



Today's Sermons

Morning: Daniel Koen
 Evening: Daniel Koen

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	22
Sunday AM Worship	32
Sunday PM Worship	17
Wed. Bible Study	26
Offering	\$1675



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The Bible: See — Lost and Found
 Carl B. Garner

If you have ever lost anything, you know how frustrating it can be. If it was valuable, you were concerned, even alarmed. It is not unusual for us to lose an item and not even know we have lost it until we need it. This is just what happened to Israel over 2,500 years ago. It is hard to imagine that you could lose the “book of the law of the Lord,” especially “in the house of the Lord” (2 Chron. 34:15). But it happened during the reign of Amon, grandson of Hezekiah and father of Josiah, during whose reign it was found. Josiah became king at the age of 8 years, but it was still another 18 years before the lost book was found. Perhaps the strangest thing about this situation is that the book was lost and then later found right there in the “house of the Lord.” How could that happen?

Though not perfect, Josiah was a righteous man. The Bible says he “...did that which is right in the sight of the Lord...and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left” (2 Kings 22:2). That was not because of either his father’s or his grandfather’s examples, for both of them, Amon and Manasseh, were wicked. His great-grandfather, Hezekiah, is regarded by many as the greatest of the post-division kings; and he may have influenced Josiah. The prophets, Jeremiah,

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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship:...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

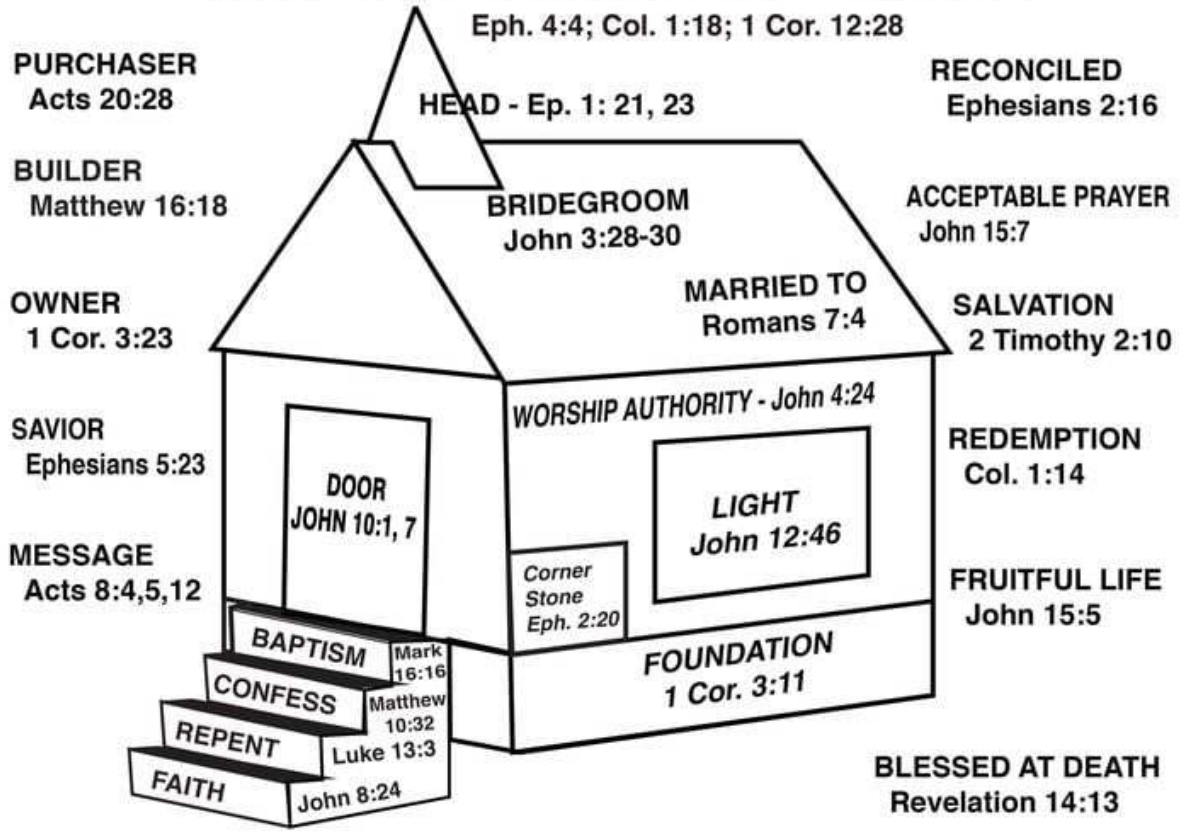
Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 “Back to the Bible”
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

