

# Tell Me the Old, Old Story

My husband, Larry, and I have always enjoyed telling our children stories. I love to recall a classic fairy or folk tale, while Larry creates characters of his own, complete with plots to help solve the current issue that our children might be facing. But the stories from God's Word are, by far, the best stories of all.

By Yvette Rouse

The real lives of men and women recalled to us by the Holy Spirit far surpass any literature man has penned on his own. How familiar are our children with the great heroes of old? How familiar are we ourselves with these rich lessons so that we can share them? Do we know more about the ongoing saga of Britney Spears than the incomparable life experiences of our Lord Jesus Christ? What WWF wrestler can compare with the mighty Samson? (**Judges 13-16**) What modern magician can make an iron ax head float on the surface of the water? (**2 Kings 6:1-7**) What movie crew can create live bodies from dry bones as Ezekiel witnessed? (**Ezekiel 37:1-14**) What more important vote could we cast than the one the Israelites voiced on Mount Carmel

for the Lord? (**1 Kings 18:20-40**) What "Transformer" can become more changed than when the penitent sinner who gladly receives God's grace through faith and is raised a new creature from the waters of baptism? (**Romans 6:3-6**)

As John and the writer of Hebrews pointed out, we are limited by time and space from recording so many other amazing events. (**John 20:30, 21:25; Hebrews 11:32**) But how blessed we are to have received so many marvelous stories to build us up in the faith, comfort us in our sorrows, and enrich our lives each day.

Do we know the "old, old story"? Does it burn in our hearts to share it with our family and others like Jeremiah? (**Jeremiah 20:9**) Are we depending on Bible class teachers to share it with our children in an hour or so each week? Let us redeem the time we have (**Ephesians 5:16**), and remember that the Bible is the one story that touches all our lives and does not have an ending.



### Classes this Week

<b>College Devotional and Singing at the Rouse's</b>	<b>Kid's Class at the Building at 5:15 PM All Are Invited</b>	<b>Monday Night Ladies Class at 7:00 PM at the Building</b>	<b>Thursday Night Acts Study at 7:00 PM at Jillian Petty's</b>
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### Sick

<b>Jim and Barbara Kicker</b>	<b>Pam Dial (Laura Weldon's Mother)</b>
<b>Albert Boyles (William Herd's Relative)</b>	<b>Rose Tate (Toni Herd's Cousin)</b>
<b>Adriana Mininno (Haley Chittam's Cousin)</b>	<b>Dave and Betty Bradford</b>
<b>Blake Whatley (Hunt's neighbor)</b>	<b>Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)</b>
<b>Marty Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)</b>	<b>Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)</b>
<b>Carol Dickerson</b>	<b>Bunny Richardson</b>

### News and Notes

- Let's remember our expectant mothers: Anna Miller and Laura Humphrey.
- Rachel Bradford newborn, Libby, continues in the hospital.
- Sign up to host or teach the Monthly Home Kid's class (Grades 1-8). College students are encouraged to be study leaders.
- If you would like to host the Sunday Night College Devotional this semester please contact Yvette.
- Let us remember the great opportunities we have in local evangelism. Let's be sure to greet and welcome all visitors.
- Audio CDs of Today's Sermon will be immediately available.

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# The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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### Thought to Ponder

A Man's heart has only enough life in it to pursue one object fully. Tell me to what you pay attention, and I will tell you who you are.

## Two Views of Time — God's and Man's

By Larry Rouse

A wise man is aware of how short life truly is. "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (**Ps 90:12**). As we come to see the great uncertainty that the future holds from the standpoint of man's wisdom and insight, we ought to take great comfort in knowing that we serve a God who holds the future in His hands. Men change, nations rise and fall, my own body grows old and will die, but our God never changes! "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (**Heb 13:8**).

### The Difference 100 Years Makes

We tend to judge history by our current standards and experiences. Consider the difficulty we would have in understanding the generation that lived just over 100 years ago. Consider these facts from another writer: "Here are the U. S. statistics for 1904. The average life expectancy in the US was 47. Only 14% of the homes in the US had a bathtub. Only 8% of the homes had a telephone. There were only 8,000 cars in the US and only 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph. Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. The average wage in the US was \$0.22/hour. More than 95% of all births in the US took place at home. 90% of all US physi-

cians had no college education. Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg. The American flag had 45 stars. The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was 30. Only 6% of all Americans had graduated from high school. There were only about 230 reported murders in the entire US." Now imagine what will the next 100 years bring!

### The Struggle of Daniel's Generation

The great Old Testament prophet Daniel had a struggle to comprehend the world that he lived in. He was taken from his home in Israel when he was around 17 and lived the rest of his life in foreign lands. After he was brought to Babylon his name was changed from Daniel (God is my judge) to Belteshazar (a servant of Bel, the principle Babylonian deity) (**Dan 1:7**). He was taught a different language and lived in a completely pagan culture. Early in his stay there the news came to his ears of the destruction of Jerusalem including the temple of God built by Solomon.

