any questions you have.**
- ▶ **Ask yourself the following questions:**

▶ **Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:**

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

▼ **Luke 18:1-8**

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “**In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’**”

“**For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’**”

And the Lord said, “**Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?**”

▼ **Parallel / Related Passages**

- **Sirach 35:17-23**

He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan,
or the widow when she pours out her complaint.
Do not the tears of the widow run down her cheek
as she cries out against the one who causes them to fall?
The one whose service is pleasing to the Lord will be accepted,
and his prayer will reach to the clouds.
The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds,
and it will not rest until it reaches its goal;
it will not desist until the Most High responds
and does justice for the righteous, and executes judgment.
God indeed will not delay,
and like a warrior, will not be still
Till he breaks the backs of the merciless
and wreaks vengeance upon the nations;

▼ **The Persistent Widow**

▼ Narrative - Luke 118:1-8

- Jesus shares a parable designed to encourage his followers to keep praying.
- This takes place on the heels of his explanation of the contrast between the coming of the Kingdom of God and the coming of the Son of Man.
- An unjust judge neither fears God nor respects man.
- For some time, the judge refuses.
- Eventually, in order to keep her from wearing him out, he sees that she gets justice.
- If even an unjust judge will eventually grant justice to a widow, how much more will a God who is our loving Father see that his chosen ones get justice!
- When the Son of Man comes will he find faith on the earth?

▼ Observations / Background

▼ The background may be a passage from the Apocrypha:

• Sirach 35:17-23

He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan,
or the widow when she pours out her complaint.
Do not the tears of the widow run down her cheek
as she cries out against the one who causes them to fall?
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▼ Video

- [Dr. Kenneth Bailey: Parables in Luke - Farmer and His Servant - Widow and Judge](#) - YouTube (00:31:32)

▼ Unjust Judge:

- A person coming before a judge can ultimately appeal either to God or to a sense of honor to persuade the judge to act justly.
- This judge doesn't fear God and doesn't have a sense of shame.
- Anyone coming before this judge is on his or her own.
- This is the most hopeless possible judge.

▼ The Widow

- Women normally didn't go to court. They relied on men to advocate for them.

- This woman is a widow - she has no husband.
- She must be representing herself because she has no son, father, uncle, brother, nephew, etc. able to represent her.
- She is the most helpless victim.

▼ Lessons

- In light of Jerusalem's coming destruction, Jesus wanted his disciples to persevere in prayer.
 - Now that the Son of Man has received glory, authority, and sovereign power, we who belong to him must continue to persevere in prayer.
 - We must practice prayer both individually and as a team.
- ▼ Prayer is an essential part of how the people of God rule the kingdoms of this world in fulfillment of the vision in Daniel 7.

- Daniel 7:9-14

"As I looked,

"thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
His clothing was as white as snow;
the hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all ablaze.

A river of fire was flowing,
coming out from before him.

Thousands upon thousands attended him;
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated,
and the books were opened.

"Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, **coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.** He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

- Daniel 7:26-28

" 'But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'

"This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself."

- [Bible Project: Son of Man](#) (00:05:51)

- ▼ God doesn't waste our prayers.

- **Revelation 6:9-11**

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

- **Revelation 8:3-5**

Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

- Prayer is so important, that God wants us to pray even when we don't know how to pray about a situation.

- ▼ **Video**

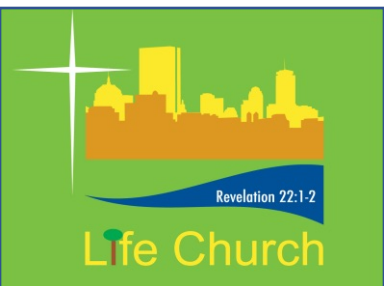
- [Premier Unbelievable: NT Wright: Cessationism & why I pray in tongues // Ask NT Wright Anything](#) - YouTube (00:07:29)
- What commitment will you make to become part of an effective prayer team?

► **Discussions, Q&A**



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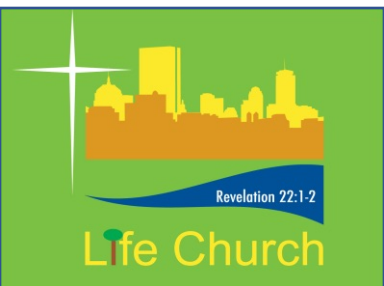
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Thoughts



• . . .



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Luke 1:1-4

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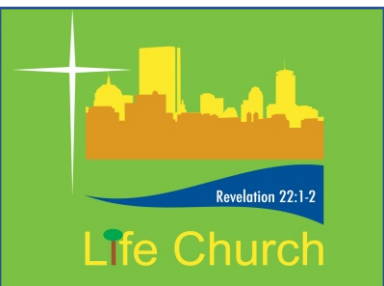
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Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 2)

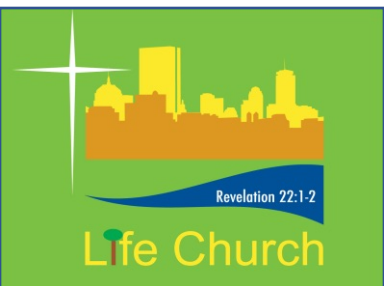
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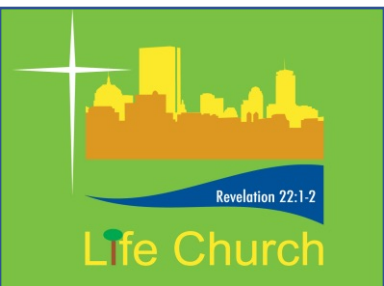
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Narrative

