

HOPE Gazette

FEB 2022





Verse of the Month

*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be to propitiation for our sins.
1 John 4:10*



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This Gazette is intended to share ideas, discuss theology, and to inform. This is a volunteer-based publication. It is through the hard work of many people that we can produce and share this.

If you have any questions please reach out to us!

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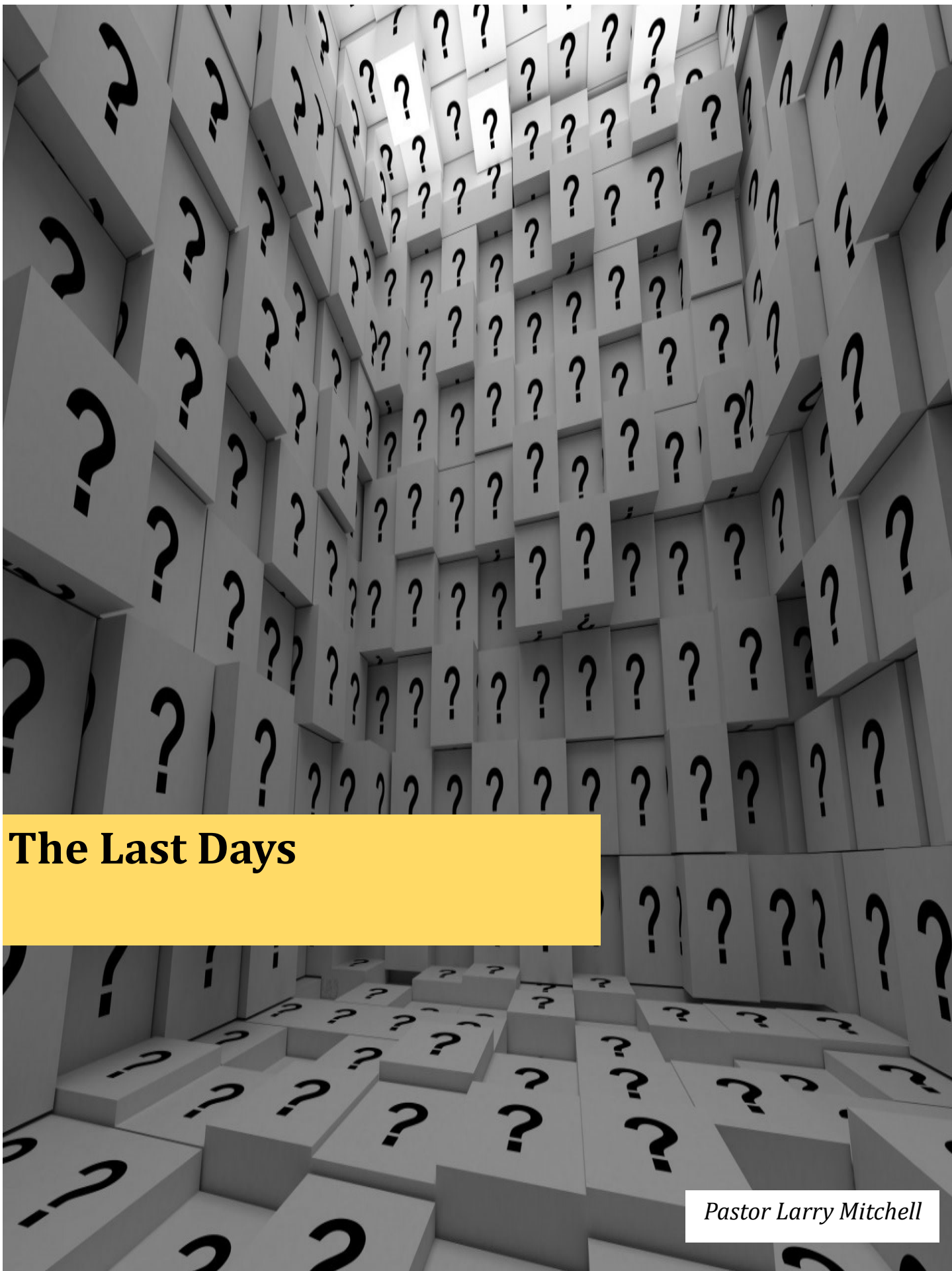


ARE WE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS?

Pastor Larry Mitchell

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The Last Days

Pastor Larry Mitchell

In a new series Pastor Larry Mitchell will answer some of the burning questions we all have about the "Last Days", what that term means biblically, and how it applies to us as Christians.

Make sure to check back in the next Hope Gazette for Part Two!

For the LAST TWO YEARS NOW, . . . [Since the ONSET Of The CORONAVIRUS], . . There Has Been MUCH Speculation That THIS VIRUS . . Could BE ONE of the "SIGNS" of the END TIMES, . . Or ONE Of the MANY SIGNS of the LAST DAYS; . . .

