

Prayer List



Of Our Number

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

Others in Need

- ◆ Danny Davis—back pain
- ◆ Louise Douglas—health problems
- ◆ Elocio (Chuck Arnett's father-in-law)—health problems
- ◆ Joyce Faulk—health problems
- ◆ Dawn Holloway—health problems
- ◆ Dianne Johnson—rare cancer
- ◆ Tony Jones—Parkinson's
- ◆ Kyla, Denise Vincent's daughter—pregnancy complications
- ◆ Stacey McDonald—surgery recov.
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Thomas Patterson—health issues
- ◆ Shane Price—cancer
- ◆ Larry Shappley—hospice care
- ◆ Melanie Skinner—cancer
- ◆ Sidney White—stroke recovery

Continued in next column...

- ◆ 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

August 4
Meal after AM Worship

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).

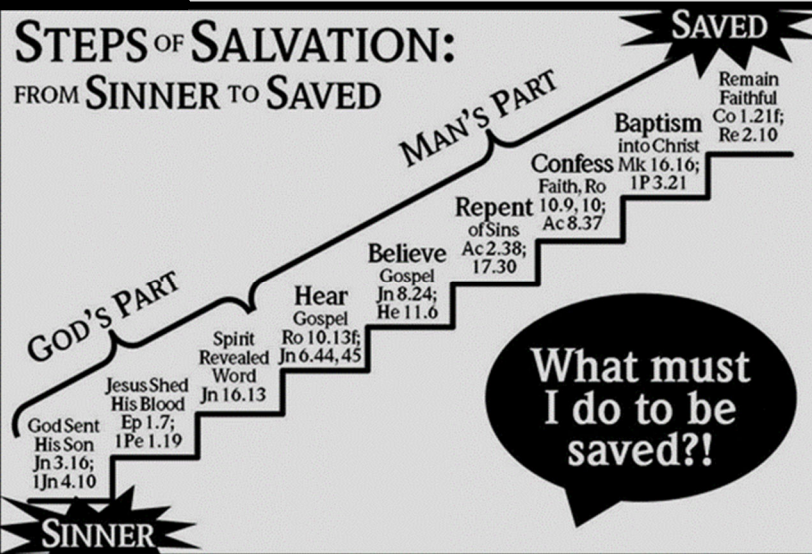
Privileged to Serve



Announcements: Leo Derrick
Song Leading: Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Mark Howze
Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Glenn Howze; Helpers: Ethan Howze, Ezra Howze, Mark Howze
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Leo Derrick
 Helper: Caleb Howze
Bible Reading: Brett (AM), Caleb S. (PM)

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 BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

August 4, 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

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The Medo-Persian Kings Cyrus and Darius (Part 9)

Jason Patrick Hilburn

The Darius of Daniel 11:1

Based on the verse following Daniel 11:1, this Darius seems to be the same Darius the Mede of Daniel 6:1 (most likely Gubaru). "There can be no question but that this rich king was Xerxes. Thus an identification of those kings, counting backward from Xerxes, would be: (5) Xerxes; (4) Darius Hystaspes; (3) Smerdis; (2) Cambyses; and (1) Darius/Cyrus" (Turner, *Daniel* 216).

The Darius of Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, and Zechariah

As previously mentioned, The Book of Daniel mentions a "Darius" in several passages (Dan. 5:31; 6:1-28; 9:1; 11:1), and there are references to a "Darius" in Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, and Zechariah (Ezra 4, 5, 6; Neh. 12:22; Hag. 1, 2; Zec. 1, 7). Not everyone agrees on the identity of these men, either. For example, Clayton Winters believed the Darius of Ezra 4:5 was Darius I Hystaspes the Great (19), while Turner believed this was Cambyses II, son of Cyrus II (*Daniel* 308). Scholars generally agree that the Darius of Ezra 5:5-6:12 and the Darius of Haggai and Zechariah's writings were all references to Darius I Hystaspes the Great (Turner, *Daniel* 309; cf. Cates, Jamieson, et al.). Winters and other commentators seem to agree that the Darius of Nehemiah 12:22 was "probably Darius II, 423-404 B.C." (Winters 140; cf. Keil). Even

though there are disagreements about the identity of Darius, the contributions of the Medes and Persians to the Creator’s cause can surely be agreed upon by all.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CREATOR’S CAUSE

Retribution

The Babylonian Empire was one of the most powerful empires of history, and the city of Babylon was easily one of the greatest cities of the ancient world. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, but such greatness in the eyes of the world has the tendency to stir up deadly pride: “The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” (Dan. 4:30; cf. Pro. 16:18; Acts 12:21-23). Nebuchadnezzar was humbled by God (Dan. 4:31-33), but it was not yet time for the empire to fall. The fall would happen a few years later during the days of Nabonidus and his son Belshazzar: “And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians” (Dan. 5:25-28; cf. 2:31ff). God would bring an end to the Babylonian Empire through Cyrus the Great, and Cyrus and his governors would “divide” the empire as they saw fit (6:1ff).

Although the Babylonians were in a sense doing God’s will by punishing God’s impenitent people (Hab. 1:6ff; 2 Chr. 36:16-17), the Babylonians were also wicked idolaters themselves and deserved punishment: “Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria” (Jer. 50:18; cf. 25:12-13; 50:1-46; 51:1-64; Isa. 13:1-22; 14:1ff; 21:1ff; 43:14; 47:1ff; 48:14-22; Dan. 4:17, 25, 32, et al.).

It is noteworthy that one reason why God would punish the Babylonians was because they had destroyed His temple: “Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the LORD hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device is against Babylon, to destroy it; because it is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance of his temple” (Jer. 51:11).

...the king of the Chaldees...slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age...And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of

Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof (2 Chron. 36:17-19).

Now God’s temple would be rebuilt under a new world empire, and the retribution God had placed upon His people through captivity would be taken away. God’s people would no longer practice idolatry, having learned their lesson through God’s wrath upon them (Eze. 16:41; 37:21-23). Several years after Cyrus’ death, the city of Babylon would be attacked again by Darius I Hystaspes the Great because of a revolt. The city fell to him and was greatly damaged near the same time the Jews were celebrating the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem (515 B.C.; Turner, *Survey* 32). Babylon never again rose to the same splendor. Although Alexander the Great attempted to restore the city, he was murdered during the undertaking (ISBE).

Rebuilding

Through Cyrus’ decree, God’s people were given permission and resources to rebuild Jerusalem and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:1-8). Zerubbabel was commissioned to rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:8, 11; 2:2; 3:8; 5:14-16). Although the work was delayed, the temple was rebuilt in 515 B.C. during the reign of the Persian king Darius I Hystaspes the Great, who ruled from 521-486 B.C. (Cates; cf. Ezra 5; 6:1-15; Hag. 1:1; Zec. 1:1). Later, Nehemiah was commissioned to rebuild the walls and restore the city of Jerusalem itself under the reign of the Persian king Artaxerxes I Longimanus (444 B.C.; cf. Neh. 2:5-8).

THE THREE RETURNS FROM CAPTIVITY			
DATE	LEADER	PURPOSE	TEXT
536 B.C.	Zerubbabel	Rebuild temple -- Work delayed until 519, finished in 515	Ezra 1 – 6 Haggai Zechariah
<i>Time of Esther</i> (between 486 and 458 B.C., between Ezra 6 and 7)			
458 B.C.	Ezra	Restore the Law	Ezra 7ff Nehemiah 8ff
445 B.C.	Nehemiah	Rebuild the walls – Took 52 days (6:15)	Nehemiah

To be continued next week, Lord willing...