



The Master's Trestle-board

It is truly good to be back in the light of Masonry. There is a lot to do this Fall. We have a Second Degree coming up at our stated meeting Thursday Sept. 19th. There is a proposal to be presented requesting our assistance in an Open House for the Chamber of Commerce, to be held on Nov. 21, 2002 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM at the West Maplewood hall. Please come and be a part of the lodge process.

Sincerely,
WM Buck Strickland

On Attitude

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes than what others think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.”

Charles Swindoll

Submitted by: Bro. Ellis Massey

The Wisdom of Rome

The month of September is: THE MONTH TO HARVEST LIFE. “September, when the summer harvest season nears completion, is a month of endings. Although many days remain sunny and warm, the intense heat of summer is past and the first cooler days appear, as the sun continues it six-month journey to the winter solstice and the hours of light are noticeably shorter approaching the equinox.” This is a month of both joy and sadness. Joy for the bounty of harvest but sadness for it is a time of endings. Endings, or death, underscores our need to have faith in the rebirth that comes in the spring. The following famous myth illustrates my point.

On a day, long ago, the Nymph of Cool Waters, Arethusia, invited the Divine Mothers to visit at her sacred spring. The goddess Ceres (Demeter in Greek) decided to go but her beautiful daughter Persephone declined, wishing to pick wild flowers with her girlfriends. The young women found a lovely, magical place with a misty waterfall and abundant flowers. Persephone became so engrossed in her quest to find gold crocus and white lilies that she wandered apart from the other young women. Lurking in the shady shadows was the Dark God Dis, Lord of Hades. Dis became captivated by Persephone's beauty and seeing her alone he took this chance to abduct her. Persephone's initial cry of alarm rang out but she was quickly taken into the dark realm. Ceres heard the commotion and cried out for her daughter but could not discover the whereabouts of Persephone. After searching the world Ceres finally learned that Persephone was taken to Hades. Ceres appealed to Jupiter, Persephone's father, for some justice in the matter. Jupiter responded that Persephone could be returned if she had fasted rather than eaten. Mercury, the winged messenger God, was sent to learn of Persephone's condition. He returned to report that great hunger had caused Persephone to eat three seeds. Ceres decided she would join her daughter in Hades. Jupiter said no, and he noted that Dis was genuinely in love with Persephone. Jupiter decided on a compromise. Persephone could return above ground twice three months of the year, but, must return to Hades for the remaining six months. So, Persephone departs into Hades in September and returns above



Education is the kindling of a flame, Not the filing

ground in April, as I noted in our April

Fellowcraft Degree



Our EA Br. Mike Davis is ready to be passed. So, we will put on his Fellowcraft Degree at our Thursday Sept. 19th stated meeting. WB John Burley will confer the degree, ably assisted by WB Glenn Hutchings. Br. Frank Meyers will be the Senior Deacon. The Middle Chamber lecture will be given by WB Gary Pitcher, WM Buck Strickland will present the working tools and VWB Ed Jungblom will give the Charge. Please support our brother.

SS John F. Browne

NOTICE!

Our brother Oussama El-Khoury has new home and DSL e-mail addresses. Please up-date your address books to reflect these changes:

phone: 805-383-9029

address: 842 Calle La Sombra
Camarillo, CA 93010

e-mail: oussamae@yahoo.com

(DSL e-mail—for messages w/attachments)
oussama.elkhoury@verizon.net

Calendar of Events

Sep. 19th is our stated meeting, a light dinner served at 6:30 PM Lodge 7:30 PM. We will have a 2nd Degree this evening.

Oct. 3rd is our special communication, a light dinner served at 6:30 PM We will be having a Table Lodge, please join us.

Oct. 17th is our stated meeting

Nov. 7th is our Special

Nov. 21st is our stated meeting and we will have election of officers for 2003.