> . . And It's TRUE, There Has Been a Lot of People, WHO Have an

OPINION About the FUTURE; About ALL The THINGS THAT'S Been Happening, . . WORLDWIDE, IN Our PRESENT DAY !

AND It's Also TRUE, That FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, . . WE'VE HEARD ALL Kinds Of REPORTS; . . . We've HEARD ALL ABOUT THE PROPHECIES OF NOSTRADAMUS,. . The Famous French Apothecary,

. . Author, . . Translator of the Stars, Astrological Consultant, . . WHO LIVED From 1503 to 1566;

. . . Who's PUBLICATIONS, [Which are World Wide,] . . HAD PREDICTED That 2012 . . WOULD BE the YEAR of Some GREAT GLOBAL EVENT !

WE Also HEARD WHAT the Experts Had to SAY About the PROPHECIES OF the MAYAN INDIANS, . . . Whose Vast Empire Stretched From the Yucatan Peninsula, To Guatemala, To South East. Mexico, . . Dating as Far Back as 320 AD . . To IT'S Surmise, IN the 11th or 12th Century;

The Mayans ALSO . . PREDICTED . . That 2012 Would Be the YEAR of Some GREAT CATAclysmic EVENT !!

> WELL, AS WE KNOW, . . 2012 . . the FINAL YEAR of PLANET EARTH,

(BY THESE SOURCES, THAT the WORLD Was LOOKING TO] . . HAS COME and GONE, . . With NO EFFECT !

> . . BUT AGAIN, It's TRUE, . . That THIS LIFE, . . And ALL That WE KNOW; . . That THIS EARTH, And ALL That's WITHIN IT, . . ARE ONE DAY SOON, . . Going to CEASE, . . AND EVERYTHINGS Gonna START ALL OVER AGAIN, . . (JUST Like IT Did AFTER the GREAT FLOOD) . . .

. . BUT With a NEW KING, . . AND There's Gonna BE a NEW, BORN- AGAIN, . . SPIRIT FILLED, . . REDEEMED By the BLOOD of the LAMB,

. . REMNANT of PEOPLE, . . . INHABITING a NEW HEAVEN and A NEW EARTH !

. . WITH NO MORE SICKNESS and DISEASE, . . NO MORE MURDERS, NO MORE WARS, . . CRIME, . . PRISONS, . . NO MORE, . . ETC. !

> SO, In This Publication, We're Going LOOK To the MOST RELIABLE SOURCE, . . [WHICH Is the BIBLE] And SEE What It HAS to SAY About The SIGNS of the LAST DAYS !

SO the TRUTH IS; WE DON'T Have to Read the HOROSCOPES, . . WE DON'T Have to CONSULT Some FORTUNE TELLER or Some PALM READER, . . AND NO ! WE DON'T Have to RUN to Some PSYCHIC, to SEE or HEAR, WHAT MIGHT BE, . . OR WHAT MAY BE, . . . OR TRY to GET ALL Our QUESTIONS Answered On The 10:00 NEWS !!

The BOTTOM LINE IS; WE Don't Have to SECOND GUESS . . ABOUT WHAT the FUTURE HOLDS !

> . . THESE OUTSIDE SOURCES ARE Just WORLDLY CONFIRMATIONS of WHAT the BIBLE HAS ALREADY PREDICTED, . . [Many Years Ago,] . . ABOUT WHERE WE'RE AT TODAY, . . ON GOD'S TIME CLOCK !!

NO ! As PEOPLE of GOD, . . All WE Have to DO, . . IS GO TO the WORD of GOD, AND IT Tells US Very PLAINLY, . . . "WHAT'S NEXT !

> IN II PETER 3:9-13 the NIV says; ⁹ The Lord is not slack in keeping his promise, as some understand slackness. Instead HE is patient with You. HE'S NOT Willing that anyone should Perish, But that everyone, should Come to Repentance.

WHAT PETER is Telling US Here, . . is that GOD Made US a Promise, That Through JESUS CHRIST, . . HE'S COMING Back to Get US, . . BUT HE Didn't Put it Down In Writing, OR Tell Anyone Just Exactly WHEN That Would BE, . . . [SO, His FEET Aren't Nailed To the Floor AS to the DAY or HOUR !] WHY ?

BECAUSE HE is Very PATIENT, to Hold Out as Long As NEED BE, So That the LAST ONE That Would Accept Christ, . . WOULD BE SAVED !

¹⁰ But the DAY of the LORD will come like a Thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be Burned Up."

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, What kind of people ought you to be ? . . [Then He Answers That Question] . . You ought to live holy and godly lives, ¹² As you look Forward to the day of the Lord, and Hurry His Coming; . . A Day That will bring about the destruction of the heavens by Fire,

. And the elements will melt in the Fervent heat.

¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a NEW HEAVEN and a NEW EARTH, where Righteousness will dwell.

I Believe the BIBLE Gives US Many Indications, That the TIME That WE'RE PRESENTLY Living IN, . . IS TRULY the LAST DAYS !