WHY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:28



Zephaniah and Habakkuk did their work in the same general era of Josiah's reign.

During the eighteenth year of his reign, Josiah authorized certain repairs to the Temple; and as this was being done, Shaphan the scribe came to the king and said in 2 Kings 22:10-11 "Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes."

He immediately initiated a restoration of God's Word, and many needed changes were made. As a gospel preacher, I cannot read these words without realizing that God's Book has been and still can be lost to many in our generation. While it may seem incredible that it could happen, no one can deny that it has happened.

Today's Lost Books

Someone recently grieved that we have lost the book of Etiquette, yet others suggest a book on proper dress needs to be "found." The Bible, while not lost in the sense that we do not have a Bible, is, for all practical purposes, lost to many. We can have a Bible but never read or study it, making it essentially lost. Some read their Bible, but have little respect for it, substituting their own preferences in doctrine, worship and lifestyle. Others have translated the Bible in such a way as to obscure the thought of the original words inspired by the Holy Spirit. For all the value of such "translations," the Book of God may as well be lost.

How Did It Happen?

I can't tell you how the book was lost, but I can tell you what they did to solve the problem. It may be that this procedure needs to be reinstated in a day characterized by a lack of respect for the authority of Scripture. Perhaps if we do what they did, we can bring back a measure of reverence to a book that is "lost" to many today. Make a note of their course of action:

1. Josiah removed all remnants of Baal worship. He "commanded Hilkiah the priest...to bring forth out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal...and he burned them" (2 Kings 23:4). One cannot be true to God and not banish every vestige of rebellion.
2. All of the priests who participated in or encouraged the worship of idols were removed, verse 5. Truth must be honored even if some "priests" must be replaced.
3. Houses of the sodomites (male prostitutes) in the land, were burned and destroyed, along with remnants of their idol worship, verse 7. You cannot leave intact the symbols of rebellion without encouraging the practice of rebellion.

4. They removed all of the altars made to worship Ashtoreth, Milcom and Chemosh, their neighbors' pagan "gods". Not only did they remove them; they "broke in pieces the images," (2 Kings 23:13-14). Error and sin must be removed or the disease will return.
5. They reinstated the worship God had originally ordained, along with all the associated activities, verse 21f. In other words, they restored the worship and commandments that had originally been given to them.

What does this have to do with us? Are we in danger of losing the Bible? Is there a danger that the church Jesus built will die? No, His church will not die, but His message of redemption can be kept from a lost generation (2 Cor. 4:1-3). There is also the danger that the Israel of God today can become the Israel of Josiah's day—rebellious, apathetic, lost in religious error. His church will survive (Dan. 2:44), but will we?

Josiah's solution was very simple. Remove all worship not authorized by God and replace it with a "thus saith the Lord," as authorized by God, in both theory and practice.

The same thing will work today. It is not likely that we will lose the Book as they did. We may lose our love for truth, our determination to live by it, our love for the God who gave it, our willingness to teach it. That is what happened to Israel then, and it could happen today. By the way, do you know where your Bible is?

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"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Hebrews 4:11-13).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 2 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Service
- Aug 9 – Men's Business Meeting and Ladies' Bible Class
- Sept 6 – Men's Business Meeting and Ladies' Bible Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Jim Winters