

# Family Items



A Clipboard of News for God's Family at Jones Road

### Sick:

- ◇ Let's not forget those with ongoing issues, including **Bobby and Carol Abernathy...Jane Ola Hinkle...Exie Pepper...Ruth Peete.**
- ◇ **Marshall Pepper's** breathing issues have worsened.
- ◇ **Jeanette Newby** is at Limestone Manor, room 99.

### Miscellaneous:

- ◇ Our meeting with David Thomley is only a week away. Let's spread the word!

### Travelers:

- ◇ The **Markums** will be at Ardmore tonight where Kevin will be preaching...**Sandlins...Gabardis...Broadways...**

### Meetings:

- ◇ Singing and Bible drill at 4:30 P.M. today.
- ◇ **Jones Road:** July 15-20 with David Thomley.
- ◇ Check the board for details regarding a special series of studies for teens and young adults July 21 at **Hughes Road.**
- ◇ The class for young mothers will be August 4. There is a box in room 11 for those who wish to submit questions, topics, etc.

### Readings for July 8-14

1 Kings 12; 2 Chron. 10-11; Titus 1 / 1 Kgs. 13-14; 2 Chron. 12; Titus 2 / 1 Kgs. 15; 2 Chron. 13-14; Titus 3 / 2 Chron. 15-16; 1 Kgs. 16; Philemon / 1 Kgs. 17-18; Psa. 119; Jude

<b>We Meet...</b>	<b>Elders</b>
Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M. Sunday Evening 5:00 P.M. Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M.	Mike Huggins                      Steve Leverette  Daryl Turner
<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Evangelist</b>
Marcus Dean                      Ron Flatt John Harris	John R. Gibson

# Jones Road Journal

July 8, 2018



## Who Is God? (Part 2)

By John R. Gibson

[From "In the Beginning" Studies in Genesis, © 2018, Truth Publications.]

### Lawgiver

For many the creation's existence, order, and apparent design compel them to accept the fact that there is a Higher Power, but they seem to want to stop there and see God as having done little more than get it all started. However Genesis makes it clear that the Creator intends to govern His creation. At the very beginning as He was placing Adam and Eve in the garden, He gave them both positive and negative admonitions (2:15-17). Though we are not given any details, the story of Cain and Abel makes it clear that worship was regulated and sin, i.e. the violation of a standard (1 John 3:4), was a concern (4:3-7). Though "the Law" is not revealed until Israel reaches Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19ff), both Abimelech and Joseph demonstrated an awareness that God had a standard, a law that prohibited adultery (20:9; 39:9). While we are to be in awe of the Creator, it is imperative we be obedient to the Lawgiver.

### Enforcer

Is Yahweh<sup>2</sup> no more than a Santa Claus-like God who urges everyone to be nice and claims to have two lists, but in the end lets all the "naughty children" off the hook? Later in Scripture a number of passages warn about a future judgment (e.g. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:9-11; Hebrews 9:27; et al), but one doesn't have to read far into Genesis before the concept of God as the Judge and Enforcer emerges. From the curses and eviction of chapter three to the flood in chapters 6-9 to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (ch. 19) to the deaths of Er and Onan (ch. 38), the point is repeatedly driven home that God is serious about sin and judgment and if He is serious about them, it behooves us to take them seriously.

### A God of Grace

While the love of God is not seen in the fullness of its glory until the

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cross, we are introduced to the God of grace and deliverance in a number of ways in this first book of Scripture. When the LORD was determined to destroy the world because of its wickedness, “Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (6:8). We don’t want to overlook the fact that for God’s grace to save, Noah was required to respond with an active, obedient faith (cf. Hebrews 11:7), but it was only because he found favor with God that he and his family were given sufficient warning and a plan by which they might be delivered. When God’s wrath came upon the cities of the plain Lot was spared, and the entire city of Sodom would have been spared if just ten righteous souls could have been found (ch. 19). In 2 Peter 2:4-9 the New Testament points to Noah and Lot as demonstrations that “**the Lord knows how to deliver the godly** out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment....” These and other examples of God’s grace in Genesis cause our hope to grow stronger and we are also greatly encouraged as we go through this book of beginnings and realize God’s grace was always looking forward to the time when we would share in the victory of Jesus and be blessed by the Seed of Abraham. “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel” (3:15; cf. Hebrews 2:14-15). “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice” (22:18; cf. Galatians 3:16).

