

Press Toward

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:14

A Newsletter of Lewisville Primitive Baptist Church 1590 Glencairn Ln. Lewisville, Texas 75067

November 2009

Does the Holy Spirit forget?

When one reads the Bible there will always be parts that are more interesting to you than others. This is based on individual taste. However, there are parts of the Bible that are not interesting to almost everyone, one such part being genealogies. These seem unimportant to us in our time. However, it is in places like these that God will hide a nugget of gold in his word. The Bible says "It is the glory of God to conceal and thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter."

Let's look briefly at something taught in the genealogy contained in Matthew chapter 1. Verse one teaches me that the word "son" used in the Bible does not necessarily mean an immediate biological descendent. Jesus Christ is the "son of David, the son of Abraham." The Lord was actually a grandson of these men, many generations removed. Here the Bible is teaching us how it uses the word "son".

Another interesting thing to note about this genealogy that is not so obvious is that some names are missing. You don't discover this by simply reading the

names in Matthew chapter one. Matthew does not specifically tell you that names are missing, he simply omits them. Scoffers and critics of the Bible will cry foul here and say Matthew made an error by not including all the names. Yet the Holy Spirit is smarter than scoffers and critics and He doesn't forget names. Let me ask you this, would it still be an error if the Holy Spirit purposely omitted the names because He said about 700-years prior to the writing of Matthew that He would omit do so? I think the answer is an obvious "no."

The Holy Spirit even gives us a clue in the passage in Matthew that all the names are not included. Matthew 1:17 reads "So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations' and from David until carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations." Did you notice that the word "all" is used only to refer to the generations from Abraham to David? It is not used in reference to the other generations. There are no omissions in the generations from Abraham to David but

there are in the other generations. Here the Holy Spirit is telling you the He omitted some names from the list. This is not an error; the Holy Spirit told you He was doing it.

For example, verse eight reads “Joram begat Ozias”. This statement seems unremarkable since it is like all the rest. However, there are actually three kings omitted between these two men. They are Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah. Their names may be found in 2 Kings chapters 8, 11 and 14. If you read there you will find that:

1. Jehoram (Joram) married Athaliah
2. Jehoram’s son with Athaliah is Ahaziah
3. Ahaziah’s son is Joash
4. Joash’s son is Amaziah
5. Amaziah’s son is Azariah (also called Uzziah)

In Matthew’s list you have Joram (Jehoram) and Ozias (Uzziah) but not the names of Ahaziah, Joash or Amaziah. Why are these names omitted? Because God does not forget His promises, no matter how long ago they were given.

To discover how God’s promise led to the omission of these men’s names, you first have to focus on one Old Testament king – Ahab. Ahab was an evil king and did many things against God and to lead His people astray. One of the most heinous things he did was to allow his wife to murder a man so that Ahab could get the man’s vineyard. This account is told in 1 Kings 21. The man’s

name was Naboth. When Ahab goes to possess Naboth’s vineyard, the Lord sends Elijah to Ahab with a message. Elijah curses Ahab and one of the things he says is “Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel.” Notice the curse specifically says “I will take away thy posterity”.

God fulfilled this promise in 2 Kings 9-10. In these chapters you will read about how, after Ahab’s death, a man named Jehu that rises to power in Israel and slays Ahab’s sons, his great men, his kinfolks and his priests until he left him none remaining. These verses are God’s judgment on Ahab for his wickedness and how God took away Ahab’s posterity. However, not all the children of Ahab were slain by Jehu. At least one of his daughters remained. Her name was Athaliah. You will remember her from the list of people above. She was the wife of Joram, king of Judah. And when she and her husband have a son named Ahaziah, Ahaziah becomes king of Judah. Ahaziah, through his mother, is Ahab’s grandson.