> AND YES, It's Absolutely TRUE, That MANY Have Tried To PREDICT. The DAY of HIS COMING, . . BUT JESUS said in MATT. 24:36 . . "NO Man Knows the Day or Hour, not even the Angels in Heaven, . . BUT ONLY the Father."

BUT, . . . AS the Disciples Asked JESUS in MATT. 24:3 . . They Asked; "Tell US, They said, "When will all these things happen, and What will be the SIGN of your Coming, and of the End of the Age ?"

> You SEE, the Thing IS, . . JESUS Tells US in MATT. 24:42- 43 . . "To Keep WATCH, because you Don't Know on What DAY your Lord will Come Back. BUT understand this; If the Owner of the

House had **KNOWN** at what **TIME** of night the Thief was coming, **HE WOULD'VE KEPT WATCH** [HE Would've Been **READY** !] and He wouldn't have let his House be broken into. . . .

So, **YOU** must be Ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when You Least Expect Him."

> You SEE, the Thing IS, . . JESUS says, That HE Will Be COMING BACK as a **THIEF in the NIGHT**, . . BUT HE'LL ONLY Be COMING BACK, as a **THIEF**, to THOSE WHO ARE . . NOT KEEPING WATCH !

> HE said, IF the OWNER of the House Would've KNOWN, . . . HE Would've Been ALERT and Been Watching, . . . HE Wouldn't Have BEEN TAKEN BY SURPRISE !!!!

> The Apostle PAUL Supports This in **I THESS. 5:1-6** Where HE Writes; " Now, brothers, about **Times and Dates**, WE do not need to write to you. For you know very well that the **DAY** of the Lord will come like a Thief in the Night. While people are saying, "Peace and Safety," Destruction will come upon them, (Suddenly, as Labor pains on a pregnant woman), and they will **NOT ESCAPE**." . . . "BUT you dear brothers and sisters, are **NOT** in the darkness, So that this **DAY should Surprise you like a Thief**. You are all sons of the Light, and sons of the day. We do Not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let US NOT BE like others who are Asleep. BUT let US be Alert and Sober. " (Serious and Watchful !)

> ALRIGHT, . . SO WHAT GIVES US CAUSE to BELIEVE That We're LIVING in the LAST DAYS ?? WHAT Are the SIGNS That THIS PRESENT DAY Should Be ANY DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE ??

IN the **Book of GENESIS**, WE KNOW That GOD Created the Heavens and the Earth, and **Everything** in the Heavens and the Earth, . . in **SIX DAYS**, . . And Then, HE RESTED On the Seventh.

> Some Say, That According to **II PETER 3:8** says, "Beloved, Don't be ignorant of this One thing; that **ONE DAY** to the Lord, is as a Thousand Years, and a Thousand Years, . . as **ONE DAY**."

. . Some Say That According to This Scripture That CREATION Could've Taken Some 6,000 yrs. (Which, Would Explain a Lot of the Confusion About EVOLUTION)

> BUT the Bible Says, That GOD Created the Heavens and the Earth,

Just Like it SAYS, . . in A LITERAL, TWENTY-FOUR Hour PERIOD, . .

FOR EACH of the SIX DAYS !

. . Because After Each PART of Creation, . . It says in **GENESIS 1**, . .

"And the Evening and the Morning were the First DAY." "And the

Evening and the Morning were the Second DAY," . . "And the

Evening and the Morning were the Third DAY," . . . and SO ON !

> BUT Nevertheless, IF WE Were to MARK TIME in a Very Simple

Manner, BY ALL the EVENTS That Have Already HAPPENED, . . [FROM CREATION, to Where We Are RIGHT NOW,] . . WE Would DO WELL NOT To FORGET One of the Most Important Prophecy

Passages in the Whole Bible, . . Which is That of God's Prophecy . . GIVEN to DANIEL in **DANIEL 9:24-27**. . . . Which I Believe Constitutes One of the Most Amazing Prophecies in All the Bible. . . Which For NOW, . . WE Will Only POINT To the Very Simple FACT [In His Prophecy] . . of An OVERVIEW Of GOD'S WAY of MARKING TIME !

. . . AND Once Again, Recognizing What PETER Says in **II PETER 3:8** . . "Beloved, Don't be ignorant of this One thing; that **ONE DAY** to the Lord, is as a Thousand Years, and a Thousand Years, . . as **ONE DAY**."

. . SO, In Showing the 7 DAY . . [70th Week] . . THEORY of DANIEL'S PROPHECY, . . .

[] From the Time of **ADAM & EVE** to the **FLOOD** = [Roughly] 2,000 Yrs

[] From the **FLOOD** to the **BIRTH of CHRIST** = Another 2,000 Yrs.

[] From the **BIRTH of CHRIST** to the **RAPTURE** Another 2,000 Yrs With the FINAL 1,000 Years . . Being the **MILLIENIAL REIGN** of JESUS CHRIST.