### To Be Worshipped

No instructions have been preserved for us, but it is clear that Cain and Abel were given instruction on to how to worship God (4:3-5; cf. Hebrews 11:4 and Romans 10:17). While our English word worship is translated from multiple Hebrew and Greek words, at its root worship is a means or act of expressing praise, adoration, thanksgiving, awe, etc. An act of worship was Noah’s first recorded action after leaving the ark and the Lord was pleased by it (8:20-21). Abraham, the friend of God (2 Chronicles 20:7; James 2:23), was noted for his worship of God (12:7-8; 13:18; 14:18-24; et al). We could point to other examples in Genesis, but once we have seen Yahweh as the Almighty Creator and God of all grace, how can we not be moved to expressions of praise, adoration, and thanksgiving? However, as we worship it is imperative that the example of Cain’s rejected sacrifice not be forgotten—worship must never be a product of our own devices, but must follow His instructions (John 4:21-24).

### Keeper of Covenants

Following the flood God said He would establish a covenant and the earth would never again be destroyed by a flood (9:8-17). More than four thousand years later, the rainbow continues to remind us that God has been faithful to this bond He established. The world has experienced many limited floods since Noah’s day, but no believer in God has ever worried that the mountains would again be covered because God cannot lie (cf. Hebrews

6:18; Titus 1:2).

When the Lord called Abraham from Ur to Canaan and made a number of promises to him, the word covenant is used several times (15:18; 17:2, 4, 7-8, et al). While other promises are made, we can summarize them by saying Abraham was promised that his descendants would become a great nation and inherit the land of Canaan. There was also the promise that his seed would bless all nations (cf. Galatians 3:16). The book of Genesis concludes without our being able to see the Lord complete the fulfillment of His covenant promises to Abraham, but we are shown enough to know that He will be faithful to His promises. E.g. think of Abraham and Sarah having a child in their old age and then God preserving the family through the famine and causing them to live in Goshen where they could develop into the separate nation He had promised. To see God as the keeper of covenants should be a source of great consolation to those who have embraced the new covenant made in Christ. (Note the usage of His promise to Abraham in Hebrews 6:13-20.)

<sup>2</sup>Yahweh has become the generally accepted rendering of the divine name revealed in its fullness to Moses (Exodus 3:1-15; 6:1-3). In the Hebrew Bibles it was written as four consonants (YHWH in their English equivalents) and is known as the tetragrammaton. While the American Standard Version translated it as Jehovah and most translations give it as the LORD, in English the letters YHWH are most often given today as Yahweh.

## Privileged to Serve

### SUNDAY AM

<b>Announcements:</b> Steve Leverette	<b>Song Leader:</b> Tony Richter
<b>Opening Prayer:</b> David Croley	<b>Lord’s Supper:</b> John M. Huggins
<b>Serving Lord’s Supper:</b> Larry T. David W. Don A. Aaron B. David H. Grant P. Ryne G. Huelet L.	
<b>Sermon:</b> John Gibson	<b>Closing Prayer:</b> Wade Pepper
<b>Count Contribution:</b> Aaron Gabardi	Don Alexander

### SUNDAY PM

<b>Announcements:</b> Nathan Pepper	<b>Song Leader:</b> Kevin Markum
<b>Scripture Reading:</b> Rodney Peete	<b>Opening Prayer:</b> Preston Guthrie
<b>Sermon:</b> John Gibson Bryant Pepper	<b>Lord’s Supper:</b> Aaron Gabardi
	<b>Closing Prayer:</b> Ron Flatt

### WEDNESDAY PM

<b>Announcements:</b> John Harris	<b>Song Leader:</b> Daryl Turner
<b>Invitation:</b> Nathan Pepper	<b>Closing Prayer:</b> Ryne Gay
<b>Sound Booth:</b> Preston G. / Lance H.	<b>Ushers:</b> Tracy S. David H.