

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Hard Hearts

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Windell Fikes, he is somewhat better but still needs prayer. Terry Campbell, she has some respiratory issues. Wayne Ezell, and Peggy Beebe

Prayers Answered: Danesa's knees are doing better, she still needs our prayers.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. .

Family Events: We will conduct another door knocking effort next Saturday, May 18, 2019 to invite people to our VBS. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

Radio Program: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program, Sundays at 9am, on 99.7 FM.

Today's Scripture: "He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so." **Matthew 19:8 (KJV)**

Today's Wisdom: "Since you have closed their hearts to understanding, therefore you will not let them triumph." **Job 17:4 (ESV)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 80/61 Our Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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May 12th, 2019 BULLETIN for the



Church of Christ AT WASILLA

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear.....	Romans 10:17
Believe.....	Mark 16:16, Hebrews 11:1-6
Repent.....	Acts 2:38, II Corinthians 7:10
Confess.....	Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33
Be Baptized	Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16
Arise & Walk in Newness of Life	Romans 6:4

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."

—Romans 1:16 KJV

MEETING TIMES

Sunday:

Bible Classes:	10AM
AM Worship:	11AM
PM Worship:	5PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study:	7PM
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OFFICE HOURS

Tue./Thur. Call or Ck Web

COME JOIN US!

The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:

2061 N. Merciful Circle
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Hard Hearts

When Moses was sent by God to lead the Jews out of Egypt and into the Promised Land, he was met by a Pharaoh who was convinced that he was a god himself. Because of this, Pharaoh would not listen to Moses and allow the Israelites to leave. The Bible says: "Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said." **Exodus 7:13 (ESV)** Throughout the interchange with Pharaoh, Moses encountered a man who was determined to prevent the Israelites from leaving Egypt. After all they were a very large workforce and had been used by the Egyptians for hundreds of years for free labor. The Pharaoh didn't want to lose such a valuable asset and refused to listen to Moses as he provided instructions from the one true God.

In addition to the Pharaoh, Moses needed to have a heart adjustment as well. When God told him to go back to Egypt and lead the Israelites to their promised land he was reluctant. His initial response was "But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?'" **Exodus 3:11 (NKJV)** Who am I? I am just a shepherd and a wanted man in Egypt. When God told him not to be concerned because He would be with him, Moses came up with another excuse not to go. "Then Moses said to God, 'Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?'" **Exodus 3:13 (NKJV)** It was in response to this question that God stated "And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And He said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Moreover God said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'" **Exodus 3:14-15 (NKJV)** Note that God gave two statements, both of which are very important to us today. First, God told Moses to tell the Israelites that "I AM WHO I AM" has sent you. Next He told him to tell them that the "Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob" has sent you.

When Moses went back to Egypt to lead the Israelites out and to their promised lands, he met a Pharaoh who true to his nature refused to allow the Israelites to leave. We all know the rest of the story well. God, working through Moses and Aaron, brought ten plagues onto the land of Egypt, each one worse than the one before. And following each plague, Pharaoh's resistance to the release of the Israelites remained strong. Even when he saw his nation devastated, their crops in ruin and his people suffering Pharaoh still refused to listen to God until the tenth and final plague which resulted in the loss of every first born throughout the land, including Pharaoh's own son. His hard heart caused him to not recognize that he was dealing with the one true God, and it resulted

By: Bill Beebe

in a broken land and finally the loss of his army in the Red Sea.

While this history of the Israelite Nation is interesting for us to read today, its value goes far beyond just a good read. It teaches us several things that are of vital importance to us. First it tells us that God exists simply because of Himself. When He told Moses to tell the Israelites that "I AM WHO I AM" sent him to lead them out of Egypt we got an insight into the very nature of God Himself. The King James Version translates this phrase into "I AM THAT I AM" **Exodus 3:14**. In either case what God is telling us about Himself is mindboggling to us humans. God is saying in this simple statement that He exists only because of Himself. He had no beginning, nothing else created Him. This is so foreign to us that it is a demonstrable proof of His existence. Everything we know, including the universe had a beginning, except for God. We could not even imagine a being like this unless He existed to tell us about Himself. Jesus would later use this same descriptive phrase about himself, proving that He is God. In **John 8:58 (KJV)** John writes this for us "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." Here Jesus states that He existed from before Abraham and continued to exist into the time that He made the statement.

Next God tells us that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This statement also demonstrates a trait of God that is important to us today. Jesus tells us the importance of it in **Matthew 22:31-32 (KJV)** when He said "But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." In making this statement, Jesus confirms that there will be a resurrection! What a glorious thought for Christians.

And finally, the story of Moses' confrontation with Pharaoh demonstrates to us the futility of resisting God. Pharaoh's attempts to refuse God's demands caused his people to suffer, his nation to crumble and his army to be completely destroyed. Our reluctance today to conform to God's commands will result in something much worse. An eternity in Hell. In **2 Peter 2:1-9** Peter tells us clearly that the unrighteous will be punished. And Luke tells us that this punishment will be terrible (**Luke 16:19-31**).

So the question is, will we harden our hearts and refuse the clear and direct commands of God as Pharaoh did, or will we bend our will to His and obey?