Here are the important things to note in all of this complicated history:

1. Ahab’s posterity was cursed by God because of his wickedness
2. Ahab’s sons are slain by Jehu because of this curse

3. Ahab's daughter becomes queen of Judah and therefore her son, Ahaziah, becomes king
4. Ahaziah, king of Judah, is Ahab's grandson

So now Ahab has a grandson sitting on the throne, not of Israel where Ahab reigned, but in Judah. Yet God does not forget His promises. Ahaziah has children, grandchildren (Joash), great-grandchildren (Amaziah), etc. and God does not destroy these men because they are now part of the kingly line of which Christ will be a part. However about 700-years later when the Holy Spirit moves in Matthew to record the genealogy of Jesus Christ, Matthew comes to verse eight and writes "Josaphat begat Joram". And when he begins to record the sons of Joram, the Spirit stops him from writing these names because 1 Kings 21: 21 says to Ahab "Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity" and Exodus 20:5 says of them that hate God "for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me". The Spirit moves Matthew to "take away" the children of Ahab from the genealogy unto the fourth generation. Here again are those generations:

1. Athaliah, Ahab's daughter – she is not named in the genealogy since she was married to Joram

2. Ahaziah
3. Joash
4. Amaziah
5. Ozias or Uzziah

Matthew picks back up with Ozias and continues the genealogy. You see this is not an evidence of the Holy Spirit's forgetfulness while writing the Bible. This is not an evidence that He can't remember the names of some of the kings. IT IS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE! It is evidence that the Lord never ever forgets His promises no matter how obscure we think they are. Even when they are long forgotten by men, He will bring them to pass.

Elder Mark Hasenmyer

Prayer and Praise

Brother Kevin McAnally will be having esophagus surgery on November 13th. Please pray the Lord will bless this to go smoothly and for a quick recovery.

Sis. Fran and Eld. Owen Rushing from Farmersville PBC would like to thank all of the brothers and sisters who have offered up prayers on their behalf, during Sis. Fran's surgery and Bro. Owen's cancer ordeal.

Please pray for Bro. Dan Beauchamp's co-worker, Mark Singer, that received a bad report about his treatment for cancer.

Bro. Paul Harris, a deacon in the Old School Primitive Baptist Church in Fort Worth, is scheduled to have shoulder surgery on November 9th.

Let's also be in prayer for a local family Sis. Carolyn Moore mentioned that lost their house to fire and have basically nothing left. They have children 8, 6 and 14-months.

Bro. Roy Randolph, a longtime deacon in the Farmersville PBC, underwent a surgical procedure to repair / replace a portion of his pacemaker. Please pray for his recovery.

Please also remember to thank the Lord for his opening of doors in both Ghana and Uganda. Let's pray to keep the ministers safe who will travel to support the growing number of brethren in Africa.

electronic copy instead, please visit www.lewisvillepbc.org, as we have recently begun posting issues there.

Ministering Servants

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Nov. Calendar

(and upcoming meetings)

* Lewisville PBC will host a special Saturday evening service, 11/07/09, with Elder Martin Onyani of Kenya

* The Purcell, Oklahoma Primitive Baptist Church will hold its 100th Anniversary Meeting, the second weekend in November.

* The Corpus Christi Primitive Baptist Church is planning a weekend meeting the 3rd weekend of November, the 14th & 15th.

* Elder David Montgomery, the pastor of the New Hope Primitive Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, Texas will be with the First Primitive Baptist Church of Dallas on the fourth Sunday in November.

* The New Hope Primitive Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, Texas wishes to announce plans for the ordination of Brother Jim Ellis to the office of Deacon. Services will be held on November 28, which is the Saturday before the fifth Sunday in November.

⁶ And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth. ⁷ Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? ⁸ It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? ⁹ The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.

(Job 11:6-9)

Important Dates to Remember

Quarterly Conference – 2nd Sunday in Jan, April, July, and Oct
Annual Meeting – **Friday before 4th Sunday in March**
Communion – **2nd Sunday in March** & 4th Sunday in Sept
Call for Pastor, Assistant Pastor & Clerk – 2nd Sunday in Jan
Read Articles of Faith / Church Covenant – 1st Sunday in Feb

Electronic version of "Press Toward" available

If you currently receive a hard copy of the newsletter either at Church or through the U.S. mail and would prefer to have an