

When Chosen of the Chosen Chooses

By: Dan Jenkins

The sovereignty of God empowered Him to chosen individuals, groups or nations to accomplish His plan. When the Jews left Egypt, God said to them, “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth” (Deut. 7:6). Read the rest of this paragraph to see that they were not chosen because they were better than others, but He chose them because of His sovereign right.

There were twelve tribes, and God, as His sovereign right, selected one tribe above all the rest to serve in Him at the temple. No other individual from any tribe had a right to enter the Holy Place or serve Him at His altars. The Lord said this about the place of the Levites, “For the Lord your God has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand to minister in the name of the Lord, him and his sons forever” (Deut. 18:5).

Not all Levites were priests. They had to be males of a particular age and have no physical blemishes. Moses and David divided those qualified into twenty-four separate groups who came to the temple to serve for one week, about twice each year. There was one other vital stipulation, but before looking at it, take time to see the application of these truths. Christianity is vastly different for every child of God is a priest in the Lord’s church. Peter says, “You also, as

living stones, are being built up a spiritual, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Pet. 2:5). Hebrews chapter thirteen adds this to these truths, “Therefore by Him, let us continually offer the sacrifices of praises to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name...to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (vs. 15-16).

Now take another look at how God gave one more requirement for priests. “If a Levite comes... with all the desire of his mind to a place which the Lord chooses, then he may serve in the name of the Lord his God” (Deut. 18:5-6). It was not enough for one to meet the tribal or physical qualifications in order to serve Him. These were external in their nature. He could meet every one of them but there was something more important. Look at the “if/then” nature of what is said. IF a Levite comes with all the desire of his mind, THEN he may serve in the name of the Lord. He could not serve acceptably unless such service was all the desire of his mind!

We must never view those times when we come together to offer the fruit of our lips in worship without bringing all the desire of our hearts and souls as part of worship. Think soberly about it as you worship this week!

“When Your Enemy Presses in Hard”

By: Selected

Jamie Owens-Collins penned some very meaningful hymn lyrics—meaningful to worshipers of all ages. It is a favorite song of many children, and the words ought to be a favorite of every adult. The beginning of the third verse comes to mind when reading about King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20.

Jehoshaphat was king of the southern kingdom of Judah for 25 years (20:31), and he made some progress in bringing “them back to the Lord God of their fathers” (19:4), from whom they had often strayed. In chapter 20, the nations of Moab, Ammon and others “came to battle against Jehoshaphat” in a “great multitude” (20:1-2). From a human perspective, it did not look good, and the king “was afraid” (20:3). So what did Jehoshaphat do? He did what every one of us need to do when things “don’t look good” for us!

He “set himself to seek the Lord” (20:3). Then, using his influence, he “gathered” the people together “to ask help from the Lord” and “to seek the Lord” (20:4). It was a full-court press to the throne—not the king’s throne but THE KING’S throne. With armies surrounding him, the lyrics to the third verse of the hymn seemed to flood his soul. “When your enemy presses in hard, do not fear.” Why not? “The battle belongs to the Lord.” Jehoshaphat knew that!

Jehoshaphat stood before the people in the house of the Lord and he prayed. Jehoshaphat may have been afraid of the enemy armies, but he had tremendous faith in his God. Notice three things he knew about his God.

In the first part of the prayer, he said, “O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?” (20:6). This verse speaks of God’s PRESENT power, rule and activity in the lives of His people.

In the next part of the prayer, Jehoshaphat said, “Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?” (20:7). This verse speaks of God’s PAST power, rule and activity on behalf of His people.

In the final part of the prayer, he said, “O our God, will You not judge them?” (20:12). Notice this verse speaks of God’s FUTURE power, rule and activity for His people.

Yes! The battle belongs to the Lord! It belongs to the Lord who has proven in the PAST that He will work in the PRESENT to continue by our side into the FUTURE! Do you trust Him enough to say, “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You” (20:12)? He will fight with you and for you!



Upcoming Events

Sunday, Sept 6: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning services. Please bring a covered dish/ dessert to share with visitors. We will also be recognizing the Youth with Summer Bible Series awards. There will also be a 12:45pm afternoon service to follow.

Sunday, Sept. 13: Monthly youth devotional after evening services at the Cammock home. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Jonathan Fraiser who responded to the invitation last Wednesday night.

Wesley Taylor, Cody McCoy's barber, who just had hernia and esophagus surgery.

Phyllis Jacobs who is recovering from surgery.

Imelda Sheeran who was in the hospital last week.

Bryce and Barbie Dolan who were home sick last week.

Steve Randle who will have another knee procedure done to remove scar tissue.

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class

The Tuesday Ladies Bible Class begins Sept. 8th at 10am here in the fellowship hall.

They will be studying "Women of the Bible." On Tuesday, Sept. 1st at 10am, there will be a service project and lunch at Jason's Deli after.

Service Roster

Week of August 30, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Billy York
Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Barry Lehtinen

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Randy D'Herde
Cup..... Cody McCoy
Offering..... Ron White
Assist..... Caleb Lehtinen
Assist..... Blake Jacobs
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord's Supper & Offering..... James Cammock/
Willie Fossati

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Cody McCoy
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran
Devotional..... Ron White

Other

Prepare Communion.....

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Barry Lehtinen..... Aug. 30
Barbara Withers..... Aug. 31

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email
office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido—Benevolence
Doug Jobs—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart, with all your soul, and
with all your mind."
Matthew 22:37 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of August 23, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....55
A.M. Worship.....87
P.M. Worship.....52
Wednesday Worship.....56

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

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