

Worship Preparation

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of DURHAM

What's Special About This Sunday?

- It's January 1, 2012, **New Year's Day!**
- Dr. Andrew Davis will be preaching a sermon entitled "**The Eternal Rewards of Living as an Alien**" based on Hebrews 11:13-16.
- We will be **commissioning** a team of ladies going to serve missionaries in **Prague** with SEBTS: Linda Hester, Kyle Howard, Rhonda Pike, Sorelis Rivera, and Janet Whichard.
- Through our worship in song, we will be singing about our **heavenly inheritance** as Christians: the holy city, and God himself.
 - "**Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise**" 6
 - "**O God, Our Help in Ages Past**" 74
 - "**There is a Higher Throne**"
 - "**Enough**"
 - "**It Is not Death to Die**" (Katie Bowen, solo)
 - "**On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand**"



O God, Our Help in Ages Past

In 1714, the people of England were anxious. Queen Anne lay dying, and she had no son or daughter to succeed her. Who would be the new monarch, and what changes would that make? Isaac Watts had reason to worry. His father had been imprisoned under the previous regime because his views did not please the ruling family. As a young child, Isaac had been carried by his mother to visit his father in jail. But Queen Anne had brought a new tolerance, and freedom for the elder Watts. Now that she was dying, what would happen?

Isaac Watts turned to Psalm 90 on this occasion and penned what may be the greatest of his more than six hundred hymns. In essence, it is a poem about time. God stands above human time, and in Him all our anxieties can be laid to rest. The greatness of our eternal God was a favorite theme for Watts. When the events of the day bring worry, the God of the ages remains our eternal home.

*-The One Year Book of Hymns
(Tyndale)*

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 12:28-29



*“The author says that the people he has mentioned in vv. 1-13 were seeking a **better (heavenly) country** which would be their true **homeland**. First, if Abraham (for example) were looking for an earthly “homeland,” he could have returned to Haran; but he persisted in following God’s leading and focusing on his promise (v. 15). Second, the Psalms’ spiritual application of exile terminology to this whole mortal life indicates the expectation of a life to come.”*

*- commentary on 11:14-16
(ESV Study Bible)*

Pray for our Leaders:

- ✓ **Preaching:** Andrew Davis
- ✓ **Leading in Prayer:** Andrew Davis, Kevin Schaub, Tom Hunter, Ryan Hutchinson
- ✓ **Leading in Praise:** Worship Ministry Team, Katie Bowen (solo)
- ✓ **Reading Scripture:** Jim Eaker
- ✓ **Church Life:** Ryan Hutchinson
- ✓ **Translating:** Herbert Rivera

SUNDAY’S SERMON

“The Eternal Rewards of Living as an Alien”

The following passage is the Sermon Scripture for Sunday. Read and *meditate on God’s Word, and memorize the verse printed in **bold**, this week’s suggested memory verse.*

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NIV)

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.

¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.

¹⁶ **Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.**