

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~  
JANUARY 15, 2023

**SYMPATHY:** Bill McAlister, father of Keith McAlister who is one of the Forest Hill elders and lives here in Tate County, passed away this past week; the funeral is tomorrow.

**CONGRATS:** Mary Ray has a new great, great granddaughter. Born on the 7th, Josephine weighed 7lb. 13.5 oz.

**SICK:** Lawayne House has been sick with pneumonia this past week. Cody Hadley will learn the result of his recent tests on Thursday. Jason House will have intestine surgery on March 14th. Haritha Gootam (Ronnie's wife) is still not doing well after suffering stroke-like symptoms recently. Denae Miller (who visited with us Wednesday night) was to have had a back surgery on the 12th; we have no update. Debbie Stanford (daughter-in-law of Carolyn Stanford) is home but still struggling.

**PROTRACTED:** Kim Arrington—elbow; Scooter Birmingham (friend of Destiny Clayton); Brian Brown (Paul Brown's nephew)—epilepsy; Lauren Brown (niece of Paul Brown)—heart; Suzanne Brown—arthritis; Shelly Cates—fibromyalgia; Janet Daniel (sister of Melinda Haas)—lupus; Addliae Farrow (Tabatha Clayton's great niece)—heart; Ella Cobb, granddaughter of the Houses—seizures; Elizabeth Ferguson (wife of former preacher here)—dementia; Jimmy Ferguson (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; Jane Haas (Wesley Haas' mother)—hip; Melinda Haas—Lyme's Disease; Cody Hadley—Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever; Kaylie Hadley—UCTD; Paula Harrison—Meniere's Disease; Lorraine Hounshell; Wanda Jackson—a-fib; Monica La Rock (granddaughter of Orelia Ferguson and mother of Noah); Garrett Lentz (son of a co-worker of Cody Hadley)—seizures; Becky Munns (Tabatha Clayton's aunt)—heart problems, Crohn's Disease; Shelby Peyton—knee; Robert Rawson (preacher at Crockett)—diabetes; Ray Reynolds (Sheila Massey and Mary West's dad)—memory trouble; Brett Rutherford (Dan Cates' friend)—MS; Francis Wallace (friend of Mary Ray); Anthony and Rita Stacks (nephew-in-law and niece of Allene Baldwin and Syble Embrey)—strokes and Alzheimers, respectively; and Jerry Worthington (neighbor of the Hounshells)—physical and emotional difficulties.

**CANCER:** Jerry Baldwin (niece of Allene Baldwin)—lung; Sherry Brown (retired MSOP secretary); Tom Brooks (friend of Bobby Stewart); Alicia Busby (from the community); Tish Clarke (wife of the MSOP director)—melanoma; Gary Darnell (Ella Darnell's son)—leukemia as well as diabetes; Nathan Jones (the Hounshells' neighbor's son)—brain; Sara Kiestler (an FHU student)—Hodgkin's; Wade Loggins (member of congregation in Elkmont, AL); Trina McKinney (Mary Ray's grandson-in-law)—prostate; Dorothy Mosher (wife of an MSOP instructor); Carol Ogelsby (family of Sonny Stewart and the Browns)—stomach; Tommy Pierce (the Browns' friend); John Riley (member of the church who lives in this community)—lung; and Tabby Waters (Tabatha Clayton's sister-in-law)—leukemia.

**SHUT-IN:** Janice Bailey (at the Arringtons'), Orelia Ferguson (home), Annette Cates (Dan Cates' mother who is in a care center in Pensacola, FL), Lorraine Hounshell (home), and Ruth House (Lawayne House's mother who is at home).

**SERVING:** Cameron Hadley (Grayson Hadley's dad—Marines, stateside before long). Also, please continue to pray for Kyle Embrey (Syble Embrey's grandson—policeman) and all other military [especially who are going or remain abroad] and for all those in authority that we might live "quiet and peaceable" lives (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

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*Independence Church of Christ*  
8543 Highway 305  
Coldwater, MS 38618

# INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

## The Informer



8543 Highway 305

Coldwater, MS 38618

662-560-8045

[www.independencechurchofchrist.org](http://www.independencechurchofchrist.org)

**Services:** Sunday 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 4:45 p.m. (pew-packers), 5 p.m.  
Wednesday 7:15 p.m.

