

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



January 7, 2018

Contact Us:

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325-646-7102
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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

Terah Begot Abraham—When?

Two of the messages that “ring out” from Bible genealogies are that man has been on the Earth since the sixth day of Creation, and that his creation was not very long ago. Although many would have us believe that the Earth is billions of years old and that man has been on the Earth for only a few million years, the lengthy biblical genealogies that extend from Jesus all the way back to Adam reveal that man was created only a few thousand years ago. Some assert that since various biblical genealogies contain gaps, they are worthless when attempting to determine how long man has been upon the Earth. The fact is, however, the only reason we know of these gaps is because the Bible fills them in elsewhere. The claim that the genealogies are worthless in approximating the length of man’s time on the Earth (and thus the age of the Earth—Genesis 1; Mark 10:6) is completely without foundation [see Author Custance (1967), *The Genealogies of the Bible*, p. 3].

While recognizing that biblical genealogies are trustworthy, we nevertheless must use caution when speaking about the exact age of the Earth. Unfortunately, in an attempt to defend the strict chronology of biblical genealogies, some read them without taking into account that certain Hebrew phrases possess a wider connotation than what might be perceived in English. One of these phrases is found several times in Genesis 11. In this chapter, we learn of various Messianic ancestors who **lived a certain age and begot sons**. For example, verse 16 of that chapter reads, “*Eber lived thirty-four years, and begot Peleg.*” Later, we read where “*Nahor lived 29 years, and begot Terah*” (11:24). The sons listed in this chapter generally are thought to be the firstborn sons, yet the evidence shows that this was not always the case. There was not always a father-to-firstborn-son linkage.

One might assume that because Genesis 11:26 states, “*Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran,*” Abram (also known as Abraham; cf. Genesis 17:5) was Terah’s firstborn and that he was born when Terah was 70. The truth is, however, Abraham was not born for another 60 years. When Stephen was delivering his masterful sermon recorded in Acts 7, he stated that Abraham moved to the land of Palestine “*after the death of his father [Terah—EL]*” (7:4). Yet if Terah was 205 years old when he died (Genesis 11:32), and Abraham departed Haran when he was 75 (Genesis 12:4), then Terah was 130, not 70, when Abraham was born. In light of this information, John Whitcomb and Henry Morris have helped us better understand Genesis 11:26 by paraphrasing it as follows: “*And Terah lived seventy years and begot the first of his three sons, the most important of whom (not because of age but because of the Messianic line) was Abram*” [John C. Whitcomb and Henry M. Morris (1961), *The Genesis Flood*, p. 480].

Lest one think this is an isolated incident (where the son mentioned was not the firstborn son), consider another example. Genesis 5:32 states: “*And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*” Like the situation

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I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

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with Terah begetting Abraham, Nahor, and Haran, here we read that at age 500, Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Was Shem the firstborn? Were the three sons of Noah triplets? Or was Shem mentioned first because of his Messianic connection? In all likelihood, the evidence seems to indicate that Shem was not the firstborn, but was born two years later. Consider the following passages:

“Noah was six hundred years old when the flood waters were on the earth” (Genesis 7:6).

“And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry” (Genesis 8:13, emp. added).

“Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood” (Genesis 11:10, emp. added).

These verses seem to suggest that Shem was not born when Noah was 500, but when Noah was 502. A comparison of Genesis 11:10 with 10:22 may suggest that Shem’s son, Arphaxad, was not the firstborn son in his family. Likely, Shem, Arphaxad, and others are mentioned first for the same reason Abraham is—because they are Messianic ancestors, not because they were the firstborn sons of their fathers. Interestingly, numerous other Messianic ancestors, such as Seth, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and Perez, were not firstborn sons. Lest someone accuse Moses of dishonesty when recording these genealogies, we must remember that the year of begetting a first son, known in the Old Testament as *“the beginning of strength,”* was an important year in the life of the Israelite (Gen. 49:3; Deut. 21:17; Psa. 78:51; and Psa. 105:36). It is this year...and not the year of the birth of the Messianic link, that is given in each case in Genesis 11 (Whitcomb and Morris, 1961, p. 480).

For this reason (and perhaps others), a limited number of additional years may be added to the genealogical records. Thus, trying to “peg” an **exact** date for Creation is futile. It may be that several hundred years could be added to the 6,000 years that many creationists give for the age of the Earth. It is important to remember, however, that even though the genealogies may leave room for a limited amount of addi-

tional time, it is impossible to fit tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or millions of years in them.

Eric Lyons (apologeticspress.org)

In What Sense Has Christ Abolished Death?

