

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Feb. 4, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:55

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havis
Presentation study—2:00 Dave Havis
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Ron Avey
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Job 1:1–12
Sermon Morris Foster

Quick takes

1. Wednesday-night Bible study—The next Wednesday-night Bible study is Feb. 8.
2. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

■ Mickey Ashcraft	■ Ruth Roe
■ David and Becky Bonilla	■ Sonny Rosenberger
■ Timberly Dunnam	■ Ronnie Shirley
■ Elaine Holloway	■ Elaine Townsend
■ Annette Payne	■ Donna Weese
3. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Recognize When ‘Pride’ Is Totalitarian” by Dennis Prager.
4. Among Friends—This week’s article is “Overview of Genesis 11:1–9” by Dave Havis.
5. Eye on the World—The version of this week’s “Eye on the World” that is distributed in the hall is 39 pages. (The number of pages on the website varies slightly due to a different program.) This edition has 355 headlines.

Prayer updates

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Timberly Dunnam** was scheduled for an appointment with an allergist on Feb. 1. She reported: "The appointment with the allergist went well. He is going to do an allergy test soon. I have to wait at least five days for the Benadryl and the other antihistamine medications to get out of my system, so that the test will be accurate. Thank you for the prayers."

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Ron Avey** was scheduled for a heart catheterization on Monday, Jan. 30. On Monday, Mr. Avey reported: "Out of surgery and in recovery. They had to use a balloon to open an artery. But everything went well." Mr. Avey was in the building at Bible study on Wednesday night.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Nancy Diraison** was having intense pain in the front of her chest (probably due to a muscular problem in her back). On Sunday, she came to believe that a rib was out of place and had **Dave Havir** come to anoint her.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Dean** and **Wanda Klepfer** (parents of Brenda Kennebeck) had been diagnosed with covid. After a negative hospital experience, Mr. Klepfer went home despite the fact that he had been diagnosed with pneumonia in both lungs. Mr. Klepfer was having trouble this week with his pneumonia and keeping his oxygen level up. (His back was also hurting.)

At the beginning of the 2:00 Bible study last Saturday, we announced that **Jean Benedict** was requesting prayers for her son **Terry Shipman**. Through the week, Mr. Shipman was diagnosed with ketoacidosis. On Tuesday, he was able to return home. Mrs. Benedict reported: "He just has to shoot himself with insulin now and change his eating habits." Both mother and son appreciate your prayers.

New prayer requests

Last Saturday, **Gloria Hoppe** was experiencing chest pain at home. After taking some nitro tablets, she reported: "Though pain is still very much there, I see it as a good sign that its source is from the neck injury of long ago—something I have to deal with all the time. When I tense up enough due to stress or physical labor, pressure is put on the brain stem (which is already torqued at a 45-degree angle between the third and fourth vertebrae. I am heart healthy so far as I know, but the doctor insisted I keep nitro with me at all times and not hesitate to take it."

Vonda Ouellette of Houston (mother of **Theresa McLearn** and **Jerry Thompson**) fell this week. While she apparently didn't break any bones, the family requests your prayers.

Marilyn Brown of Potwin, Kan., died on Jan. 18. Please remember her husband, **Ron**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Charles Nobles of Hattiesburg, Miss., died on Jan. 14. Please remember his wife, **Bonnie**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

John Melancon of Lufkin died on Jan. 23. Some of you who attended the Feast of Tabernacles in Big Sandy last fall will remember Dr. Melancon if you heard his presentation at the Antiquities Encounter Museum in Henderson. (Dr. Melancon was the owner and director of the museum. He was also a professor, archaeologist and Bible historian.) Please remember his wife, **Sue**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Thought for the week

“National debt reflects a nation that has lost its way.”—*Star Parker*

Thought with a twist

“I tried to steal spaghetti, but the female guard saw me and I couldn’t get pasta.”—*Reg Killingley*

Genesis 11:1-9

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigsandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 4, 2023.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled “Genesis 11:1-9.” Here are some of the scriptures that I read.

Brief mention of Nimrod

Before we get to Genesis 11, let’s take a quick look at Genesis 10 and the mention of Nimrod. Nimrod is mentioned in four places in the Bible and two of them are in Genesis 10.

