**R799\_Rumination for May 24, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **Lockdown, and Locked In?** berita-bethel-ung.com

The **T**ext: ***N****ow Jericho was* ***S****ecurely* ***S****hut up because of the children of Israel;*

 ***N****one went out, and none came in.* Josh. 6:1, NKJV

The **T**hots:

Intro.: What is *Lockdown*?

1. **Its Dictionary Definition:** **Merriam Webster Dict.**

**1***: the* ***C****onfinement of prisoners to their* ***C****ells for all or most of the day as a temporary security measure.*

**2a***: an emergency measure or* ***C****ondition in which people are temporarily prevented from entering*

*or leaving a restricted area or building (such as a school) during a threat of danger*

**b:** *a temporary* ***C****ondition imposed by governmental authorities (as during the outbreak of an epidemic disease) in which people are required to stay in their homes and refrain from or limit activities*

*outside the home involving public* ***C****ontact (such as dining out or attending large gatherings).*

* The **C**hoice in our **C**ontext is of **C**ourse definition #2b.
1. **Its Definitive Description:** **or instances of Lockdown in Scriptures:**
2. **G**od **L**ocked-down (or **L**ocked-in?) Noah and those with him in the Ark. Gen 7:13-16

*In the selfsame day entered Noah…the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives*

*of his sons with them, into the ark…and every beast after his kind…****and the LORD shut him in.***

1. They Came under the **C**over of the “*Atonement*” – *within* and *without* (outside)! Gen. 6:14

*Make thee an ark…and shalt* ***pitch*** *it within and without with* ***pitch****.*

*Pitch* is from Heb. *kāpar* = appease, make (an) atonement… Strong

1. Figuratively, all in **C**hrist **C**ome under the **C**over of the Atoning Blood of **C**hrist. Eph. 2:13

*But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

* Thus, the Lockdown keeps **S**inners **S**heltered from the **S**torm of judgment that falls on **S**in!
1. The King **L**ocked-down (or ***S****hut up*) **J**ericho for **S**ecurity (!) Josh. 6:1, 2. NKJV

*Now Jericho was* ***S****ecurely* ***S****hut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.*

1. Their **P**revailing **R**eason for the Lockdown: Fear of the coming **I**sraeli **I**nvasion. Josh. 6:1a
2. Their un-**P**ractical **R**eckoning – they reckoned without the **I**ntervention of Jehovah. Josh. 6:2
*The LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof…*
3. The Lord’s **P**lanned **R**emarkable Strategy: *See, I have given into thine hand Jericho…*Josh. 6:2-5

*Ye shall compass the city…six days…and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets…when ye hear the sound…all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man…*

1. Jericho’s **P**ermanent **R**uin and **R**ahab’s **R**escue. Josh. 6:24-25 *(KJV)*
2. The **R**uin of Jericho: *And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein…* 6:24
3. The **R**escue of **R**ahab – *Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household*… 6:25
4. **R**ahab and her family were **S**aved by the **S**ign of the **S**carlet Cord.; 2:18-19

*Behold…thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by:*

1. **R**ahab and her family were also under Lockdown for their **S**afety.

*Thou shalt bring…all thy father's household, home unto thee. And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.*

* Only those under the Cover of the **S**carlet thread would be **S**aved!
1. The Governor Nehemiah **L**ocked-down **J**erusalem to observe **S**abbath. Neh. 13:19
2. The **V**oice of Nehemiah to lock up the gates of Jerusalem to ensure the Sabbath was observed.

*And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath,*

*I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened*

*till after the sabbath: and…there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.*

1. The **V**iolation of the Sabbath: Neh. 13:15
*In those days saw I…all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals.*
2. No **V**ictuals to be brought in – Jerusalem was Locked-down to keep the sabbath: Neh. 13:19
*I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the Sabbath…that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.*
3. The **V**ictory over Sabbath-keeping: Neh. 13:21-22

*I* ***C****ommanded the Levites that they should* ***C****leanse themselves, and that they should* ***C****ome and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God…and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.*

* On this **L**ord’s **D**ay, though somewhat **L**ocked-**D**own under the EMCO, are you observing the **L**ord’s Supper and remembering the **L**ord as He asked you to where you are or where you should be?

*King of my life, I crown Thee now, Thine shall the glory be;*

*Lest I forget Thy thorn crowned brow, Lead me to Calvary.*

*Lest I forget Gethsemane, Lest I forget Thine agony;*

 *Lest I forget Thy love for me, Lead me to Calvary.* Jennie E. Hussey

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 799**

1. A **Lockdown** is defined as *a temporary Condition imposed by governmental authorities (as during the outbreak of an epidemic disease) in which people are required to stay in their homes and refrain from or limit activities* (Merriam Webster Dictionary)/

Although there was no complete Lockdown for Malaysia during the time of the pandemic COVID\_19, there have been some towns or districts which have a some kind of **lockdown** because of an exceeding 40 existing cases of the disease in these places. Other places come under the Movement Control Order and are advised to Stay Home to be Safe.

Being Confined to the home can be stressful or not, depending on the space in it for the occupants to move and have their own space. For those with very little space to move around, it is comparable to being imprisoned in a cell (hence the **lockdown**) and at its worst, to being sentenced to solitary confinement!

Indeed, times can be hard even for those who have space to move around but facing a very bleak future. Many hotels are closed for lack of guests and tourist, shops and businesses are shuttered for lack of customers, or risks of contamination via close contacts, etc. etc. With these prevailing circumstances, salaried workers may be asked to receive a pay-cut if they want to continue their jobs later; temporary and day-to-day wage earners may have their services terminated; many more face very bleak and uncertain future when the MCO would be lifted. Life would not be the same anymore. Most will have to adapt and adopt a New Normal in Living.

In such times as these, it is important to have and to know God. For it is only in Him, there can be hope. David realised this and he was very cast down with distress when facing his enemies, literally he was down in the dumps. Circumstances around him were against him. Four times he asked himself a question and four times he answered the question himself. Consider therefore the four quotes from him in Psa. 42:5, 6, 11; 43:5

David’s **S**oul **S**tate: *Why art thou cast down, O my soul?* Psa. 42:5, 11; 43:5

David’s **S**pecific Problem: Psa. 42:6

 His **C**ontemplation: W*hy art thou disquieted in me?* Psa. 42:5, 11; 43:5

His **C**ondition: *O my God, my soul is cast down within me*

His **C**onsolation: *therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan,*

 *and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar*

David’s **S**olution: *hope thou in God:* Psa. 42:5, 11; 43:5

 *for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.* 42:5

 *for I shall yet praise Him, Who is the health of my countenance, and my God.*42:11; 43:5

When under stress or in deep distress, it is important to have God with us as our **H**ope and to look to the **H**eavens from our windows to know that **H**e is always there for us.

**H**ope thou in Him. **Psalm 121:1, 2**

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.*

 **REFLECT.**

1. **Jeremiah 13:19 -** *The cities of the south shall be shut up, and none shall open them: Judah shall be carried away captive all of it, it shall be wholly carried away captive*.

The cities to the south of Judah would be Locked down, Judah to their north would not escape. They would be carried away captive for seventy years until the Lord’s Lock Down Order was lifted and they were freed to return to their own land. Whether Locked Dowd or Locked In God had His Plans and Purposes. Learn the Lessons and Live by them. **REFLECT.**

**Points To Ponder:** ***L****ockdown is not a Knockdown. If you are now* ***L****ocked In by God,*

***L****earn the* ***L****essons and* ***L****ive them out in your* ***L****ife.*