

The 142 Express

The official Newsletter of Newton Masonic Lodge #142

August 2011

Upcoming Events in 2011

Date	Event	Location	Time
August 1	Lodge Practice	Newton Lodge	7:00 PM
August 8	Lodge Practice	Newton Lodge	7:00 PM
August 10	Carry in Dinner	Newton Lodge	6:30 PM
August 10	Stated Meeting	Newton Lodge	7:30 PM
August 22	Lodge Practice	Newton Lodge	7:00 PM
September 1	Lodge Practice	Newton Lodge	7:00 PM
September 8	Lodge Practice	Newton Lodge	7:00 PM
September 13	Carry in Dinner	Newton Lodge	6:30 PM
September 13	Stated Meeting	Newton Lodge	7:30 PM
September 22	Lodge Practice	Newton Lodge	7:00 PM

From the Chaplain's Desk:

By Clay A'Loran Small

"Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of YAHWEH his God; he humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of YAHWEH. And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart against turning unto YAHWEH, the God of Israel.

Moreover all the chiefs of the priests, and the people, trespassed very greatly after all the abominations of the nations; and they polluted the house of YAHWEH which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. And YAHWEH, the God of their fathers, sent to them by his messengers, rising up early and sending, because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling-place: but they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets, until the wrath of YAHWEH arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldeans, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or virgin, old man or hoary-headed: he gave them all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of YAHWEH, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon.

And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: to fulfill the word of YAHWEH by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths: for as long as it lay desolate it kept sabbath, to fulfill threescore and ten years."

-2 Chronicles 36:11-21

Zedekiah was just one of a long line of kings from Israel who did evil in the eyes of the Lord. God rebuked each of the kings in his season of appointment, so that each of them experienced a portion of wrath from the Lord. The wrath of God had been kindled even to the point of destroying the temple that Solomon had built. God even allowed the treasures and vessels of the house of YAHWEH to be taken. These vessels and treasures included the entire temple treasury and the ark of the covenant, the menorah, and the table of incense.

This means that even if there were a few members of the tribe of Levi left in Jerusalem, they would not be able to offer atonement for Israel's sins. Israel was in effect cut off from performing its priestly duties to God. As the nation of Israel was taken into captivity in Babylon, God's message was clear. Either Israel would obey His commandments and ordinances or they would suffer at the hands of their enemies.

How many of us, in our quests for greatness, have turned from the glory of God in favor of our own pursuits. Indeed the apostle Paul knew this well, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"* -Romans 3:23 Finally, brothers it was not merely the sin that condemned Israel, for God had provided for forgiveness through the day of atonement and sacrifice that the Levites performed. Rather, it was because of the lack of devotion and faithfulness of the Israelites

toward their creator, that they were taken to Babylon and the temple was destroyed.

New Brothers:

Chris Koch

Jeffrey Reed

Bryan Stewart

Matthew Bogner

Meeting in Emporia:

Brothers are invited to attend Justice Lodge No. 457 on August 13 to be held in the Lodge Hall in Emporia, KS please contact RW DDGM Guy Wright for more information.