■ Genesis 10:8—Nimrod (who came from the genealogical line of Noah, Ham and Cush) “began to be a mighty one on the earth.”

■ Genesis 10:9-11—Nimrod was called “the mighty hunter before the LORD.” His kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad and Calneh. He was also involved with Assyria.

■ 1 Chronicles 1:10—Nimrod “began to be a mighty one on the earth.”

■ Micah 5:6—This verse mentions “the land of Assyria” and “the land of Nimrod.”

Building a city and tower

In Genesis 11, we read about the Tower of Babel. Notice a glimpse of the story.

■ Genesis 11:1—The whole world had one language.

■ Genesis 11:3-4—The people wanted to build a city and a tower (“whose top is in the heavens”) to avoid being scattered.

Lord’s personal interest

■ Genesis 11:5—The LORD “came down to see the city.” Notice the poetry.

Couldn’t the LORD see them from heaven? Didn’t the LORD know what was happening in His creation?

Please don’t get distracted by the wording. This wording was not reflecting the limitations of the LORD. I believe this wording is reflecting the personal interest of the LORD in the situation.

Lord’s solution

■ Genesis 11:6—The LORD’s conclusion was that the one language was not helping them to follow His instructions.

■ Genesis 11:7-9—The LORD decided to confuse their language and to influence them to scatter.

View of Josephus

Let’s notice what the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus said about Nimrod and the

tower of Babel. The following excerpts are from Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, chapter IV (from page 30).

Josephus wrote that Nimrod influenced the people to become dependent upon themselves and upon him—instead of upon God.

“He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it were through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny—seeing no other way of turning men from fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power.”

Josephus wrote that Nimrod would deal with God, if God wanted to bring another flood upon the world.

“He also said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a town too high for the waters to reach! And that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers!”

Josephus wrote about Nimrod and the tower.

“Now the multitude were very ready to follow the determination of Nimrod, and to esteem it a piece of cowardice to submit to God; and they built a tower, neither sparing any pains, nor being in any degree negligent about the work; and by reason of the multitude of hands employed in it, it grew very high, sooner than anyone could expect; but the thickness of it was so great, and it was so strongly built, that thereby its great height seemed, upon the view, to be less than it really was. It was built of burnt brick, cemented together with mortar, made of bitumen, that it might not be liable to admit water.”

Josephus wrote about separating the languages.

“When God saw that they acted so madly, he did not resolve to destroy them utterly, since they were not grown wiser by the destruction of the former sinners; but he caused a tumult among them, by producing in them [diverse] languages; and causing that, through the multitude of those languages, they should not be able to understand one another.”

Josephus wrote about the confusion.

“The place wherein they built the tower is now called Babylon; because of the confusion of that language which they readily understood before; for the Hebrews mean, by the word Babel, Confusion.”

Communication increasing

Have the languages stayed apart? Not at all. What is happening in the world?

Knowledge and communication are rapidly increasing (Daniel 12:4).

Remember the lesson of tyranny

Do you remember how Josephus described Nimrod as changing the government into tyranny?

Have you noticed the history of governments exhibiting tyranny in the world?

Certainly, the disciples in the early New Testament church had to deal with the tyranny of the Roman empire.

■ Caesar Augustus (who reigned from 31 B.C. to 14 A.D.) was mentioned in Luke 2:1.

■ Caesar Tiberius (who reigned from 14 to 37 A.D.) was mentioned in Luke 3:1 and was the Caesar at the time of John 19:12.

■ Caesar Caligula (who reigned from 37 to 41 A.D.) does not seem to be mentioned in the Bible.

■ Caesar Claudias (who reigned from 41 to 54 A.D.) was mentioned in Acts 11:28.

■ Caesar Nero (who reigned from 54-68 A.D.) was the Caesar that Paul mentioned in Acts 25:8-12; Acts 25:21; and Acts 26:32.

Prophecy about tyranny

■ Revelation 13:2—The dragon is going to give a beast his power, his throne and his authority.

■ Revelation 13:11-12—Another beast will appear that will exercise all the authority of the first beast.

Role of the Son of God

■ Matthew 20:25—The Son of God taught against rulers lording it over people and against important people exercising authority over people.

■ 1 Corinthians 15:24-28—The Son of God will put an end to the rule, authority and power of this world.