



# Senior Heartbeat



TEMPLE  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
COME GATHER AROUND THE WORD

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## Tuesday Bible studies will focus on Isaiah

**By Dale Oden**

Six months and still waiting for an end to this pandemic! It was on Friday, March 13, that our Governor issued the first state-wide order to shut things down. Now we are over 180 days and many of you have not been able to come back to church.

As I have said, we certainly understand that many of our senior adults can't come back to our services or Sunday School. It will be a day of rejoicing when we can gather back

together for Worship and Bible study!

Please give me a call if there is anything I, or any of the staff, can do for you in the coming weeks.

One event that is about to begin is a special Bible study class led by Dr. Galen Turner.

This class will meet on Tuesday starting on Tuesday, September 8, (day after Labor Day) at

10: a.m. in the Sanctuary. This will give plenty of room to spread out and be safely "socially distanced." Galen will be using the Explore the Bible lesson material. So these lessons will be from the book of Isaiah.

If you have not felt comfortable coming back to Sunday

School in a small group setting, this will give you an opportunity to be involved in a study

of the current lesson material each week. I hope to see some of you there. Please do wear a mask.

Let us not forget that we can also be involved in missions while in our homes. September is the month we set aside in Louisiana for the Georgia Barnette Offering for State Missions.

What a great opportunity we have by giving and praying for needs across the state. I challenge you to pray for our missionaries here in

Louisiana and give generously to help spread the name of Jesus to every area of our state. Also, our WMU ladies are participating in a mission project for the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. I wrote about it in the Temple Tidings. Check it out and see if you can help!

Do continue to pray for one another. Call or send someone a card to let them know you care about them and their family.



## Quick quiz about the Bible

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?

A. Ruthless.

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?

A. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. What was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

A. Jehovah drove Adam and

Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Also, probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

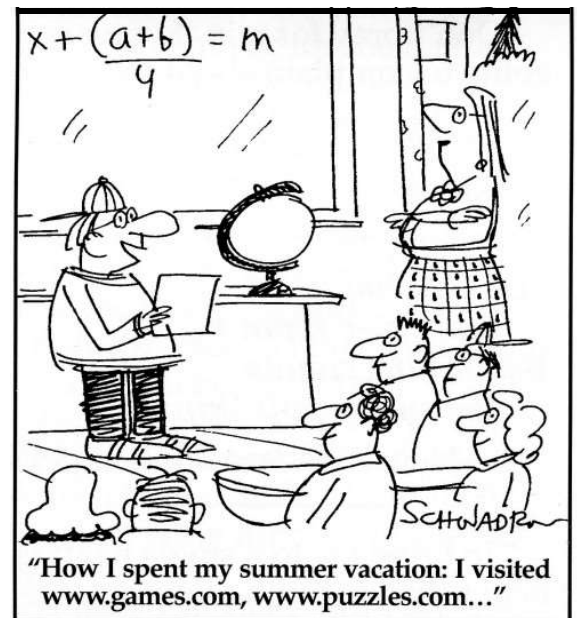
Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

—From Fred Benefield



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## Laugh lines

After a minister baptized a 90-year-old man, the man went back into the water on his own. When he came back up, the minister asked, "Why did you do that?"

"Had to get my teeth," the man replied.



A 5-year-old girl was curious about Heaven. "Will we have

skin in Heaven?" she asked. "I don't know," her mom replied.

Other Heaven-related questions followed for several days. Each time, the mother admitted that she didn't know. Finally, the frustrated girl asked, "Why don't you just Google it?"

—From *The Joyful Noiseletter*

## If the creation happened today ...

In the beginning, God created heaven and earth. He was challenged immediately with a class-action suit for failure to file an environmental impact statement.

At last, He was granted a temporary permit for the project, but soon was handed a cease-and-desist order enjoining Him from creating on earth.

At the government hearing, God said, "Let there be light."

The bureaucrats demanded to know how the light would be made. They asked if there would be thermal pollution or strip mining.

God replied that the light would be created from a huge ball of fire.

