

*Does your life shed light or cast shadows?*

*"...Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty"—2 Corinthians 3:17*

# The Baptist Examiner

**Baptist Is Our Middle Name**

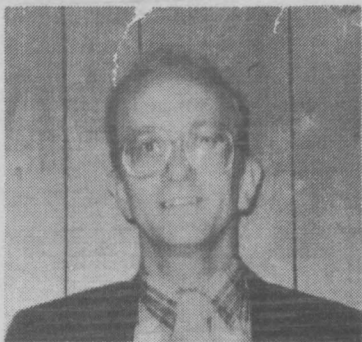
**Paid Circulation in All States and in Many Foreign Countries**

*"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" -- Isaiah 8:20*

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## THE LORD GOD HATH SPOKEN, WHO CAN BUT PROPHECY?

By Pastor Robert Barkman, Landmark Baptist Church, Collinsville, Illinois



Within the confines of God's Word, we can see two great messages:

1. To those who are living a life of disobedience to God, we find a message of judgment and impending doom.

2. To those who have trusted in Christ, we find a tremendous responsibility laid upon their shoulders, to proclaim His Word to those in need of salvation.

In Amos 3:1-8, Amos, the shepherd/prophet, spoke to a nation that contained both groups of people. Within this discourse, we find both great themes clearly proclaimed. Amos' message to those who were living lives of disobedience is found in verses 1-6. Amos' message to those who were serving the Lord is found in verse 7-8.

**Amos' Message to the Disobedient**

1. "Hear this word that the Lord hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family...." This message given by the Lord is a message of opposition. He was speaking to wicked Jews opposing the sin in their lives. The Lord has a specific message addressed to those who are living in rebellion against Him. This message is meant to hinder their sinful lifestyles. What is one reason the Lord opposes the sin of mankind? Sin eventually brings about man's ruin. When the Lord gives man a message meant to obstruct their sinful acts, it is for man's good.

"...which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying...." The Lord is reminding the Jews of His grace in delivering their ancestors from the bondage in Egypt. If He had not delivered their forefathers, the generation of Amos' day may

man has an immortal spirit that will live eternally; only man is capable of reason and responsibility toward His moral laws; only man was created a little lower than the angels.

"...therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities." Because of Israel's special status and responsibilities, they were held highly accountable to Jehovah. He would hold them accountable for their sinful actions. Likewise, due to mankind's honored position among His creation, humanity is held responsible to God for their lack of obedience.

3. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" If two do not have the same goals and motives there cannot be a close relationship. The Lord is warning the Israelites that, if they do not have a radical change of lifestyle they cannot have communion with Him. They may be physical Jews, but they were not in fellowship with their God.

The same holds true for man. (Continued on Page 6)

have still been slaves in Egypt. The Lord is reminding all who are obstinate of His great grace toward them. Truly, the Lord shows His grace to health, wealth, yes, even physical life are graces bestowed by God upon both the just and unjust.

2. "You only have I known of all the families of the earth...." The Lord is reminding Israel of their favored position. Among all the nations of the earth, the Israelites were the most special and blessed. Among all of His creation, humanity holds a very special position of blessing in God's sight. It is only man that was created in the image of God; only

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Interim Pastor Jack C. Whitt

### WHY PREACH?

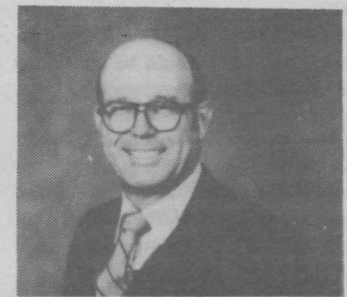
"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Cor. 1:21).

Why preach the Gospel? Why should men stand, week after week, behind a pulpit to urge and exhort men, women, boys and girls to listen and heed to God's Word?

Surely it is a vain thing to plead for souls if God has already foreordained men's salvation. Such is the argument presented by some who reject the sovereign will of God in choosing those who will be saved. Such are the arguments of the hardshells who ridicule efforts to evangelize and spread the Gospel by way of missionaries to foreign lands and within our own

## LESSONS FROM GRANDMA'S OLD DOMER-NECK HEN

By Pastor Charles Lybrook, Waverly Road Baptist Church, Huntington, West Virginia



Where that name of the breed came from I do not know. I consulted Mr. Webster who I don't think raised too many chickens in his day, at least he never heard of a domer-neck hen. So I took my case a little further up the street to Mr. Britannica. He seemed to be a little more knowledgeable on the subject as he had a whole lot more information compiled on just about everything from the egg to the chicken house and everything in between. But he never heard of a domer-neck either, probably because he never dealt with anything but purebred stock, but my Grandma Hardin's old domer-neck hens were a dead ringer for Mr. Britannica's fancy Barred Plymouth Rocks. Be that as it may, I shall never forget traversing the old path that led from our little vine covered four room home, that God blessed so graciously, to Grandma's house where I spent many a wonderful day and night with Grandpa and Grandma Hardin (Uncle Jim and Aunt Meck, being derived from her given name "America", to non-family members). Along that path were little houses about the size of a good doghouse. This is where the old settin' hens were tethered after they had hatched off their new brood of chicks. It was a pleasant little field between our house and Grandma's house which everybody in the clan affectionately called "down home" or "down to the house."

But what I want to talk about is the lesson taught to me by those

domer-neck settin' hens. As a little boy I didn't dare get too close to those little chicks or I just might have gotten a good floggen. I will never forget how absolutely protective those old hens were. By the way, that reminds me of something good and wonderful about my heavenly Father. He is absolutely protective of you and me as His little children.

As I think back to those good ol' days, I seem to remember that I never once saw or heard of an old domer-neck mother hen that ever, under any circumstance, rejected even one of her brood of chicks. Never did I see one of those hens fail to instantly receive her little ones when they came running and chirping in fear. My dear reader, never will our God fail to receive the feeblest of His own. He will always be to us a refuge in the time of storm, an eternal refuge in the time of any trouble.

Oh, how well I remember that old hen and her undying desire to protect her brood of little yellow chicks. Here is a bird that is, for herself, afraid of the menacing talons and the sharp, flesh rending beak of the hawk. Yet when in the face of that great danger and harm to her little ones, she would stir up her whole strength to their defense.

And so it is with our God. There is no care like His care, no compassion like His compassion, and no fury like His fury in the protection of His own.

The little chicks had no other refuge. When the shadow of the hawk came over that little field the old hen would bring forth that sound that only mother hens can produce and the chicks came scurrying. Immediately those wings would come down to receive every little terrified chick, and there

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