

Newsletter

13th May

2018

epsom
baptist church

Leading:

Preaching: **Jeff Whittaker**

Theme: **Daniel 7: 1 - 28** **One like a son of man...**

The Next Deacons' Meeting will be held on Tuesday
15th May 2018 at Epsom Baptist Church.



Jesus as heavenly judge, by
Michela Dimitrova...

Ascension Sunday

The **Mid-week Bible Study** for
Wednesday May 16th will be hosted by
Jeff and Margaret Whittaker.

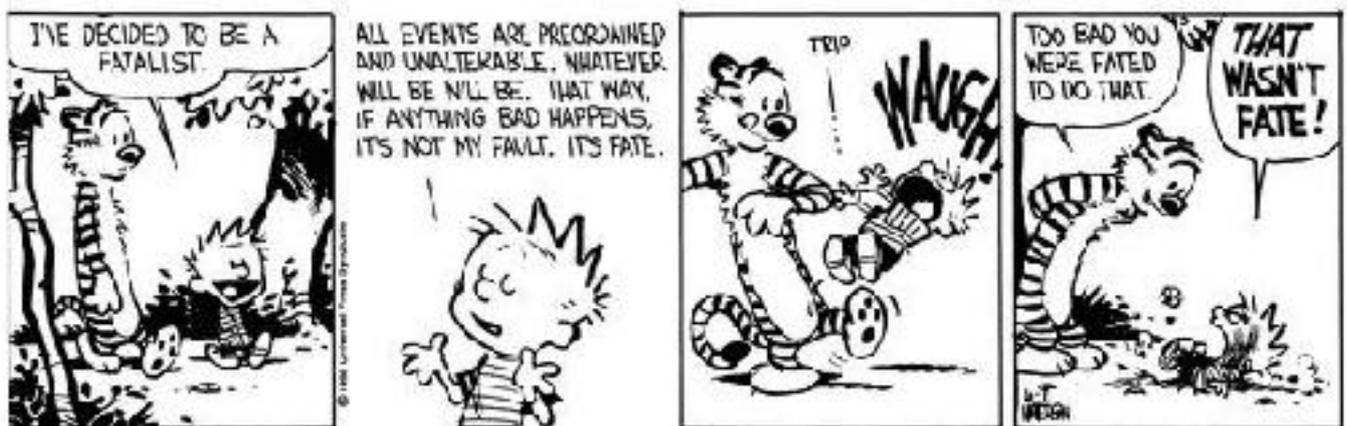


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Saturday Evening and Sunday Morning Chinese Congregations:
Pastor Daniel Choi
Sunday Morning English Congregation: Pastor Jeff Whittaker
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From Pastor Jeff

This last week I had a conversation with a man who asserted that the IQ of Jewish people is skewed 15 points up from the rest of humanity. This is, of course, a very contentious topic. Conjecture about the IQ of various races has been used in the past to perpetrate all sorts of evil behaviour. But, when one considers the proportion of humanity made up by Jews (<1%), and then looks at their intellectual achievements (which, when one considers Nobel prizes, are amazing) it's obvious there's something there. My friend and I wondered what might be behind such a phenomenon. I wondered if a shift in IQ might come about because of a deep and abiding practice of wrestling with the ambiguities of the Jewish scriptures (our Old Testament). Or, I speculated, is it a consequence of being relentlessly persecuted and harried around the world. (Another friend once told me that Palestinians are highly intelligent. Of course, they live in desperate circumstances, ironically at the hands of the Jewish state.) Now, my reason for sharing this is that today is Ascension Sunday. Today we reflect on this strange event: Jesus' ascension into heaven, where we believe he sits at the right hand of God on high. Attempts to locate heaven as if it's part of the universe open to our scientific exploration have proven fruitless, as one would expect (unless one is a physical materialist). So, here we have a conundrum worthy of our reflection. Along with Trinity Sunday (two weeks away), today presents us with an invitation to deep philosophical musing. Who knows: As we wrestle with such strange things, maybe we will discover that the base-line performance of our own intelligence is raised, to the glory of God.

Shalom, Jeff



May 2018 Sunday morning rosters...

Flowers: 6 Dawn de Stigter, 13, 20 Louissa Bao, 27 Helen Evans

Morning tea: Hugh and Gwenneth Macky

Communion preparation: Hugh and Gwenneth...

Door and Offering: Helen Evans

Scripture reading & Communion: Mavis Rhind

Offering counting: Dawn de Stigter and Anne Bartley

Lawns: Ian de Stigter