

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Wilfred Derrick—health problems
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—health problems

### Others in Need

- ◆ Rhonda Compton—shoulder surgery recovery
- ◆ Danny Davis—back pain
- ◆ Joyce Faulk—health problems
- ◆ Hailey Haas—health problems
- ◆ Dawn Holloway—at home now
- ◆ Tony Jones—Parkinson's
- ◆ Kyla, Denise's daughter—pregnancy complications
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Thomas Patterson—health issues
- ◆ Shane Price—cancer
- ◆ Jason Rickmon—cancer, chemo
- ◆ Larry Shappley—hospice care
- ◆ Yoel Urra—improving
- ◆ Craig Wray—cancer
- ◆ Pray for Christians overseas, such as those facing persecution in

Continued in next column...

Pakistan and certain parts of India.

- ◆ Pray for peace, pray for the bereaved, the persecuted, sick/suffering, civil leaders, military, 1st responders, sound Bible schools, the lost, enemies.

## Events



May 26-28

Milestone Gospel Meeting

June 1

Ladies Day at Union Hill

June 2-5

Sasser Gospel Meeting

## To Our Visitors



We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

## Privileged to Serve



**Announcements**—Glenn Howze

**Song Leading**—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Ethan Howze

**Serving the Lord's Supper**

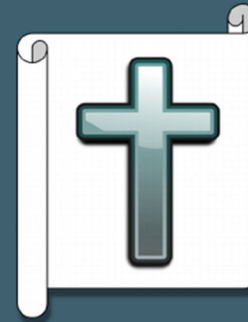
Head: Johnny Moss; Helpers: Leo Derrick, Caleb Howze, Mark Howze

**Lord's Supper PM**

Head: Glenn Howze  
Helper: Ethan Howze

**Scripture Reading**—Ezra Howze

**Faithful Worship** — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** weekly as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).



# THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

May 26, 2024

## Meeting Times

### Sundays:

- 10AM Bible Class
- 11AM Worship
- 6PM Worship

### Wednesdays:

- 7PM Bible Class

## Other Information

5761 Hwy. 4  
P.O. Box 285  
Baker, FL 32531 USA  
850-669-9117

### Website:

churchofChristatBaker.com

### Radio Program:

104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM  
WAAZ1047.com livestream

### Jason Hilburn's Info:

850-826-8198  
hilburnjasonp@gmail.com  
TheBibleDomain.com  
JasonsBibleBlog.com

## A Few Words from Jason

One of our weekly students in India asked us to preach the Gospel in his home village. There was great attendance, and **eight souls were baptized into Christ!** We give all glory to God always, and special thanks to brother Vandan Kumar for his hard work and other Christians who were involved.

I have been excited about preaching through the Book of Daniel, and now we are going into chapter seven, which is another powerful, prophetic part of Daniel's Book. Be looking for similarities between this chapter and what we studied in chapter two.

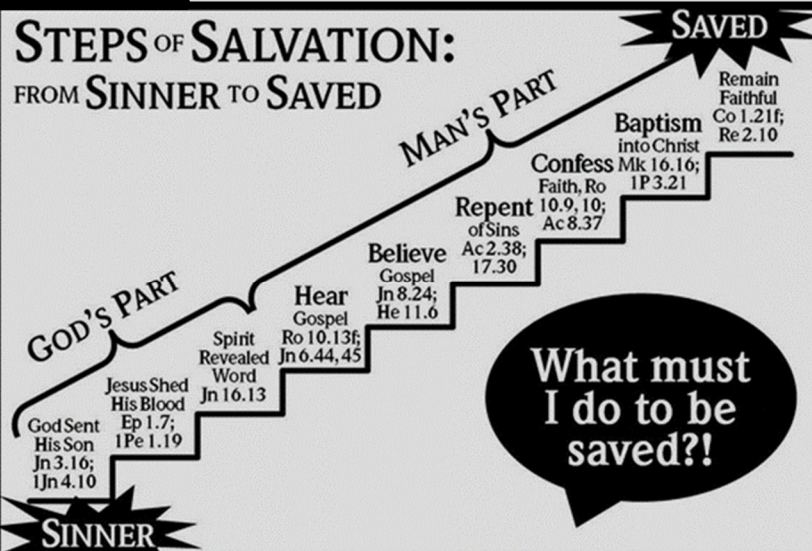
## With Jesus It's All or Nothing

Jason Patrick Hilburn

Jesus wants 100% dedication from His followers. He wants first place in our lives or no place at all. He will not accept second place behind family, friends, spouse, children, career, education, entertainment, or anything else. He said we cannot even begin to be His disciples if we will not put Him first before anything and anybody. After becoming Christians, whether we truly put Him first will be evident in the way we live, by our words and the daily choices we make. Those who are lukewarm like the Laodiceans should not expect Christ's approval on the Day of Judgment (Matt. 10:34-39; 12:30; 22:36-40; Luke 9:23-26; 14:25-35; John 14:15-24; Acts 2:38; 26:20; Titus 1:16; 2:11-14; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; 1 John 2:3-6; Rev. 3:14-22, etc.).

## STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."  
(Romans 6:17).



What must I do to be saved?!

"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).

# The Medo-Persian Kings Cyrus and Darius (Part 1)

By Jason Patrick Hilburn

## INTRODUCTION

As one studies the history of God's people recorded in the Bible, he must remember that the world of Bible times was filled with many other peoples and nations besides Israel. Changes were constantly occurring in the world in which God's people lived—nations were forming and falling as God was working out His will. Secular scholars have marveled at the achievements of men like Cyrus the Great, wondering how such a person could conquer so quickly and dominantly:

The violent collapse of the mighty Assyrian Empire after the fall of Nineveh in 612 to a coalition of the Medes and Babylonians has sometimes been called a "scandal of history." The sudden appearance of the Persians in Near Eastern history and the lightning campaigns of Cyrus II, the Great, pose questions for the historian that are urgent both in their breadth and in their complexity. In two decades (550-530), the Persian armies led by Cyrus II conquered the Median, Lydian, and Neo-Babylonian kingdoms in succession and prepared the ground for Persian domination of the Iranian Plateau and Central Asia. How can we explain this sudden outburst into history by a people and a state hitherto practically unknown? How can we explain not only that this people could forge military forces sufficient to achieve conquests as impressive as they were rapid but also that, as early as the reign of Cyrus, it had available the technological and intellectual equipment that made the planning and building of Pasargadae possible? (Briant 13).

How does one explain how a man like Cyrus the Great could so quickly rise to such great power? Men like Cyrus were instruments of God to bring about His will: "...Cyrus...is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure..." (Isa. 44:28). It has always been the case that "the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will" (Dan. 4:17; cf. 4:25, 32). The Medo-Persian Empire was the dominant world empire from Daniel's latter days until after the time of Malachi (539-331 B.C.), and during this period God raised up rulers whose actions would help fulfill His precious promises (cf. Gen. 12:1-3; Isa. 44:28; Eze. 37, et al.).

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MEDES AND PERSIANS

Near the time of Moses' leading God's people out of Egypt, significant changes were also occurring in other parts of the world. In about 1500 B.C., many tribes of Indo-European people called the Aryans were moving into the area east of

the Tigris River and south of the Caucasus Mountains and Caspian Sea (Whitcomb, *Darius* 68). They had apparently come from the shores of the Caspian Sea, and the two main tribes of the Aryans were the Medes and the Persians (Durant 350). The Medes lived to the east and south of Lake Urmia, and the Persians lived in Parsua, a region to the west of that large lake. This high plateau region "constitutes the northwestern part of a large country known since 1935 as Iran (from 'Airyana' or 'land of the Aryans')" (Whitcomb, *Darius* 68). Josephus wrote that the Medes were descendents of Madai, the son of Japheth, son of Noah (I.VI.1; cf. Gen. 10:2).

The first instance of Medes and Persians in extra-Biblical historical records was in the written annals of the Assyrian king Shalmaneser III. In 836 B.C. the Assyrian king recorded that he had received tribute from kings of "Parsua" and "Mada" (Whitcomb, *Darius* 68). Barnes commented, "For 520 years, the Medes were subject to the Assyrians; but, in the time of Tiglath-pileser and Shalmaneser, they revolted, and, by the destruction of the army of Sennacherib before Jerusalem...they were enabled to achieve their independence" (cf. 2 Kin. 19). The Greek historian Herodotus (ca. 484 – 425 B.C.) recorded the following about the tribes who would later become the Medo-Persian Empire:

The Medes were the first to begin a revolt from the Assyrians, who had ruled over the upper part of Asia for five hundred and twenty years. Somehow, in their struggle for independence from the Assyrians, the Medes were transformed into a people noble enough to cast off slavery and be free. Later other nations did the same thing as the Medes, but after they all became self-governing throughout the mainland, they reverted to tyrannies in the following way. There was a cunning man named Deioces among the Medes, and he was the son of Phraortes. Now, this Deioces was in love with power... (36).

The power hungry Deioces (Daioukku; Deiokes) was the first to unite the nomadic Median tribes into one nation (Olmstead 23). It was by Deioces' command that their capital, Ecbatana (meaning "a meeting-place of many ways") was built. The capital was "in a picturesque valley made fertile by the melting snows of the highlands" with "a royal palace spread over an area two-thirds of a mile square" (Durant 350). Deioces was the source of the law that "no man should be admitted to the King's presence, but everyone should consult him by means of messengers" (Herodotus 37-38; cf. Est. 4:11). Thus one sees the beginnings of firm, enduring laws, for which the Medes and Persians would later become famous (cf. Dan. 6:8, 12, 15). Deioces was deported to Syria after being taken captive by the Assyrians in 715 B.C. His successor, Cyaxares I, paid tribute to Sargon, king of Assyria, and attacked an Assyrian province called Harhar in 702 B.C. (Whitcomb, *Darius* 68). It is difficult to improve upon the concise words of Whitcomb:

*To be continued next week, Lord willing...*