

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 29, 2022 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:49

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dixon Cartwright

Presentation study—2:00 Gordon McCarty
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Ron Avey

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Daniel 11:14–35

Sermon Neil McIver

Quick takes

1. Pastor's trip—Today, Dave Havar is giving a presentation at a congregation in Birmingham, Ala. (where Neal Parker pastors). Tomorrow he is heading to Destin, Fla., to do some work for the 2022 Feast of Tabernacles.
2. Thank you—Thank you to all members of the congregation who gave input to board members as they confirmed the budget at a board meeting last Sunday.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study on Feb. 2—The next Wednesday-night Bible study is scheduled for Feb. 2.
4. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

- Mickey Ashcraft
- David and Becky Bonilla
- Timberly Dunnam
- Elaine Holloway
- Annette Payne

- Ruth Roe
- Sonny Rosenberger
- Ronnie Shirley
- Elaine Townsend
- Donna Weese

5. Bad weather doesn't stop us—Since the beginning of this congregation, it has been our tradition to avoid canceling a church service due to weather. We expect each individual to use personal judgment and freedom for himself and his family. (Besides, you could join our Internet audience to watch our presentations online.)
6. Loss of electricity could slow us down—Although the circumstance would be rare, we would probably cancel a church service in the building due to a loss of electricity. (However, knowing our audience, anyone who showed up might enjoy a small Bible study—as long as we stayed warm enough.)
7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Federal Debt Grows \$2 Trillion in One Year" by Terence P. Jeffrey.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is "Fire of 1 Kings 19:11–12" by Dave Havar.
9. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 29 pages. (This edition has eight articles and 196 headlines.)
10. Early bulletin—Because of the travel schedule of Dave Havar this weekend, the bulletin was prepared early. Thus, it does not have the normal prayer updates and prayer requests.

Synopsis of board meeting on Jan. 23

Four board members (Ron Avey, Carol Bald, David Coleman and Neil McIver) were in attendance. Reg Killingley had a family obligation.

- The board reviewed the line items of the 2021 budget and made adjustments for the 2022 budget. This involved decreasing amounts in some categories and increasing amounts in other categories.
- You may not be aware of this, but Dave Havar has not participated in the budget committees throughout his years as pastor. He likes the congregation to set the budget—and then he seeks to live within the areas of the budget for which he has oversight.
- When it was time for Mr. Havar to participate, he came into the room and presented a pastor's report about the history of speakers for 2021.

Eye on the World

- An article by Victor Davis Hanson titled "Why Putin Has Not Been Deterred" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 27, 2022.
- An article by Sen. Marsha Blackburn titled "Big Abortion's Big Win Is a Warning for the Pro-Life Movement" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 25, 2022.
- An article by Maureen Riordan titled "We Don't Want the Justice Department Running Our Elections" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 24, 2022.
- An article by Emily Robertson titled "[Laura] Ingraham: Unvaxxed Illegals Can Go Anywhere 'On the Taxpayer's Dime'—'But Unvaxxed Truckers Can't Cross the Border?'" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 26, 2022.

Pastor's year-end letter

Following is the text of the year-end letter, dated Jan. 31, that Dave Havir sent to those who made monetary contributions to our congregation in 2021.

Dear Friends,

Another year has come and gone. We trust that you have been abundantly blessed spiritually by our Heavenly Father. We hope that you have been blessed physically with good health.

The purpose of this letter is twofold. It is my desire to thank you and to encourage you.

Thank you for your friendship toward me and the congregation. We appreciate your prayers and your acts of kindness. Thank you so much for the financial support (your cheerful giving) during this past calendar year. May God bless you for your kindness.

To encourage you, I want to quickly mention some ideas from a presentation that I enjoy giving titled "Three Ways the Sovereign God Creates Calamity."

Isaiah 45:7 tells us that the sovereign God creates calamity (New King James translation). I want to briefly mention three methods for *how* He does that.

- Sometimes, God initiates the calamity and gets directly involved with the details—for God's specific purpose. Consider Genesis 6:7 and Exodus 4:21-23.
- Sometimes, God initiates the calamity but allows Satan to provide the details within God's parameters (called a "hedge")—for God's specific purpose. Consider Job 1:8–12, Job 2:4–6 and 1 Kings 22:19–23.
- Sometimes, God allows time and chance to initiate the calamity—but God will keep the calamity within the direction of His overall plan. Consider Ecclesiastes 9:11, Matthew 5:45 and Luke 13:1–5.

The bottom line is this—You can have faith and hope in the sovereign God of the universe, because all three of the stated methods of dealing with mankind are within His loving will.

May God bless you with peace, joy and love.

Your friend in Christ,
David A. Havir

Thought for the week

I thought growing old would take longer.

“Fire of 1 Kings 19:11–12”

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 Jan. 29, 2022.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation about the “fire” of 1 Kings 19:11-12. I wanted to share some of the scriptures in this short article.

In 1 Kings 19:11-12, we read about four methods in which the Lord can communicate to His people on the earth. (We realize that He is not limited to these four methods.)

1 Kings 19:11-12—“Then He said, ‘Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.’ And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.”

- Strong wind
- Earthquake
- Fire
- Still small voice

Today we will focus on the fire.

Fire for support

Let’s look at an example where God used fire to support His servant.

1 Kings 18:36-38—“And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, ‘LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.’ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.”

Old Testament examples

- Genesis 19:24—Fire and brimstone
- Exodus 9:23-24—Hail and fire
- Ezekiel 22:20-22—Fire to melt

Here is a brief description about brimstone. It is an archaic term synonymous with sulfur. Some people call it a combustible form of sulfur. Some have said: “When sulfur burns, it produces sulfur dioxide, which turns into sulfuric acid”—meaning it can be deadly when breathed.

Cast into the fire

Following is a list of some scriptures in the New Testament that describe being thrown into a fire.

- Matthew 3:10-12
- Matthew 5:22
- Matthew 7:19
- Matthew 13:40-42
- Matthew 13:49-50
- Matthew 18:8-9
- Matthew 25:41
- John 15:6
- Revelation 14:9-11
- Revelation 19:20
- Revelation 20:10
- Revelation 20:14-15
- Revelation 21:8

Fire for cleansing

We began this article by giving an example in which God used fire to support His servant. Now I will conclude this article by showing another positive reference of fire—how God prepares for a new heaven and a new earth.

2 Peter 3:10-12—“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”