

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Aug. 17, 2024 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:02

### Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. . . . . Jim Bald

Presentation study—2:00 . . . . . Jim Bald  
(also transmitted live)

### Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader . . . . . Neil McIver

Pianist . . . . . Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading . . . . . Acts 7:44–50

Sermon . . . . . Reg Killingley

### Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havir is giving a sermon in Fort Worth.
2. Every Wednesday—Bible study at 7:00 p.m.
3. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Will the Chevron Decision Fix Big Government?" by Star Parker.
4. Among Friends—This week's article is "Book of Revelation—Part 7" by Dave Havir.
5. Eye on the World—175 headlines and seven articles—with one article titled "The Truth About the Red Cows in Israel."

### Prayer updates

Please remember **Melodee Eishen** as she deals with the diagnosis of colon cancer.

Please remember **Pam Kimmons** (of Brookhaven, Miss.) as she deals with the diagnosis of "pancreatic cancer estimated at stage 3."

In the Aug. 3 bulletin, we mentioned that **Dave McLearen** had lidocaine shots in his back and was anticipating a second round of the shots on Tuesday Aug. 13. On Tuesday, Mr. McLearen reported: "After the shots, I couldn't stand or walk. Either they actually hit a nerve or a muscle. It took about an hour and a half before I could walk. In two weeks, I get a neurotomy."

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Zach Kennebeck** had a heart catheterization last Friday (Aug. 9), but we did not have an update due to the printing deadline of that bulletin. On Friday afternoon, his mother (**Brenda**) sent the following update: "Zach is home from his heart cath. They found no blockages. The next step is going back to see a heart specialist that deals with the electrical part of the heart to see why it is not pumping enough blood to the lower part of his heart. Thank you for all the prayers."

## New prayer requests

**Mickey Voyce** requests prayers for her daughter, **Jessica Lewis** of the Dallas area. First, Mrs. Lewis and her husband, **Jordan**, are expecting a baby boy next month—and Mrs. Lewis will be 43 years old on Sept. 14. Second, Mrs. Lewis (whom **Dave Havir** had the privilege of baptizing) is running for Texas Fifth District Court of Appeals, Place 2. Mrs. Voyce reported: "Jessica's emphasis is telling voters to vote their values, while she clearly states her Christian belief and worldview. As long as Jessica and the baby are well, it doesn't matter if she wins or loses the November election. Thank you."

Following is a report from **Trisha Svehla** (who with her husband, **Ken**, organized the Christian Renewal Conferences in Chicago before moving to Tennessee): "I was just diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer although I have never smoked. I am waiting for surgery to be scheduled where they remove my left lung, put it in a sterile bag, remove the cancer and the top lobe of my left lung and then reinsert it. It sounds complicated, so I would definitely appreciate the prayers."

**Edna Hunter** (of the Huntsville congregation) died on Aug. 10. Please remember her husband, **Fred**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

**Carol Blackwell** of Springfield, Mo., died on Aug. 12. Please remember her husband, **Mike**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

**Ellis Stewart** of Big Sandy died on Aug. 12. (Mr. Stewart was a member of the United Church of God East Texas and has been a friend of our congregation since our inception. For 29 years he set an example of kindness and acceptance toward our congregation.) A memorial service is scheduled for Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in United's church building. Please remember his wife, **Pat**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

## Synopsis of Aug. 11 board meeting

The board heard an agenda item by Neil McIver about the congregation providing a vehicle for Dave Havir—to assist him in his service to our congregation, to

sister congregations and to the community. Mr. McIver had found some excellent summer sales about three weeks ago, but President Killingley wanted to thoroughly discuss the matter with the board. At the meeting, the board unanimously voted to provide a vehicle. Mr. McIver and Mr. Havir looked at the vehicle on Monday, and the purchase was completed on Thursday. When Mr. Havir told the man at the dealership that the chosen car was a nicer car than he needed, the man replied: "They value you." The Havirs thank the board (and hence the congregation) for your kindness.

## "Book of Revelation—Part 7"

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy website ([churchofgodbig sandy.com](http://churchofgodbig sandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of Aug. 17, 2024.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a nine-part series about the book of Revelation. Part 7 was about the "The Second Angel of Revelation 14."

### Reminder from last week

■ Revelation 14:6-7—This angel preaches the gospel to all those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, to every tribe, to every language and to all people.

### Holman Bible Dictionary

The second angel of Revelation is about Babylon. Babylon is mentioned 274 times in the OT and 12 times in the NT.

Following are some excerpts from *The Holman Bible Dictionary* under the section called "Babylon" (on pages 141-144).

■ "Babylon was a city-state in southern Mesopotamia during Old Testament times, which eventually became a large empire that absorbed the nation of Judah and destroyed Jerusalem. The city of Babylon was founded in unknown antiquity on the river Euphrates, about 50 miles south of modern Baghdad. The English names Babylon and Babel (Genesis 10:10 and Genesis 11:9) are translated from the same Hebrew word (*babel*).

