



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

[www.nacoc.us](http://www.nacoc.us)

February 13, 2018

## Israel Taken Captive

Mike King



There is a likeness of Israel in the wilderness and the New Testament church (Acts 7:38). They were God's people striving to negotiate the salvation of their nation through numerous challenges and their own personal deficiencies. Lessons are to be learned today by the Lord's church from the mistakes they made that could prevent the church from being taken captive by sin, carnality and denominationalism. Paul expressed to the Romans that the things that were written before were for our learning (Rom 15:4). It would be in our best interest to listen.

The Psalmist declared that God hates the wicked and will punish it (Ps. 34:12-16) and Peter virtually repeats the same disposition that God hates sin and will see that it does not go unpunished and God will hear and respond to those who are righteous (I Pet. 3:10-12). The sinful people who were referenced in Rev. 6:15-17, whether rulers, mighty men or poor virtually unknowns, would hide in the caves and cry for the rocks to fall on them to avoid the wrath of God.

An interesting observation was given by an author, unknown to this writer that details the scary confrontation of sinful man facing death and God. *"A man may have been hardened in sin as he walked through life crying, 'Where is the Lord?' in impious defiance or presumptuous scorn; but let death come upon him, and the face of God is clearly seen. Death places a man forever, and consciously, before the face of God, with no chance of the victim's ever forgetting the impression which it made upon him."*

A foretaste of national destruction of Israel was given in 2 Kgs. 17:3-4. God often used wicked nations to punish His sinful people. The United Kingdom lasted from 1095 B.C. to 975 B.C., but later divided and the Northern Kingdom became wicked and taken into captivity by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. The Southern Kingdom (Judah) was captured 134 years following the fall of the north by the Babylonians. Each had 19 kings during the time, but due to wickedness, the Northern Kingdom went through their kings faster by 134 years than the southern. They crumbled internally.

Gibbon, in the *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, listed five reasons for the decline of mighty nations. First, an alarming increase in divorce and breaking up of the home. Secondly, higher and higher taxes until the load became unbearable. Thirdly, a mad desire for excitement leading to all sorts of moral extravagances. Fourthly, an increase in political pressure for armaments, but blinded to internal destructive elements. Fifthly, a decline in religion and a withholding of support for character – building institutions. The "real Israel" is the church – are we being led captive?

## Bloom Where You're Planted

At what age did you first learn that the world was not perfect? For most of us, the lesson comes early on. Maybe it was the first day of school. Remember how your mother set you up for what a wonderful day it was going to be? But on that first day, a giant first-grader named Herman pushed you down and sat on you for five minutes, and the teacher didn't seem to think you were nearly as cute as your grandmother did.

You learned it quickly. There are things in the world that are defective, and as time goes on, you keep learning it. High school wasn't perfect either, and neither was college. Your boss on the first job was defective in a lot of ways, and accounting isn't perfect and business isn't perfect, and neither is law or medicine — or even ministry. The church is surely not perfect.

Now face it — whether it involves career or faith or marriage or church or whatever, our first instinct, when we find ourselves in an imperfect situation or facing something defective is to bravely say, "Get me out of here!" Two words that can fall like seeds into our life and take root and almost destroy us are, "if only". "If only I had not taken this job...if only I hadn't majored in business...if only I had not married him/her...if only I had..." and you fill in the blank.

You are where you are so you might as well find and bring out the best in the situation. Bloom where you are planted! Any bad situation can be turned around for good, if a person responds in the right way. A psychologist once interviewed two young men, brothers, whose father had been a hopeless alcoholic. The expert was astounded to find that one son had become a teetotaler and the other a drunk. "How did this happen?" he asked both men. And strangely, both gave exactly the same answer. "What could you expect with a father like mine?"



Describe your own upbringing, your own faith, your own job, your own life. Defective? Imperfect? Of course, but you can make it what you will. Don't dream about some perfect job somewhere or some perfect marriage somewhere or some perfect church somewhere. Bloom right where you're planted! Start in with whatever raw material you have to work with, and change what is defective.

Perhaps Reinhold Niebuhr's prayer says it all for all of us in whatever imperfect circumstance we occupy: "God, grant me the courage to change that which should be changed, the serenity to accept that which cannot be changed, and the wisdom to know the difference." Give us the power to Bloom where we're planted!

~ Tim Woodward

### What Love Is?

(I Cor. 13)

- **Love is:** long suffering, and is kind. (I Cor. 13:4)
- **Love is:** not provoked, thinks no evil (I Cor. 13:5)
- **Love is:** rejoicing in the truth, and not in the iniquity. (I Cor. 13:6)
- **Love:** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (I Cor. 13:7)
- **Love:** never fails. (I Cor. 13:8)



### Bible Sweethearts

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. ADAM _____       | A. SARAH     |
| 2. JOSEPH _____     | B. NAOMI     |
| 3. SAMSON _____     | C. REBEKAH   |
| 4. ABRAHAM _____    | D. RACHEL    |
| 5. ZACHARIAS _____  | E. JEZEBEL   |
| 6. BOAZ _____       | F. SAPPHIRA  |
| 7. URIAH _____      | G. DRUSILLA  |
| 8. NABAL _____      | H. EVE       |
| 9. JACOB _____      | I. MARY      |
| 10. AHAB _____      | J. DELILAH   |
| 11. FELIX _____     | K. ABIGAIL   |
| 12. HEBER _____     | L. BATHSHEBA |
| 13. ISAAC _____     | M. RAHAB     |
| 14. ANANIAS _____   | N. RUTH      |
| 15. ELIMELECH _____ | O. JAEL      |

PRAYER LIST



Katie Grantham, friend of Jamie Crow is scheduled to have open-heart surgery Feb. 20th.

