

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
September 8, 2024

*"Put me like a seal (a signet) over your heart, like a seal on your arm.
For love is as strong as death, jealousy is as severe as Sheol; Its flashes
are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD." – Song of Songs 8:6*



“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – John 6:26-29

Leader: Jesus answered them and said,

People: Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me,

Leader: Not because you saw signs,

People: But because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

Leader: Do not work for the food which perishes,

People: But for the food which endures to eternal life,

Leader: Which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father,

People: God, has set His seal.

*Leader: Therefore they said to Him, What shall we do, so that we may work the works
of God?*

People: Jesus answered and said to them,

Leader: This is the work of God,

People: That you believe in Him whom He has sent.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Ephesians 1:13-14

***Hymn #165** (red hymnal) – “Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

Scripture Reading – Zechariah 4:1-14; Matthew 1:1-2,12-17

Ancient Creedal Reading – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

***Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sung Psalm #16c** (see insert below) – “Preserve Me, O God”

Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Savoy Declaration (1658 AD), 12 – Of Adoption

Leader: *All those that are justified, God vouchsafeth,
in and for His only Son Jesus Christ,* Eph 1:5

People: **To make partakers of the grace of adoption,** Gal 4:4-5

Leader: *By which they are taken into the number, and enjoy
the liberties and privileges* Rom 8:17

People: **Of the children of God,** John 1:12

Leader: *Have His name put upon them,* Jer 14:9; 2Cor 6:18; Rev 3:12

People: **Receive the spirit of adoption,** Rom 8:15

Leader: *Have access to the throne of grace with boldness,* Eph 3:12; Rom 5:2

People: **Are enabled to cry, Abba, Father,** Gal 4:6

Leader: *Are pitied, protected, provided for,* Ps 103:13; Prov 14:26; Matt 6:30,32, 1Pet 5:7

People: **And chastened by Him as by a Father:** Heb 12:6

Leader: *Yet never cast off,* Lam 3:31

People: **But sealed to the day of redemption;** Eph 4:30

Leader: *And inherit the promises,* Heb 6:12

People: **As heirs of everlasting salvation.** 1Pet 1:3-4; Heb 1:14

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Haggai 2:20-23

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon – “*Begotten in Babylon, Seal in Christ*”

(A Sermon Series on The Book of Haggai)

***Hymn #276** (red hymnal) – “Up from the Grave He Arose”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

All are welcome for Fellowship & Food downstairs after Worship

Announcements

- The church would like to thank the Winters and all those who attended the church picnic on Saturday. It was a good time of fellowship.
- If any parents think their child is mature enough to take the Lord's Supper they should see Pastor Doug. Soon there will be a class, or two, for the children after church with Pastor Doug.

- This fall Pastor Doug will be preaching through Revelation 4-7. Probably no other book in the Bible can be more challenging for Christians. So, if you would like to do a bit of reading before hand Pastor Doug would recommend two books:
 - More Than Conquerors: An Interpretation of the Book of Revelation by William Hendriksen. (One of my all time favorite books and, in my opinion, the best commentary on Revelation. It follows the “idealist – amillennialist” approach which is how I will preach Revelation.)
 - Revelation: Four Views, A Parallel Commentary by Steve Gregg. (This book gives the four major ways of interpretation in parallel columns: Historicist, Preterist, Futurist & Idealist.)

Upcoming Special Events

- On Saturday, September 21st, there will be a joint Elders & Deacons’ meeting at Pastor Doug’s house.
- The **Annual Meeting** will be after church on November 17th.
(Note: This is a change from the previous date.)

Regular Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i>	9:00 – c.10:00 AM	Sunday School Children’s curriculum: KVB Publications Women’s Study: Study on cults Adult Study: Westminster Larger Catechism
	10:30 – c.11:40 AM c.11:40 AM	Worship (Lord’s Supper on the 1 st Sunday of the month) Coffee Hour Fellowship
<i>Tuesday</i>	10:30 AM – Noon	Tuesday Classics Study at Pastor Doug’s house Overview of Medieval Theology & reading some Aquinas
Wednesday	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Wednesday Bible Study at Pastor Doug’s house Origins of the Bible & a Study of 2Peter & Jude
Friday	6:30 - ??? PM	Young Adult Discussion Group at Pastor Doug’s house (1 st & 3 rd Fridays)
Saturday	morning	Prayer Group at the Gabelmann’s (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

