

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Oct. 28, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:32

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Bruce Graham
Presentation study—2:00 Dean Roberts
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Dean Roberts
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Galatians 5:18–26
Sermon Neil McIver

Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Dave Havir is giving a Bible study and sermon in Kansas City.
2. Welcome to our traveling speaker—The congregation thanks Dean Roberts for giving the 2:00 Bible study and for leading songs at the 3:00 church service.
3. Traveling speaker next week—We are pleased to announce that Ben Mauldin III will be the traveling speaker next week. As you might recall, he and his family attended the Feast of Tabernacles this year in Israel.
 - 2:00 Information about Israel
 - 3:00 Information about their return trip home
4. Edifying the Body—This week's article is " Hamas Slaughter Confirmed Everything I Believed" by Dennis Prager.
5. Among Friends—This week's article is "God's Deliverance Through Death" by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—32 pages with 318 headlines.
7. Early bulletin—Because of Dave Havir's trip, this bulletin was prepared earlier than normal and does not include the regular prayer requests. Thank you for keeping your friends in your prayers.

“**Hamas Slaughter Confirmed Everything I Believed**”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Oct. 28, 2023. (A version of the article was posted at townhall.com on Oct. 24.)

By Dennis Prager

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—With one exception, nothing about Oct. 7 surprised me.

The one exception was Israel’s unpreparedness. That also surprised nearly every Israeli. My guess is that a combination of Iranian technology and Israeli complacency and incompetence led to the greatest slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust.

Nothing else surprised me. Not the butchery; not the sadism; not the Jew hatred; not the theology that made the slaughter possible; not the support, even glee, in Gaza and among an untold number of Muslims around the world; not the reactions in our universities; and not the support of the Left (not of liberals).

The Middle East dispute

Since the 1970s, when I was a graduate student at the Middle East Institute of Columbia’s School of International Affairs, I knew what the Middle East conflict was about: Muslim rejection of a Jewish state in the middle of the Muslim world. To the best of my recollection, my professors—most of them fluent in Arabic and all experts on the Middle East—had it wrong. Being secular themselves and usually having a sympathetic view of the Arab world, they believed and taught that the issue was about land.

They were wrong. It was always about Muslim rejection of a Jewish state in their midst and a religious desire to destroy it.

In 2014, I presented a video for PragerU titled *The Middle East Problem*. It explains the Middle East problem in five minutes.

This is how it begins: “When I did my graduate studies at the Middle East Institute at Columbia University . . . semester after semester, we studied the Middle East conflict as if it was the most complex conflict in the world when, in fact, it is probably the easiest conflict in the world to explain. It

may be the hardest to solve, but it is the easiest to explain.

“In a nutshell, it’s this: One side wants the other side dead.”

Fifty years ago, I knew it. Muslims know it. Israel’s Jews know it. And now, unless you are a leftist, you know it.

I ended the video with another truism: “Finally, think about these two questions: If, tomorrow, Israel laid down its arms and announced, ‘We will fight no more,’ what would happen? And if the Arab countries around Israel laid down their arms and announced, ‘We will fight no more,’ what would happen?”

“In the first case, there would be an immediate destruction of the state of Israel and the mass murder of its Jewish population. In the second case, there would be peace the next day.”

As of Oct. 7, you know that too.

Why Jews are hated

There is no hatred like Jew hatred. It is the longest ongoing hatred in history. It is the most universal. And it is the one exterminationist hatred: Those who hate the Jews want them destroyed. There is a Hebrew statement that is probably two thousand years old, and which is recited during the Passover Seder service: “In every generation, they arise to annihilate us.”

Note that the sentence does not say “to persecute us” or “to enslave us,” but “to annihilate us.”

The question is why.

I wrote an entire book—*Why the Jews?*—40 years ago explaining antisemitism. But I can sum it up in a few sentences: Jew hatred is largely a result of the Jews being The Chosen People.

You can laugh at the idea if you are secular and inclined to do so. But those who hate the Jews have not laughed at the idea; they have hated the Jews because of it—because

they believed it and/or because it is true.

The Jews introduced much to the world.

■ They introduced to humanity the God in which most of the world believes.

■ They brought into existence the Bible that is the basis of the New Testament and the Koran.

■ They gave the Christian world its Messiah.

■ They gave much of the world its morality through the Torah, the Prophets and the Ten Commandments.

Those who hate that moral code hate the Jews. The two groups that have tried to exterminate the Jews in the last hundred years, the Nazis and the Islamists (not all Muslims), hate that moral code. And they hate the Jews for embodying it—compared

to the Nazis and compared to Islamic regimes of Iran, Hezbollah, ISIS and Hamas, Israel is composed of saints.

