



# Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 18 No. 8

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

August 2019

## The Bible As a Road Map

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Following the Right Map

##### Revelation 21

Have you ever taken the time to look at a map? I know that maps seem archaic and maybe even antiquated in our world today with computerized GPS devices and phone apps, but I often find maps fascinating. There are all kinds of maps out there to look at.

First, there are the physical kinds of maps that show the physical features of a place or country such as rivers, mountains, forests, and lakes. This type of map is generally arrayed with various colors showing bodies of water in blue, places of low elevation in dark green becoming lighter as the elevation increases; also the mountains tend to be brown.

A second type of map is a topographical map that has many of the same features as a physical map, but includes contoured lines in the place of colors.

A third type is a climatic map which depicts the various temperature differences in a given region, country, or continent and uses colors to depict differing climates.

A fourth map is a political map that outlines the state and national boundaries of a given country. It also shows the location of cities with respect to each other. There are several other types of maps, but I want to finish with a fifth one in which is a road map.

As the name depicts it is a map of roads, railways, highways, and interstates. It's generally a very detailed map to provide the traveler a tool to design a very specific travel itinerary so that the individual using it can get from point A to point B with accuracy and efficiency, at least in theory that is. I find maps pretty cool and often I will look at one just to get a sense of a place that I am interesting in visiting at some point in the future.

The word of God is much like the maps listed above. As such we get a glimpse into the future physical makeup of creation. In Revelation 21:1-2 we are told "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband."

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

#### Aug. 3, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

The men share a meal, then engage in a Bible discussion.

#### Aug. 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

#### Aug. 24 – Allenstown-Pembroke Old Home Day

All day at Memorial Field, Pembroke

#### Weekly:

#### Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Discussion

#### Sundays at 10:45 a.m. – Worship Service

And in verse 23 John wrote, "And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb."

We know that the earth we see today will not be the one we reside on for eternity. It will be a new heaven and earth in which we will enjoy living in a city that was specifically designed to house the companions of Christ for the ages to come.

The heavens or space that we now see will also be different in the future. There will be no stars or sun because Christ will be the radiance of all creation. In addition John is brought to the top of a mountain so we know that mountains will be there, but as verse one tells us there will be no sea. However, if you read to the end of the book of Revelation there is a river of life flowing through the city.

Also, as we consider what the Bible tells us, it is a map that shows a political landscape of things to come. In Revelation 21:3-4 which says, "And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will

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On the web at <http://www.hillside-sbc.org>

## Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

The map given to us here is a political map in which God is our king and we live under a theocracy. There will be no geographical lines or divides and, unlike our current political times, there will be no fear, tears, or consternation of the things happening around us or the things to come. In God's political realm there is peace for He will reside and commune with His people forever within all of creation.

Lastly, there is a road map given to us in God's word. Ultimately speaking, the entire Bible is a road map that leads to His saving grace and eternal joy, but in particular I would like to point to Revelation 21 once again focusing on verse 5-8 in which Jesus declares from the throne, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, ‘Write, for these words are faithful and true.’ Then He said to me [John], ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.’”

Christ here gives us the map to eternal life, for he who is thirsty may approach the King and receive refreshing forgiveness from sins and will be received by Him, but to those who do not accept His testimony of Himself, they will be cast away and face the second death. Though this does not show a physical roadway to God, for there is no such thing, it does show us a spiritual one in which we must observe closely in this life before completing the journey. If followed rightly, it will lead you to the Lord with accuracy and efficiency so that in the end you will enjoy your destination.

Have you gazed at God's map for you to follow called the Bible? Be careful of faulty modern GPS devices that might lead you down a wrong path to a destination you cannot come back from. Instead pay close attention to the one handed down to us by God in His word and it will not mislead you, but instead grant you success in your journey of life if followed closely.

✠ Pastor Jim

## Men's Breakfast

This month Men's Breakfast is early in the month, on August 3rd. Join the guys for some tasty grub, er food, with plenty of coffee to wash it down. Conversation may revolve around the latest congressional investigations or some other minor news, or maybe about important stuff like what's happening at the Patriots' training camp.

After breakfast, we'll pick up with our ongoing discussion of the Book of Mark. We are currently up to chapter 5.

Join us. We always have a good time together and no one goes home hungry.

## Property and Space Patrol

Here is some of the stuff going on with the property and some tidbits.