ONLINE RESOURCES

TRC’s Webpage:	TrinityReformedCT.org
TRC’s Facebook Page:	facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/
TRC’s Youtube Channel:	youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT
Pastor Doug’s	youtube.com/simplyreformed
Youtube Channels:	youtube.com/@PilgrimsOfPlunder

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests you would like for, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: trcnwprayer@gmail.com. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

LEADERSHIP

Elders:	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	robert.ensminger@arthurgrussell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	203-709-0784	jhaulenbeek@icloud.com
Deacons:	David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters		
Sunday School:	Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell	Music Coordinator:	Cindy Rines
Clerk:	Sheryl Gabelmann	Treasurer:	Cindy Rines

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Worship Starts At: 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

Sunday Worship At: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 – Phone: (860) 238-7399

Webpage: trinityreformedct.org – Email: trinityreformedct@gmail.com

Sermon Notes

Haggai 2:20-23

“Begotten in Babylon, Seal in Christ”

A Sermon Series on Haggai

September 8, 2024

Introduction

- 1) In the ancient world the concept of a “signet” was very important.¹
- 2) A signet, usually on a ring or a stamp, has the official symbol of that person, and/or his household on it, so that he could sign documents by pressing the signet into the document or on some wax put on the document.
 - a) It is how a person of authority, especially someone of authority, would sign/put their name on something, claiming it as their own. Like a modern-day signature or a notary seal.
 - b) The ring could also be used to seal something, protecting it, less the seal was broken.
 - c) Think of the old movies where a noble would take an official document put wax on the envelope and press his signet ring on the wax. Saying that his name is officially on it, making it his own, and protecting it from being open unlawfully, less someone break the seal.
 - d) Related to this is a wedding ring, which is a sign to the world you are married and a sealing of two as one.
- 3) To give two biblical examples:
 - a) The Book of Nehemiah describes the rebuilding of the Temple and the people making a covenant with an official document.

Nehemiah 9:38 – *“Now because of all this we are making an agreement in writing; And on the sealed document (ḥā·ṭām – verb form of a signet) are the names of our leaders, our Levites and our priests.”*

Nehemiah 10:1-27 lists all the names on the seal and Nehemiah 10:28-39 lists the obligations of those who have made this covenant.
 - b) Pilate has the Lord Jesus’s tomb sealed.

Matthew 27:66 – *“And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal (sphragizō – the verb form of a signet) on the stone.”*
 - c) Keep this in mind as we ponder today’s sermon text.

¹ In the OT the word for “signet” is “ḥō·ṭām” (noun).

Gen 38:18; Ex 28:11,21,36; 39:6,14,30; 1Kgs 21:8; Job 38:14; 41:15; SoS 8:6; Jer 22:24; Hag 2:23

(ḥō·ṭē·mēt is a similar word used in Genesis 38:25.)

The verb form for being sealed with a signet, or just sealed generally, is “ḥā·ṭām”.

Lev 15:3; Deut 32:34; 1Kgs 21:8; Neh 9:38; 10:1; Esth 3:12; 8:8,10; Job 9:7; 14:17; 24:16; 33:16; 37:7;

SoS 4:12; Is 8:16; 29:11; Jer 32:10-11,14,44; Ezek 28:12; Dan 9:24; 12:4,9.

The Challenge of the Book of Haggai

- 1) The Book of Haggai ends, as it began, in a beautiful and challenging sort of way.
- 2) The first focus of this book is on one man: The governor of Judah, Zerubbabel.
 - a) Remember how the book began:

Haggai 1:1– *“In the second year of Darius the king, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, . . .”*

- b) The first to react to Haggai’s 1st Sermon is Zerubbabel:

(Haggai is a collection of four sermons.²)

Haggai 1:12 – *“Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people showed reverence for the LORD.”*

- c) This is done by God sending His Spirit first to Zerubbabel:

Haggai 1:14 – *“So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,”*

- d) The 2nd Sermon is addressed to Zerubbabel:

Haggai 2:2,4 – *“Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people saying . . . ‘But now take courage, Zerubbabel,’ declares the LORD, ‘take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,’ declares the LORD, ‘and work; for I am with you,’ declares the LORD of hosts.”*

- e) Our sermon text from the fourth, and final, Sermon is overtly, and exclusively focused, on Zerubbabel:

Haggai 2:20-21a – *“Then the word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying, ‘Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah,’”*

- 3) This is a challenge because all Scripture is inspired by God (literally “God-breathed) and “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness”. – 2Timothy 3:16b

- a) So, how does this focus on Zerubbabel apply to us today in 2024 in Winchester Center?
 - b) It is also a challenge because such texts, especially in the Old Testament, can very much be mishandled.