Sandra Davis, daughter of Betty Boren is improving and is undergoing rehab at the Tupelo Hospital.

Larry Cobb will have eye surgery Feb. 13th, in Memphis.

Bobby White, if all goes well will have his final chemo treatment this week.

Brian Carpenter is at home recovering from carpal tunnel surgery.

Terry Young has been moved to Magnolia Place room 39, 1515 Munsford Dr. New Albany, 38652.

Continue to Remember: Bill Almon, William Bailey, Betty Boren, Willie Ann Bryant, Jimmy Burlison, Kurt Clayton, David Crossings, Preeble Foster, Ray Franks, Violette Glass, Phillip Haynes, Shane Hutton, Johnny Lee, Bobby Marques, Nancy Petrowski, J.D. Stroud, Sam Warrington, Bobby White, Tommy Young.

Shut-Ins: Teresa Clark, Maurine Drummond, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Grace Anderson, Jean Drummond, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Cornelia Kennedy, Ernestine McKinney, Mary Frances Reid, Price & Claudia Senter, Ione Wall, Terry Young

Military List: Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley & Chase Seals

Expectant Mothers: Sallye Bowlin (boy) April

Echoes of Love

The other day a boy refused to obey his mother. Angri-ly he ran to a ravine and cried, "I hate you!" Suddenly the words came echoing back, "I hate you!" Frightened, the boy ran to his mother and said, "There's a bad man in the woods. I heard him say, "I hate you."

Knowing what had happened she said, "Go back and say, "I love you." The little boy called out, "I love you." And the same words came back to him. "Son," she said, "this is a law of life, what you give, you get. What you say, you hear."

The Bible says "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap" (Gal. 6:7).

I've Learned...

"We are shaped and fashioned by what we love."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



February 15. . . . . Greg Clayton

February 19. . . . . Barbara Crotts

February 22. . . . . Jennie Bell

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February 21. . . . . Price & Claudia Senter



FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY!

The date for this year's Friends and Family Day has been set for March 4th. Please mark this date on your calendar and make plans to be present and bring someone with you. Together we will enjoy a great day of worship and fellowship. There will be a noon meal and the afternoon service will begin at 1:15.



GUEST SPEAKERS SUNDAY

We will have two guest speakers Sun., Feb. 18th. Garret Cook, student from Freed-Hardeman University will be here to teach the teenage class and preach for the am service. He will be trying out for our summer youth intern. Sun. evening, Tyler Boyd, son-in law of Troy and Novene Robertson will be speaking for us. Mike and Sheila will be in a Gospel Meeting in Athens, AL over the weekend.

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

- Lads to Leaders participants to meet each Sunday evening at 5:00 for practice.
Junior Bible Bowl will be held Sun. Feb. 18th, at the Mayfield Church of Christ, at 2:00pm.
Our third Sunday night fellowship will be held following service Feb. 18th. You are asked to bring finger foods and desserts. Adult 2 class will be in charge.
February's Youth Devo will be held Sun. night Feb. 25th, with Will and Sallye Bowlin hosting.

CONGREGATIONAL THEME:

Working as God's team in 2018!

Visit our website @ http://www.nacoc.us

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30  
 Morning Worship.....10:30  
 Evening Worship.....6:00  
 Wednesday Bible Study....7:00

## MINISTER

Mike King ..... 507-0625  
 Home..... 534-6872  
 Office ..... 534-4649

## ELDERS

Richard Jennings .....316-1305  
 Troy Robertson .....316-3163  
 Phil Young.....316-2059

## DEACONS

Greg Clayton .....252-9762  
 Roger Clayton ..... 538-8195  
 Shane Crotts.....316-6364  
 Jason Jennings.....801-3260  
 Randy Wall ..... 316-9255

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....Caleb Jennings  
 A.M. Prayer.....Phillip Young  
 Closing Prayer....Roger Clayton  
 P.M. Prayer.....Hunter Jennings  
 Closing .....Ronnie Griggs  
 Wed. 2/21.....Paul Ormon  
 Wed.2/21.....Roger Clayton  
 Lock 2/18.....Jason Jennings  
 Usher 2/18.....Jason Jennings

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....85  
 Sunday A.M.....115  
 Sunday P.M.....70  
 Wednesday.....73  
 Contribution.....\$3,645.18  
 Budget.....\$4,385.16



## PANTRY ITEMS

Peanut butter

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## Relationships Are Like Old Barns

A farmer was devastated when his barn's roof fell in. Someone asked him, "What happened?" He explained that the roof had been leaking so long that the timbers just rotted through. One's initial thought is why did he let the roof get so bad before fixing it?



The farmer's response: "Well it just seemed when the weather was good, there weren't no need for it, and when it rained, it was too wet to work on it."

Relationships are much like that old barn. Could it be that some of our relationships are on the brink of collapsing because efforts have not been made all along to strengthen their infrastructure? What is likely to happen to them eventually?

How many marriages will fall apart tomorrow because, while at the moment things are good, constant efforts are not made to strengthen the resolve to love one another "until death do us part"? (Ephesians 5:23-33).

How many children will leave home never to communicate with father and mother again because at this moment fathers are not involved in their children's lives, and mothers are not instilling discipline in them to grow up to be faithful Christians? (Ephesians 6:1-4).

While today may be a good day, don't forget that tomorrow a storm could come. Want good, healthy relationships? Commit regularly to the little things so that when the big issues arise, the roof does not collapse.

~ Neil Richey ~