Many trees on the church property are dying. The six big maples at the entrance and on the street frontage will soon be gone.

On April 11 this year, a large spruce tree broke off, taking down power lines, phone and cable lines, and blocking the driveway. It took five loads to clean it up.

On June 16, the big maple next to the bottom of the driveway fell across the driveway. Two trailer loads were carted off to the “Dirt Doctor.” Thank you Pastor Jim and Connor for your help.

Since then two more loads of fallen branches have been hauled off. As one looks to the street from the church we see three more maples that have very little green. Soon these will be down. Each storm leaves more dead branches on the ground.

As we look about our four acres, we see more dying trees. The lot has many ash trees. The green ash beetle has invaded New Hampshire's ash forests. The grounds are regularly covered with ash limbs.

Bottom line: Clean up of tree branches is becoming a major project. They have to be removed in order to mow the lawns. It will continue until all the trees are gone. We can't speed up the process.

If you can help to pick up these branches from time to time, that will be greatly appreciated. Pile the limbs near the driveway for easy pick up. If you come with a pickup truck, maybe you can haul them to your town dump.

✠ Pastor Al

## He Knows Us

The following story of a nighttime stop on a 100-mile journey comes from the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet for July 13, 2018. It was written by ODB staff writer, Lawrence Darmani. First read Psalm 139:1-14.

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Did God know about me as I drove at night on a 100-mile journey to my village? Given the condition I was in, the answer was not simple. My temperature ran high and my head ached. I prayed, “Lord, I know you are with me, but I'm in pain!”

Tired and weak, I parked by the road near a small village. Ten minutes later, I heard a voice. “Hello! Do you need any help?” It was a man with his companions from the community. Their presence felt good.

When they told me the name of their village, Naa mi n'yala (meaning, “The King knows about me!”), I was amazed. I had passed this community dozens of times without stopping. This time, the Lord used its name to remind me that, indeed, He, the King, was with me while I was alone on that road in my ailing condition. Encouraged, I pressed on toward the nearest clinic.

See *He Knows Us* on p. 3

**He Knows Us, from p. 2**

God knows us thoroughly as we go about our everyday chores, at different locations and situations, no matter our condition (Psalm 139:1-4, 7-12). He does not abandon us or forget us; nor is He so busy that He neglects us. Even when we are in trouble or in difficult circumstances—"darkness" and "night" (vv. 11-12)—we are not hidden from His presence.

This truth gives us such hope and assurance that we can praise the Lord who has carefully created us and leads us through life (v. 14).

**Squirrels in Church**

This outrageously goofy story was submitted by Cynthia Ward, our humor specialist. Some editing was done to make it even more goofy.

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The Lutheran Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined for a purpose, but they could humanely trap them and let them find their purpose at the Baptist Church.

At the Baptist church, the squirrels took an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water slide in the baptistery and see if the squirrels drowned themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and knew how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

Two weeks later, the Baptists took down the water slide and the squirrels went over to the Catholic Church.

The Catholic church came up with a very creative strategy. They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

A different scene played out at the Jewish Synagogue. They took the squirrels and circumcised them.

They haven't seen a squirrel since then.

**Doggie Wisdom**

During a visit to my local vet to have my dog, Cisco, checked out, I noticed a painted crate in the exam room. It had a bit of doggie wisdom which I thought I would pass on.



✠ Michael Frascinella

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

- 8/9 Nathan Frascinella
- 8/12 Virginia Smith (Texas)
- 8/13 Stephanie Carpenter
- 8/16 Brenda Thomas (Texas)



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month:

- 8/3 Craig & Nicole Price

**Tune in to Gospel Radio**

In the Concord area, get more of God's Word by tuning into New Hampshire Gospel Radio at 99.1 FM or 104.3 FM. For example, on Saturday nights at 6 p.m. the locally produced "Saturday Night Gospel Hour" offers a wide variety of southern and country gospel music. During the week, tune into well known speakers such as Alistair Begg, Chuck Swindoll, Dr. David Jeremiah, and Dr. Jim Daly.

Learn more at <http://www.nhgr.org/>.

**Prayer Requests**

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Al, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the membership. It is our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Hillside on the Web**

Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillside-sbc.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

**Submissions for Next Issue**

Deadline is Aug. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the New Hampshire Baptist Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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