

The Messenger

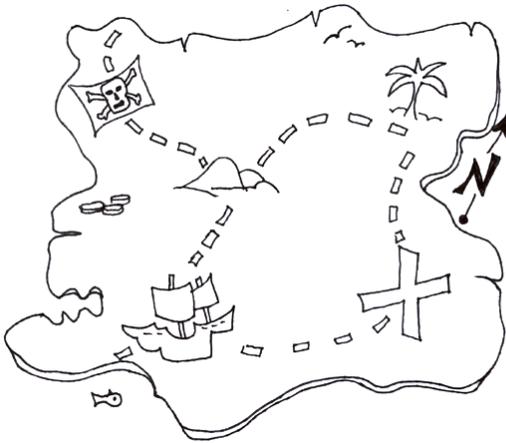
COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 3, 2012



Coldwater CHURCH OF CHRIST VBS

*The Treasure of the Forgotten Island:
Searching for Gems in Proverbs*



June 10 - 14

Begins at 6:30PM each night

Announcement from the Elders:

Our Sunday PM services officially have been changed to 1 PM. Let us not forget the encouragement from the elders concerning our purpose for assembling, and our need for assembling.

To God be the glory!

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for all ages & Pew Packers on 1st & 3rd Sundays at 4:15 p.m.

P.O. Box 321

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(1.2 miles east of I-55)

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ELDERS

Billy Bland

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Jim Jackson

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

THE BOOK WITHOUT GOD

Garrett McGilvray

With a title such as that, you probably will be surprised to find that the book to which this article refers is in fact one of the books of the Bible. The Book of Esther has the curious distinction of being the only book in the Bible never to mention God, faith, obedience, or the like. In fact, there is no mention of religion at all, except for the possible exception of Esther's request that all the Jews fast for three days on her behalf. Trusting in the inspiration of all Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16), we then wonder to what purpose the Divine Author saw fit to include such a book in the Holy Canon.

Perhaps if the reader can remember back to his lessons in elementary school, a helpful analogy can be made. A frequent element appearing early in the learning of mathematics is the word problem. For example, Bill wanted to sell his 100 apples for 7¢ each, and it probably required him to take a train heading 280 miles west at 45 mph (for some reason). During the lesson, the teacher would demonstrate the solution. Later during the quiz, the student would find some other problem, such as Sarah who has made 6 chocolate pies for the county fair that she wants to sell for \$4 each, and she must ride her bike 4 miles southwest at 15 mph to get to the fair. Unlike Bill's problem in the lesson, Sarah's problem in the quiz does not come with the answer. Although the details in the second problem are different, the student must apply what he learned in the first to solve the second.

Instead of talking about Bill and Sarah, let us now move on to Joseph and Esther. The story of Joseph (Gen. 37-50) is one of the Bible's greatest lessons on Divine Providence. Anticipating an upcoming famine of enormous proportions, God needed some way to preserve Israel's growing family from starvation before it had a chance to become a nation. Meanwhile Israel's ten oldest sons became exceedingly jealous of their younger brother Joseph, and they decided to sell him into slavery. Through no fault of his own, Joseph then had to endure several great injustices, including betrayal, slavery, a false accusation of rape, and two years in prison. At the time when Joseph became a slave in the house of a prominent Egyptian, we read, "**The Lord was with Joseph**, and he was a successful man....And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. **So Joseph found favor in his sight**" (Gen. 39:2-4). Later when Joseph was thrown into prison, we again read, "But the **Lord was with Joseph** and showed him mercy, and **he gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison**" (Gen. 39:21). In time, Joseph came to be second in command over all of Egypt and was therefore in a position to provide grain for his family during the famine. He was later able to tell his brothers, "Do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life" (Gen. 45:5). Another time he told them, "As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive" (Gen. 50:20). Though God is not to be faulted for all the injustices that happened to Joseph, he was able to use those circumstances to bring about much good.

If Joseph is the lesson, Esther is the quiz. Like in the two word problems, the details have changed: instead of a famine, the Jews in the days of the Persians were facing a decree that every Jew throughout the empire should be killed. As the king of Persia began his search for a new queen, the young Jewess Esther was selected to be presented for consideration. First she was put in custody of Hegai, one of the King's officials in charge of the women. There we read that Esther, "pleased him, and **she obtained his favor**" (Esth. 2:9). In fact, "**Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her**" (v. 15). As it turned out, "The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and **she obtained grace and favor in his sight**" (v. 17). Later when Esther the Queen needed to approach her husband with a request, by which she risked death, we read, "**She found favor in his sight**," (5:2) so that she was then able to plead the case of her people to save them from the edict.

(Continued on the next page...)

