

ORDER OF WORSHIP
September 13, 2026

Song: **232** – *Heavenly Sunlight*

Song: **239** – *Angry Words*

First prayer: **Mernie Ray**

Song: **946** – *Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?*

Communion servers: **Larry Simmons** & **Shane Upton**

Prayer for giving: **Adam Bentley**

Song: **335** – *Is It For Me?*

Sermon: *"It's a Sign from God!"* – **David Ray**

Invitation song: **462** – *Why Do You Wait?*

Closing song: **187** – *I Want to be a Worker*

Closing prayer: **Mark Brandt**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Rena – traveling
- Shane – deployment
- Mimi, Ashley, Monica – studying with Lucinda
- Gloria Hendrix – health
- Talisa Thompson (Chrishawn's mom) – surgery recovery
- Ralph Ashley (Alyssa's uncle) – cancer
- Pattie Hutchinson & Bruce Shive (Sue's siblings) – health concerns
- Starlyn Cooper, Carmen Lawson, Kim Nguyen – cancer
- Fannie Ray (Mernie's sister-in-law)
- Kim's cousin's son (Isaac Wood) – hole in heart caused by stroke (upcoming surgery)
- Our members with health issues: Kim, David, Mattie & baby

Please continue to remember: Connie Townsend, Lucinda, Vipin & India work, Aruna Kavali, Marinda Breeding, Holley Brewer, Kevin Brewer, Dylan Walker

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- "Precept Upon Precept" is a YouTube channel with many sermons/articles
(www.youtube.com/@preceptuponprecept8495); www.youtube.com/@churchofChrist-

RECORD FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Bible Class – 11 AM Worship – 12 Sun PM – 10 DBR – 4 Wed (9/9) – 12

Contribution – \$1737

Yukon Church of Christ

THE LABORER

702 South Ranchwood Blvd., Yukon, OK 73099 (405) 354-0238

Preacher: David Ray

Web Site: www.yukoncofc.com

Sunday Bible class: 9am **Worship** 10am & 12:30pm **Wednesday Bible class:** 7pm

Matthew 9:37-38 *"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."*

Volume 22

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THE AMARNA TABLETS: CONFIRMING THE CONQUEST OF CANAAN

God promised Abraham that his descendants would inherit the land of Canaan.

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him" (Gen. 12:1-7).

More than four centuries later, after delivering Israel from Egyptian bondage through Moses (c. 1450 bc), God began fulfilling that promise under Joshua. The

book of Joshua records Israel’s conquest of Canaan and the gradual possession of the land God had sworn to give Abraham’s descendants.

Many skeptics have dismissed the Exodus and the conquest of Canaan as legend or as heavily embellished tradition rather than straightforward history, yet archaeology has repeatedly confirmed historical details recorded in the Bible. One of the most remarkable examples was an accidental discovery in Egypt during the nineteenth century. Several hundred clay tablets were found that, at first glance, appear to be nothing more than routine diplomatic correspondence. Upon closer examination, however, they provide extraordinary insight into the period of history described in the book of Joshua.

In 1887, a local Egyptian woman was digging through the ruins of the ancient city of Amarna in search of fertilizer when she uncovered clay tablets buried beneath the soil. Her discovery led archaeologists to the royal archives of Pharaoh Akhenaten, where approximately 380 tablets, dating to roughly 1400-1350 bc, were eventually recovered. Today, these documents are known as the Amarna Tablets.

The tablets were written in Akkadian, the international diplomatic language of the ancient Near East, using the wedge-shaped writing system known as cuneiform. They are not religious writings or later Jewish traditions. Rather, they consist primarily of correspondence exchanged between the Egyptian Pharaoh and rulers of city-states throughout Canaan and neighboring lands. These local governors ruled under Egyptian authority and depended on Pharaoh for military protection whenever their cities were attacked.

At first, the letters seem rather ordinary. They discuss politics, loyalty to Pharaoh, requests for aid, and conflicts between neighboring cities, but as one continues reading, a pattern begins to emerge. Throughout the correspondence, Canaanite governors repeatedly complain about a people called the “Habiru.” City after city reports military attacks and unrest. Governor after governor pleads for Egyptian military assistance. The letters become increasingly desperate as the writers describe territory slipping away from Egyptian control.

The Mysterious Habiru

Who were these Habiru? Some have described “Habiru” as a broad designation for displaced peoples, mercenaries, or social outcasts. However, there is an obvious and striking similarity between the plural word *Habiru* and “Hebrews.” Many believe that the Israelites are described in these letters. The resemblance, chronology, and historical circumstances align with the Biblical conquest.

The Bible records that Israel crossed the Jordan River, conquered Jericho and Ai, defeated numerous Canaanite kings, and gradually took possession of the land (Jos. 1-12). Rahab herself declared that the inhabitants of Canaan had already heard how God dried up the Red Sea and destroyed Israel’s enemies east of the Jordan, causing their hearts to melt with fear (Jos. 2:9-11). If this account is historically accurate, one would expect contemporary records from Canaan to describe widespread fear, military upheaval, and cities being overrun. That is precisely what the Amarna Tablets describe; yet, a question naturally follows. Why did Egypt do so little to help the Canaanites? For centuries, Egypt had dominated Canaan. The region was incredibly valuable. It controlled major trade routes connecting Africa and Asia, provided tribute to Pharaoh, and served as an important military buffer protecting Egypt’s northeastern frontier. Under normal circumstances, Egypt would never have surrendered control of such territory without decisive military action; yet, the Amarna Tablets repeatedly portray local rulers crying out for help that never came. Why?

Exodus records God devastating Egypt through the ten plagues, humiliating its “gods,” destroying Pharaoh’s army in the Red Sea, and delivering Israel from slavery. The Exodus was not merely the escape of an enslaved people. It marked the crippling humiliation of one of the greatest empires in history. If Egypt had indeed suffered such a catastrophic blow to its military strength and international standing, its inability to maintain control over Canaan becomes much easier to understand.

The Amarna Tablets never mention Moses or the plagues directly. One would hardly expect Egyptian royal archives to preserve records celebrating one of the nation’s greatest humiliations. Ancient kings regularly commemorated victories while minimizing or ignoring defeats. Nevertheless, these letters independently confirm that Egypt’s influence in Canaan had become remarkably weak during the precise period when the Bible says the Hebrews were taking the land.

Jason Hilburn

(To Be Continued)

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. [HEAR THE WORD](#) Romans 10:17
2. [BELIEVE IN JESUS](#) John 3:16; 8:24
3. [REPENT OF YOUR SINS](#) Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; 2 Corinthians 7:10
4. [CONFESS THAT JESUS IS LORD](#) Romans 10:9-10 (cf. Acts 8:37)
5. [BE BAPTIZED FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS](#) Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
6. [REMAIN FAITHFUL](#) 1 Corinthians 15:58; Colossians 1:23; Revelation 2:10