

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Jennifer Derrick—sick lately
- ◆ 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—doing well
- ◆ Dawn Holloway—at home now
- ◆ Tony Jones—Parkinson's
- ◆ Kyla, Denise's daughter—pregnancy complications
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Harold Moore—spine surgery.
- ◆ Thomas Patterson—health issues
- ◆ Shane Price—cancer
- ◆ Jason Rickmon—cancer, chemo
- ◆ Larry Shapley—hospice care
- ◆ Yoel Urra—improving
- ◆ Sidney White—stroke recovery

Continued in next column...

- ◆ Craig Wray—cancer

- ◆ Pray for Christians overseas, such as those facing persecution in 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



June 26
4th Wednesday Singing

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).

To Our Visitors

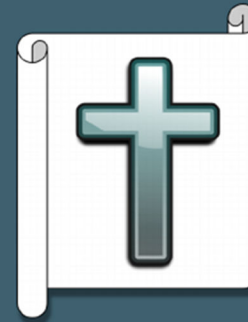


We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

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



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

June 16, 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:

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A Few Words from Jason

We had a great trip to West Monroe, Louisiana to be with the Beacon Church of Christ last week. It was a great opportunity to preach God's Word, and at the end of the week a husband and wife obeyed the Gospel! We enjoyed the fellowship and the trip in general, but are now glad to be back home. There was no bulletin last week.

The Medo-Persian Kings Cyrus and Darius (Part 3)

Jason Patrick Hilburn

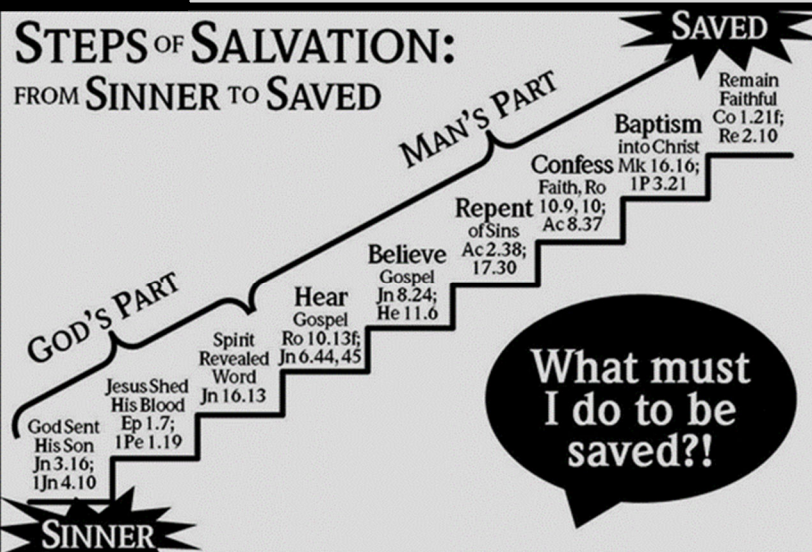
CYRUS THE GREAT

Childhood

Herodotus relates that Astyages, ruler of the Medes, dreamed that his daughter, Mandane, would give birth to a child who would rule over all of Asia (39). Mandane was given in marriage to a Persian named Cambyses, and she gave birth to a son who would later be known as Cyrus II, the Great. Because of his dream and his lust for power, Astyages ordered the baby boy to be killed by his servant Harpagus, but his plans were thwarted when Harpagus gave the boy to a cowherd named Mitradates. Harpagus had ordered the cowherd to kill the child, but Mitradates and his wife tricked others into thinking the child was dead, and they reared the boy as if he were their own son. The boy's identity was

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

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



"...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).

discovered by Astyages when Cyrus was ten years old. As punishment for failure, Astyages killed Harpagus' only son, who was about thirteen, and Astyages deliberated on what to do with Cyrus. Astyages' counselors, called magi, convinced the ruler to send the boy back to his parents, Cambyses and Mandane, in Persia (44-45). Astyages would later impale these same magi after Cyrus would come back to conquer him! (47).

