

# **The Old Hickory Bulletin**

## **Old Hickory Church of Christ**

841 Old Hickory Blvd.

Jackson, TN 38305

*oldhickorycofc.com*

---

May 02, 2021

Volume 41, # 18

---

### **The Best Play Was Not Even On The Field!**

Last weekend, professional football fans saw one of the most exciting, improbable victories in its history climaxed by the stunning first play from scrimmage in overtime when Tebow hit Thomas for a playoff, overtime record 80 yards in a playoff, overtime record 11 seconds. Denver play-by-play man Dave Logan's call, which will likely go down in Bronco lore, captures how monumental it was for the underdog Denver team. If you watched ESPN, there were several highlights of passes, runs, and defensive plays. However, without a doubt, the best play of the day happened up in the stands, almost on the front row in the seats at the 15 yard line. The game was tied, 23-23, and it was about 5:45 P.M. The outcome was completely unknown and very much in doubt. The last minute of regulation, alone, was a pins and needles affair. It was right about then that a Christian husband and father, a deacon in this congregation, told his son, "It's time for us to go." The son, a huge Tim Tebow and Broncos fan, was curious as to why. His dad explained, "We've got something more important to do."

Wait a minute. What is more important than seeing on the biggest sports moments in this town in years? That father knew that the saints were assembling at 6:00 P.M., and he wanted his son to know that worshipping God was the highest priority. Here is a father who is raising his son to enjoy and appreciate those normal "guy things" that will be a source of entertainment for this young man for decades to come. But, he is also teaching him something infinitely more important! Those earthly diversions and entertainments are subordinate to "kingdom matters" (Matthew 6:33). This father was showing his son Who reigns on the throne of his heart. I pray that this man's example will influence us all to remember what really matters most in the end.

Thanks, Dad! What a great "play"!

- Neal Pollard

---

# Out of the Land of Egypt

The phrase, "Out of the land of Egypt" is found numerous times in our Bible and holds great significance. God told Abraham that Israel would be servants in Egypt for 400 years (Genesis 15:12-16). Exodus 12:40 reveals the Hebrews exiting Egypt and celebrating the occasion by keeping the Feast of Passover. The apostle Paul tells us that God removed His people with a "high arm" (Acts 13:17).

Egypt shared world power status with the Hittites during the days of Hebrew servitude. Ramses II was likely the Pharaoh at the time of the Bible events recorded in the book of Exodus. The mind of man would give the Hebrew slaves a zero percent probability of removing themselves from such a world power. Man was to learn that with God there is nothing too hard to accomplish (Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:16-19, 26-27).

God chooses Moses to deliver the Hebrews from their long standing bondage in Egypt. Moses, through the hand of God, performed some of the mightiest wonders recorded in the Bible. The apostle Paul writes, "For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, For this very purpose did I raise thee up, that I might show in thee my power, and that my name might be published abroad in all the earth" (Romans 9:17). The supreme, eternal, and universal sovereignty of Jehovah God was made known to the world then and forever more when Jehovah removed His people from Egypt. The crippling plagues that fell upon the Egyptians were catastrophic and incredible to behold. The event made an imprint upon the minds of men that should have never been shaken. Yet God's people soon forgot.

The Bible phrase, "Jehovah their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt..." is found so many times throughout the Old Testament that one would have to be blind and dumb not to see that God intends for man to recognize the great significance. The Northern Kingdom of Israel heard this phrase one last time before they fell to Assyria (see 2 Kings 17:7). Israel had sinned against Jehovah their God in that they put him out of their mind and out of their lives.

What would bring a people to the point of not putting their faith and trust into the God that crippled a world power such as Egypt? This same God loved them, cared for them, and protected them. The Lord said, "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be mine own possession from among all peoples: for all the earth is mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:4-6).

That which brought Israel to forget the all-powerful, mighty, and loving God was their hardened hearts. Israel had adopted the ways of the world around them to the point of forgetting all that God had done for them (see 2 Kings 17:13-16). The Lord tried to stir up their remembrance by sending prophets and performing other miracles in their sight yet they continued to reject him. Eventually, the patient and loving God was provoked to so much anger that he "removed them out of his sight" (2 Kings 17:18).

