

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Sept. 25, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:12

### Welcome to our guests

Members of the Church of God Big Sandy welcome all guests as we worship on the Day of Atonement. Following is the schedule.

- 1:00—Interactive study—Dave Havir
- 2:00—Presentation study—Dave Havir  
(Also transmitted live)
- 3:00—Church service

### Order of service

Song leader	Neil McIver
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
Offertory	Piano solo
Scripture reading	Leviticus 16:1–10 Hebrews 9:1–14
Sermon	Stan West

### Scriptures for the season

**Leviticus 16:32-33**—“And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father’s place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments; then he shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.”

**Hebrews 7:26-27**—For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

**Hebrews 9:7**—But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people’s sins committed in ignorance.

## “Three Situations for Fasting”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website ([churchofgodbigandy.com](http://churchofgodbigandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of Sept. 23, 2023. (This article was posted on our website as an “Among Friends” on Sept. 18, 2021.)

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—Many members of the Body of Christ participate in fasting on the Day of Atonement. The practice of fasting should be much more than a ritual, because it can be a behavior that will create spiritual power in the lives of the children of God.

### Deuteronomy 16

Here are some verses that describe the value of fasting.

■ **Matthew 6:16-18**—The Son of God taught His disciples to fast.

■ **Matthew 9:14-17**—The Son of God mentioned that His disciples would fast after He would be taken away.

■ **Luke 18:9-14**—This parable by the Son of God contrasted religious people bragging about their fasting and sinners expressing repentance.

### After, during and before

People understand viewing a subject through a chronological approach. We could look at fasting through that lens—before, during and after.

However, I want to look at fasting through the opposite lens—after, during and before.

### After a sin

There are many Bible examples of people fasting after a sin—experiencing deep repentance.

**1 Samuel 7:6**—“So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the LORD. And they fasted that day, and said there, ‘We have sinned against the LORD.’ And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.”

**1 Kings 21:27**—“So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning.”

**Ezra 10:6**—“Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the

chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib; and when he came there, he ate no bread and drank no water, for he mourned because of the guilt of those from the captivity.”

**Nehemiah 1:4, 7**—“So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven . . . ‘We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.’”

**Nehemiah 9:1, 3**—“Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads . . . And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.”

**Daniel 9:3, 5**—“Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes . . . We have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.”

### During a trial

There are many Bible examples of people fasting during a trial—seeking help during a trial.

**Judges 20:21, 25-26**—“Then the children of Benjamin came out of Gibeah, and on that day cut down to the ground twenty-two thousand men of the Israelites . . . And Benjamin went out against them from Gibeah on the second day, and cut down to the ground eighteen thousand more of the children of Israel; all these drew the sword. Then all the children of Israel, that is, all the people, went up and came to the house of God and wept. They sat there before the LORD and fasted that day until evening; and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.”

**2 Samuel 12:15-16**—“Then Nathan de-

parted to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill. David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground."

**2 Chronicles 20:1, 3-4**—"It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat . . . And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD."

**Ezra 8:21, 23**—"Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions . . . So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer."

**Esther 4:3**—"And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes."

**Esther 4:16**—"Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"

**Jonah 3:5, 10**—"So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them . . . Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it."

**Matthew 17:21**—"However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

## Before an event

There are many Bible examples of people fasting before an event—seeking to connect with our Father.

**Exodus 34:27-28**—"Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.' So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tab-

lets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments."

**Matthew 4:1-2**—"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry."

**Acts 13:3**—"Having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away."

## Ineffective fasting

**Isaiah 58:3-5**—" 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?' In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, and exploit all your laborers. Indeed you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, to make your voice heard on high. Is it a fast that I have chosen, a day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, and to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?"

## Effective fasting

**Isaiah 58:6-7**—" 'Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?' "

**Isaiah 58:8-11**—"Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' "If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail."

## Remember the birth of the Son of God

**Luke 2:1-5**—And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

**Luke 2:6-7**—So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Luke 2:8-12**—Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

**Luke 2:13-14**—And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

**Luke 2:15-20**—So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

**Matthew 2:1-2**—Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

**Matthew 2:7-9**—Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

**Matthew 2:11**—And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.