

**New Caney  
Church of Christ**

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**Assembly Times**

*Sundays*  
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
*Wednesdays*  
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

***Retaining The Standard  
Of Sound Doctrine***

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**Know Your Bible: Answers**

1. The names of the tribes of Israel (Exodus 28:21)
2. Hophni and Phinehas (1 Samuel 2:17).
3. Hilkiah (2 Kings 22:8)
4. Annas (Acts 4:6)

**This Week's Assignments & Events**

**Sunday Worship**

Greeter: Jacob McAdams  
Announcements: Robert McCorkle  
Encouragement Talk: John Franks  
Opening Prayer: Chris Beard  
Scripture Reading: Billy Lovell  
Colossians 2:8-12  
Song Leader: Harper Flores  
Table Talk: Ryan Haarmann  
Contribution: Eddie Bowen  
Helper: Kevin Buckner  
Fruit of Vine: John Van Baale  
Helper: Jacob McAdams  
Helper: Lester Mabry  
Closing Prayer: Joel Jordan

**Sunday Afternoons**

July 16 4PM Devotionals (Men, Women, Youth)  
July 23 5PM Worship - Casey Thomas to preach  
July 30 3PM Men's Meeting with Elders  
3PM Children's Class Workday (quarter change)  
Aug 6 Parent Planned Youth Devotional

**Wednesday Evening**

Song Leader: Harper Flores  
Speaker: Ryan Haarmann



# Standing Firm

“Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm”  
Ephesians 6:13

Volume 20  
Number 29  
July 16, 2023

## I Will Stretch Out My Hand

The book of Zephaniah is one of dire warnings and terrible condemnations from God because of the sin of the nation of Judah. He had previously destroyed and carried away the northern nation of Israel into the Assyrian captivity, from which they never returned. Judah (the remaining two tribes of Israel) did not learn from that example and followed their lead into idolatry and rebellion against God. Zephaniah is prophesying just a few years before Babylon would act as God's servant of wrath and carry them away into captivity. We also can rebel against God and fail to serve Him, so that these warnings and condemnations serve to wake us up.

**Zephaniah 1:4** *“So I will stretch out My hand against Judah And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, And the names of the idolatrous priests along with the priests.”* God's patience is exhausted. The hand of God is stretched out against sinners, against His chosen people. The people were worshiping Baal, and Milcom (1:5), and idolatrous priests were at work in Jerusalem and all of Judah. God's hand is stretched out toward *“those who have turned back from following the Lord, and those who have not sought the Lord or inquired of Him”* (1:6). We also can be guilty of falling back (to the world), of falling away from God so that we stop serving Him (Hebrews 6:5). Like Judah some Christians *“trample under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified”* (Hebrews 10:29). We must understand the hand of the Lord is stretched out against sinners today as well. *“It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God”* (Hebrews 10:31).

**Zephaniah 1:12** *“It will come about at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And I will punish the men Who are stagnant in spirit, Who say in their hearts, ‘The Lord will not do good or evil!’”* Some of the attitude of the people of Judah is revealed which led them to turn back into idolatry - they became stagnant in spirit. They lost their zeal to do what God said. While “lukewarm” (Rev. 3:16) may be comparable to “stagnant,” we must understand the loss of zeal to serve and obey God is a serious problem in our heart. It WILL lead to sin. These in Zechariah had not totally forgotten about God, *“The Lord will not do good or evil!”* They knew who God was, but their attitude of indifference to what God said is what they then turn around and apply to God. In this we also can be wrong. God is not indifferent simply because

He has not yet stretched out His hand against us. He is patient and loving and desires for all men to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). God is just - and He will judge righteously against all those who do not repent. Notice God would search Jerusalem with lamps (Zech. 1:12). We would say "you can run, but you can't hide." God would find everyone and bring them to justice. They did not search for God, but He would search for them! They were indifferent toward God, but He is just toward all. All they possessed would become plunder for the Babylonians. If we adopt these attitudes, we also will lose everything of value to us - our soul.

**Zephaniah 3:1-2** *"Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, The tyrannical city! She heeded no voice, She accepted no instruction. She did not trust in the Lord, She did not draw near to her God."* This is a just judgment of God upon Judah. So we also must give heed to the voice pleading for us to serve God, to accept instruction from God, to trust in the Lord and draw near to God (James 4:7-10). All those who were to be spiritual leaders are condemned in Judah: *"Her princes within her are roaring lions, Her judges are wolves at evening; They leave nothing for the morning. Her prophets are reckless, treacherous men; Her priests have profaned the sanctuary. They have done violence to the law"* (Zephaniah 3:3-4). If we are to be a spiritual people we must serve God as He says, in all our ways. *"But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord."* (Ephesians 5:3-10).

The alternative is awful to consider. *"My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal... In that day you will feel no shame Because of all your deeds By which you have rebelled against Me; For then I will remove from your midst Your proud, exulting ones, And you will never again be haughty On My holy mountain"* (Zephaniah 3:8, 11). "Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts, *"Consider your ways!"* (Haggai 1:5).  
By Charles Willis

## Know Your Bible

### Priests

1. What was engraved on the twelve stones in the High Priest's breastplate?
2. What two gluttonous priests were notorious for keeping the sacrificial meat for themselves?
3. What priest found the book of the Law in the temple during Josiah's reign?
4. What High Priest and John and Peter arrested after they healed a lame man?

Answers On Back

### Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



## The Heart Of Ezra

by Charles Willis

**"For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord" (Ezra 7:10).** You would think a priest of God would already know the Law. But what He determined was to study to Law. He wanted to know it better and fully. We see by his example that learning the law of God is necessary and comes through study. We must "set our heart" to study God's law. It will not just happen, but must be a determination in our heart. Study must be an important aspect in our life - something our heart desires as those who want to please God and be more like His Son.

**"and to practice it" (Ezra 7:10).** Having knowledge of the Law is important, but Ezra recognized there is a need to "practice" it also. Knowledge without practice is useless. There is no purpose in saying we serve God when in fact we do not. We must obey all the commands of God given in the New Covenant. We are told by Christ to "observe" all the He commanded (Matt. 28:20). These things Ezra knew and so should we. If we do not "set" obedience in our heart, we cannot please God for we will inevitably fail to obey. So we must study to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15) and be those are examples of the believers (1 Timothy 4:12), those who are "doers" of the word and not hearers only (James 1:22).

**"and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel" (Ezra 7:10).** This I believe Ezra also "set in heart." It was his determination to teach others and help them understand God's will. What a great lesson for all Christians! We can look around us and see all those lost in sin, but at times we are not willing to be the one to go to them. But if we want the heart of Ezra we must be willing to teach them. Ezra determined to be a servant of God disseminating His word among the people.

This is the very same thing we as Christians are called to do and be. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..."* (Matt. 28:19). If we are not willing to teach others it is likely they will not hear the truth. Ezra understood this and determined to fill this role in service to God. I would all Christians would set this in their heart as well!

**The heart of Ezra** is the type of heart all Christians should endeavor to possess!

## Our Gospel Meeting is September 10-13

With D.J. Dickerson from LaPorte