

**Crossville Church
of Christ**
423 North Main Street
P.O. Box 211
Crossville, TN 38557
Phone:
484-5297 or 484-2960
Live audio streaming
866-883-9291

COMPASS

**Using God's Word to Chart The Course
Of A Congregation**

For live video streaming see Website
www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org
Email: Office@crossvillechurchofchrist.org
Elders@crossvillechurchofchrist.org



February 13, 2022

Elders:

Frank Bohannon
Jonathan Loveday
Larry McDuffee
Brian McLaughlin
Jon Tatum

Deacons:

Jim Bell
Garrett Blyly
Kyle Fairman
Dylan Griffin
Jeff Hunt
Mike Isaacson
Gary Lau
Doug Loveday
Don Napier
Johnny Parham
Tom Parham
Mark Roberts
Brandon Savage
Jake Sears
Chase Wood
Jerry Wood
Jason Wyatt

Minister:

Alan Judd

Missionaries: (India)

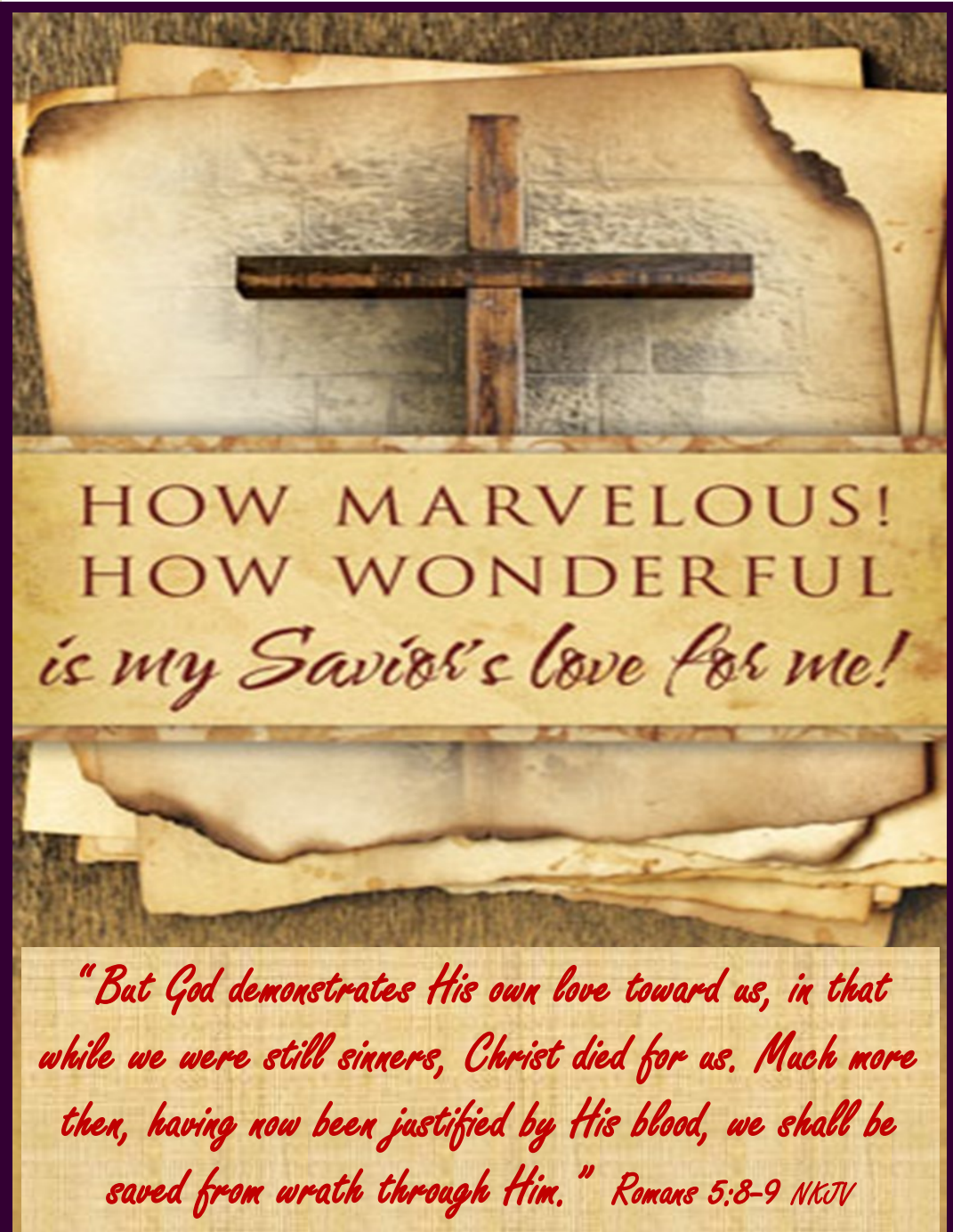
Don Iverson
Jim Waldron

Service Times:

Sunday Bible Study	9 AM
Sunday Worship	10 AM
	6 PM
Wednesday	6 PM

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Bible Class	
Tuesdays	11 AM
Prayer Meeting	
Tuesdays	10 AM
Joyful Generation	
(Youth Devotional & Fellowship)	
1st Sunday of the month	7 PM



Jesus, Rose of Sharon

Alan Judd

Every congregation I have spent considerable time with has certain hymns that they like best and sing most frequently. I don't know an exact reason why this is true, but I suspect it is akin to our preferences in other areas of life. Most of us have some likings regarding the type of food we enjoy, the style of clothing we wear, the genre of music we listen to, our hobbies, and recreational pursuits, to highlight a few of the areas for this tendency.

