



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVI

June 11, 2023

No. 24

Hope for the Future

It is impossible for us to imagine the emotional rollercoaster endured by young Daniel and his three friends. They had lived all of their lives in one of the most spiritual times in the history of the Jews. In the six decades before they were born, king Manasseh and king Amon, had brought idols into Solomon's glorious temple. Yet Daniel grew up knowing only of the temple worship which Josiah had restored. For the two decades before they were taken to Babylon, the worship of God had been restored—they knew nothing of idolatrous worship. If you marvel at Daniel's faith, remember that the world in which he lived was a world where the Jews faithfully served God.

Three years after Josiah's death, Daniel was taken by Nebuchadnezzar to serve him in Babylon. That "rollercoaster of faith" descended into a pagan world saturated with immorality. After Daniel and his friends arrived in Babylon, idol worship began to flourish once again because of the new kings, sons of Josiah. Nebuchadnezzar would soon make two more assaults against Israel and finally destroy the holy city. Jeremiah was in Jerusalem and watched as Jerusalem was filled with false prophets. They prophesied that Nebuchadnezzar would return the holy temple vessels taken from the temple and be defeated by the Jews. These prophets were courageously confronted by Jeremiah for twenty-three years (Jer. 25:3). The world in which Daniel had been reared no longer existed. Sin had returned to Judah and God had sent the sword, famine and pestilence to try to get the Jews to see His judgment and return to Him.

Jeremiah sent a letter to those Jews who had already been taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. It specifically told them they would be in Babylon for seventy years, but then the prophet told them of God's promise. "I know the thoughts I have toward you...to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11). Two chapters later, God said, "There is hope in your future...that your children shall come back to their own border" (31:17).

How could there possibly be hope? The temple was destroyed, the city was leveled and the only physical connection Daniel could have with Jerusalem was to go to his window and pray in the direction of the ruins of the temple. How could there be hope when Nebuchadnezzar demanded all those in Babylon worship his golden idol. (Remember the fiery furnace?)

There was no physical evidence there would ever be a return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. How could there be hope when they were in a hopeless situation? The answer is simple. God promised them a future and God cannot lie. Are you on a "rollercoaster of faith"? Has your world collapsed around you? Have hope, for God cannot lie about your future!

*Dan Jenkins
Palm Beach Lakes Church of Christ
West Palm Beach, FL*

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Harold Davis, Mary Bolen
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
Sandra Jordan, Fredie Stewart,
Cindy Kidder, Garmelia Ellis,
Roberta Donaldson, Lisa Dukes,
Doug Crouse, Norma Cogdell
Margie Montgomery, Sue Harris,
Betty Mosely, Teriyaki Anderson
James Morris, Freeman Kidder,
Andy Vaughn, Pearl Johnson,
Ken & Paula Wadley, Judy Ellis
Charles & Ruby Malone,
Phillip Mulins, Jerry Crabb,
Karen Chance, Mary Lewis,
Harrial Davis, Jerry Butcher

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood, Helen Morris
Beverly Martindale,
Allen Thompson
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,
Shirley Bolin, Brandi Rogers,
Jeanette Manley, Corey Allen
Kenton Lancaster, Glenn Lovell,
Marilyn Ferrell, Justin Puckett
Ramona Thurston, April Richey
David Briley

Today's Sermons

AM - There's Hope
Colossians 1:27

PM - The Amazing Love of God
1 John 4:7-8

Happenings

South Jackson

June 24

Congregational Breakfast

June 25

Men's Business Meeting

Cards to Send

Norma Cogdell
19 Dixie Lane
Jackson, TN 38301

Nadine McDonald
41 Chester Levee Road
Jackson, TN 38301

Weekly Record

6 AM	6
Bible Class	44/6
AM Worship	73/10
PM Worship	45/0
Wed Bible Study	54/0
Contribution	2945

Pantry Item

Canned Soup

Those Privileged to Serve

June 11 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - M. Wages, J. Smith

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Jeff Bliss

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Marion Thomas

Communion: Van McConnell

Contribution:

Ronald Clouse

June 18 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Pack, R. Clouse

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Costel Gimphu

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder

Communion: Marion Thomas

Contribution:

Jeff Bliss

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: John Smith
Opening Prayer: Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ken Ross

Communion: Mike Wages

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer: Ken Ross

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Mikke Wages

Communion: Marion Thomas

June 14 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: John Smith

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Devo - Ray Pack

June 21 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Ray Pack

Devo - Marion Thomas

South Jackson Church of Christ

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(731) 437-9501

Service Times

Early Worship	6:00 AM
Gospel of Christ - Fox 16	9:30 AM
Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Midweek Bible Study	6:30 PM