■ "During the period of Assyrian Empire, Babylon was dominated by this warlike neighbor to the north . . . Assyrian domination died with [King] Ashurbanipal in 627 B.C. . . . In 612, with the help of the Medes, the Babylonians sacked the Assyrian capital of Nineveh."

■ "In 604 and 603 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 B.C.), king of Babylon, campaigned along the Palestinian coast. At this time Jehoiakim (king of Judah), became an unwilling vassal of Babylon. A Babylonian defeat at the border of Egypt in 601 probably encouraged Jehoiakim to rebel. For two years Judah was harassed by Babylonian vassals (2 Kings 24:1-2). Then, in December of 598 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar marched on Jerusalem. Jehoiakim died that same month, and his son Jehoiachin surrendered the city to the Babylonians on March 16, 597 B.C. . . . Nebuchadnezzar appointed Zedekiah over Judah. Against the protests of Jeremiah (but with promises of Egyptian aid), Zedekiah revolted against Babylon in 589 B.C. In the resultant Babylonian campaign, Judah was ravaged and Jerusalem besieged . . . The city fell in August of 587 B.C. Zedekiah was captured, Jerusalem burned, and the Temple destroyed (Jeremiah 52:12-14). Many more Judeans were taken to their exile in Babylonia (2 Kings 25:1-21 and Jeremiah 52:1-30)."

■ "In 539 B.C., the Persian Cyrus II (the Great) entered Babylon without a fight."

### Symbolism of Babylon

■ "Babylon the metropolis (like the tower of Babel) became symbolic of man's decadence and God's judgment . . . Babylonian religion is the best known variant of a complex and highly polytheistic system of belief common throughout Mesopotamia. Of the thousands of recognized gods, only about 20 were important in actual practice."

## Babylon's false gods

Disciples of the Father and the Son seek to avoid the false gods of the Babylonian religion.

■ Isaiah 46:1—"Bel" is the equivalent of "Baal" and "Nebo" was the Babylonian god of speech, writing and water.

■ Jeremiah 50:2—"Bel" is the equivalent of "Baal" and "Merodach" was a Babylonian god sometimes spelled "Marduk."

■ 2 Kings 20:12—Berodach-Baladan (the son of Baladan) is quoted as meaning "god Marduk gave an heir."

## Babylon's lust for wealth

■ 2 Kings 20:13—Hezekiah showed the men from Babylon all of his treasure (silver, gold, spices, precious ointment, armory, etc.).

■ 2 Kings 20:14—When Isaiah asked Hezekiah where those men were from, he told him that the men came from Babylon.

■ 2 Kings 20:15—When Isaiah asked Hezekiah what the men had seen in Hezekiah's house, Hezekiah replied that the men had seen all that Hezekiah had in his house.

■ 2 Kings 20:16-18—Isaiah told Hezekiah that all his valuables would end up in Babylon.

## Merchants of the earth

Before I read the scriptures in the book of Revelation about the merchants of the earth lamenting the collapse of their financial system, I decided to give a few examples of the merchants of the earth. When the financial world collapses, these groups will be lamenting.

■ The Roman empire in Rome, Italy.

■ The American "deep state" in Washington, D.C.

■ The United Nations in New York City.

■ NATO in Brussels, Belgium.

■ BRICS in Shanghai, China.

■ WEF in Davos, Switzerland.

■ The British monarchy in Buckingham Palace.

■ The Saudi monarchy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

■ The Japanese monarchy in Tokyo, Japan.

■ The Chinese oligarchs in Beijing, China.

■ The European oligarchs in Moscow and Kyiv.

■ The Catholic hierarchy in the Vatican.

## Babylon in the book of Revelation

■ Revelation 14:8—Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

■ Revelation 16:19—Babylon will receive the fierceness of God's wrath.

■ Revelation 17:5—Babylon is the "mother of harlots."

■ Revelation 17:6—Babylon will be drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

■ Revelation 17:12—The 10 kings will receive authority for one hour.

■ Revelation 18:2—Babylon will become a dwelling place of demons.

■ Revelation 18:3—The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.

■ Revelation 18:9—The kings of the earth (who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her) will weep and lament for her.

■ Revelation 18:10—The great city of Babylon will face quick judgment.

■ Revelation 18:11-13—The merchants of the earth will no longer buy their merchandise—gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet, citron wood, objects of ivory, precious wood, bronze, iron, marble, cinnamon, incense, fragrant oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses and chariots.

■ Revelation 18:15-16—The merchants who became rich by her will stand at a distance from the city that was clothed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold, precious stones and pearls.

■ Revelation 18:17—In one hour her riches came to nothing.

■ Revelation 18:21—A mighty angel said: "Thus with violence the great city of Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore."

■ Revelation 18:23—A mighty angel said: "Your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived."