

The Lost Book

"I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD"
(II Kings 22:8).

The situation had become so bad among God's people that they did not have a single copy of the Book of the Law. King Josiah had ordered a repair job on the temple of God and, while they were rummaging around to do this, Hilkiah, the High Priest, found the lost book. He brought it to Shaphan, the secretary, and Shaphan took it before Josiah. He said, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book."

Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king and, "when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes, saying, 'We have not obeyed the words of this book and have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us.'" The king called all of the people together and had all the words of the book read to the people. This sparked a reformation and restoration among God's people. The idols were torn down, the Asherah pole was taken from the temple, the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes were destroyed. All of the idols were burned.

Is the Bible a lost book among God's people today? Is it possible that the Bible could be buried in the midst of a lot of programs and activities? Could not the lives of Christians be so filled with the trivia and the rubbish of the world that the Bible becomes a lost book? To find out how important the Bible is in our lives, we need to ask a few questions such as, "When was the last time we read the Bible through?" "Are we reading the Bible every day as compared with being a daily television viewer?"

If the Bible is the most important book in the world for Christians to read, why do we spend more time with newspapers, paperback books and magazines than we do with this book? The Bible can be a lost book in our homes. Our children are not brought up reading it, because parents cannot be seen reading it. We call ourselves "people of the book," a wonderful title indeed, if it is true. If we are the people of the book, then let us

The Addition of the Law—4

Galatians 3:19 asks the question, "Wherefore then serveth the law?" The answer then follows, "It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made." To what was it "added" and why? We continue our quest to answer these and other questions from Galatians 3.

Previously we noticed the temporary nature of the law of Moses as revealed in Galatians 3:19. It was "added," indicative of its beginning point (and the fact that there was something already in existence to which it was added); and, it was "added...till," indicative of an ending point. To what then was the law of Moses "added" and why? The context reveals that it was added to the promise made to Abraham (Galatians 3:16-18). It was added to that promise "because of transgressions". Transgressions left unchecked would prevent man from being in fellowship with God (Isaiah 59:1, 2). The law of Moses was given in preparation for the coming seed of Abraham. The law pointed out sin for what it was. Paul said, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." (Romans 3:20); and "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet" (Romans 7:7). The law of Moses pointed out what sin was, but provided no lasting remedy for sin's effects, since only the perfect blood of Jesus could do that (Hebrews 10:1-10). Hence, the law of Moses was added to the promise of Abraham in order to bring man to a greater knowledge of sin and a more ready disposition to accept "the seed" of Abraham.

Interestingly, Jesus said of the Jews (the recipients of the law of Moses), "Search the scriptures; for in them [i.e., in the mere possession of them] ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). He told them they knew not the Scriptures (Mark 12:24) and that they had rejected the commands of God (Mark 7:9). No wonder they were not willing to accept (continued)

The Lost Book (continued)

following it obediently in all phases of our personal lives. Why not determine to read the Bible every day? Do not let the Bible be a lost book in the ruins of the temple.

James Draper
Via Gloster ST "Messenger"

The Addition of the Law—4 (continued)

the Christ when He came. They had rejected the very law that was to prepare them for His coming. Eddy

Sunday Night

Surely mixed emotions attend the title when the services of the church are considered. The published sources show about half those in attendance on Sunday morning are absent on Sunday night. The congregations that enjoy consistent attendance numbers at all their services are the rare exception. While Christians know not to be forsaking the assembly, many must believe an exception maintains with regard to Sunday night (Hebrews 10:25). Perhaps an investigation of the question, "Does the Bible have anything at all to say about attendance at the worship service Sunday night? Might prove beneficial.

The Bible clearly advances the case for evening worship. The Psalmist declared, "*Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD*" (Psalm 134:1). The Apostle Paul expressed the view that living the Christian life was the fulfillment of the hope of Israel who had served God day and night. When Paul was brought before King Agrippa, he said unto him, "*Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews*" (Acts 26:7). How can Christians who attend services only on Sunday morning identify with such a promise as this? The point of the statement emerges out of the continual service of the faithful from old, yet a characteristic of their faith was service both "day and night".

But, are there any New Testament examples showing where disciples of Christ actually met at night? Oh, yes. The Lord Himself instituted the supper commemorating His death at night. The Apostle Matthew told how the event was concluded, "*And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives. Then said Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad*" (Matthew 26:30-31).

Another time, following the death of the Apostle James, Herod incarcerated Peter. Luke wrote, "*Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church of God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door of the prison*" (Acts 12:5-6). Upon his release from prison that night, Peter made

his way to the house of Mary the mother of John Mark "*where many were gathered together praying*" (Vs. 12). Further proof that the brethren were gathered together praying at night on this occasion is seen when Peter departed, because Luke next wrote, "*Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter*" (Vs. 18).

Shall the study proceed to examine Paul and Silas imprisoned at Philippi worshipping at midnight, or Paul at Troas preaching until midnight (Acts 16:25; 20:7)? Obviously, New Testament examples abound that demonstrate worship is not confined to a Sunday morning only event.