- i) For example, the “dare to be a Daniel” type of preaching: The preacher states: Daniel, or in our case today, Zerubbabel, did great things for the Kingdom, so how are you a Zerubbabel, what are you doing to advance the Kingdom?

- ii) Or, where the preacher equates himself with Zerubbabel implying he has special visions to cast that must be obeyed. This is called by some the “Moses model of leadership, where the church is governed by one person.”

- iii) Now there is some truth behind these statements.

- We can be encouraged by biblical examples to be faithful. 2Thes 3:7-9; Heb 11
- All Christians are called to labor for the Kingdom. Eph 2:10; Titus 3:8
- And the church does have leaders (pastors, elders & deacons). 1Tim 3:1-12

² 1st Sermon = Haggai 1:1-11

3rd Sermon = Haggai 2:10-19

2nd Sermon = Haggai 2:1-9

4th Sermon = Haggai 2:20-23

- iv) The problem, however, is focusing on the individual.
- 4) Correctly handling the text is one of the main jobs of the pastor/preacher.
 2Timothy 2:15 – *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”*
- 5) Likewise, those who listen need to be discerning, thinking biblically, being a noble-minded Berean.
 Acts 17:11b – *“for they received the word with great eagerness (from the preacher, in this case the Apostle Paul no less!), examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”*
- 6) The correct application of this text is certainly not to first insert ourselves into the story. (Though we are part of this story.)
- a) It is not first about the individual, either us or even Zerubbabel.
 - b) True, great things are promised to Zerubbabel, however, he disappears from the biblical record very abruptly.³
 - i) When the Temple is finished, he is not mentioned – he probably died.
 - ii) Does this mean Haggai’s prophecy failed? No, of course not!
 - c) Kingdoms and nations will be, and have been, overthrown!
- 7) The focus of this text is not the reader, or even Zerubbabel.
- a) It is about God, His glory and what He will do.
 - b) The critical part of the text is that Zerubbabel is to be *“like a signet ring”*, that God has set His seal on His people, and all of history.
 - c) The focus is on the Triune God and what He has done, is doing, and will do.

Haggai 2:20-23

- 1) Remember, the Book of Haggai is about God calling the prophet Haggai to demand the rebuilding of God’s House, the Temple.
- 2) Today’s sermon is the 4th and final sermon.⁴
- 3) This sermon is directly to Zerubbabel.
 Haggai 2:21a – *“Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah, saying . . .”*
- 4) Like in the 3rd Sermon God is going to “shake all the nations” and make the glory of this “new” Temple even greater. Hag 2:7-9
 Haggai 2:21a-22 – *“I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another.”*
- 5) The final verse of this sermon, and the book, is very interesting.
 - a) Haggai 2:23 – *“‘On that day,’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will make you like a signet ring (ḥô-ṭām), for I have chosen you,’ declares the LORD of hosts.”*

³ The rebuilding of the Temple is finished in Ezra 6:13ff though Zerubbabel is last mention in 5:2.

⁴ The reason Haggai 2:20, in the 4th Sermon, reads: *“Then the word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying . . .”* is because 3rd & 4th Sermons were delivered on the same day (Hag 2:10,20), that is why Haggai calls the 4th Sermon *“a second time.”*

b) We have that famous concept of “on that day”.⁵

i) This is the “day of the Lord.”

ii) It usually refers to a time of judgment and prophecy.

iii) It is both clear, direct, forceful, deep and mysterious.

iv) Frequently, biblical prophecy has multiple layers of meaning and covers several time periods at the same time.⁶

v) Such is the case with Haggai 2:23.

6) Of course we are going to Christ in this prophecy, and make application to the church, since the Lord Jesus taught all Scripture is about Him.