So, when I read about the horrors inflicted by Hamas on young Jews, old Jews and Jewish babies, I was horrified, but not at all surprised. That is what the most evil of any generation do to Jews. And that is why non-Jews who dismiss Iran, Hamas or Hezbollah as the Jews' problem are fools. Tens of millions of non-Jews were killed because most people dismissed Hitler and the Nazis as the Jews' problem.

In fact, aside from increased loathing of Hamas and their Muslim and left-wing supporters, the only effect the events of Oct. 7 had on me was to reinforce my faith in the chosenness of the Jews.

“God’s Deliverance Through Death”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Oct. 28, 2023.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a five-part series about God’s deliverance. I love talking about this subject.

In 2009, I gave a similar series in consecutive Bible studies. In 2020, I gave a similar series in consecutive sermons. Although the five main concepts remained the same, those presentations used a variety of different verses from the Bible.

Foundational verse

This series is based upon 1 Corinthians 10:13—stressing how God is faithful.

■ God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.

■ God will make a way of escape.

■ God will make you able to bear it.

Death as an escape

Part 2 of this series discusses “Escape Through Death.”

It is important to realize that, when I talk about escape through death, I am certainly not talking about suicide. I am talking about

the deaths that occur due to natural causes (whether age or disease), accidents or unfortunate violence from others.

Sorrow and distress are normal

I want to state something very directly: It is “normal” to feel exceedingly sorrowful and deeply distressed.

Understand the following.

■ Feeling exceeding sorrow and deep distress should not be desired.

■ It is best that the condition of feeling exceeding sorrow and deep distress should not linger.

■ Experiencing the conditions of exceeding sorrow and deep distress in small doses is not automatically sin.

■ Experiencing the conditions of exceeding sorrow and deep distress in small doses is actually “normal.”

Do you want me to prove it to you?

The Son of God did not sin, yet He experienced sorrow and deep distress in an intense moment of His life.

Matthew 26:37—“He [the Son of God] began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.”

Matthew 26:38—“Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.’”

Even though the condition of exceeding sorrow and deep distress is normal, please do not allow the condition to linger.

He dealt with it

How did the Son of God overcome sorrow and distress?

- Matthew 26:39—He talked to the Father and accepted the Father’s will.

- Luke 22:43—He accepted angelic help.

- John 18:37—He concentrated on His purpose.

Overcoming strong discouragement

Following are some biblical examples of people who successfully overcame strong discouragement. You will too.

- Numbers 11:11-15—Moses

- 1 Kings 19:4—Elijah

- Job 3:1-26—Job

- Jeremiah 20:14-18—Jeremiah

- Jonah 4:3—Jonah

Turning bad into good

- Genesis 50:20—When people mean evil against us, God can direct it for good.

- Psalm 18:28—God will enlighten our darkness.

- Psalm 116:15—The death of the Lord’s saints is precious in His sight.

- Isaiah 57:1—Sometimes death is an escape from evil.

Two tremendous powers

- 1 Corinthians 2:11—There is a wonderful human spirit, and there is a superior Spirit of God.

Descriptions of life and death

- 1 Corinthians 15:18—Paul talked about falling asleep in Christ.

- 1 Corinthians 15:50-54—Paul talked about a change from corruption to incorruption and from mortal to immortal.

- 2 Corinthians 4:16—Even though the outward is perishing, the inward is to be renewed day by day.

- 2 Corinthians 4:17—Our trials should be considered light, because they are temporary, and they are building toward eternal glory.

- 2 Corinthians 4:18—There is a difference between the things that we see (temporary) and the things that are not seen (eternal).

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13—Paul talked about falling asleep but reminded brethren to have the hope of the resurrection.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17—Paul said the dead in Christ would rise first, to be followed by those who are alive.

- 2 Timothy 4:6-8—When Paul knew that his death was near, he kept seeking to please His Heavenly Father and continued to look forward to the Lord’s appearing.

Opportunity to serve

Let’s conclude with a few verses in Philippians 1—which show that death should be considered a personal blessing, and remaining alive is an opportunity to serve.

Philippians 1:21—“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

Philippians 1:23—“For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”

Philippians 1:24—“Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.”

Thought for the week

“If you’re a leader and you think that you have to basically pressure people and coerce people to follow you, what kind of a leader are you?”—*Mario Diaz-Balart*

Thought with a twist

“True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high-school class is running the country.”—*Kurt Vonnegut*