Dec. 5th is our Special



Book Review

THE BIBLE UNEARTHED

The authors next searched to find out if the story of the Exodus from Egypt could be supported by history or archeological information. But, they could not find any such support. Some texts from Egypt indicated that workers from Canaan did live in Egypt, but no mass exodus was recorded. The authors followed the footsteps of Joshua as he supposedly conquered the land of Canaan. However, the archeological record did not support such a conquest by Joshua. There was, to be sure, evidence of destruction during the time period Joshua would have carried out this conquest, but the evidence tends to point to the "Sea Peoples" as the most likely ones to have done the conquering, c. 1230 BCE.

The same result happens when a critical eye was turned to the stories of King David and his son Solomon. At first glance there seemed to be historic and archeological evidence for the biblical accounts of King David and King Solomon. However, our authors showed this support was built on sand and not on firm analytical ground. It turns out that the story of David was meant to establish a fact which did not actually take place. King David was supposed to have united the kingdom of Israel, in the north, with the kingdom of Judah in the south. [*Judah, one of the sons of Jacob, was granted land around the city of Jerusalem and was the son to whom a dying Jacob gave his prime blessing and so the kingdom bears his name*] What's revealed, by a careful look at history and archeology together, is that there was a forgotten First Kingdom, that of Israel the northern kingdom. The area north of Jerusalem was much better suited to economic growth and apparently did so. But the kingdom of Judah, where the kings, Saul (1025-1005 BCE), David (1005-970 BCE) and Solomon (970-931 BCE) ruled in order, was poor and not so well populated as their northern relatives. The kingdom of Israel developed into a true state by the beginning of the ninth century BCE, under the rule of the Omrides family (founded by General Omri—884-873 BCE). The most famous Omride couple was King Ahab and his wife, the notorious Phoenician princess Jezebel. It was under their rule that the fine stone palaces were built, later attributed to Solomon. In fact there is no archeological evidence for Solomon having built a grand Temple; building with ashlar stones did not come about in the kingdom of Judah until much later, the 700's BCE. But ashlar stone building did take place in the kingdom of Israel under King Ahab and Queen Jezebel (873-852 BCE).

The kingdom of Israel paid a big price when, in 722 BCE, King Hoshea (732-724 BCE) tried to break away from a vassal relationship with the empire of Assyria; the attempt failed. Many of the ruling class and soldiers of Israel were deported to other parts of the empire. The decline of Israel spurred the growth of Judah.

"Our story now approaches that great moment in religious and literary history, because it was only after the fall of Israel that Judah grew into a fully developed state with the necessary complement of professional priests and trained scribes able to undertake such a task. When Judah suddenly faced the non-Israelite world on its own, it needed a defining and motivating text. That text was the historical core of the Bible, composed in Jerusalem in the course of the seventh century BCE. And because Judah was the birthplace of ancient Israel's central scripture, it is hardly surprising that the biblical text repeatedly stresses Judah's special status from the very beginnings of Israel's history."

"But beginning in the late eight century BCE, something extraordinary happened. A series of epoch-making changes, beginning with Israel's fall, suddenly altered the political and religious landscape. Judah's population swelled to unprecedented levels. Its capital city became a national religious center and a bustling metropolis for the first time. Intensive trade began with surrounding nations. Finally, a major religious reform movement—focused on the exclusive worship of YHWH in the Jerusalem Temple—started cultivating a revolutionary new understanding of the God of Israel."

The population increase in Judah was in large part the result of refugees fleeing from the Assyrian army's advance against the cities and towns in the kingdom of Israel; Israel's loss became Judah's gain. Judah also gained through cooperation with the Assyrian Empire. "The inescapable conclusion is that Judah suddenly cooperated with and even integrated itself into the economy of the Assyrian empire [under King Ahaz (743-727 BCE) of Judah]...Judah took part in the intensification of the Arabian trade in the late eight century under Assyrian domination. There is good reason to believe that new markets were open to Judahite goods, stimulating intensified production of oil and wine. As a result, Judah went through an economic revolution, from a traditional system based on the village and clan to cash-cropping and industrialization under state centralization."

Stayed tuned for the next installment.

SS John F. Browne

To contribute to this newsletter please send your letter, comment, historical fact, poem or calendar announcement, by the 2nd Monday of each month, to:

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