God was granted provisional permission to make light (1) if He would obtain a building permit, (2) if no smoke would result from the ball of fire, and (3) if he would keep the light on only half the time to conserve energy.

God agreed and said He would call the light "day" and

the darkness "night."

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth green herb and many seed." The EPA agreed as long as native seed was used.

Then God said, "Let waters bring forth creeping creatures having life; and the fowl that may fly over the earth." Officials insisted that this would require approval from the Department of Game.

When God said He wanted to complete the project in six days, the officials informed Him it would take at least 200 days to review the application and the environmental impact statement.

Then there would be a public hearing followed by a 12-month waiting period.

Then God created Hell.

—From *The Joyful Noiseletter*



"If you want the secret to inner peace, put that ring tone on mute."

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*The Great Guest Comes In*  
*While the cobbler mused, there passed*  
*his pane*  
*A beggar drenched by the driving rain;*  
*He called him in from the stony street*  
*And gave him shoes for his bruised feet.*  
*The beggar went, and there came a*  
*crone—*

*Her face with wrinkles of sorrow sown;*  
*A bundle of sticks bowed her back,*  
*And she was spent with the wrench and*  
*rack.*

*He gave her his loaf and steadied her*  
*load,*  
*As she took her way on the weary road.*  
*Then to his door came a little child,*  
*Lost and afraid in the world so wild,*  
*In the big, dark world. Catching it up,*  
*He gave it the milk in the waiting cup,*  
*And led it home to its mother's arms,*  
*Out of the reach of the world's alarms.*

*The day went down in the crimson*  
*West,*  
*And with it the hope of the blessed*  
*Guest;*  
*And Conrad sighed as the world turned*  
*gray;*

*"Why is it, Lord, that Your feet delay?*  
*Did You forget that this was the day?"*  
*Then, soft in the silence a voice was*  
*heard:*

*"Lift up your heart, for I kept My*  
*word.*  
*Three times I came to your friendly*  
*door,*  
*Three times my shadow was on your*  
*floor;*

*I was a beggar with bruised feet;*  
*I was a woman you gave to eat;*  
*I was the child of the homeless street.*

—Edwin Markham

# Whatever problems arise, God is in control

By: Ann Clark

Several months ago Dr. Bridges quoted Psalm 27:13-14 in the Tidings. "I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD ... Wait for the LORD, be strong, and let your heart take courage."

A lot has happened since he wrote that back in 2018. As I write this, the whole world is frightened, perplexed and confused. Even the most devoted Christians are wondering about all the fast-moving events as they rapidly unfold. Are these things prophetic?

I hear from believers everywhere who ask a question I myself am wondering: "Are we in the very last years of human history?" I do not know — any thoughts on that subject are mere speculation. But one thing is sure: We have seen an acceleration of world events as never before.

There is a sense of danger in the air. Many feel the world is on a course from which there is no turning back. There is talk of wars, race wars, and holy wars. Is this the day Jesus predicted, when men's hearts would fail from fear as they behold the frightening things coming on the earth?

According to Isaiah (Isaiah 24:19-20), the earth is not headed for rejuvenation but for total ruin: "All joy is darkened, and mirth of the land is gone ... and the foundations of the earth do shake" (Isaiah 24:11,18).

However, just as the LORD has warned us in detail about the troubles ahead, he will also reveal to us how He will protect us. Our God has a definite plan. It is as simple but as absolute as the universe itself. His plan can be summed up in one sentence: He will protect us by the power of His predetermined word.

Yes, we are going to be preserved by the spoken word of God. It is a word of deliverance pronounced from the very foundation of the world. Indeed, this plan is something God determined before the world was. "(He) hath determined the time before appointed" (Acts 17:26). God foresaw all these things, and he spoke into existence a word of preservation as eternal and unshak-

able as His own character. Our God is never caught off guard — nothing surprises Him. He had a plan to preserve us long before there were nations, armies, wars, depressions, plagues and violence.

