

ELIJAH AND BAAL

One of my favorite accounts of things happening in Old Testament time has always been Elijah and the prophets of Baal. After Elijah had appeared to Ahab, king of Israel, he issued a challenge to the people. "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him; but if Ba-al then follow him. And the people answered him not a word." (I Kings 18:21). Elijah is essentially saying, it is time to settle this matter. We are going to make a sacrifice to the god we follow. Since there were 450 prophets of Ba-al at this gathering, he told them to go first and prepare a sacrifice for their god. Call on the name of your god to consume the sacrifice which will be laid on the altar you have built, but put no fire under. I will do the same to my God. Ba-al was the god of lightning, of storm, of fire, thus this should be a quick and easy response. Nothing came about from their false god when they cried unto him, even to the point that Elijah mocked them. When they have finished (or finally gave up), Elijah prepared his sacrifice. He rebuilt the altar to the Lord, which had evidently been ignored for some time. He made his offering and prayer and Elijah's God consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench that Elijah had poured on the sacrifice. Result: "The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God." *L. Cole*

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

God has always wanted His people to be "people of the book." He had Moses write down the book of genealogy so that man could trace himself back to Adam and thus remember his Creator (Genesis 5:1). He had Moses read the book of the law to the Israelites so they would vow to keep every word (Exodus 24:7). Joshua also read the book of the law to God's people, including every blessing and every curse (Joshua 8:34). Providentially, God allowed Hilkiah, the priest, to find the book when it had been neglected and lost (2 Kings 22:8). Later, after the Jews had returned from captivity, the book was read once again to the whole congregation by Ezra, the scribe, instigating a national revival (Nehemiah 8:1).

In every circumstance, God required that his people take an oath that they would know the book. He made them promise to obey every word in the book. God promised that they would be blessed or cursed based on their keeping or not keeping the words of the book. Every step, every ounce of success for God's people was always directly related to the book. You can check the book itself.

The success or failure of mankind still rides on the knowledge of and keeping of the book. But in our day and time, there are only a few people in existence who are truly people of the book. Consider the facts:

- Most people have never studied the Bible. I am not saying they haven't read the Bible, but rather, they have not studied it. There is a big difference.
- Most people do not take Bible class seriously. They see it as optional, a bonus, or an unnecessary part of church participation that is for teachers and preachers.

- Many people scan the Bible looking for answers to certain questions. They do not realize that the best answers are found through a balanced understanding of the entire work.
- The world, in general, does not show the proper respect for the Bible. If they did, they would not talk about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit as they do. If they did, they would not teach and practice religion the way they do.
- Satan is keeping the world busy. Too busy with work, school, and recreation for people to spend time listening to what God has to say in the book.

This article is not meant to be harsh, judgmental, or cynical. Its purpose is to remind the reader of the great opportunity God's people have to be people of the book. When you are people of the book, you know the will of God. When you are people of the book, you can find heavenly answers to earthly struggles. When you are people of the book, you have the peace that comes with knowing that regardless of what you are dealing with, God will deliver you. When you are people of the book, you can do more than feel like or hope that heaven will be your home, you can know it. When you are people of the book, you think differently, act differently, and live differently – and it makes your life and the life of every person around you – better!

Every generation of people has the responsibility to be a people of the book. May we not forget!... Nehemiah 9:3

— *Jeremiah Tatum, A Legacy of Faith, 12/12/17*

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

1. **KEEP YOUR LIFE SIMPLE.** Keep yourself responsive to simple things. Don't get in the habit of requiring the unusual for your pleasure (I Tim. 6:8)
2. **AVOID WATCHING FOR A KNOCK IN YOUR MOTOR.** The world's unhappiest people are always anticipating the worst (2 Tim. 1:7).
3. **LEARN TO LIKE WORK.** For some people work is a four lettered word. I know people who think that "Manuel Labor" is the president of Mexico. The principle of work is biblical (Eph. 4:28; i Thess 4:11)
4. **LEARN TO BE SATISFIED.** There are many unhappy people who are never satisfied with anything in life. Their lives, their jobs, their marriages, their homes, their locations. We must be satisfied with what we have and not dissatisfied with what we do not have. (Phil. 4:11-13)
5. **MEET ADVERSITY BY TURNING DEFEAT INTO VICTORY.** We must turn our burdens into bridges and our scars into starts. (Rom. 5:3,4).
6. **FACE YOUR PROBLEMS WITH DECISION.** You cannot decide what problems will come your way, but you can decide how you will respond to your problems.
7. **ALWAYS BE PLANNING SOMETHING.** We are all in one of three positions. 1.) We are standing still and spinning our wheels. 2) We are sliding backwards. 3) We are moving forward with some goals. It is better to fail in a cause that will ultimately succeed than to succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail. A person without goals is a wandering generality, but a person with goals is a meaningful specific.