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Dr. Kenneth Bailey: Farmer and Servant - Widow and Judge





Observations (continued)

Unjust Judge:

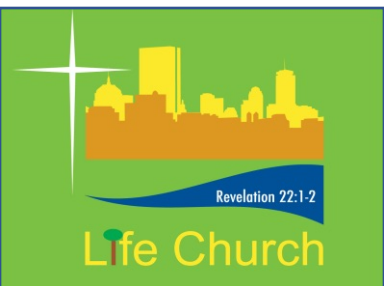
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Observations (continued)

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Lessons



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Daniel 7:9-14 (NIV) 1 of 2

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Son of Man





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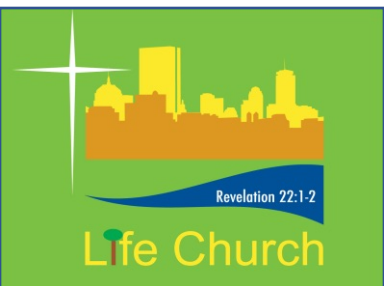
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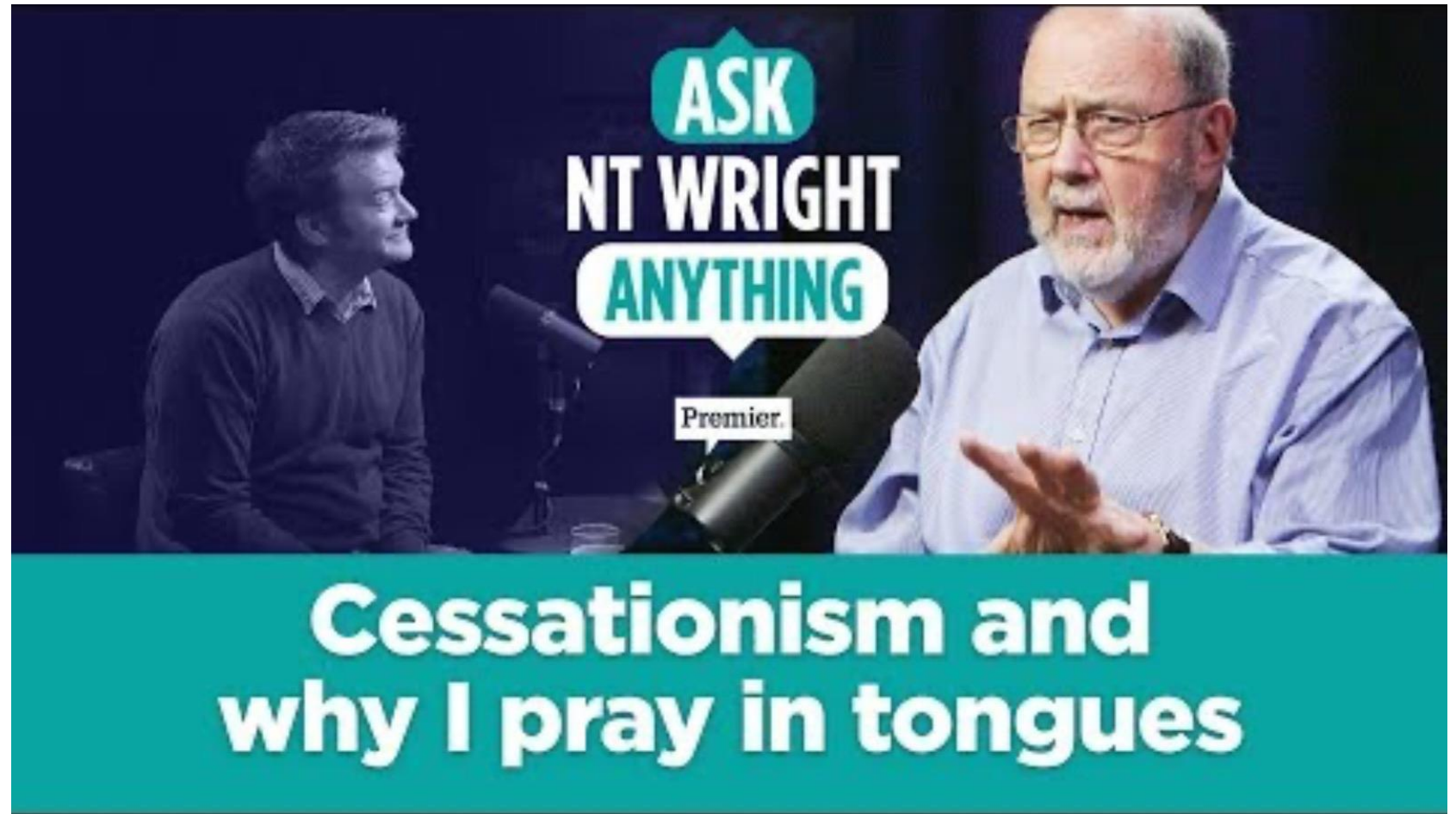
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N.T. Wright: Why I Pray In Tongues





Lessons



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Q&A / Discussion





Announcements



Visitor Page

- Sunday Service (Communion) August 3, 2025
- Sunday Connection August 3, 2025 12pm - 2pm
- Following Jesus Class Fri (8/8) 5pm & 6pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service August 10, 2025
- Following Jesus Class Fri (8/15) 5pm & 6pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service August 17, 2025
- Following Jesus Class Fri (8/22) 5pm & 6pm - via Zoom



Q&A / Discussion





Benediction, Life Groups



Announcements

Benediction

Life Groups

Leave Service From Life Groups