Now imagine living nearly 70 years in the capital of the most powerful empire in the world. If Daniel had relied upon his considerable, but limited human wisdom, he would have likely concluded that the nation of Israel was crushed and would never return. He also would have likely concluded that the Babylonian empire

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**Do You Have a Bible Question?**  
Call (334) 734-2133 or  
E-mail:  
LarryRouse@aubeacon.com



### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

Check Us Out On the Internet: [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)

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would last for hundreds of years into the future. Fortunately for Daniel and for the few remaining Jews that walked by faith, they were not swayed by the "wisdom" that "all things continue as they were" (**2 Peter 3:4**). Those faithful Jews, as a result, never trusted in the "status-quo" of Babylonian rule.

Daniel was in his early 80's when the events of Daniel 5 came to pass. He was aware of the prophecy of Jeremiah that the captivity would only last 70 years (**Jer 25:11-14**). Daniel's life was defined by his relationship to God and not by "success" determined by worldly standards. At any point during Daniel's lifetime those who "walked by sight" would have laughed at the "insignificant few" associated with his stand of faith. His stand brought ridicule and death threats. Some of those threats were put into action. In all of this God was, in fact, using Daniel as the first building block of a remnant that would return to rebuild Israel and usher in the Messiah. Would you have been found standing with Daniel if you had lived then?

### The Struggle of Our Generation

Prosperity can be more damaging to a living faith than adversity! When Israel was told about the promised land and the great physical blessings that God would give them, He also included a warning of the likely reaction of the people to their prosperity. "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; and *when* your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt....then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth' (**Deut 8:11-17**).

Look again at how far we have moved in our physical prosperity within the church. Sociologists have noted that religious movements that "move up the ladder" of wealth and education often cast off their past beliefs to be more compatible with their new social relationships and status. The scriptures bear witness to this tendency to allow prosperity and education to choke a Biblical faith. "Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world

to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? (**James 2:5**) "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (**1 Corinthians 1:26**).

### God is in Control

Daniel was able to witness in his lifetime what Isaiah and the other prophets had plainly stated about the kingdoms of men. "Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing.... All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless" (**Isaiah 40:15-17**). In one night the hand of God wrote the epitaph of the Babylonian empire on the wall during a drunken party of their ruler Belshazzar (**Daniel 5:5-9**). Even though Belshazzar offers Daniel the position of third ruler in the kingdom, a gold chain and clothing of purple, Daniel appropriately responded "'Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another" (**Daniel 5:17**). Before the night was finished Belshazzar was dead, the "impregnable fortress" of Babylon was captured and destroyed never to rise again, and Daniel was alive and well and faithful to God.

### The Need of Our Generation

We desperately need to build a people that looks to God as their foundation. Rather than trying to lament over numbers, reunite a human movement called "the restoration movement", or make our worship man-centered so more people can be found in our assemblies, we need to learn again how to draw close to our God. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up" (**James 4:8-10**).

What will last in this life? "But this I say, brethren, the time *is* short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, and those who use this world as not misusing *it*. For the form of this world is passing away" (**1 Cor 7:29-31**). The handwriting is already on the wall for this world as the Lord is returning and all physical things will be "burned up" (**2 Peter 3:9-10**). Where do you stand?



# How Men Act When They Repent

By Steve Klein

In **Matthew 12:41**, Jesus said, "The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here." According to Jesus, the men of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah.

You remember the story, don't you? God had commanded Jonah, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me" (**Jonah 1:2**). Now Nineveh was not only a city filled with wickedness, it was also the capital of the Assyrians, hated enemies of the Israelites. Jonah didn't want to go. He fled from God's presence. However, after being given some quality time in the belly of a fish to reflect and pray, Jonah decided to obey God. Jonah walked through the city proclaiming the judgment of the Lord upon these pagan people: "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" (**Jonah 3:4**).

The people of Nineveh repented. They "proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them" (**Jonah 3:5**). When word came to the king of Nineveh, "he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes." He decreed that "neither man nor beast, herd nor flock" were to eat or drink and that "every one" was to "turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hand" (**Jonah 3:7-8**).

I am afraid that too many of us think that our repentance should go unnoticed. We are incognito repenters! And while God hardly asks us to don sackcloth and ashes today, He does ask us to "do works befitting repentance" (**Acts 26:20**).

The text says that, "God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them" (**Jonah 3:10**). God can read men's hearts. He knows more about what is going on in our heads than we do ourselves. But He did not need to read the minds of the Ninevites to know that they had repented. He "saw their works, that they turned away

from evil". When the men of Nineveh repented, nobody was left to wonder whether or not their repentance was genuine. Nobody was left guessing about their intention to stop committing evil. Nobody would have doubted they had actually repented of their sins.

We really need to learn this lesson from the men of Nineveh. We need to learn how to act when we repent. Repentance isn't just saying "excuse me," "my bad," or "forgive me," and then going on with our lives as if nothing happened. Repentance should produce real change in our actions. We are to "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (**Matthew 3:8**). I am afraid that too many of us think that our repentance should go unnoticed. We are incognito repenters! And while God hardly asks us to don sackcloth and ashes today, He does ask us to "do works befitting repentance" (**Acts 26:20**).

Let's resolve to turn away from sin in our lives, and make sure that we behave in such a way that folks can tell that's what we've done!

