

I Have Found The Book

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

2 Kings 22:8, "And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD."

The book had been lost for some time, although no one seemed to be aware of it. There had been numerous evil kings who had rebelled against the worship of the true God and favored the idols instead. Had the book of the law been hidden to protect it from being destroyed, or just laid aside and forgotten? It was found in the house of God where it had been neglected by the people who were to keep God's laws.

Manasseh and his son Amon were kings before Amon's son, Josiah, became king at the age of eight years old. His grandfather, Manasseh, was one of the worst kings to rule the land. He did worse than the Amorites who were in the land before Israel. (2 Kings 21:11.) As he ruled for fifty five years and Amon ruled for two years the law had been neglected for a long time. Some of the priests must have worshiped in secret in spite of the danger from these wicked

rulers. Manasseh had shed innocent blood "very much" according to 2 Kings 21:16. This was the condition of the nation when Josiah became king. He didn't follow in the footsteps of his fathers but chose at an early age to obey God. This is how the laws of God were found in the house of the Lord.

The book of the law was in the house of the Lord all the time. It was not missing from the house of God but was missing from the lives of the people. Physically it was near, but spiritually it was far from the hearts and minds of the people. Nearly all of the people had a more thorough knowledge of the idols than they did of God. The same thing is true for many people in our day.

Many homes have at least one bible and some may have several. Still it seems to be that a lot of people, even church folks, know little about the bible. Oh, they can tell you about sports, money matters, and many other items of interest, but few can even take the bible and show the plan of salvation. The bible is almost like a good luck charm to those who have it but don't have any interest in reading it. We are blessed to have the bible and the freedom to read and study the precious words of life. A lot of countries don't have the freedom to do this and are

kept in spiritual darkness.

If the bible is in your home but unread, then in a sense, it is lost. When the holy words of God are not treasured and studied then it is as though it isn't even around. For many people sports, finances, or many other things are known intimately but the words of life are scarcely known. Most subjects are alright in their place, but are a danger if they take over and crowd out the word of God. Sports, for instance, are interesting and entertaining but they have no value to the saving of the soul. It is the same for all other subjects, they have their place, but are never on par with the scriptures.

Some have said that the bible is hard to understand so they don't try to learn much of it's message. It takes effort to know and learn the word of God. Effort must be put forth with prayer and the desire to learn. God will reward those who truly seek to know him and his will. No one should think that he can read the bible as he would read a newspaper, or a novel, and expect to understand all that it says. Those who have tried it this way are usually disappointed and give up. To them it is lost in the house as it lays there with it's wonderful treasures unopened.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Joshua, intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

OTHNIEL'S TRIUMPH
HAVING MADE ALL PREPARATIONS, OTHNIEL AND HIS MEN STORM THE WALLS OF THE GIANTS' CITY, WHERE THE FIERCE GIANTS WAIT WITH AMUSED CONFIDENCE..

WE SHALL CRACK THEIR SKULLS LIKE SO MANY EGGS!

COME TO US, ISRAELITES!

COME -AND DIE!

HERE DIETH THE FIRST!

AND NOW A BITTER STRUGGLE TAKES PLACE AS OTHNIEL'S MEN REACH THE TOP OF THE CITY'S WALLS!

Next Week THE SIGNAL!

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