

Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler
Usher: Delbert Leavens

RECORD

Attendance **87**

Contribution \$ TBA

Weekly Budget \$ 2854.00

Thought for The Day

"Ay, sir: to be honest as this world goes, is to be one man picked out of a thousand."

Shakespeare

Church of Christ of Venice

**4301 SR 776
Venice, FL 34293**

MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Wayne Vowell

Songs: Tim Simmons

Sermon: Ted Wheeler

Closing Prayer: Marvin DeMeester

EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Chris Dorris

Songs: Tim Simmons

Sermon: Ted Wheeler

Closing Prayer: Kaden Simmons

COMMUNION

Dale Schwartz Delbert Leavens

Larry Jenson Marty Wingo

Church of Christ of Venice

"A friendly church, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ"

February 3, 2008

Volume 18, Number 5

New Archaeological Discovery—**The "Temech" Seal**

by Wayne Jackson

A few days ago news sources announced the discovery of a stone seal from the rubble of Jerusalem that relates to a family name in ancient Jerusalem. Read about this fascinating "find."

After the death of Solomon, the kingdom of Israel divided. The northern segment, continuing to be known as "Israel," was ruled by the wicked Jeroboam, son of Nebat, of whom it frequently is said that he "made Israel to sin." The regime dredged itself deep into the apostasy of idolatry and finally was delivered to the Assyrians by the hand of Jehovah—in fulfillment of sacred prophecy (722-21 B.C.). At the same time, there also was an ominous cloud hanging over the future of "Judah," the southern kingdom, with its capital at Jerusalem (see Isaiah 10:5-11).

Judah kept flirting with, and progressively adopting, idolatry. Thus continuing in its degeneracy, it finally met its fate with the destruction of Jerusalem and the ravaging of the holy temple by the Babylonians.

Nebuchadnezzar's army invaded the land, and there was a "princely" exile of Israelite slaves into Babylon in 606/05 B.C. Later there was a transport of the "upper class" in 597 B.C. Finally, there was a general removal of most of the remaining Hebrews in 586 B.C. According to the prophecy of Jeremiah, the general "penal incarceration" of the captivity was to be seventy years (Jeremiah 25:11).

In 538 B.C., Cyrus, the Persian king, overthrew the Babylonian Empire. He issued a remarkable decree allowing the Hebrews to

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Please fill out a blue visitor card so that we might have a record of your visit. If needed, there is a nursery available at the rear of the auditorium. Bible classes for all ages are available Sundays at 10:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. We hope that you will join us for these studies. Please come and worship with us again soon.

Elders
Delbert Leavens
Wayne Vowell
Ted Wheeler

Minister
Ted Wheeler

Sunday Services
Bible Study-10:00 am
Worship-11:00 am
Evening Worship-6:00 pm

Wednesday
Bible Study-6:30 pm.

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return to their precious homeland. Josephus, the Jewish historian, credits at least a part of the ruler's motivation to seeing his name in the scroll of Isaiah where his benevolent action had been prophesied some two centuries earlier (Isaiah 44:28-45:4; cf. Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 11.1.1-2).

The trek homeward began in the spring of 536 B.C. (Ezra 4:1-4; 6:3-5). The great leader of the expedition was Zerubbabel. A second movement homeward was initiated in 457 B.C. under the leadership of the scribe, Ezra (Ezra 8). Finally, in 444 B.C. Nehemiah led a third group to the homeland (Nehemiah 1-13). It has been estimated that the restored Jewish community was approximately 125,000 people (Nehemiah 7:5-73).

One of the families that returned from the captivity under Zerubbabel's leadership was that of Temech (or "Temah" – Ezra 2:53; cf. Nehemiah 7:55). The Temah family was a portion of the larger body known as the Nethinim, who were servants of the Levites in the temple (Ezra 8:20). The foreign names among these people have led some scholars to speculate they could have been prisoners of war. It seems they had proselyted themselves to the people of God (Nehemiah 10:28ff).