> SINCE the BIRTH of CHRIST, AND the **TIMES** of the Early Church, the Writers of the New Testament - REFERED Many Times, to **THOSE TIMES**, . . . AS the **LAST DAYS** !

> SO, Actually We've Been Living in the **Last Days** SINCE the **OUTPOURING** of the **HOLY SPIRIT** There in the **UPPER ROOM** AND the **ASCENSION** of CHRIST!! (The Last Days Being These LAST 2,000 Years)

> The Prophet **JOEL 2:28** . . Prophesied of the LORD, saying; "And it shall come to pass, afterward, (in the Latter Times) that I will pour out my Spirit upon all Flesh; And your sons and daughters shall Prophesy; Your old men shall dream dreams; Your Young Men shall see visions."

> PETER Reminded the People of **THIS** Prophecy, On the DAY of Pentecost, After the Holy Spirit Had Been Poured Out in the Upper Room, . . When HE Explained, . . .

> . . . in **ACTS 2:16-17**. . "This is what was spoken of by the Prophet Joel; (When He said) "And it shall come to pass in the **Last days**, . .

. . . Saith God, I will Pour Out of My Spirit upon all Flesh; And Your sons and daughters shall Prophesy and your young Men shall see visions and your old men shall dream Dreams."

> SO, THIS "POURING OUT," of GOD'S SPIRIT, . . MARKED the BEGINNING, . . of the LAST . . Of the LAST DAYS !!

Earlier, in JESUS Ministry, . . AS JESUS and His Disciples Sat Upon the MT. Of OLIVES, . . In **MATT. 24:3** . . Once Again) the Disciples Asked JESUS; "Tell US "WHEN" Shall these things Be ?

. . . And WHAT will be the **Sign of your Coming**, And of the **END** of the World ?"

> AND SO, JESUS Began to Prophecy of ALL the Things That Would BE Coming Upon the EARTH, . . AT the **END** of the AGE !

.. AND THEN, HE Makes the Statement in Verse 34, That ALL of These Things, .. [ALL of the Things That HE Mentions Here .. in Chapter 24,] .. WILL HAPPEN in ONE GENERATION !

> SO, HE'S Bringing IT DOWN, Here, [to the FINAL,] to the LAST Generation .. to BE the Fulfillment .. of the LAST DAYS !

HE says, "Surely I tell you, .. THIS Generation Shall NOT PASS, .. Until ALL these things BE FULFILLED."

> Somebody said, "OK, HOW Much TIME Are You Talkin' About ?" "HOW LONG IS A GENERATION?" (Consensus of Opinion HAS Been 40 to 60 Years) (By Jack Van Impe's Calculations, . its 52 years !)

> ALL I KNOW, .. is That ISRAEL Became a NATION in 1948, .. AFTER BRITAIN Had Relinquished ALL Property Rights !!!! .. AND I Believe, THIS WAS WHEN the COUNTDOWN Of This LAST GENERATION started !! THUS .. FULFILLING the PROPHECY Given By EZE. 37:1-14

"The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and He set me in the middle of a valley, That was full of Bones. ² HE led me back and forth among them, And I saw a Great many Bones on the Floor of the Valley; .. Bones that were very dry." ³ He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live ?" And I said, O' Sovereign LORD, Only You Alone know." ⁴ Then he said to me, ... "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry Bones, hear the word of the LORD ! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these Bones: ..

..... "I will Cause Breath to Enter you, and you will come to Life.

⁶ I will attach tendons to you and I will make Flesh come upon you, and Cover you with Skin; I will put Breath in You, and You will come to Life. Then you will know that I AM the LORD."

⁷ So I prophesied, as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a Noise, a Rattling Sound, and the Bones came together, ..

Bone to Bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them, and skin covered them, but there was No Breath in Them." ..

... ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the Breath; Prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, Breath, from the four winds and Breathe into these Slain, that they may live.'" ¹⁰ So I Prophesied as He commanded me, and Breath Entered them;

And they came to life, and They stood on their feet—a Vast Army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: "Son of man, These Bones are the People of ISRAEL. They say, "Our Bones are dried up, and our Hope is Gone; We are Cut Off."

¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "My people, I am going to open your graves and I will bring you up from them; I will bring You back to the land of Israel."

¹³ THEN YOU, MY PEOPLE, WILL KNOW THAT I AM the LORD, WHEN I OPEN YOUR GRAVES and BRING YOU UP From THEM.

¹⁴ I Will PUT MY SPIRIT IN YOU and YOU Will LIVE, and I WILL Settle YOU IN YOUR OWN LAND. THEN

YOU Will KNOW That I the LORD Have SPOKEN IT, and I HAVE DONE IT, Declares the LORD."

> THIS IS HUGE ! FROM ALL OVER the WORLD, . JEWISH People BEGAN to MIGRATE .. BACK to ISRAEL !

