

# TRUTH & RIGHT

the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ

 WELLSBURG  
CHURCH OF CHRIST



[www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com](http://www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com)

Volume 12 Issue 11

March 12, 2017

## WARTS AND ALL

*“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit,” Jm. 5:16-18.* Oliver Cromwell once famously insisted on his self-portrait being painted “warts and all”. No attempts were to be made to conceal any blemishes or imperfections, but rather laid completely bare for all to see his likeness in it’s essential honest truth. This is the phrase which seems most fitting for any who would make commentary or observation of the intended meaning of

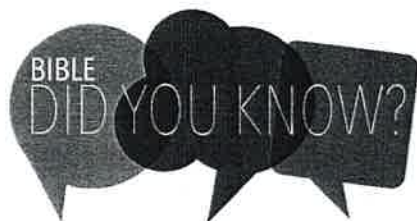
James’ mention of Elijah being a man with a nature like ours...warts and all. Just as Mr. Cromwell did not want an airbrushed embellished image of himself to deceitfully portray his physical appearance as being without any flaws, the Holy Spirit saw fit to preserve the biographical portraits of many of God’s most faithful and influential servants in a complete bare and open manner, warts and all. He made sure we knew Moses committed murder and was unable to enter Canaan for not believing God when He instructed him to provide water for the Israelites by speaking to it. He lets us know how Abraham and Jacob were liars and that David was an adulterous

murderer. We learn how Elijah had a suicidal mental breakdown and that Solomon was seduced by women to turn away from God. He includes the embarrassing moments in Peter's life when his mouth writes checks his faith can't cash in boasting he will walk on the water to Jesus and that he would never in any circumstance ever fall away from following Jesus and the inevitable humiliating failures to follow. While we may have been satisfied simply knowing the Apostle Paul had a shady past that he was humbly ashamed of, the Holy Spirit made sure we know every detail from him standing by in assistance to those who killed Stephen to his breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, ravaging the church and dragging off men and women to be imprisoned. There are those who would prefer that we not know any of this. You can usually tell who they are from the uncomfortable squeamish look on their faces whenever these verses are discussed. There are those who feel that to publicly uncover the sordid

past and history of faith's great hall of fame is to give them feet of clay and throw water on the extraordinary image their faithful lives portray and bring them down to a mere ordinary level of human frailty. That is a problem of perception. Is it your view that by following God your life can be magnified and viewed as being extraordinary compared to those who reject Him? Or are you willing to demonstrate with all of your own personal flaws and weaknesses God's awesome power and influence to instill life-transforming faith? Is it your endeavor to view the follower of God as being extraordinary or is it your endeavor to glorify God as extraordinary in His ability to lead and transform the ordinary? There is actually a great benefit to knowing many of the ugly details which accumulated in the lives of many of God's greatest servants. When we come to realize that men like Elijah, Abraham, Moses, Peter and Paul were men who were essentially just like us...warts and all...it is reassuring to know that there

are no extraordinary servants in the Kingdom of God and that faith levels the playing field. This is what James is trying to say by adding that little comment about Elijah being a man with a nature like ours and then proceeding to remind us of his faith in God to accomplish the extraordinary. Elijah was an ordinary man who through faith, came to see God accomplish the extraordinary. I hope we will be reminded of this as we spend this day focusing our attention on examples in Abraham and Sarah's life where they failed in their lives in moments to completely trust God. While they serve as examples of what to avoid, in the great big picture of their life as a whole, it is also encouraging to know they are not that much different from us, giving us all the more hope and confidence that God is able to change and mold us to great service through faith just like them! *"By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith*

*he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore," (Heb. 11:8-12).*  
Daniel Ruegg



**Jesus is willing to cleanse us from the vilest of sins! "If you are willing, you can make me clean."... 'I am willing; be cleansed.' Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed." Mk. 1:40-42**

# People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



## *King Hezekiah's Seal Discovered*

A dump site is the last place you would expect to find an 8th century B.C. seal for a papyrus document signed by one of the kings of Judah. Perhaps that's why it has taken 2,700 years for the piece of clay inscribed with King Hezekiah's seal to be discovered in Jerusalem. It is believed to be the first-ever seal -- also referred to as a "bulla" -- from an Israeli or Judean King to be discovered by archaeologists. "The seal of the king was so important. It could have been a matter of life or death, so it's hard to believe that anyone else had the permission to use the seal," Eilat Mazar, who directs excavations at the City of David's summit, told CNN. "Therefore, it's very reasonable to assume we are talking about an impression made by the King himself, using his own ring. "This the greatest single item I have ever found," added Mazar -- a third generation archaeologist. The seal is believed to have been discarded from a royal building, with the rubbish. The impression on the clay bears an inscription in ancient Hebrew script that translates as: "Belonging to Hezekiah [son of] Ahaz king of Judah." It features a two-winged sun, with wings turned downward, flanked by two ankh symbols symbolizing life. Other bullas bearing the name of King Hezekiah have been seen on the antiquities market. However, the others are not as important because they were not found by archaeologists and therefore may not be genuine, according to Mazar. "The bible describes King Hezekiah as one of the most important kings after King David," said Mazar. "He was rich, daring, stood up against Assyrians. A very impressive King," she added. King Hezekiah -- who reigned from about 727 to 698 BC -- is certainly portrayed favorably in the bible. The book of 2 Kings 18:5 says of Hezekiah: "...after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among them that were before him."