— *Claude, Bridgeport Proclaimer 07/05*

**THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
WORSHIP----SUNDAY---9:00 AM**

Dec 31, 2017

Co-Coordinator Roger Draper
Announcements Steve Anderson
ScriptureGavin Spurlin
Song Leader Jacky Carver Jr.
Opening Prayer. Brian Smith
Lord's Supper-Preside: Jacky Carver Sr.
Serve: George Clay, Billy Halliburton
Glen Reece, Ted Russell
Closing Prayer. Mitchell Brooks
Greeter— Susanne & Teresa
Greeter— Lesa & John William Leonard
Greeters: Please be here to greet 20 minutes before services
Count Offering. Dallas Eddie
. Kaleb Bush
AM Sermon— Kaleb Bush speaking
PM Sermon— Adam Jolley speaking

WORSHIP---SUNDAY---6:00 PM

Announcements Steve Anderson
Song Leader. Gavin Spurlin
Reading. John W. Leonard
Opening Prayer Dallas Eddie
Song Leader: Gavin Spurlin
Speaker. Adam Jolley
Lord's Supper Ethan Leonard
. John W. Leonard
Closing Prayer Justin Draper

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY---7:00 PM

Announcement. Larry Cole
Song Leader Jacky Carver, Sr.
First Prayer. Justin Draper
Opening Prayer George Clay
Closing Prayer Glen Reece

Prepare Communion for **DECEMBER**
Vicki R & Dianna D

MONTROSE BULLETIN BOARD

NURSING HOME: Opal Agee-Kindred
Pearl Anderson—Knollwood Manor,
Carolyn Clay—Knollwood Manor
Kasel Dillehay—Overton Co. Nursing Home

THOSE ON THE SICK LIST;

W. A. Gibbs, Gladys Bowling,
Jimmie Faye Cole, Sawyer Cole,
Ramelle Cole, Carolyn Lankford,
Harold Smith, Jere Andrews

Congratulations to Paige and Dallas Eddie in the birth of Stella Katherine Eddie on Dec. 21st.
They are at home and doing well.

OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST

12/24/17

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Wednesday. | 37 |
| Worship Sunday AM | 63 |
| Bible Study Sunday AM | 52 |
| Daily Bible Readers | 26 |
| Worship Sunday PM | 27 |

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dec. 31st. Fifth Sunday and Young Men conduct services

Pantry Item: Peanut Butter

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Cole family. Thanks for all the cards and gifts given to our family. Thanks for all the words of encouragement given throughout the year.

READING SCHEDULE FOR JAN

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|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 01 Gen. 1-3 | 11 Gen. 33-35 | 22 Exod. 20-22 |
| 02 Gen. 4-6 | 12 Gen. 36-38 | 23 Exod. 23-25 |
| 03 Gen. 7-9 | 13 Gen. 39-42 | 24 Exod. 26-28 |
| 04 Gen. 10-12 | 14 Gen. 43-46 | 25 Exod. 29-31 |
| 05 Gen. 13-15 | 15 Gen. 47-50 | 26 Exod. 32-34 |
| 06 Gen. 16-19 | 16 Exod. 1-2 | 27 Exod. 35-37 |
| 07 Gen. 20-23 | 17 Exod. 3-5 | 28 Exod. 38-40 |
| 08 Gen. 24-27 | 18 Exod. 6-8 | Lev. 1-2 |
| | 19 Exod. 9-11 | 29 Lev. 3-5 |
| | 20 Exod. 12-14 | 30 Lev. 6-8 |
| | 21 Exod. 15-19 | 31 Lev. 9-1 |