Let me put it this way: Hour by hour, day by day, God is going to preserve us in the same way He now preserves the sun, moon, stars, galaxies and the very forces of Nature. He will do it by His predetermined, spoken word. His protective word is the same one that governs light, darkness, the tides, the seasons, and the air we breathe. The Lord doesn't have to remind the planets to stay in their orbits. He doesn't have to keep telling the seasons to change or warning the tides they mustn't overflow the land. He spoke the word once — and it was, and always shall be, until he speaks again and creates a new heaven and a new earth. (2 Peter 3:5-7)

As surely as He created all things by the power of His word, the Lord has spoken into being an eternal word of preservation to keep all His children. Since the beginning, God has promised to preserve all who trust in Him. He spoke this eternal word to Abraham: "I am thy shield!" (Genesis 13:1) For years I have wondered about the full meaning of the Lord's word, "Man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live" (Deuteronomy 8:3). Now I know.

Do you want to know how God is going to preserve you in all your hard times? He will do it like He did for Israel when they were in the desert. He will do it by speaking a new word, if necessary — by creating all you need by the power of His word. All God had to do for them was speak the word "manna," and an entire generation of Israelites was preserved.

Today many Christians are trying to figure out how God will take care of His people when the world's ruin comes in full force. Some plan to isolate themselves in mountains or the desert. But Jesus tells us to "take no thought, saying, What shall we eat:

or, What shall we drink?" (Matthew 6:31). And He said: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (v. 33).

Do you hear Jesus' promise here? ALL YOU NEED! Christ's predetermined word about us was settled in heaven long before any of us were born. Our Creator spoke this word of finality: "In every generation I will protect, keep, feed and preserve all those who seek me first." That word is as firm as the word that keeps the planets in place. Don't try to figure out how he will go about preserving you. You can't figure it out any more than you could have guessed how he would open the Red Sea ... how He would keep the Hebrew children alive in a fiery furnace ... how he would shut the mouths of hungry lions all night long as Daniel sat among them ... how He would bring water out of a rock and bread from the sky ... or how He would feed 5,000 people with just a few loaves and fishes.

We could never figure any of that out. He alone has the words of eternity — and he alone is going to sustain us throughout eternity. Moreover, the same word that will keep us then is the word that is sustaining us now. Therefore be encouraged — His predetermined Word says no matter what we are going through we are coming out. Hallelujah!

## FAMILY CIRCUS



"Is it okay to pray before the test if I don't do it out loud?"

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
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## Congratulations!!!

### September Birthdays

1	Don Hogan	10	Walter Carpenter	20	Jo Ellen Clark	24	Jean Hays
1	John Hood	10	Pam Garbarino	20	Susan Elkins	25	Patsy Price
2	Mable Best	11	J.V. Jones	20	Bill Elmore	26	Terry Gardner
2	Gary Kleinpeter	11	Deborah McCarthy	21	Vernell Willett	26	Frances Sumrall
2	Tommy Ledford	12	Margaret Aston	21	Betty Ruth Bryan	27	Doyle Holstead
2	Gerald Reeves	13	Rosy Bromell	21	Joy Faulkner	28	Billy Rich
2	Marlene Young	13	Louise Adams	21	James Davison	29	Luann Moore
3	Marsha Holland	13	Larry Mobley	21	Martha Stinson	30	Bud Alexander
3	Pete Smith	14	Dolora Gregory	22	Anita Pumphrey	30	Bill Austin
4	Sherry Pody	14	Tommy Stinson	22	Karen Sanders	30	Barbara Orren
6	Ron Edinger	15	Gordon Williams	22	Betty Fuqua	30	Vergie Shealy
7	Mary Jane Lewis	16	Joe Gaido	22	Ronny Volentine		
7	Jodie Williams	17	Carole Carson	23	Jean Hall		
8	David Gullatt	19	Tommy Smith	23	Ed Harris		

### September Anniversaries

1	Carolyn and Billy Jack Talton (1962)	11	Cathi and Thomas Boniol (2010)
7	Johnie and Glen Echols (1956)	30	Ancie and Donnie Parkman (1966)
8	Mary and Joe Lanning (1972)		

*If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary added to the lists published each month in Senior Heartbeat, please call the Church Office (255-3745).*