

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1510

January 28, 2024

Ezra 7:10, “*For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do [it], and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.*”

II Chronicles 12:13-14, “¹³*So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam [was] one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name [was] Naamah an Ammonitess. ¹⁴And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.*

We all are probably preparing for something at this very moment. You might be preparing for what you plan to do the rest of the day. Perhaps you are planning a meal. No doubt students are preparing for something related to school.

We spend so much of our lives preparing for things, and that is wise to do. That is how we make sure things turn out well. Never is preparation more important than when seeking the LORD.

We don't just seek the LORD accidently. We have to prepare to seek

the LORD. We are told Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD. In contrast to that, we are told king Rehoboam did evil because he did not prepare his heart to seek the LORD.

Just as one has to get the ground prepared for planting, our hearts need to be prepared before we can seek the LORD. If our hearts are not right, we cannot seek the LORD. How can we make our hearts right? We make our hearts right and draw closer to the LORD by doing spiritual things.

Attend services. Being at worship will help prepare your heart to seek the LORD. While worshiping we are hearing scripture, praying, singing songs, and partaking of the LORD's supper, and weekly giving as we've been prospered. We are with one another and that provides encouragement and strength. While away from worship, we cannot obtain the benefits that worshiping offers.

Pray. The people we are closest to are the ones we talk to the most. Praying draws us closer to the LORD. James 4:8 says, “*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*” We can draw nigh to God by obeying Him as well as praying very often to Him.

Study. Studying the Bible will prepare us to seek the LORD. We can't seek the LORD if we don't know about Him and His will for us. Spend some time each day with the Bible.

Have a pure heart. We also prepare our hearts to seek the LORD by having pure hearts. We need to rid ourselves of things and situations that make our hearts impure. It can be very difficult to purify our hearts, but we must do so if we want to please and be near the LORD.

Prepare your heart to seek the LORD. That is the only way we can hope to ever be with the LORD.

—Marty Edwards❖

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Sunday 9 & 12 PM; 6 PM (Online) — Wednesday 6 (Online)

News

—Continue to remember **Steve Seaton, Brad Terry, Enola Zigler, Ken & Erin Davis, Becky Hatcher, Joanna Locke, Richard Connolly, Larry Compton, Linda Terry, Lauren Candela, Rick Gibbs and Jerry Reynolds. Sandy Duncan** is home

recovering from hip replacement surgery. **Alice Vanderstoep** is going to have kidney stone surgery on March 11.

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Genesis 49:17, *“Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.”*

In Genesis 49, Jacob was nearing the end of his life while living in Egypt. He called his sons together. We are told in Genesis 49:1, *“And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you [that] which shall befall you in the last days.”*

When Jacob was telling Dan what would befall him, he said Dan would be a serpent. Certainly even among the ancients, a serpent was not something pleasant. Almost no one cares for a snake or serpent. Why would he say that being a serpent would befall him?

Perhaps this puzzling statement from the first book of the Bible can be answered in the last book of the Bible. In Revelation 12:9 and 20:2 the devil is called that “old serpent.” This is no doubt of his being a serpent because he took the form of a serpent in the garden of Eden. Also, a serpent is one of the most repulsive and frightening creatures known to man. Perhaps this was part of the curse placed upon the serpent.

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Sunday, January 21, 2024

Classes	5	Luke 4:31-44
Preaching	6	Winter in the Bible
Contribution	\$510.00	
Evening	3	James 2:1-9; Malachi 1:1-14

Bible Quiz

From the rising and going down of what would the LORD’s name be great among the Gentiles?

Last Week’s Answer— Former and hinder (Zechariah 14:8)

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Why would Dan be a serpent? In Revelation 7, all the tribes of Israel are represented as being in Heaven. Every tribe is listed except the tribe of Dan. Dan, perhaps, was not in this list because of the idolatry in Dan. The tribe of Dan was one of the places the golden calf was placed that the people worshiped.

It’s no wonder that Jacob called Dan a serpent. He was not in the list of the tribes in Heaven. We don’t want to miss out on Heaven. If we do, we have missed it all. We also will be like the serpent if we miss Heaven. Our abode will be the abode of the devil. Begin now and make sure you are on the list of those in Heaven.

—Marty Edwards❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)