



Israelite King Jehu bows before Assyrian ruler Shalmaneser III 825BC. The “black obelisk” was discovered in Nimrod, Iraq on banks of Tigris River—now residing in British Museum in London.

From the Pastor

Ten years ago, Dr. Aliou Niang, professor at *Memphis Theological Seminary*, suggested I purchase a copy of the *Harper Collins Study Bible* (New Revised Standard Version).

The front cover is now falling apart at the seams—25% of the back pages are dark and well-worn, 75% of the front pages are lighter.

The worn pages contain the New Testament, and the lighter shades (except for Psalms and a few Prophets) is the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament).

The Old Testament is a challenging journey: poetry, history, sermons, prophetic declarations are mixed together and written by several authors.

The prophets’ words are declared for their present audience and “still to come” events—not clearly defined. The contemporary criticisms of patriarchy, violence and xenophobia are ever present. The petitions, lists, instructions for proper conduct in two temples destroyed long ago seem a waste of effort and time.

Where are the well-worn pages on your Bible? I suspect Galatians and Romans are tattered a bit more than Leviticus or 1 Chronicles.

Therefore, I want to offer you a summer challenge.

Take practical steps to increase your knowledge and appreciation of the Old Testament.

Here's a roadmap:

- Read Philip Yancey's *The Bible Jesus Read* (a used copy on Amazon is \$5). The book recounts Yancey's avoidance of the Old Testament—to ultimately discovering its rich rewards.
- Learn to read Hebrew (*I see your eye roll, you can do it!*)
- Purchase Miko Shaffier's *Learn To Read Hebrew In Six Weeks* (\$20 on Amazon or \$9 in Kindle format). You'll understand and apply 22 Hebrew consonants and a few vowels. Most importantly, you'll discover Hebrew's style of brevity and *concreteness*—it is more Cormac McCarthy than William Faulkner.
- “Context, context, context!” is your friend and companion. Memorize the following dates and events—most of the Old Testament will fall under the first and second temple, pre-exilic, exilic, and post-exilic periods.

Pre-Exilic/First Temple Period:

The United Monarchy was under Kings Saul, David, and Solomon—*The First Temple* was built during Solomon's reign.

The Divided Kingdom, after King Solomon, split between North (Israel) South (Judah) around 930BC.

Assyrians conquered, exiled, and *repopulated* Israel (the North) with “foreigners” in 722BC.

Exilic Period (587BC-538BC)

Babylonians conquered Judah (South), destroyed the Temple and exiled a good portion of population to Babylon in 587BC.

Post Exilic/Second Temple Period (538BC)

The Medo-Persian King Cyrus conquered Babylon and absorbed all its lands in 539BC.

King Cyrus, in 538BC, declared exiled Jews may return and rebuild the *Second Temple*—dedicated in 515BC. Ezra returned from Babylon to teach the Law in 445BC.

Nehemiah returned from Susa (capital of Persia) to rebuild Jerusalem's ruined walls in 445BC.

The full richness of the New Testament cannot be appreciated without knowledge of the Old—it is the Bible Jesus read. Jesus incorporated *Old Testament metaphors* into communicating his *mission*—Lamb of God, Shepherd, Sign of Jonah, Stone which the Builders Rejected.

Remember Paul's advice to young Timothy: *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known the **sacred writings**, that are able to instruct for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **All scripture** is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be **proficient and equipped** for every good work.*

Paul's reference to Scripture is the Bible Jesus Read—the Old Testament.

Amen!

Grace and Peace,
Tommy

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Welcome to new member Frankie Coyle!

Family Ministries

Rev. Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

Dear Third Family,

We're in the middle of a summer that I really believe just began!

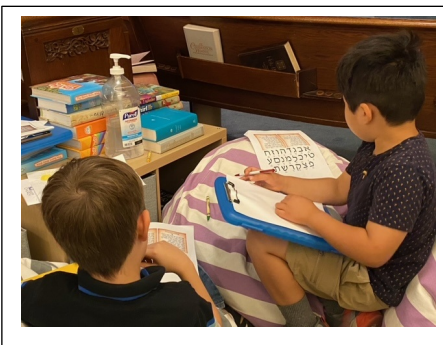
As I write this I'm finishing last minute details for a water park trip tomorrow, I set out the last crafts, planned the last game, have memorized the last story for VBS on Sunday, I've had meetings this week about and worked on sermons for Junior and Senior High Camps that we'll be headed to at Lake Springfield later this month. These are the kinds of weeks which exhaust and energize in the same minute!

The beauty of all this activity, all these events and programs, everything that we do with children and youth in a church is that it puts us in proximity to one another to learn, listen, and grow together.

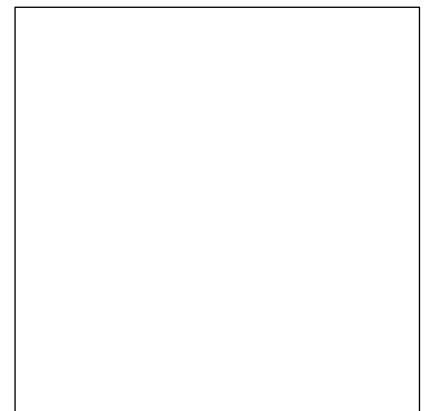
No seminary class or esoteric book, no beautiful sermon, no late night discussion, has challenged my thoughts on God or encouraged my belief in God the way young people have.

I ask you to pray for and with us as we continue our weekly gatherings, our many summer activities and offer an encouraging word and the gift of your presence into the lives of those so near to Jesus's heart.

Writing the Hebrew alphabet during morning worship service



VBS in June!



Raging Rivers is cool when it's hot!



Volunteers Needed!