> EZEKIAL'S PROPHECY WAS FULFILLED After 2,500 YRS.! THIS is Exactly WHAT GOD SAID WOULD HAPPEN !!!

AND THIS HAPPENED IN 1948 WHEN ISRAEL BECAME A NATION !

I BELIEVE Fundamentally, That 1948 Was Quite Possibly, .. WHEN .. the LAST GENERATION STARTED !

> Does Anyone Else Have the Opinion That a GENERATION Could Quite Possibly BE .. 70 YEARS ?) THREE SCORE and TEN ??

.. AND NOT to SAY, .. THAT GOD Has to WAIT .. Or to EXCEED the FULL 70 Years ! .. IT'S Just a Matter of ALL the PROPHECY Being Fulfilled IN .. ONE GENERATION !!

STAY TUNED AND WATCH FOR MORE BIBLICAL ANSWERS, ABOUT The "LAST DAYS," IN OUR NEXT ISSUE Of the HOPE GAZZETTE !! [In the Mean Time, BE READY! HE May COME BEFORE We Get the NEXT ISSUE OUT !]





Forgiveness

Mark Pitman

Have you ever had someone do something to you that is hurtful, even painful? Then they come to you later and tell you they are sorry for what they did? You forgive them and let it go. But do you truly forgive them from your heart? If you have then you have followed the biblical example of forgiveness. If not then the following Parable in the Bible will help you see how true forgiveness works.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant Matthew 18:21-35 ESV

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” **22** Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. **23** “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to

settle accounts with his servants. **24** When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. **25** And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. **26** So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ **27** And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. **28** But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ **29** So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ **30** He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. **31** When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. **32** Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33** And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as



I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant lesson was that we must forgive others their sin against us if we want our sins against God to be forgiven. Because God has forgiven all our sins, we should not withhold forgiveness from others. Realizing how completely God has forgiven us should produce a free and generous attitude of forgiveness toward others. When we don't forgive others, we are setting ourselves outside and above God's law of love.

Another example from the Bible of true forgiveness can be found in the story of Joseph and his brothers. Joseph is one of the best examples in the Bible of a forgiving person. Forgiveness enabled Joseph not to seek revenge or become bitter and angry (Genesis 50:19-21). Forgiveness caused Joseph to become a loving and caring person. This was a special blessing from God.

How about when it is a serious act against us? One

that causes deep wounds and emotional scars that may last for years? These kinds of acts are even harder to forgive the person who has wounded us. We should be careful that a root of bitterness doesn't set in. As a result, this can last our whole lifetime and cause us all kinds of problems in our life. Our relationships can be damaged when we harbor unforgiveness. We can build up resentment and not even realize that we are doing it.

There's a famous quote that goes: 'Holding onto resentment is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die.' Forgiveness isn't just about retaining harmony in your relationship; it's also about being kind to yourself. If you're not careful, anger can eat away at you and even affect your attitude towards relationships in the future, making you feel more defensive or untrusting.

A song by Matthew West really illustrates this painful process and may offer some comfort.

Forgiveness: Lyrics by Matthew West

It's the hardest thing to give away
 And the last thing on your mind today
 It always goes to those who don't deserve
 It's the opposite of how you feel
 When the pain they caused is just too real
 Takes everything you have to say the word
 It flies in the face of all your pride
 It moves away the mad inside
 It's always anger's own worst enemy
 Even when the jury and the judge
 Say you've got a right to hold a grudge
 It's the whisper in your ear saying set it free

Show me how to love the unlovable
 Show me how to reach the unreachable
 Help me now to do the impossible
 Forgiveness, forgiveness
 Help me now to do the impossible
 Forgiveness
 It'll clear the bitterness away
 It can even set a prisoner free
 There is no end to what its power can do
 So let it go and be amazed by what you see through
 eyes of grace
 The prisoner that it really frees is you
 I want to finally set it free
 Show me how to see what your mercy sees
 Help me now to give what You gave to me
 Forgiveness, forgiveness

One of the most creative powers given to the human spirit is the power to heal the wounds of a past it cannot change.

The Bible speaks to this in Romans 12:17-19

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

As it say's we cannot take matters into our own hands.

The wounds and the scars of the past cannot be undone without the love of God in our hearts. We must look to God only to heal the pain. Without God we will only continue to hurt other people and further damage our lives.

Forgiving is highly recommended, as there is various research that has been carried out which shows that unforgiveness causes health issues including:

Cancer. 61% of cancer patients have forgiveness issues.

- Suppressed anger. People often get angry for

any reason have issues associated with forgiveness.

- Low self-esteem. Lack of self-love stems from not forgiving yourself or self-acceptance.
- Bitterness can increase the risk of depression.
- Constant worrying increases of the risk sleep deprivation and anxiety.
- Blood pressure.
- Heart disease.



When someone has hurt or disappointed you, the logical response would be to think that you're hurting them by not forgiving them and holding a grudge. The harsh truth is that you're causing yourself more pain by holding on to the anger, and the person that you wish not to forgive has the subconscious power to control you. However, you can get disconnected from the power of control when you forgive.