John 5:39-47; Acts 13:27

Luke 24:25-27

7) However, when trying to hear the multi-layers of biblical prophecy don't forget to start with the Old Testament fulfillment first.

Zerubbabel and the Signet

1) Because of Israel's sins God sent the evil Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem, including the Temple and to send God's people back to Babylon as slaves.

a) This is exemplified by God removing the royal signet ring of the King of Judah.

b) Jeremiah 22:24-25 – *“As I live,’ declares the LORD, ‘even though Coniah (i.e. Jehoiachin, the evil king of Judah, who was defeated by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar and was the grandfather of Zerubbabel) the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were a signet ring (hō·tām) on My right hand, yet I would pull you off; and I will give you over into the hand of those who are seeking your life, yes, into the hand of those whom you dread, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chaldeans.”*

2) In Haggai 2:23 God has put the ring back on the new ruler of Israel, the governor Zerubbabel.

a) Zerubbabel led the first group to return home.

Ezra 2:1; Neh 7:1-7

b) Zerubbabel is the main person God uses to rebuild His House.

Haggai; Zech 4:6ff

c) Even the angels rejoice when Zerubbabel takes the plumb line in hand to rebuild God's House as described in the prophecies of Zechariah.

Zech 4:6-10

Zech 3:9; Rev 8:2

3) In Zerubbabel's lifetime great things have happened: Babylon has been destroyed, God's people have returned, and all those “great” empires that have, and will, plague God's people will be destroyed. (Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, etc., are no more.)

Ezek 26:16; 39:20

Dan 7:1-12

Joel 3:9,16

Zeph 3:8

⁵ “Day of the Lord.” = Is 13:6,9; 58:13; Lam 2:22; Ezek 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1,11,31; 3:14; Amos 5:18,20; Obad 15; Zeph 1:7-8,14,18; 2:2-3; Mal 4:5; Acts 2:20; 1Cor 5:5; 1Thes 5:2; 2Thes 2:2; 2Pet 3:10. “The Lord's Day” = Rev 1:10. “In that day” = Lev 7:35; Num 32:10; Deut 31:17-18; 1Sam 3:12; 8:18; (40 times in Isaiah); Jer 4:9; 48:41; 49:22,26; 50:30; Hos 2:16,18,21; Joel 3:18; Amos 2:16; 8:3,9,13; 9:11; Micah 4:6; 5:10; Zeph 3:11,16; (20 times in Zechariah); Mark 2:20; Luke 6:23; 10:12; John 14:20; 16:23,26.

⁶ To give a few examples:

- 2Samuel 7:8-17 is both about King Solomon and Jesus Christ.
- Isaiah 7:14-16 is both about a baby born during the reign of Ahaz & Jesus Christ.
- Ezekiel 28:11-19 is both about the fall of Satan and the evil king of Tyre.
- Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11 is both about the destruction of the Temple in c. 167 BC, the destruction of the Temple 70 AD and the near destruction of the church in the end times during the Great Tribulation. (Matt 24:15; Mark 13:14; Luke 21:20)
- Joel 2:28-32 is both about OT king Josiah, and the NT Pentecost, and the future end of the age. (Acts 2:14ff; Rev 6:12ff)
- Zechariah 14:6-9 is both about the 1st & 2nd Advent of Christ.
- Also see: Deut 17:14-20; Micah 5:1ff; Matt 24:1ff (24:34); Luke 10:18.

- 4) From this House an unshakable Kingdom will come. Dan 2:44; Mic 5:10; 7:16; Heb 12:26-27
- a) The Messiah, the Anointed of God, the Christ, will come and bring peace. Is 42:1; 43:10
- b) The Messiah will be of the line of King David, which Zerubbabel is of. Matt 1:12-13
Luke 3:27
- c) Because the true Temple is Christ and His Church, the OT Temple being just a shadow and a figure. John 2:21; 1Cor 6:19;
Eph 1:22-23; Col 2:17;
Heb 8:5; 10:1