We have a regular group of preschool assistants who watch our young ones during Sunday morning worship, but if others pitch in, this can bring relief to those regularly watching our infants.

Please check your Summer and Fall calendar and email a date for one Sunday you are able to assist. Send to Ella Banks at ebanks@third-baptist.org.



Musical Moment

On a popular return from pre-Covid days, Brent Johnson organized a viewing of *Our Hospitality*, the 1923 Buster Keaton silent movie, on May 26th – to a crowd of at least 100 people!

The rousing organ accompaniment was performed by Joshua Stafford. Joshua is the Minister of Music at First Congregational Church in Columbus, Ohio and Director of Sacred Music at the Chautauqua Institute in New York.



August 4th will bring another organ concert to Third, this one featuring Nathan Avakian from New York.

Nathan is renowned for blending twenty-first century virtual instrument technology with theatre organ music and creates performances that satisfy contemporary musical tastes and pay tribute to the historical legacy of the organ. He was commissioned to compose seven original theatre organ soundtracks for the International Youth Silent Film Festival, a program that challenges young filmmakers to create contemporary silent films to theatre organ music. Nathan helped pioneer the festival's expansion which now includes regional festivals in Oregon, Missouri, Adelaide and Melbourne, Australia.

Nathan currently works as a freelance lighting designer and design associate with organizations including Princeton University, New York Stage and Film, Purchase Opera, and the Lighting Design Group. On his YouTube channel Nathan can be seen bringing music from movies such as *The Incredibles*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Brittany Spears*, and *Uptown Funk* by Mark Ronson to life using both traditional organ pipes and digital recordings.

The evening will include something unique: a collection of short films (3min each) from the International Youth Silent Film Festival. This is a filmmaking competition for students 20 and younger to create short silent films to organ soundtracks. As Director of the Festival, Nathan composes the soundtracks first, then filmmakers make movies to fit the music. You can see examples of these films on the IYSFF website: www.makesilentfilm.com.

Mark your calendar! The event will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 4th, and will once again feature free ice cream from the Cool Times ice cream truck after the concert.

Missions Moment

Look for this box outside the sanctuary or in the church office – **for JUNE we'll be collecting wash cloths.** Each month we are promoting and collect a new item.

Sunday, October 15th after worship we'll pack boxes to be sent to Corbin, KY, where CBF Field Personnel, Scarlette Jasper, serves one of the most economically challenged areas in the US. In addition, this region had a once-in-a-generation flood last year.



Scarlette Jasper

OLIVE BRANCH MINISTRIES, MCCREARY COUNTY, KENTUCKY



Exploring Psalm 119 via daily reading and Tommy's Podcast

Psalms Chapter 119 תְּהִלִּים

You are encouraged to compliment your depth of understanding the Psalms by reading one stanza (eight verses) from Psalm 119 each day, for 22 days. We began this journey with the Sunday, June 25th sermon, but start when you are able, if not already!

For example, start on:

Day 1: read Alef stanza, Psalm 119:1-8, 1 of 22 stanzas

Day 2: read Bet stanza, Psalm 119:9-16, 2 of 22 stanzas, and so on.

Psalm 119 was written as a memory device, an instrument to consider and meditate on God's word and direction. The writer of Psalm 119 wanted to **say everything there was to say—from A to Z.** Or, using Hebrew: from **Alef** to the last letter in the Hebrew Alphabet—**TAV**.

To aid in your study and also provide additional background and context, each day after you read listen to Tommy's Podcast, via [Buzzsprout](#).

Adult Discipleship

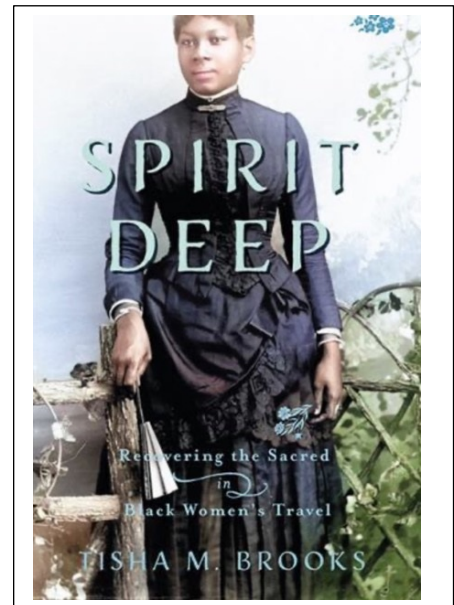
Wednesday Nights: July 12 and 19, at 5:45 p.m.

Dr. Tisha Brooks will discuss her recent book *Spirit Deep: Recovering the Sacred in Black Women's Travel*

Dinner is served at 5:15 p.m.

Please RSVP to Tommy by the Tuesday before, to reserve your spot:

tsimons@third-baptist.org



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 04 🎁 Linda Roos
- 06 🎁 Tommy Simons
- 10 🎁 Harold Jackson
- 14 🎁 Arris Harris & Alice Worrell
- 15 🎁 Elizabeth Hoffman
- 16 🎁 Lynda Sharpe
- 17 🎁 Elijah Kimler
- 18 🎁 Marvelle Johnson
- 19 🎁 Andrea Banks
- 21 🎁 Simon Bailey & Ruth Adikorely
- 22 🎁 Karen Stewart
- 25 🎁 Gerri Robins
- 29 🎁 Dea Hoover

Please join us for a

Baby Sprinkle

Honoring

Ruth and Samuel Governor

Sunday, July 2 | 12:00- 12:45pm
after worship in Pillsbury Threshold



Scan to access baby registry on Amazon!

A time for connection: speak a blessing, bring a gift, and have a cookie!



In the city for good!

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third-baptist.org

Third Baptist Church Staff

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