



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

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America, Hope, and the Valley of Achor

The parallel between the demise of the Jewish nation as they headed for captivity and the demise in our land is so striking. We know specifically that God had chosen the nation of Israel and brought them into a land flowing with milk and honey. The remarkable history of America and its elevation to being a world power in it such a short time is almost unheard of in world history. We are not God's chosen nation, but we have been brought into our land of blessings.

Look carefully at how the Jews responded to their blessings. They lived in the abundance He gave to them, but almost immediately forgot about the One who gave them such blessings. Our land was born under the banner being one nation under God. Isn't it remarkable how our nation is now doing all it can to be one nation out from under God!

As the northern kingdom of Israel was about to be destroyed God sent His messenger, Hosea, to make a final appeal. What was that message? Where could that nation who had left God find in hope of reconciliation? Hear the words of Hosea. "I will give her...the valley of Achor as a door of hope" (Hos. 2:17). The hope of Israel was to be found in a valley that was part of the birth of that nation (Josh. 7).

The young nation of Israel had just captured the city of Jericho as God collapsed the walls of that fortified city. He was with them! The joyful prospect of now conquering the rest of the land with God's help was within the heart of every Jew. God had promised that land to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and now He was giving it to them. The pagan nations seemed powerless before Him. To the Jews' amazement, they came to the next city, Ai, and were soundly defeated. What had happened? The answer is found in the valley of Achor.

The nation was not aware that one man had taken some of the spoils of Jericho which had been sanctified as belonging to God and hid them in his tent. The small village of Ai had routed the mighty army of God. Why? Because of the sin of one man. How did God look at that sin? He made it an example for every Jew as they conquered the rest of the land.

What did they do to this man? More importantly, where were they when they dealt with the sin? They stoned that man, Achan, and his entire family. They burned all his possessions and raised a heap of stones as a "memorial" to the importance of dealing with sin. Where was the monument? It was in the valley of Achor (Josh. 7:25-26).

That valley was the only hope Israel had of surviving in Hosea's day. Their failure to deal with sin was their demise. America has left God. Perhaps it is time we go the valley of Achor and find the only hope we have!

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,
Clara Williams, Jane Graves
Charles & Ruby Malone,
Jeff Bliss

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood, Helen Morris
Beverly Martindale,
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,
Jeffrey Smith, Betty Turner,
Shirley Bolin, Brandi Rogers,
Jeanette Manley, Wayne Warren
Kenton Lancaster,
Marilyn Ferrell,
Ramona Thurston,
Justin Puckett

Sunday Sermon's

AM - Results of the Abudant Life
Matthew 5:10-12

PM - God's Preserving Love
Psalm 36

Happenings

South Jackson

Dorcas class will start again on
September 13th. See Ray to
get a study guide for the class.
Class starts at 10 AM.

Area Events

Several are posted on the
bulletin Board

Cards to Send

Helen Morris
5 Herron Street
Jackson, TN 38301

Costel & Lana Gimphu
32 Southside Drive
Jackson, TN 38301

Weekly Record

6 AM	5
Bible Class	40/12
AM Worship	79/34
PM Worship	48/10
Wed Bible Study	47/5
Contribution	2663

Pantry Item

Macaroni & Cheese

Those Privileged to Serve

Aug 21 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Clouse, J. Smith

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Charlie Richardson

Opening Prayer:

Freeman Kidder

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder

Communion: Joe Venable

Contribution:

Jonathan Orr

Aug 28 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Pack, M. Wages

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Costel Gimphu

Opening Prayer:

Carleton Kidder

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Joe Venable

Communion: Paul Hatcher

Contribution:

Billy Landers

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Marion Thomas

Opening Prayer:

Paul Hatcher

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ken Ross

Communion: Mike Wages

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Singing Night

Closing Prayer: Mike Wages

Communion: Paul Hatcher

Aug 24 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Marion Thomas

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Devotional: Ray Pack

Aug 31 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Devotional: Marion Thomas

South Jackson Church of Christ

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(731) 437-9501

Service Times

Early Worship	6:00 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