The New Discovery

A news release from *The Jerusalem Post* (January 17) has just announced an archaeological find in Israel's ancient holy city. Dr. Eilat Mazar, who is overseeing an excavation just outside the Old City, near the Dung Gate, stated that earlier last week a 2,500 year-old black stone seal was found with the name "Temech" engraved on it, which has been identified as the "Temah" of our common versions.



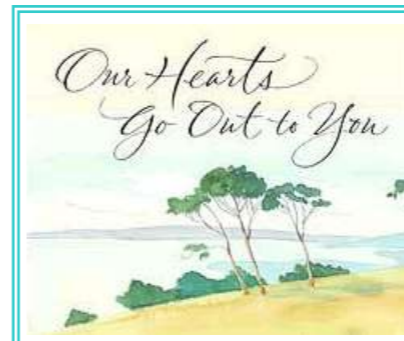
The seal, dated at 538-445 B.C., is elliptical in shape, measuring 2.1 by 1.8 cm (.71 by .83 inches). The tiny artifact contains the image of "two bearded priests standing on either side of an incense altar with their hands raised forward in a position of worship." In addition, a "crescent moon, the symbol of the chief Babylonian god Sin, appears on top of the altar." The rubble where the seal was found is near the area where the "Nethinim" were housed in the days of Nehemiah.

There are two important points that relate to this discovery.

First, as Dr. Mazar has stated:

*The seal of the Temech family gives us a direct connection between archaeology and the biblical sources and serves as actual evidence of a family mentioned in the Bible. One cannot help being astonished by the **credibility of the biblical source** as seen by the archaeological find (emphasis added).*

Time and time again the Bible record has been **corroborated** by archaeological discoveries. And in cases of seeming conflict, it is prudent to adopt a "wait-and-see" posture until further evidence has come to light. In far too many instances biblical critics have been thoroughly humiliated as their premature baseless charges withered under the brunt of new-found



We extend our deepest sympathy to sisters Millie Wingo and Ola Mae Navarre. Ola Mae's **nephew** passed away at the age of 44 this past week. Millie's sister, **Valerie Finley**, passed away on Saturday.

Cards can be sent to:

Ola Mae Navarre
1950 San Remo Pointe Dr.
Englewood, FL 34223

Millie Wingo
27244 Porto Nacional Dr.
Punta Gorda, FL 33983

information. Once it was claimed that there were no Camels in ancient Egypt (Genesis 12:16), that the Hittites did not exist (Genesis 23:10), that Sargon of Assyria was fictitious (Isaiah 20:1), etc. The list is long. But the "critical scholars" were wrong.

Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of Hebrew Union College from 1947 until his death in 1971, and a world-renowned archaeologist, once declared:

I have spent many years in biblical archaeology, and, in company with my colleagues, have made discoveries confirming in outline or in detail historical statements in the Bible. I am prepared to go farther and say that no archaeological discovery has ever been made that contradicts or controverts historical statements in Scripture (1956).

Second, the mixed religious symbolism on the Temech seal likely is an illustration, and a further confirmation, of the biblical testimony of Judah's amalgamation of the Mosaic with the cultic practices of paganism (cf. Isaiah 10:11b).

For a photo of this discovery, together with The Jerusalem Post news release, [click here](#).

Sources/Footnotes

Glueck, Nelson. 1956. New York Times, Book Review section, October 28.

CHRISTIAN COURIER, January 22, 2008

http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/read/new_archaeological_discovery_the_temech_seal

Photo of seal on opposite page from article at www.GodandScience.org
[Click here to read their article](#)

Remember in Prayer

LARRY JENSON'S
great great granddaughter
ANNETTE TILLER'S
great grandson's grandmother
BENNIE HOUSE
CLARENCE RIGGENBACH
FRANK SMALL
IVA & LEM TURNER
RON JONES
JEANETTE THOMPSON

Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Feb 3: Fellowship Meal. Chili Cook-Off.
- ✓ Feb 24: Song Service @ 6p
- ✓ Jun 15-21: Weeki Wachee Bible Camp.

TODAY'S SERMONS

Where is the God of Elijah?
2 Kings 2:1-14
Neither Give Place to the Devil
Ephesians 4:27