The Bible also gives us a startling warning about not forgiving others. If we refuse to forgive others, God will refuse to forgive us. Why? You may say. Because when we don't forgive others, we are denying our common ground as sinners in need of of God's forgiveness. God's forgiveness of sin is the not the direct result of our forgiving others, but based on our realizing what forgiveness means. It is easy to ask God to forgive us for sin, but difficult to grant it to others. Whenever we ask God to forgive us for sin, we should ask ourselves, "Have I forgiven the people who wronged me?"

Matthew 6: 14,15 (NLT)

You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.” “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.”

FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation? People often confuse forgiveness and reconciliation, as if they were the same thing, they aren't. Reconciliation is the final step in the forgiveness process, it is the “cherry on the top”-- an extra bonus when and if it occurs. It takes two people to reconcile, but only one to forgive.

These following verses showcase the love and forgiveness that God has given to men and women and his commands for them to forgive and seek reconciliation.



Psalms 86:5—You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Proverbs 28:13—Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Matthew 6:12—Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors.

2 Corinthians 5:18—All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Ephesians 4:32—Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Colossians 1:21-23—Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.

As we conclude it is my hope that this message on forgiveness has encouraged you and given you hope. It is my desire that you take that step toward forgiveness and reconciliation with those you have wronged or hurt you. That step is to turn to Jesus and ask Him to forgive you your sins as He has forgiven others . Jesus gives us the perfect example of forgiveness. While in agony on the cross, Jesus called out, exclaiming “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34).

In His service

Mark Pitman





Self Confrontation

Rev. Candis Oswalt

When Sister Kasey Parrott asked about writing for this topic my oh so cavalier response was “sure, why not since I’ve been living it for a few weeks.” That statement should have given me a clue, huh? Needless to say, the self-confrontation has increased since then and is on-going and is necessary. Not just for me but for every child of God wishing to grow closer, stronger, more in depth in their walk with the Lord.

In a conversation during a Bible study just shortly after receiving this topic, it was mentioned that our biggest enemy in our walk with the Lord is “self.” Such a true statement. Now this is not talking about self in the selfish sense but plain old self. Although the word self is contained in the word selfish, self is not always selfish but is often misguided, unable to discern properly, lacking wisdom, lacking understanding, and undisciplined. This gets in the way of following God’s plan and purpose for our lives. Oft times we do not even realize that “self” is in the way. We believe we are truly praying for God’s will and believing for it and willing to walk in it. We are too easily deceived by self and thus self-examination followed by self-confrontation is so very necessary.

Psalm 139:23-24 (KJV) ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
²⁴ And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Most all of us are remarkably familiar with the above prayer from David in Psalm and I will break this down more for us to follow this pattern shortly. But how many of us take the time to look at the beginning of this Psalm and understand also how this prayer/ Psalm begins.

Psalm 139:1-6 (KJV) ¹ O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*.
² Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.
³ Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted *with* all my ways.
⁴ For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.
⁵ Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.
⁶ *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot *attain* unto it.

In the beginning of Psalm 139 David does what Jesus later on teaches his disciples to do. At the beginning of prayer, worship, communication with the Lord we should first acknowledge who He is. His

greatness and awesomeness that are so beyond what our mortal minds can comprehend. In verses 1 – 6 (and others in the Psalm) David acknowledges and praises God's omniscience and in verses 7-18 his omnipresence. He is giving praise that the Lord knows every thought, action, deed, and word that David has/is. This, for us, then would be the beginning of self-examination, the understanding that God is omniscience. If we cannot grasp the fact that, yes, He can, see into the very heart/soul of us then we cannot hope to have His Holy Spirit help us in self-examination and self-confrontation and then God directed correction.

It also behooves us to notice the similarity in David's praise of God and then what he asks God for in the end of the Psalm. David is fully convinced of God's omniscience which is why he can with confidence ask God what he asks him in verses 23 and 24. I do not believe we can with confidence ask God for anything in prayer if we are not fully convinced, He can!

So, before we start self-examination and self-confrontation, we need to spend time praising the Lord and acknowledging who He is. Now let us move on to verses 23 and 24 as a pattern for self-examination. I am sure there are some reading this that will say if we are asking God to examine us than we are not doing a self-examination. There is a verse that speaks to this:

Jeremiah 17:9-10 (AMP) ⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly perverse *and* corrupt and severely, mortally sick! Who can know it [perceive, understand, be acquainted with his own heart and mind]? ¹⁰ I the Lord search the mind, I try the heart, even to give to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

My sister Marlena tells a story of when her daughter (my amazing niece) Angela Marie was quite young and was asking her mom about the scripture in Matt 21:21 where Jesus says, "you may say to this mountain be thou removed and cast into the sea, and it shall be done." Angela wanted to know why she could not just look at a mountain and say that and have it be done. Marlena said to her, first you need to ask yourself why you want that mountain to be moved. I am sure I have simplified this story tremendously, but the point is still valid. It is about our motive. Again, the heart is deceitful above all things.

