

## 2 Thessalonians 2

### The Man of Lawlessness

2 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, <sup>2</sup>not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.

<sup>3</sup>Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. <sup>4</sup>He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

<sup>5</sup>Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things

### Stand Firm

<sup>13</sup>But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup>He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>15</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

<sup>16</sup>May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, <sup>17</sup>encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. *NIV*

## Luke 20:27-38

### The Resurrection and Marriage

<sup>27</sup>Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question. <sup>28</sup>"Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. <sup>29</sup>Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. <sup>30</sup>The second <sup>31</sup>and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. <sup>32</sup>Finally, the woman died too. <sup>33</sup>Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. <sup>35</sup>But those who are considered worthy of taking part in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, <sup>36</sup>and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. <sup>37</sup>But in the account of the burning bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' <sup>38</sup>He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive." *NIV*

## Ruby Country Benefice

*The Parishes of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott*

**Sunday 6th November 2022**

**3rd Sunday before Advent**

### Welcome to Worship

9.30 am Holy Communion, Ashwater

11.00 am Holy Communion, Halwill

11.00 am Café Church, Black Torrington

12.30 pm Baptism, Halwill



### Readings

Job 19: 23-27

Psalms 17: 1-9

2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-end

Luke 20: 27-38

### Collect

Almighty Father,

whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the Kind of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,  
and bring the families of the nations,  
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,  
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Interim Vicar (part time)

Revd Stephen Skinner

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**The Mission Community:** for all who live and work in our Mission Community

**Rest in peace** all who have recently died including Grace Spelman (Halwill) and Mavis Watson (Beaworthy)

**All who are mourning** the death of a loved one including the family and friends of Grace Spelman and Mavis Watson

**Those who are ill** or in any kind of need and those who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, including Jenny Hyslop, Stephen Bowness, Doug Genini and his wife Sue

**Isabel Vallance** to be baptized at Halwill, her parents, godparents and family and **Solomon Brown** as his family prepare for his Baptism

**Dates for your diary**

<b>Tuesday 8th November</b>	4.00 pm	Handbell Ringing Black Torrington Church
<b>Wednesday 9th November</b>	10.00 am	Morning Prayer Black Torrington Church
	1.00 pm	Funeral, Grace Spelman Halwill Church
<b>Thursday 10th November</b>	8.00 pm	ZOOM COMPLINE
<b>Friday 11th November</b>	2.30 pm	Funeral, Mavis Watson Beaworthy Church
<b>Saturday 12th November</b>	12.30 pm	Baptism, Solomon Brown, Tetcott Church
<b>Sunday 13th November</b>	10.45 am	Act of Remembrance Ashwater Memorial/Church
	10.45 am	Act of Remembrance Beaworthy Church
	10.45 am	Act of Remembrance Black Torrington Memorial/ Church
	10.45 am	Act of Remembrance Halwill Junction War Memorial /Village Hall
	10.45 am	Act of Remembrance Tetcott War Memorial
	2.30 pm	Act of Remembrance Clawton War Memorial/ Church



**ZOOM MEETING**  
Meeting ID:317 183 8102  
Passcode: 848984

**Thought for Sunday 6th November 2022**

**“RESURRECTION AND MARRIAGE”**

Sunday’s Gospel from Luke 20: 27 – 40 is a particularly tricky ‘exchange’ between Jesus and the Sadducees. This group of Jews did not believe in any sort of resurrection, nor in angels. Their source book was purely the Pentateuch. Their logic led them to pose the famous conundrum to Jesus about the woman who had seven husbands. She was undoubtedly a very dangerous woman, for it would have been literally deadly for any man to marry this woman! The story was originally told in Tobit 3: 7 – 10. I challenge you to locate it in the Apocrypha! Whilst thinking humorously about this Case Study, here is a nice quip: “Married life is very challenging. In the first year of marriage the man speaks and the wife listens. In the second year the woman speaks and the husband listens. In the third year they both speak and the neighbours listen!” Of from Socrates: “By all means marry! If you get a good wife you’ll be happy. If you get a bad one, you’ll become a philosopher!”

The Sadducees argued that according to the logic of their Case Study the doctrine of resurrection could lead to non-sensical situations. The unlucky woman would be potentially married to all seven men – with her own harem! Jesus dealt very cleverly with this dilemma by adopting his favoured strategy of taking the discussion to a higher, spiritual level. He argues that marriage as we currently practice it on earth will no longer be relevant in the ‘Age to Come’ of Heaven (Verse 35). He says that we will all be like angels, and our relationships and spiritual life will be experienced in a new and more blissful way. All our relationships will be transformed within our redeemed communities, with the presence of Jesus’ Spirit at the core of our shared life. Our sense of deeply spiritual, angelic unity will beautifully dissolve the more exclusive and individualistic relationships that we currently experience. One Commentator writes: “The quality and pleasures of our relationships in heaven will extend far beyond what marriage provides for us today. The absence of sin and the presence of God will render Marriage as a supportive, legal and protective institution superfluous”. The Resurrection life of heaven will far surpass the best of our friendships in this earthly life.

Some of the crowd were delighted at Jesus’ response – but others felt miffed. Maybe some of us feel the same – especially if we enjoy really good marriages. But please remember that however good relationships might be on earth – in the resurrected life they’ll be absolutely fabulous!

**Stephen**