

and Son as an act of arrogance.

■ Make no mistake about it—we should go boldly to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16)—with repentance, not with arrogant proclamations.

■ Revelation 7:9-10—Congratulations to the innumerable multitude (of nations, tribes, peoples and tongues) standing before the Lamb saying: “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Revelation 14:1-3

■ Revelation 14:1—There was a Lamb standing on Mount Zion with 144,000 who had His Father’s name written on their foreheads.

■ Revelation 14:2—There was a voice from heaven (loud like thunder) and the sound of harps playing.

■ Revelation 14:3—The 144,000 (who were redeemed from the earth) sang a new song before the four living creatures and the elders.

Following the Lamb wherever He goes

■ Since the first phrase in Revelation 14:4 has instruction from a man’s perspective (not being defiled with women) and Revelation 19:7-8 has instruction from a woman’s perspective (a wife being preparing for the marriage supper), I decided to lump this lesson into the second phrase that John mentioned.

■ Revelation 14:4—“These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.”

Redeemed and firstfruits

■ Revelation 14:4—“These were redeemed from among men [people], being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.”

■ Philippians 1:6—The apostle Paul wrote: “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Because of my goal of giving my Wednesday-night presentation in the allotted time frame, I did not read or mention the following two scriptures. But I will now add them to this article.

■ John 10:28—“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

■ John 10:29—“My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

■ Reminder—Although we are saved by grace, our Heavenly Father has expectations from us, and obedient children will listen to the Father’s expectations and will follow the Father’s expectations.

No deceit in their mouth

■ Revelation 14:5—“And in their mouth was found no deceit.”

Because of my goal of giving my Wednesday-night presentation in the allotted time frame, I referred to James 3:2-18 without reading or describing them. But I will now briefly mention them in this article.

■ James 3:2-16—No one can control the tongue.

■ James 3:17-18—When disciples receive power from above, we can exhibit remarkable behavior—peace, gentleness, yielding, mercy, good fruit, no partiality and no hypocrisy.

■ Those behaviors are a part of our lives when we are in a state of repentance.

Without fault before God

■ Revelation 14:5—“They are without fault before the throne of God.”

■ John 1:7—“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

■ John 1:8-9—“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

■ John 2:1-2—“If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

■ John 2:5-6—“Whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

■ Disciples walk in a state of repentance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Aug. 3, 2024 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:15

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havir

Presentation study—2:00 Dave Havir
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Reg Killingley

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Acts 7:30–37

Sermon Morris Foster

Quick takes

1. Thank you—The Big Sandy School District thanks our congregation for allowing them to use our building yesterday for their start-of-the-year conference. The purpose of the event was to welcome new employees and to direct all the leaders to focus upon a unifying theme for the year. The theme for the event was: “How Can We Do Better?”
2. Every Wednesday—Bible study at 7:00 p.m.
3. Sunday, Aug. 4—Summer senior luncheon at United Church of God at noon. (Although Mandi Mischnick requested an RSVP by July 21, please contact Mrs. Mischnick if you have decided to attend. The RSVP information is on the bulletin board.)
4. Sunday, Aug. 4—After the RSVP date (July 21) for the senior luncheon passed and after we learned that some of the regular domino players were not going to be attending the luncheon, some decided to play dominos in the building tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.
5. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Israel’s Bold Message With High-Profile Assassinations” by Yaakov Katz.

6. Among Friends—This week's article is "Book of Revelation—Part 5" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—This week's edition was not completed at the printing deadline of this bulletin.
8. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

■ Mickey Ashcraft	■ Ronnie Shirley
■ Judy Biggs	■ Elaine Townsend
■ Angela Dunnam	■ Mickey Voyce
■ Timberly Dunnam	■ Donna Weese
■ Ruth Roe	

Prayer updates

Melodee Eishen reported: "I am feeling better every day. In two weeks, I will meet with the doctor to make plans moving forward with my healthcare. Thank you for your continued prayers and support."

On Thursday, **Dave McLearn** reported: "Sorry to have not been in the building for Bible study last night—but it was a good one. My back has me really messed up this week. I had a doctor appointment on Monday. I did more walking than I should have, which made it worse. Then, another doctor appointment on Tuesday morning didn't help. The afternoon lidocaine shots in the back helped some. But after they wore off, it was much worse. Wednesday was a really bad day for me. Luckily, I have nothing scheduled until Aug. 13, when the second round of lidocaine shots happen. Thank you for the prayers."

Leslie Harroff reports that her pain is lessening. She is scheduled for a follow-up appointment with her doctor on Monday.

Timberly Dunnam had a difficult week with pain—apparently due to her medications not working well together.

Angela Dunnam reported: "My knee is making some progress."

New prayer requests

On Thursday, **Anthony Kimmons** (of Brookhaven, Miss.) sent the following prayer request about his wife, **Pam**: "We are asking for prayers on her behalf. Doctors have identified a small mass growing on the head of her pancreas. It has not yet been identified. She is in the hospital having multiple tests run to determine her treatment options. She is not experiencing any pain or suffering, but has a problem with bile not flowing correctly—which is an immediate threat and causing jaundice. She is having a procedure on Friday morning (8/2) to open a blocked bile duct and insert a stent." On Friday, Mr. Kimmons reported: "A doctor came by and reported that the procedure was successful with its goals. Tissue samples were taken for analysis, the duct was opened and a stent was inserted.

Normal flow should be restored. We are staying overnight for observation and to see if her levels start improving. Pam has walked around and changed back into her real gown. (Evidently, she does not like the hospital-issued gown.) She is now sitting up and drinking coffee. The doctor said that this stent will need to be replaced in eight to 10 weeks. We will have to wait until sometime next week for the test results. Thank you for caring."

Les Booth of West Lafayette, Ind., died sometime in July. Please remember his wife, **Debbie**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Scott Allen of Tyler, died on July 29. Please remember his wife, **Leigh**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Scriptures to consider

Isaiah 5:20—"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

John 1:4-5—"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

"Book of Revelation—Part 5"

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 Aug. 3, 2024.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a nine-part series about the book of Revelation. Part 5 was about the "Four Characteristics of the 144,000."

Although I am going to focus on Revelation 14:1-5, we will take a quick peek at Revelation 7:1-10.

Quick peek at Revelation 7

■ Revelation 7:1—John saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds.

■ Revelation 7:2-3—Another angel (who had the seal of the living God) cried out with a loud voice: "Do not harm the earth, the sea or the trees until we have sealed the servants of God on their foreheads."

■ Revelation 7:4—The number of those who were sealed was 144,000 of the children of Israel.

Question: Does the list of the sons of Is-

rael mentioned in Genesis 49:1-27 match the names mentioned in Revelation 7:5-8?

Answer: The tribe of Dan is missing in Revelation 7:5-8.

Question: Why is the tribe of Dan missing from the Revelation list?

Answer: Bible students traditionally mention Dan's gross idolatry and often quote Judges 18:14-31 as a reference.

Question: Which name replaced Dan in the Revelation list?

Answer: Bible students traditionally mention that the replacement name on the list is Manasseh, and also conclude that the name Joseph on the list refers to Ephraim—since Genesis 48:5 mentions Ephraim and Manasseh as sons of Joseph.

■ Since the 144,000 have the privilege of being sealed, disciples would certainly consider it an honor to be included in that list.

■ But disciples should remember that boldly claiming to be included as a member of the 144,000 can easily be viewed by the Father