We must acknowledge any true self-examination and confrontation must be God led and directed because our own mind is too easily deceived by our emotions and justifications. Therefore, the second step, after acknowledging God's omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence, in self-confrontation is to ask God through His Holy Spirit to examine our hearts (emotions/feelings) and minds (thoughts) and deeds/words. This is not a light little prayer that will take a few seconds, shed a few tears and off we go. This is a pouring out and surrendering of ourselves and our will to the Lord. **SEARCH ME.** Then David says, "see if there be any wicked way in me." This is not merely asking God to see if it is there, God already knows, we are asking God to **SHOW ME.** Make it known to me so I can surrender it, be delivered of it, rebuke it, and bring it captive to Your will oh Lord. The self-examination is God showing us, the self-confrontation is us acknowledging what He has shown us and surrendering to His will and asking forgiveness. It also is through prayer and the help of the Holy Spirit making the flesh "self" submit to the spirit. Then to bring these things captive to the will of God, David prays "lead me in the way everlasting." We must pray "lead me in the way everlasting." Father God Your will and not mine be done. Direct my steps Oh Lord: **Psalms 51:10 (AMP)** ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right, persevering, *and* steadfast spirit within me.

In this manner we not only have revealed to us through thorough self-examination and get set free from through self-confrontation, but we also replace these things with right thinking. Having our mind renewed by the Word of God. Being continually transformed from glory to glory in His image.

In our walk with the Lord and our continuing sanctification self-examination and self-confrontation is an ongoing, often done necessity. It is not a one and done because we live in a world full of evil and deceit and we must be alert and allow God to reveal to us those things we cannot see in ourselves that create a barrier between ourselves and God and make it all too easy to be swayed by evil and turn from the Lord.

1. Acknowledge who God is.
2. Ask God's help
3. Bring captive to God's will
4. Replace with the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.



Classifieds

 **stuff**

 **services**

 **jobs**

 **homes galore**



Farm Fresh Eggs For Sale
\$2 a carton
See Jeannette Parrott



If you have something to
celebrate, a job to offer, a
service you provide, then
please contact Kasey Parrott.

812-876-9002



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15TH ANNUAL
GOD'S PASSION REVEALED
WOMENS CONFERENCE
MARCH 2ND – 5TH

ARE YOU
WITLESS?

ABOUT YOUR
WITNESS!

WITNESS



LOCATION:
Abundant Life
Worship Center
600 Forrest St. Clay City IN

For information please contact:

Moment of Truth
Ministries, Inc.
Rev. Candis L. Oswalt
574-210-9234

Wow, it's our 15th year. God is AWESOME

Our Theme this year is WITNESS

Services times are 7 pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 10 am on Saturday. There will be a carry in lunch after the Saturday morning services.

Are you WITLESS about your WITNESS?

Come and join us for these Holy Spirit led meetings with inspired worship from various groups and anointed Word from some mighty women of God.

You really don't want to miss this opportunity to be poured into and find your WITNESS.

A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies. Proverbs 14:25



Vicki's Recipe Corner

Chicken Enchiladas
3-4 chicken breasts, boiled & shredded
1 pkg flour tortillas (8-12)
1 pt whipping cream
1 small can chopped green chilis
8 oz. shredded Monterey Jack cheese
Mix chicken, chilis & cheese. Wrap in flour tortillas & lay in baking dish. Pour whipping cream over & top with cheese. Cover & bake at 350° until hot, approximately 25-30 minutes.



Upcoming Classes Offered at the HOPE!

SISTERS OF HOPE FREEDOM AND HEALING FROM TOXIC RELATIONSHIPS

- An 8 week study on freedom and healing. The study will be limited to 12 women. The cost is \$10 for the book. We are looking at starting the end of February on either Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday.
- The sign up sheet is posted on the information station, so put your name, phone number and put a check mark for which class day fits your schedule. We will be providing a variety of classes over a year's time and look forward to the relationships we can build.

– Email: hopesisters22@gmail.com

– Theresa Brandenburg call 812-320-7176



FUNDAMENTALS OF BIBLICAL COUNSELING DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

During 15 weeks of lay biblical counseling training, God will prepare you through the study of His Word, prayer, and the Holy Spirit to rightly divide His Word in preparation for helping others change and grow into Christlikeness by no longer conforming to this world, but by being transformed by the renewing of their mind.

Counselors deal with a comprehensive range of problems: Adultery, outburst of anger, anorexia, arrogance, bitterness, bulimia, bad communication, depression, lack of discipline, drunkenness, fear, financial problems, fornication, frustration, gluttony, greed, guilt, homosexuality, impatience, interpersonal disputes, jealousy, laziness, loneliness, lust, lying, marriage problems, parent and child problems, pride, procrastination, rebellion, rejection, self-pity, stealing, substance abuse, suffering, unforgiving spirit, and worry.