What shall the conclusion then be concerning worship on Sunday night? Surely, it has been established that the admonition of Hebrews 10:25 applies with equal strength to this meeting of the church. The Hebrews writer said, "*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised:) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries*" (Hebrews 10:22-27).

G a r y
McDade

vai "Good News from Getwell"
Getwell c/C, Memphis, TN

Prayer of Supplication

Lord, give me strength to do my work,
Good health along the way
To persevere, if obstacles
Confront me day by day.

Let not my doubts outshine my faith
And cause me undue stress;
Instill in me the gift of joy
That knows You're near to bless.

Lord, keep me sweet and pure in heart
Not heeding evil's call...

But deeper going with Thee, my Lord,
Uplift me, if I fall.

Your Gospel is my Guiding Light.
Use me to spread Thy Word;
To strengthen others with Thy truths
In case they have not heard.

Gene Appleby

*"Thy word have I hid in mine heart,
that I might not sin against thee."
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path."*

SICK

(at home) **Peggy Paxton** (pneumonia). **Cindy Angelotti**, Sandy Garby's sister, tests on Wednesday; **Linda Fike**, her cousin, surgery. **Betty Garby**, Bob's mom, is at home after being hospitalized w/an infection in her leg. **Georgia Pyott (93)**, Patti Gwaltney's mom, is recovering from surgery to remove a mass from her abdomen. **Missy Reynolds**, friend of Kim Brown, is 5 weeks pregnant and had to have massive radiation to her kidneys; is concerned about her baby. **Russ Danstrom**, Mitch Jearls' supervisor, has cancer. **Bob Barber**, Addie Dorsett's brother-in-law, suffered a massive stroke. **Eddy Mullins**, friend of Evelyn White, is in serious condition w/liver problems. **Travis Wilson**, student of Squeaky Valentine, Community Hospital w/double pneumonia. **David Grubb, Sr.**, RMH, 637.

Continue to remember: **Mary & Lynn Anderson**, **Norma Biller**, **Betty Buckner**, **Willard Campbell**, **Marguerite Charles**, **Owen Cosgrove**, **David Grubb, Jr.** (recovering from surgery), **Harry DeHart**, **Jim Dorsett**, **Cory Driver**, **Andy Duran**, **Paul Faw**, **Tony Glass**, **Collin & Luetta Gregory**, **Luke Guard**, **Patti Gwaltney**, **Glenn & Jo Hartman**, **Ron Hasenbeck**, **Dee House**, **Dan Hudgins** (got a good report from his bone marrow test—no leukemia), **A.C & Mickie Janney**, **Robert Jeffries**, **Betty Jenkins**, **Martha Keith**, **Lisa Knott** (was readmitted to Baptist Hospital for additional surgery to remove infection from the bone in her skull; is in ICU), **Margaret Kratz**, **Oliver & Miriam Majors**, **Buddy Martin**, **Sophia Mays**, **Randall Mitchell**, **Donnie & Susan Mountcastle**, **Jo Musgrove**, **Rick Perry**, **Larry Phillips** (Troy has one more test; if he passes, surgery is a "go"), **Murphy & Evelyn Scott**, **Annette Shrader**, **Peggy Simpkins**, **Ruth Stanton**, **Ken Upchurch** (back at work part-time), **Velma Vaughan**, **David Wertz**, **David Wilcox**, **Evelyn White**, **Jessica White**, **Teresa White** (Salem Health & Rehab), **E.V.** (consultation for pacemaker implant, 10/3) & **Effie Wimmer**, **W.J. Wood**

REJOICE! **Rebecca Doss** was baptized by Tom Rogers on Sunday morning. **Lisa Hawks** has been restored to faithful service and is worshipping with her family at Dale Ridge. We rejoice with these families.

SYMPATHY: We extend our sympathy to **E.V. Wimmer**, whose nephew John Kennedy, died on Wednesday and to **Gloria Kinney & Tina Smith** in the loss of their mother, Ruby Riffle, last Sunday.

MISSIONARIES: the Staffords and the TZ2000 team.

MILITARY: **Ty Stricklin** (has begun out-processing for coming home; should be back in the States by the end of September), **John Shannon** and **Gabriel Hayes** who are in Iraq. **Jonathan Chumley**, Kosovo; **Jonathan Simpson** will be returning to Iraq on 10/1. **OTHER:** **Brandy Hall**, 32-yr. old wife and mother, cousin of Renee Galloway (Kensington Woods) is missing in Florida. On-going Bible studies; "Restore 2006"

TEAM 4 (ROGERS)/GUARD SUB-GROUP

Joe & Amanda Brown, **Chelsea High**, **A.C. & Mickie Janney**, **Roger & Dorothy Mays & Karen Munsey** will meet at Famous Anthony's today after services for lunch. Please RSVP to **Danny Guard** before morning worship.