Each time we have read that Esther “found favor” as with Joseph, but this time, the text never says why. Instead, the Bible student must remember the lesson of Joseph to better understand the quiz of Esther. From that lesson, the Bible student then realizes that when Esther “found favor,” there goes along unstated, “And the Lord was with Esther.” Though never mentioned, the reader who has learned

the lesson of Joseph can also find God’s work throughout the Book of Esther: that Mordecai (Esther’s older cousin) *just happened* to overhear of a plot to assassinate the king; that later during the same night the wicked Haman built a gallows for Mordecai, the king *just happened* to not be able to sleep, so he *just happened* to have the records read to him, and *it just happened* that the record of Mordecai’s good deed was selected, so that it *just happened* that when Haman came to the king intending to execute Mordecai, the king was in mind to glorify him; and that it *just happened* that the book ends with Mordecai as second in command of Persia (like Joseph). Having learned the lesson of Joseph, we see that God is the real hero of the Book of Esther.

The quiz of Esther is more like our daily lives than the lesson of Joseph. If, for example, a brother in Christ loses his job, there is no divine narration to say, “But the Lord is with him.” Yet when he obtains favor with a new job, we should have learned to look to God as he who bestowed the favor. Mordecai approaches the subject of providence in a way that serves as a model for us. To Esther, he said, “Relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews...yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esth. 4:14). He had faith in God’s plan and an awareness of God’s providence, yet he was not so arrogant as to suppose he knew the unsearchable plans of God.

A book without God? No! God was there every step of the way. So we learn the lesson: “The Lord your God, he is the one who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you” (Deut. 31:6).

This Week’s Daily Bible Reading:

Sunday:	Job 8-10
Monday:	Job 11-13
Tuesday:	Job 14-16
Wednesday:	Job 17-20
Thursday:	Job 21-23
Friday:	Job 24-28
Saturday:	Job 29-31

Sermon Review

When I See the Rainbow (Genesis 9:12-16)

I am reminded of...

- I. God’s Salvation for the Righteous.
- II. God’s Severity for the Rebellious.
- III. God’s Surety of His Remembrance.

An Evidence of Inspiration: King Cyrus (Ezra 1:1-5)

- I. Internal Evidence: Prophecy
- II. External Evidence: Property

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Wiley Tuggle, having some health complications that are causing him a lot of pain. Was on an antibiotic, but was not improving so they changed his meds. If he is not improving by today, they will admit him to the hospital.

Betty Tuggle;

Nora Boling;

Herbert & Helen Bowman;

**OpenDoor Ministry
Fishers of Men
Far East Missions**

Family & Friends

Easley/Ratliff Family, in the loss of Charles Easley, Molly's grandfather. **Angel Family**, in loss of Gloria Angel, Clifton's grandmother. **Franklin Taylor**, friend of Daniel's, has cancer. **Emily Smith**, Ginger's co-worker, doing well after brain tumor removed.

Andrew Hagedwood, infant that has already had a heart transplant, is improving slowly. **Mary Brett Baird**, 8-year-old child experiencing multiple health issues. **Chuck Tharp**, prostate cancer. **Eli Williams**, and his battle with cancer. **Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler;

Ray Maples; Wayne Collinworth; Sheena Hunt; Terry DeBerry; Nicole Blagburn; Gary Daugherty; Janie Brister; Renee Loya; Lavon Holden; Aubree Harris; Virginia Mayfield; Peyton Harville; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg.

June Birthdays

6/3 -- Amanda Ferrell

6/13 -- Melaney Ferrell

June Anniversaries

6/5 -- Andy & Molly Ratliff

6/8 -- Caleb & Elizabeth Baker

6/26 -- Jeffrey & Amanda Ferrell

6/28 -- Jim & Mischel Jackson

Get Involved!

Daily Bible Reading Calendar 2012

Let's continue to read and study together!!

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- June 3

At 12:30 while children are in Pew Packers

Independence Gospel Meeting -- June 3 - 7

Guest Preacher: Steve Ferguson

See flyer on Bulletin Board

Coldwater Trade Days -- June 9

Sign up to help out with our booth!

Providence Place Devo -- June 10 -- 2 PM

Coldwater VBS -- June 10 - 14

Begins at 6:30PM each night

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, June 3

Morning

Prayer Before Class

Billy Bland

Announcements

Caleb Baker

Song Leader

Jared Brown

Lord's Supper:

Preside

Jeffrey Ferrell

Assist

Jerry Davis

Jason Bayless

Ron Johnson

Opening Prayer

Andy Ratliff

Sermon

Clifton Angel

Closing Prayer

Jim Jackson

Evening

Song Leader

Jared Brown

Opening Prayer

Joe Owen

Sermon

Clifton Angel

Lord's Supper

Ron Johnson

Jeffrey Ferrell

Closing Prayer

Seth Daniel

Wednesday, June 6

Song Leader

Jared Brown

Prayer

Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Invitation

Clifton Angel

Prayer

Jerry Davis