The lesson for you and I [sic] today is, "Let us fear therefore, lest haply, a promise being left of entering into his rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it" (Hebrews 4:1). God had removed Israel from the Egyptians and was to fulfill his promise to them regarding the land of Canaan. Likewise, our heavenly Canaan land awaits us if we would put our faith, trust, and hope in him. The Lord has continued his love for man by giving his only beloved son as a ransom for mankind's sin (John 3:16). Will we conform our lives to this world or to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29; 12:1-2)? Will we be grateful for the Lord's magnificent loving sacrifice or will we be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13)? God has done much for us what shall we do in return?

The Lord continues to this day to be patient and longsuffering with man yet like in the days of Israel His divine patience will one day run out and man will give an account for all his deeds (see Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:15). Let all consider God's great power as he delivered Israel out of Egypt. Let us also remember God's great power as he delivers man from the power of sin today.

- John C. Robertson

---

## ANTICIPATION!

In the early seventies, Carly Simon wrote and sang a song entitled, "Anticipation." A few years later it was selected by a popular condiment company to use in advertising their thick sauce that created great anticipation while the diner awaited the moment it dripped from the bottle. "Think how good it's going to taste when it finally gets there! It is slow good!" Certainly their sales were up because of the effective and positive portrayal of "anticipation!"

As a Christian, are you living in greater trust in what God has promised, that something wonderful is coming, though you have not seen it? We trust God, that what we envision through highly figurative language will come to pass. Are we not waiting for that day when God will wipe every tear from our eyes (Revelation 7:17; 21:4), where those Blessed of God and washed "have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the

city." (Revelation 22:14)? We are waiting for God's Son (1 Thessalonians 1:10), "we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory" (Philippians 3:20-21). This eagerly waiting certainly involves great anticipation! We are "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus" (Titus 2:13). Do not these passages remind us that life in Christ is sustained by anticipation of what is to come, that our life in Christ focuses more on the unseen than on the seen (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:18; 1 Peter 1:8)?

Certainly we enjoy many realized spiritual blessings now as a result of abiding in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). We enjoy the great treasure of forgiveness (v.7), adoption (v.5), the revealing of his will (v.9), and the seal of the Holy Spirit of promise (v.13), "who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory." (v.14). The pledge we have received is the earnest of a completed promise to be received later (cf. 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5). These are true, unalterable, and unfailing promises of God that His people possess now, and will realize fully at the redemption of God's own possession when He raises the redeemed from the grave to immortality (cf. Romans 8:18-23). The words in Romans 8 are rich in significance: regarding "the glory that is to be revealed to us", notice "anxious longing" and "waits eagerly" of verse 19. That is anticipation! And in verse 23, "even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body." In verse 25, "with perseverance we wait eagerly for it." That is anticipation!

The Holy Spirit has sounded forth the promises of God. Heaven assures the Christian of his salvation, and it will blend into the end of time when he receives all of his full rewards from the Father. Faith in those promises is the "assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1). This is how the men of old gained approval (v.2). This was the nature of their anticipation!

Are you living in longing anticipation of full redemption?

- Gary Smalley

---

\* "If Christ and the Apostles could endorse the history of creation given by Moses in Gen. 2:3 without changing it, what right has the man who endorses evolution to criticize it?"

\* "If evolution is true when it says that men lived before Adam, why did Paul say that Adam was the first man (1 Corinthians 15:45)?"

\* "Evolution is to science what quackery is to medicine!"

\* "If Darwin is right, you'll be a monkey's uncle!"

\* "A hypocrite is a person who's not himself on Sunday!"

---

# ***What Must I Do To Be Saved?***

## **HEAR THE GOSPEL**

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

## **BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST**

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

## **REPENT OF PAST SINS**

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

## **CONFESS CHRIST**

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

## **BE BAPTIZED**

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

## **LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE**

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)