A man who wants to lead the orchestra
must turn his back on the crowd.

THIS WEEK AT WEST SIDE

Today: "Restore 2006" letter-writing, 4:45pm in fellowship room. Youth Bible study at Teen Center after pm service. Happy anniversary to **Lynn & Mary Anderson!**

Monday: Area-wide preachers' meeting, 10:30am. Happy birthday to **Bonnie Mellon!**

Tuesday: W.O.W. meeting, 10:30am LNO, 7pm.

Wednesday: Bible Study, 7pm. Happy anniversary to **Eric & Michelle Earnhart!**

Thursday: Happy birthday to **Chris Tyler & W.J. Wood!**

Friday: Happy birthday to **Duane Crowe**, **Margaret Kratz & Brian Munsey!**

Saturday: Happy birthday to **Jimmy Harrington!**

Sunday, 9/17: Deadline to register for Suffolk's Ladies' Day. Happy anniversary to **Jeff & Rebecca Durham** and **Mitch & Kristie Jearls!**

The office will be closed next week and there will be no bulletin as Eddy and Glenna will both be out of town. Next week's calendar is below:

Monday: Happy birthday to **James Cooke!**

Wednesday: Bible study, 7pm

Saturday: Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Famous Anthony's, 8am. Happy anniversary to **Gene & Nancy Benefield!**

Sunday, 9/24: Happy birthday to **Bradford Durham!** Happy anniversary to **Herbert & Shirley Baker!**

TURN, TURN, TURN 2006

"You Can't Always Have It Your Way" (**Learning Contentment**) (Philippians 4:11; Luke 2:52). **Celicia Grider** of Collierville, TN, will be the featured speaker on **Saturday, October 7**. Activities begin at 8:30am with a continental breakfast. There is no cost for this year's event. Registration forms are available on the table in the foyer. Registration deadline is September 27.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS

Torengos (tortilla chips in a can), zip lock bags (any size)



BONES

The body of every organization has four kinds of BONES:

* There are "wish-bones" who hope someone else will do all the work.

* There are "jaw-bones" who do all the talking but little else.

* There are "knuckle-bones" who knock everything that anybody else tries to do.

* Finally, there are the "back-bones" who get under the load and do all the work.

What kind of bone are you?

Talk, and you'll say something you already know, but listen, and you'll learn something new.

He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.—Proverbs 17:27



Opportunities to Serve **September 2006**
Announcements Tom Duff
Reader (PM) Garrett Durham
Preside Squeaky Valentine
Serve . . Gene Benefield, John Black, Adam House, George Mellon
(PM) David Brown, Mike Durham

Opening Prayer
9/3 Charles Gwaltney, (PM) Glann Hartman
9/10 Fred Altizer, (PM) Ortie Boyd
9/17 Gary Sartain, (PM) Bob Garby
9/24 Tom Richardson, (PM) Paul Mays

Closing Prayer
9/3 Murphy Scott, (PM) Jim Harrington
9/10 A.C. Janney, (PM) James Cooke
9/17 Don Pettit, (PM) Greg Edwards
9/24 Collin Gregory, (PM) Herbert Baker

Greeters Jenkins, Mellons
Open/Close Building Tom Richardson
Care of Communion Freda Overton, Melissa Marshall
alternate, Susan Mountcastle

Song Leaders
Sunday . . (AM) J. Durham, (PM) C. Gwaltney. . . (Wed.) B. Garby
Care of Baptismal Garments JoAnn Edwards
Ushers Norris Gearhart, Roger Mays
Nursery Becky Cooke, (PM) Teresa Sartain
Alternates Mark Brooks, David Brown
Handouts Paul Faw, Curtis Oakes, Richard & Ryan Simms
Doorman Fred Altizer; alternate, Bob Garby

OUR RECORD 8/30, 9/3, 2006
Wednesday 147
Sunday Bible Study 161
Sunday Morning Worship 211
Sunday Evening Worship 137
Contribution \$6,159.00
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Like the Map

When I read in the Bible that God is love, I am to believe it, just because “it is written,” and not because I have had any inward revelation that it is true. And when the Bible says that He cares for us as He cares for the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, and that the very hairs of our heads are all numbered, I am to believe it, just because it is written, whether I have had any inward revelation of it or not.

It is of vital importance for us to understand that the Bible is a statement, not of theories, but of actual facts. Things are not true because they are in the Bible, but they are only in the Bible because they are true.

A little boy, who had been studying at school about the discovery of America, said to his father one day, “Father, if I had been Columbus, I should not have taken all that trouble to discover America.”

Why, what would you have done?” asked the father.

“Oh,” replied the little boy, “I would just have gone to the map and found it.”

This little boy did not understand that maps are only pictures of already-known places, that America did not exist because it was on the map, but it could not be on the map until it was known to exist. The Bible, like the map, is a simple statement of facts; when it tells us that God loves us, it is only telling us something that is a fact.

Hannah Whitall Smith