

ORDER OF WORSHIP
September 20, 2026

Song: **744** – *The Gloryland Way*

Song: **706** – *Love Lifted Me*

First prayer: **Adam Bentley**

Song: **94** – *Nailed to the Cross*

Communion servers: **Mark Brandt** & **Brian Zumalt**

Prayer for giving: **Larry Simmons**

Song: **563** – *Our God, He is Alive*

Sermon: “*The Providence of God*” – **David Ray**

Invitation song: **456** – *There’s a Fountain Free*

Closing song: **714** – *The Lily of the Valley*

Closing prayer: **Mernie Ray**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Mernie, Mark & Debbie – 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 13, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Bible Class – 10 AM Worship – 16 Sun PM – 7 DBR – 4 Wed (9/16) – 12

Contribution – \$1836

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 (Part 2)

A Peculiar Pharaoh

The archaeological evidence becomes even more intriguing when considering Pharaoh Akhenaten, who came into power after the Exodus and conquest of Canaan (c. 1350 bc). Ancient Egypt was one of the most polytheistic civilizations in history. Hundreds of gods and goddesses were worshiped throughout the land. Then Pharaoh Akhenaten rejected centuries of religious tradition and centered Egypt’s worship on a single deity, whom he called “the Aten.”

Egyptologist Donald Redford describes the remarkable nature of this revolution by stating that Akhenaten “defied centuries of traditional worship of the Egyptian pantheon” by decreeing that his subjects practice monotheism. Redford further observes, “Most likely in the tenth year of his reign, Akhenaten ceased to tolerate any mention of other gods...and launched an all-out war against the old deities.” Such a dramatic religious revolution was unprecedented in Egyptian history, and it demands an explanation.

Could Akhenaten’s reforms have been directly connected to the Exodus? No ancient source explicitly says so, but the timing and circumstances are certainly compelling. After the plagues, the Exodus of the Israelites, and the Hebrew

conquest of Canaan that Egypt was helpless to prevent, Akhenaten completely overhauled Egypt’s religious system. What could have prompted such a drastic departure from centuries of Egyptian religion? If Egypt’s traditional gods had failed to preserve the nation’s power during one of the darkest periods of its history, confidence in those gods could certainly have been shaken. The power of the one true God, Yahweh, had been devastatingly demonstrated (Exo. 7:5; 9:14-16; 10:1-2). It is quite possible that Akhenaten could have been greatly influenced by these extraordinary acts of the one true God of the Hebrews, while still misunderstanding who He was, just as the Philistines did centuries later: “Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness” (1 Sam. 4:8).

As noteworthy as this religious revolution was, the shift to monotheism did not last in Egypt. Following Akhenaten’s death, his successors quickly restored the old polytheistic religion. His monuments were dismantled, his name was erased from official records, and later Egyptians attempted to remove him from history altogether, which is likely why his reign was largely forgotten until relatively recently. The Amarna Tablets from his royal archives, however, remained.

The Testimony of the Tablets

The Amarna Tablets still preserve the desperate voices of rulers watching their cities fall while pleading for help from an empire no longer capable of protecting them. Near the climax of the correspondence, one governor writes: “We guard the city, but the Habiru are in the land” (EA 100, an El-Amarna letter). Another admits: “The Habiru are stronger than we” (EA 299). Another pleads: “Send archers, O king, my lord!” (EA 286). Still another laments: “There are no troops of the king here” (EA 287). One letter warns: “Should [the governor] not be here within this year, all the lands will be lost to the Habiru” (EA 243). Finally comes the most dramatic statement of all: “Lost are the lands of the king! Do you not hearken unto me? All the governors are lost; the king, my lord, does not have a single governor left! The Habiru plunder **all the lands of the king...All the lands of the king, my lord, have gone over to the Habiru**” (EA 286, Moran).

Now compare those desperate words with Joshua’s inspired summary of Israel’s conquest, “And the Lord gave unto Israel **all the land** which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein.... There failed not

ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass” (Jos. 21:43-45).

Conclusion

The rulers of Canaan mourned that “**all the lands**” had gone over to the Habiru, and Joshua declared that the Lord had given the Hebrews “**all the land**” He had promised. Those two independent records—one written by frightened Canaanite rulers and the other by inspired Biblical writers—describe the same remarkable historical turning point from opposite sides of the conflict. More importantly, they remind us that God keeps His promises (Num. 23:19; Heb. 10:23). The God who judged Egypt and gave Israel the promised land is the same God who caused His Son to be born in that land to those people for our eternal salvation. He kept His promises to Abraham, and He will keep His promises to us.

Jason Hilburn

References

Moran, William L. *The Amarna Letters*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992.
Redford, Donald B. *Akhenaten: The Heretic King*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984.

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

- 1. [HEAR THE WORD](#)
Romans 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”
- 2. [BELIEVE IN JESUS](#)
John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” **John 8:24** – “...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
- 3. [REPENT OF YOUR SINS](#)
Luke 13:3–“...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” **Acts 17:30**–“And the times of this ignorance God overlooked, but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.” **2 Corinthians 7:10**–“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”
- 4. [CONFESS THAT JESUS IS LORD](#)
Romans 10:9-10–“if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Also **Matthew 10:32-33**; see **Acts 8:37** for an example.)
- 5. [BE BAPTIZED FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS](#)
Mark 16:16–“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved”; **Acts 2:38**–“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...”; **Acts 22:16**–“Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”; **1 Peter 3:21**–“...baptism doth also now save us...”
- 6. [REMAIN FAITHFUL](#)
1 Corinthians 15:58–“Therefore...be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord”; **Colossians 1:23**–“...if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard”; **Revelation 2:10**–“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”