**Ministers:** Every Christian

**Elders:** Dan Cates (662-560-8045)

Carl Hounshell (812-653-2358)

**Evangelists:** Dan Cates (662-560-8045; [dsmccates@yahoo.com](mailto:dsmccates@yahoo.com))

Savion Rayson (903-742-1187; [savionrayson1@gmail.com](mailto:savionrayson1@gmail.com))

**Missions [the latest reports from these works are on the bulletin board in the foyer]**

*Kakinada, India [Providing Bibles and Overseeing Funds]*

*Memphis School of Preaching*

*Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)*

*Tri-Cities School of Preaching (David B. Jones)*

*Jamie Long (Four Seas Bible College, Singapore)*

*Warm Heart Missions (Roger Chambers)*

*Pablo Horna (Panama) [Overseeing funds]*

*Netcasters and Fishers of Men (Tim Wilkes, II)*

*Tennessee Children's Home, West*

*School of Biblical Studies (Jos, Nigeria)*

*Save Asian Souls (Providing physical and spiritual aid)*

*Other one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts*

# INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Daniel F. Cates

## Part XXVI: Ezekiel

(Continued from last week) While the primary audience was God's captive children, Ezekiel prophesied to other peoples as well (e.g. Eze. 28:2; 29:3; 31:2). As his audience was two-fold, so was Ezekiel's purpose: first, to show Babylonian captives, who *still* lacked respect for God, signs by which they would recognize God as God (Eze. 24:24); second, to warn the enemies of God that destruction was at hand (Eze. 25-32,35).

The key words of Ezekiel are "rebellious" (found twenty-three times in its various forms, as a description of God's people), "nations" (used thirty-nine times, usually with regard to God's people's place in the world), "watchman" (used four times, both generally and as a description of Ezekiel), "shepherd" (used five times, with reference to what the Jews were lacking and what God and Jesus would be), and "glory" (used twenty-four times, usually as an attribute of God). The key phrases are "son of man" (applied ninety-three times to Ezekiel) and "shall know" (found sixty-one times, demonstrating the effectiveness of God's working). The key verse is the one which has already been introduced which shows that Ezekiel was a sign (Eze. 24:24). The key passage is Ezekiel 33:31-32 which shows that Ezekiel was heard, but the people did not *listen* to obey. The key chapters are Ezekiel 34 (which condemns Israel's bad shepherds) and Ezekiel 36,37 (which show the land of Israel renewed).

There are many important lessons in the book of Ezekiel, including these: first, whether people listen or not, a faithful preacher of Truth has an effect (Eze. 2:5; 33:33); second, at times the very ones who need to hear will not listen, though others would (Eze. 3:4-7); third, the soul that sins is the one that dies (Eze. 18:4,20); fourth, all nations are amenable to God (Eze. 25-32,35)--this lesson is a continual one through the prophets; fifth, the Lord takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Eze. 33:11); sixth, good leadership is essential (Eze. 34); seventh, bad shepherds are tantamount to no shepherds (Eze. 34:8), and, eighth, God's plan was for one nation to be under one King, one Shepherd, one God (Eze. 37:22-24).

This is an appropriate point to introduce apocalyptic literature, since the book of Ezekiel is the first book to really implement such--though not the last, for Daniel, Zechariah, and the Revelation (which Greek name is *apocalupsis* [[ἀποκάλυψις](#)]), all

employ large amounts of apocalyptic language and numerous other books, especially the prophets, use this form in varying degrees. The Greek word literally means to "off" "cover" or "uncover" or "reveal." This language is highly symbolic so that Truth can be discernible to those who would have an ear to hear (Rev. 2:7; et al; cf Mat. 13:9) but indiscernible to those whose motives would harm the Message or the audience of It.

*“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.” (Ephesians 4:14,15)*

### BIBLE QUESTION:

This week's question: How many sons did Aaron have?

Last week's question: Who wanted to prove Solomon “with hard questions”?

Last week's answer: The queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:1)

**SERMONS:** The Four “A’s” of Worship (John 4:23,24)

*“All the Counsel of God”*: Questions to Ask—Presbyterian

### DAILY BIBLE READING (January 16-22):

Mon. Tues. Wed. Thur. Fri. Sat. Sun.

**Job** 1-4 5-7 8-10 11-13 14-17 18-20 21-24

**READ SCRIPTURE (JANUARY):** Cody Hadley (Psalm 96:7-9)

*(FEBRUARY):* Conor Cates

**PRESIDE OVER LORD'S SUPPER (JANUARY):** Thomas Massey

*(FEBRUARY):* Lawayne House

**ASSIST ON LORD'S SUPPER (JANUARY):** Conor Cates and Dylan Cooper

*(FEBRUARY):* Wesley Haas and Savion Rayson

**CLEAN BUILDING (JANUARY):** Suzanne and Katie Brown

*(FEBRUARY):* Thomas and Sheila Massey

**PREPARE COMMUNION (JANUARY):** Maggie Cooper and Reese Kinney

*(FEBRUARY):* Tabatha Clayton

**PANTRY NEEDS:** Canned goods.

**UPCOMING EVENTS (For particular details, check the bulletin board for flyers):**

January 25-29

The **Nesbit** congregation will have their lectures; the theme is *Let God Be True and Every Man a Liar*. A schedule is in the foyer.

March 26-30

The **Memphis School of Preaching** lectures on *Wisdom Is the Principle Thing*. We have been asked to provide 25 cakes for Monday the 27th.

June 4-7

We will host our **Gospel meeting** with Billy Bland preaching.

### WELCOME VISITORS!

We are honored to have you with us today!