Course Begins: **Tuesday March 8, 2022 6:30pm-8:30pm**

Course Ends: **Tuesday June 14, 2022**

Prerequisites: Discipleship I, Discipleship II, and Self-Confrontation.

Cost: \$20 for workbook

All questions can be addressed to John Leis

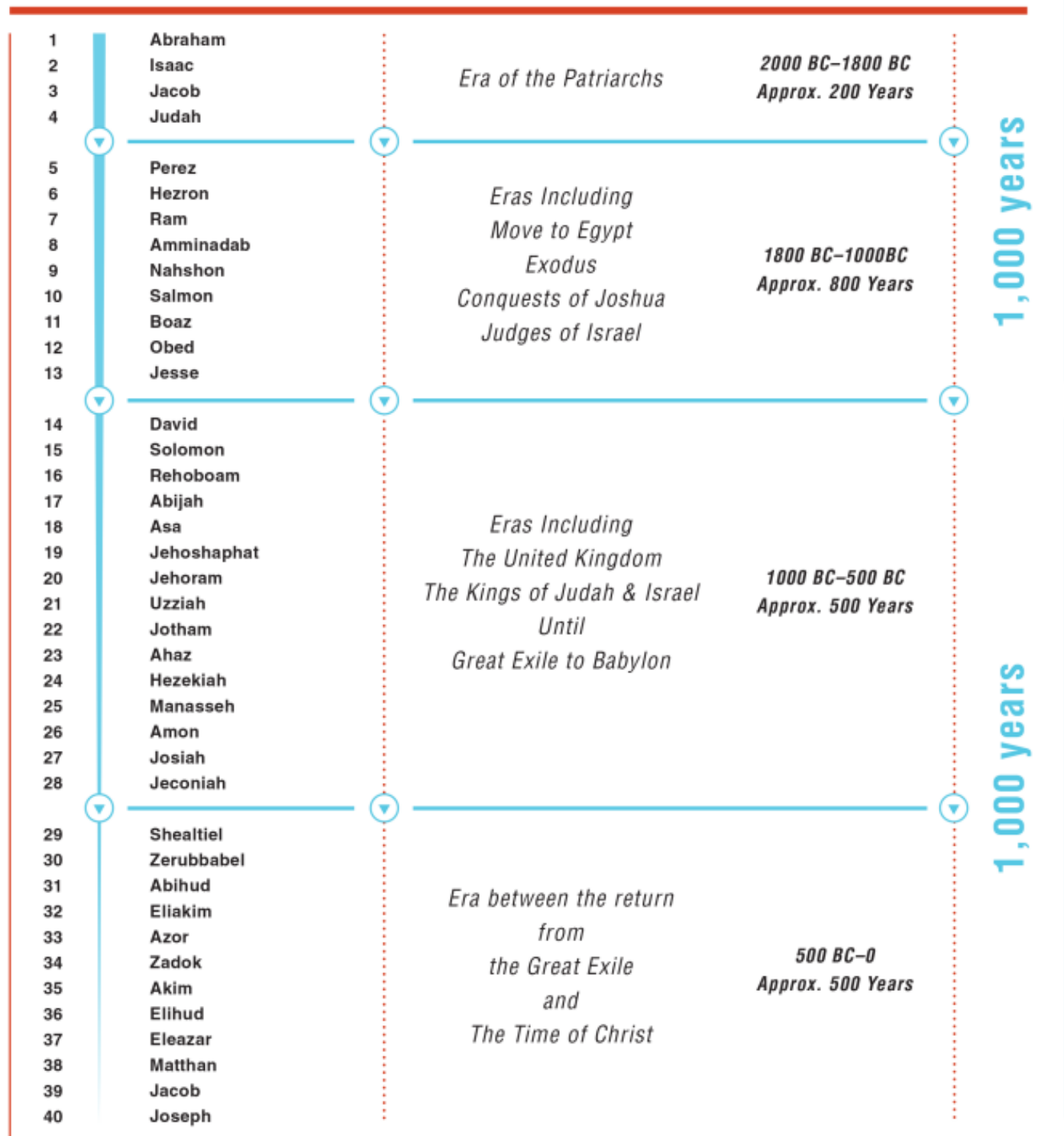
Church: 812-876-9002 Ext 105

Cell: 812-322-6327

FAMILY TREE

Matthew Genealogy, Abraham & Jesus

The Matthew genealogy is considered Old Testament history because all names save Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, are from pre-New Testament times. Here are the legal generations between Abraham and Jesus, presented in Matthew 1. While this list does not try to assign individual years to the dates, each person's birth order can be seen within their eras.



Jesus

UnChained Ministries Auction!

UnChained is having a benefit auction on March 26th at 3pm. Items include baked goods, antiques, miscellaneous items, and who knows what else!

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