My home congregation had a penchant for singing hymns that I have not often sung elsewhere after leaving my childhood haven. One such song is entitled, 'Jesus, Rose of Sharon.' It is number 363 in our hymnal, but I do not recall a time when we have sung this hymn during our assemblies in the last four years. If we have, please overlook my forgetfulness.

As a boy, I wondered if the song talked about Jesus and two female friends: Rose and Sharon? Later, I contemplated why Sharon would name the rose she grew, or someone gave her, Jesus? When I started investigating Scripture for myself, I searched the Gospel accounts in vain for an occurrence when Jesus was given this description.

Finally, I discovered that the appellation is used in *Song of Solomon 2:1*: "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys." (This also helped me understand why the hymn—"I Have Found A Friend In Jesus" has in the chorus, "He's (Jesus) the Lily of the Valley," but I will reserve my discussion of this hymn to another article.) King Solomon's bride/wife makes this statement about herself, but this helps little in understanding why the song attributes it to Jesus.

The author credited for the lyrics is Ida A. Guirey. She published the words in 1922. However, researching her identity is a dead end, with some who have made more extensive inquiries than I suggesting the name is a pseudonym. Charles H. Gabriel is credited with writing the music and melody to the words, but history has not preserved any record of how the song has arrived in its present form.

Some might object and say the song should not be used if Jesus is never referred to in this manner, but I think the words by Kyle Butt are pertinent on this point:

"In fact, although no one can say for certain which flower is the actual "rose of Sharon," many scholars think the best guess is the cistus or rock-rose. The cistus blooms in various parts of Palestine and is well known for its soothing aroma and pain-relieving qualities.

When and why the title "Rose of Sharon" was given to Jesus is rather vague. But at least two reasons as to why it might have been assigned to our Lord seem fairly clear. First, Jesus Christ is the pinnacle of beauty and splendor. Of course, His earthly body could not boast of such attributes (Isaiah 53:2), but His spiritual beauty and majesty remain unsurpassed by any created being in Heaven or on Earth (2 Peter 1:16). Second, Christ's healing powers and pain-relieving actions find a definite point of comparison with those of the rock-rose. Is it any wonder that the "Great Physician," Who came to heal those who were physically ill as well as those who were spiritually sick, should be given the name of a flower known for its sweet aroma and soothing medicinal qualities?

Although the Holy Spirit never chose to inspire the Bible writers to refer to Jesus as the "Rose of Sharon," it nevertheless is a name we can employ to speak of the majesty, beauty, and healing power of our Lord."

Read the words and reflect on the "beauty" of our Savior. May His love "bloom" in our hearts!

Language Keys That Unlocked The Past

Wayne Jackson

The Bible is a book of ancient history. Some of its literature goes back at least fifteen centuries before the birth of Christ. The Old Testament is largely the story of the Hebrew nation and the role this people would play in the unfolding purpose of God for human redemption.

The culmination of the heavenly plan, of course, was in the atoning work of Jesus, as revealed in the New Testament, along with the establishment of the Messiah's kingdom. According to the Old Testament narrative, the Israelite people frequently interacted with other nations. For example, in the providential scheme of things, the descendants of Abraham were subjugated, first by the Egyptians and later by both the Assyrians and the Babylonians.

Moreover, Jehovah declared that he would punish those pagan powers as well (Ezekiel 29:14-15; Isaiah 10:5ff; Jeremiah 25:8ff). But are these Hebrew narratives accurate? Can their testimony be compared with the monuments of antiquity and their reliability checked? For centuries the answer to this latter question was no, because the records of these heathen nations remained locked-up, due to language barriers. But as the age of archaeology advanced, that problem was to be resolved.

The Rosetta Stone--The ancient Egyptians did not write with an alphabetic script as we do in English. Rather, they used a form of writing known as hieroglyphics. Scribes, using pens made from reeds and colored inks, would draw a series of tiny pictures to convey their ideas.

Unfortunately, for many centuries no one could figure out how to read these enigmatic messages found among the ruins of Egypt. But that circumstance would change. In 1799, an officer in Napoleon's army made a remarkable discovery. At Rashid (Rosetta), Egypt, Lieutenant Bouchard found a stone slab, designated as the Rosetta Stone, which contained the key to unlocking Egyptian hieroglyphics.

The slab of black basalt, now in the British Museum, is three feet nine inches high, two feet four and one half inches wide, and eleven inches thick. It dates to the year 196 B.C. The Rosetta Stone contains a decree written in honor of king Ptolemy V of Egypt. The significant thing about this tablet is the fact that the script was composed in three different forms.

At the top, the message was in Egyptian hieroglyphics (fourteen surviving lines). In the middle, represented by thirty-two lines, was a simplified form of Egyptian writing known as demotic, meaning common or popular. Finally, at the bottom, the inscription was in Greek (fifty-four lines). The Greek text could be read easily, so scholars began the task of translating the Egyptian picture-characters.

Within a few years the French scholar Jean Francois Champollion was able to decipher the language. He produced an Egyptian grammar and dictionary and brought to light many texts from the land of the Pharaohs. Consider the importance of being able to unlock the Egyptian script.

In 1896, the famous Merenptah Stele was found in Thebes, Egypt. A stele is a stone slab containing an inscription. In a text relating to Egyptian activity in the early thirteenth century B.C., this tablet referred to Israel as one of the peoples of Canaan. Prior to this find, there was no extra-biblical documentation that Israel existed that far back in history. In fact, this is the only artifact thus far discovered in Egypt that mentions Israel by name. This stele is an important piece of evidence in confirming the historicity of the Old Testament.

The biblical text is confirmed!

NEWS AND NOTES

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