Sealed in the New Testament

- 1) The concept of a signet ring (a noun), and being sealed by that ring (a verb), is found in the New Testament also.⁷ Matt 27:66
- 2) The main focus of sealing in the New Testament is the salvation of God's people.
- 3) Interestingly, the NT teaches the sealing works two ways.
- a) From our perspective we put our seal on the truth of God.
- b) Of course, our response in faith is because God has already worked faith in our heart by His grace through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 4) For example, look at John 3:33 - "*He (the believer) who has received His (Christ's) testimony has set his (the believer) seal (sphragizō) to this, that God is true.*"
- a) When we believe in Christ we are "signing up" as it were for the Christian life.
- b) Yet, where is this faith from?
- i) Look at the next verse:
- ii) John 3:34 - "*For He (Jesus) whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.*"
- 5) Or how about Ephesians 1:13-14 - "*In Him (Christ), you (believers) also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you (believers) were sealed (sphragizō) in Him (Christ) with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our (believers & Apostles) inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*"
- a) Remember in the text before, Ephesians 1:3-12, is one of the great biblical texts that teach even our faith is a gift of God, a powerful act of the Holy Spirit going into us.
- b) So when you believe you are not only justified and declared holy/sanctified, Eph 2:1-10
you are also sealed by the Holy Spirit. 1Cor 6:11
- 6) Because we have been sealed with the Spirit we are called to do the work, by God's grace, of remaining faithful.
- a) John 6:27-29 - "*Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal (sphragizō).' Therefore they said to Him, 'What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.'*"

⁷ The Greek NT word for the Hebrew OT of "signet ring" (*hō-tām*) in Haggai 2:23 is the noun "*sphragis*". The verb form of "*sphragis*" is "*sphragizō*", which can be found in:

Sphragis (noun): Rom 4:11; 1Cor 9:2; 2Tim 2:19; Rev 5:1-2,5,9; 6:1,3,5,7,9,12; 7:2; 8:1; 9:4

Sphragizō (verb): Matt 27:66; John 3:33; 6:27; Rom 15:28; 2Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30; Rev 7:3-5,8; 10:4; 20:3; 22:10

- b) God the Father has set His seal on His Son, and the Son has set His seal on us, by and through the Holy Spirit.
- i) Remember how each Person of the Trinity works for our salvation:
- The Father ordains salvation.
 - The Son accomplishes it (by dying on the cross).
 - The Spirit applies it (by giving us faith, dwelling in us, and sealing us).
- ii) All of this is to the praise of the Triune God and our redemption.
- c) Because we have faith, Christ's name – His seal – is on us, and His name is powerful.
- i) His pledge to us is the Holy Spirit in us.
- ii) You have faith in Christ? Then you have the Spirit.
- iii) We have redemption, new life now, and a perfect new life to come.
- iv) We are His and we are protected.
- 7) But we Christians should not grieve the Holy Spirit by our sins, by whom we are "sealed (sphragizō) for the day of redemption." – Ephesians 4:30.
- a) Instead, we must daily strive to remain faithful, trusting that we are sealed by God, because "*the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal (sphragis), 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, (thus) 'Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.'*" – 2Timothy 2:19
- b) But God is gracious and reminds us of His sealing by the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- c) As the Confession defines them as "*holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace*". Rom 4:11
Gen 17:7,10
- 8) The great section of how God unseals all history so that His people will be sealed in/by/for Him is found in Revelation 5-7.
- a) The "seals" of Revelation. Rev 5:1-2,5,9; 6:1,3,5,7,9,12; 7:2-3-5,8; ; 8:1; 9:4; 10:4; 20:3; 22:10
- b) Which we will be preaching through starting next Sunday, as we work our way through Revelation 4-7.
- 9) Let us end with two prayers:
- a) That great line from the song we sang last week: "*Let Thy goodness like a fetter, Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee; Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above.*"
- b) Remember I said a signet is like a wedding ring?
- c) For our second prayer, let us go back to the Old Testament on last time.
- i) To that great OT poetry book that is an allegory about the love affair between Christ and His bride (i.e. the church): The Song of Songs.
- ii) Hear the Bride, the church, us saints, praying to Christ: "*Put me like a seal (literally a signet, ḥô-tām) over Your heart, like a seal (ḥô-tām) on Your arm. For love is as strong as death, jealousy is as severe as Sheol; Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD. Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it; If a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised.*" – Song of Songs 8:6-7
- iii) Christ, our Bridegroom responds, "*O you who sit in the gardens, My companions are listening for your voice— Let me hear it!*" – Song of Songs 8:13