Conquest

When Cyrus reached manhood, he "became the bravest and most popular of his contemporaries" (Herodotus 45), taking his father's place as the Persian king of Anshan in 559 B.C. (Whitcomb, *Darius* 70). Soon afterwards, Harpagus began plotting against Astyages, encouraging Cyrus to lead an army of Persians in rebellion against the Medes. Harpagus was also gathering his own men to rebel against the Median king. Remembering the treachery of his grandfather in trying to kill him, and knowing that the Persians resented Median rule, Cyrus began rallying the tribes of Persia to rebel against Astyages in 550 B.C. (Herodotus 46-47; Pfeiffer 501). Astyages ignorantly placed Harpagus as the general of the Median army. As the battle commenced, Herodotus relates, "When the Medes marched against the Persians and began to do battle with them, some of the Medes who were not in on the conspiracy fought, others deserted to the Persians, and most fought badly on purpose and then ran away"! (Herodotus 47). Astyages was taken prisoner, thus ending his thirty-five year reign around 550 B.C. (Herodotus 47; Pfeiffer 501). "From this time forward, the Medes and Persians fought and served together as one unit under the brilliant leadership of Cyrus" (Whitcomb, *Darius* 70; cf. Dan. 6:8; Est. 10:2). This new force would emerge to dominate history for hundreds of years, and "From this time, all their customs, rites, and laws, became amalgamated" (Barnes).

When Cyrus perceived that his newly combined territories were secure and stable, he began expanding his sphere of rule. He focused his attention to the northwest, to a very wealthy nation called Lydia. Lydia's ruler was Croesus, "whose legendary wealth was the result of shrewd control of overland trade between Asia and the Greek world" (Eerdmans 306). According to Herodotus, Croesus had instigated the war against Persia, to his nation's detriment (34). Lydia's capital of Sardis fell to Cyrus in 547 B.C., as well as a large portion of Asia Minor (Eerdmans 306). When Cyrus was about to burn Croesus alive, Cyrus reportedly had mercy on him, and the two men became friends (Herodotus 32-33).

Cyrus then turned his attention to Babylon, which theoretically should have been the most challenging endeavor of his life—after all, this was the capital of the Babylonian Empire, with towering, thick walls and twenty years of supplies stored up inside to endure the greatest of sieges (Ussher 116). However, because of God's hand in all of this, Babylon

fell with ease, and Cyrus' army practically walked into Babylon without resistance. Although there had been some fighting outside the city walls, the Nabonidus Chronicle literally says that on the day Babylon was taken, Cyrus' army entered Babylon "without battle" (cf. Isa. 45:1-4).

Archaeological discoveries from the mid-sixth century B.C., such as the Nabonidus Chronicle and the Cyrus Cylinder, have shed light on Cyrus' conquest of Babylon, coinciding with the Biblical record of events. These discoveries chronicled both the achievements of Cyrus and insight into the character of Cyrus. The Nabonidus Chronicle is a clay tablet with four columns of cuneiform writings on its two sides. The Cyrus Cylinder is a baked clay cylinder about nine inches long, containing the record of Cyrus' capture of Babylon without battle, his release of captives to their own nations, and his restoration of treasures to the native peoples (Thompson 174).

The Nabonidus Chronicle records that Nabonidus, the last king of the Babylonian Empire, had a habit of not returning to Babylon for the New Year procession of the gods. He left the capital city, living in a northern Arabia town called Teima for ten years, and the Chronicle reveals that his eldest son (Belshazzar) held "the kingship" in Babylon during that time (Myers 459; Thompson 168). This is surely why the Book of Daniel records Belshazzar as being the last king of Babylon (Dan. 5:30). There was much resentment towards Nabonidus in Babylon because of his absence. Without his presence, the procession of the gods could not be properly held, and every year the Babylonians grew more discontent (Thompson 168).

With Babylon having thick walls 300 feet high, Cyrus chose to take Babylon through ingenuity rather than might. By diverting the river flowing into Babylon and allowing his men to enter the city by the riverbed, he caught Babylon by surprise as they were celebrating their false gods (Herodotus 65; cf. Dan. 5). The Nabonidus Chronicle reveals that Cyrus' men, led by Ugbaru, took the city without battle. "The impregnable walls of Babylon were of no help to Nabonidus, for his capital city surrendered without a fight" (Pfeiffer 473). Nabonidus' son, Belshazzar, was apparently slain that very night, and Nabonidus would be taken prisoner (Dan. 5:30; cf. 2 Kin. 25:7). Seventeen days later Cyrus and his governor, Gubaru, officially entered the city (Whitcomb, *Darius* 23).

When Cyrus arrived, he was greeted with joy as a liberator. The Babylonians believed that the god Marduk had lead Cyrus peacefully into the city because Marduk was not pleased with rulers like Nabonidus who were unfaithful. However, the Jews knew that Jehovah was behind all of this! It was time for the prophecies to be fulfilled—the throne of Babylon would be taken and the rulers of Babylon would mourn:

To be continued next week, Lord willing...