

# TRUTH & RIGHT

the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ

 WELLSBURG  
CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

Volume 16 Issue 50

December 12, 2021

## PEACE, PEACE

*"They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace"* (Jer. 6:14). This text reveals that God, through Jeremiah, had to confront false teachers who tried to assure the people of "peace and safety" when no such thing was coming. Not in the immediate future, anyway! In another chapter, we read where Jeremiah would face the false teacher, Hananiah, who claimed God would return the people from Babylon in *"two full years"* rather than the actual 70 years God had said (Jer. 28, 25:11-12, 29:10; Dan. 9:2)! Here is a man trying to proclaim *"Peace"* and *"Everything will be all right"* (NET) when that wasn't the case at all. Why might men like Hananiah and others want to tell people such falsehoods as *"peace, peace"*? Could it be they thought men might pay them more to hear the pleasant message?

Maybe they thought they would be more popular with the people? We know a message of victory and winning is much more popular than a message saying that we will lose! Jeremiah had the unenviable task of telling Judah that the best thing for them to do is give up and accept the punishment and be patient for 70 years (Jer. 27:1-11)! Who wants to have that job? Jeremiah had an unpopular job, but it was for the best. His message was from God (Jer. 28:9, 15-17); the others' messages were not. In like manner, we who respect the word of God face an uphill battle because *"Peace, peace"* is the more prevalent message! Just as in Jeremiah's day, Paul warned of people who would *"not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables"* (II Tim. 4:3-4). Does this

sound like the attitude we see among people today? Yes, it is alive well today, just as it was in days gone by! We must make a choice. Will we listen to those who call and cry for "*peace*" when there is no peace? Yes, we ought to strive for peace with God and peace among others (Matt. 5:9). Yet, remember that Christ said His kingdom would bring a "*sword*" among the closest of family (Matt. 10:21-22, 34-39). There is no "*peace*" to be had between God and Satan. They are diametrically opposed, as are their teachings (II Cor. 6:14-17). Let us stop trying to be a friend of God and a friend of the world when this is impossible (Jas. 4:4). It is high time we spoke the message of the Lord, that will hurt some, but bring healing to all in the end, as Paul did on the ship (Acts 27:10). At Ephesus, Paul said he spent three years preaching "*all the counsel of God*" and warning people, "*night and day with tears*" (Acts 20:27, 31). I wonder why Paul was crying? I wonder if he made those listening cry sometimes? What if it was a little of both? Why would Paul preach a message that caused people to cry, that made people "*tremble*" (Acts 24:25), and that caused some to run him out of town (Acts 17:10-15)? Wouldn't it have been easier just to tell people, "*peace, peace*"? We could ask Jeremiah the same question. Isn't it easier to

say, "*peace, peace*"? We know what is easier to say, but it does not mean it is a better message. The best message is the message that comes from the Lord (Jn. 17:17; II Tim. 4:2; I Pet. 4:11). The best message is the one that has not been diluted by men's thoughts and feelings (Gal. 1:6-10). The best message is the message that tells us what to do to be saved and then encourages us to continue to be faithful to God (Acts 2:37-38; I Cor. 15:58; Matt. 7:13-14)! "*Peace, peace*" is, in our vernacular, sugar-coating the truth! As a friend of mine says, if you want sugar-coating, eat a doughnut! If you want the truth, listen to the Lord's words (I Pet. 4:11; Jn. 17:17), and be ready to repent and to obey (Jas. 1:22-25)! Jeremiah preached the truth, but people did not want to hear this and were destroyed. You and I have a chance to listen to God's word and obey (Ecc. 12:13). What will you do? Now is the time to decide! – Jarrod Jacobs. "**The Truth**" Are we supposed to be angry when someone tells us the truth? The Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 4:16 and asked the question, "*Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?*" In connection with this passage, Jesus made it clear that the truth sets us free (Jn. 8:32). **The Truth Is Wonderful.** Sadly, many people would rather hear lies than the truth. People are comfortable with what almost any person tells them, as long as

it sounds good to their ears. Very few seem to be pleased in finding out the truth of the matter.

Proverbs 25:2 tells us that it is a king's honor to search a matter. To search a matter is to seek wisdom and understanding and inquire diligently into all causes brought before them. This is particularly true with the word of God and being able to use sound judgment. This verse also implies that the king that searches the truth is wise. **The Truth Brings Peace.** Peace of mind comes to us when we know the truth (Jn. 17:17). For example, knowing that our money is safe in the bank brings peace of mind. Knowing that our family is safe at home brings peace of mind. In like manner, we have peace of mind when we know we are safe with the Lord (Mk. 16:16). **The Truth Brings Life.** We can live a happier life with the truth. We can live a healthier life as stress and worries are much less when we follow the truth. In John 14:6, Jesus said that He is the way, the truth, and the life. To follow Christ is to gain all of these. JD Espinoza **Tell Me Why.** Selected

\* If a lawyer finds a flaw in a title to your property and does not warn about it, he has not done his duty. \* If a sanitary engineer discovers conditions dangerous to health and fails to report them, he may be responsible for sickness and even death. \* If a doctor learns of a dangerous condition

in our bodies and does not warn us to correct such, our blood may be on his hands. \* But, if a preacher sees a flaw in our title to a home in Heaven and warns about it, if he discovers conditions dangerous to our spiritual body and reports it, if he discovers a diseased condition and warns us, many think he's meddling and finding fault. Furthermore, these spiritually ill demand a change in the preaching or the preacher if the preaching does not change.

\* Strange, isn't it? Tell me, why the change in attitude when the preacher does his duty (II Tim. 4:2)? "A pessimist is someone who complains about the noise when opportunity knocks." — L.E. Sloan

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



## *Egyptian King Hophra*

June and July were busy months for archaeological discoveries. Perhaps the most significant was a sandstone inscription of the Egyptian king Hophra, one of six pharaohs mentioned by name in the Old Testament (Jeremiah 44:30). It was accidentally discovered on June 4 by a farmer working in his field near Ismailia in the eastern delta of Egypt. Hophra ruled from 589 to 570 BC and was involved in events surrounding the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in July, 587 BC. His Egyptian name was Wahibre, rendered in Greek as Apries. What is amazing about the artifact is that it appears to be completely intact. The inscription was carved on a stone slab (stela) about 7.5 ft high and 3.4 ft. wide. At the top is a winged sun disk; below that is the cartouche (name ring) of Pharaoh Hophra, followed by 15 lines of hieroglyphic text. A translation of the inscription is yet to be released, but Dr. Mostafa Waziry, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities stated, “the stela is one of the border stelae that the king erected during his military campaigns towards the east” ([www.egypttoday.com](http://www.egypttoday.com), June 5, 2021). In actual fact, no historical records of Hophra have been found; what we know of him has been gleaned from Greek historians and the Old Testament. If this does indeed turn out to be associated with a military campaign, it would be enormously significant.

The Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar installed Zedekiah as puppet king of Judah in 597 BC (2 Kgs. 24:15-17). Zedekiah, however, decided to revolt and sought help from Egypt (Ezekiel 17:15). Nebuchadnezzar responded by laying siege to Jerusalem in January of 589 BC (2 Kgs 25:1). Shortly thereafter, Hophra was crowned Pharaoh. His first official act was to come to the aid of Judah: Pharaoh’s army had marched out of Egypt, and when the Babylonians who were besieging Jerusalem heard the report about them, they withdrew from Jerusalem. Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet: “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of Me, ‘Pharaoh’s army, which has marched out to support you, will go back to its own land, to Egypt...” Jer. 37:6-8.