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is a marvelous collage of Old Testament characters who lived the life of faith. After rehearsing these examples, the inspired writer offers this encouragement.

“Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (12:1-2).

How is it that the sacred writer can describe Christ as possessing the *“joy that was set before him,”* while, at the same time, alluding to the torture of *“the cross”*?

Perhaps the answer lies, at least partially, within a passage in Paul’s second letter to Timothy. The apostle says that God’s purpose and grace find their fullest expression in the manifestation of Christ who

“abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Tim. 1:10).

The Greek term for *“abolish”* is *katargeo*, which means “to reduce to a state of inactivity.” The interesting thing about the participle, *“having abolished,”* is that it reflects an action already accomplished.

In what sense could it be said that *“death”* has been *“abolished”* **already**? Do we not all too often make that sad journey to the cemetery, bearing the remains of our loved ones? Are not we ourselves inching closer to that destined departure?

Clearly the sense of *“abolished”* is not that death, as an **actual human experience**, has been vanquished already. There must, then, be another approach to the *“having-abolished”* phrase; one that is in harmony with the reality that death still stalks each of us.

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord’s Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God’s Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

Jan. 7 Genesis 21:22—24:27

Jan. 8 Genesis 24:28—26:35

Jan. 9 Genesis 27—29

Jan. 10 Genesis 30:1—31:42

Jan. 11 Genesis 31:43—34:31

Jan. 12 Genesis 35:1—37:24

Jan. 13 Genesis 37:25—40:8

Jan. 14 Genesis 40:9—42:28

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **21 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** following this morning's worship.
- ◆ Our **daily Bible reading schedule** for 2018 is available at both exit doors. We will be following the **"Interactive Bible Reading Plan" provided by WVBS**. In addition to the daily reading, there are videos available online introducing each book and providing other interesting information corresponding to the daily reading. If you would like a pdf file that will take you directly into the videos on your computer, tablet, or smart phone, let Johnny know.
- ◆ On Wednesday evening, **Delton McGuire** will present a lesson entitled **"Social Media for Grandparents."** In today's world of sexting, cyberbullying and online predators, it is important that we can talk to our youth about these things from a Christian perspective.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 25-28—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Rick Brumback.

In a **literal** sense, the experience of death will not be terminated until the day of Christ's return. Elsewhere, Paul addressed that very issue.

"Then comes the end, when he shall deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be abolished is death" (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

Across the ages, death has ever held humanity captive to an enslaving horror. The hero of the ancient *Epic of Gilgamesh* (the Babylonian "Flood" account) says, "Sorrow entered my heart; I am afraid of death." Bildad, Job's friend, described death as *"the king of terrors"* (Job 18:14).

David, ruler of Israel, once lamented that *"the terrors of death have fallen upon me"* (Psa. 55:4). The Greek poet Homer has Achilles exclaiming: "Say not a word in death's favor." The French writer, La Rochefoucauld, in one of his pithy epigrams, opined that "neither the sun nor death can be looked at with a steady eye."

These sayings, and thousands of others of equal grimness, serve as dramatic commentaries on the affirmation enunciated by the writer of Hebrews, who declared that *"the fear of death"* has enslaved Adam's offspring (Heb. 2:15). Happily, though, in the same text, inspiration declares that Jesus Christ entered the human realm so that, by his death, he might deliver mankind from the slavish dread of the concluding physical experience.

This is what Paul meant when he triumphantly announced that Jesus has *"abolished"* death. By his own permanent escape from the bonds of death (by means of his resurrection), Christ has opened the way for his people to follow. He has the keys of death and Hades (Rev. 1:18). As our *"forerunner"* he has entered heaven (Heb. 6:20), preparing a place for us (Jn. 14:2).

What confidence we can have, therefore, in the eternal environment that lies before us (cf. Heb. 3:14). Our Savior has removed the terror of death. Perhaps, therefore, we might learn to say (with Paul) that we entertain a constant *"desire to depart and be with Christ; for it is very far better"* (Phil. 1:23). Only in the post-death state will the child of God truly be *"at home"* (2 Cor. 5:8).

Wayne Jackson (christiancourier.com)

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

January Birthdays: Rachel Smith (15), Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceten Evetts (20), Mary Chadwell (22), Mattison Churchwell (25), Karen Bland (29), Judie Turner (29).

January Anniversaries: None.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Dec. 24, 2017	Dec. 31, 2017
Bible Class	45	24
AM Worship	62	38
PM Worship	37	15
Wednesday PM	25	31
Contribution	\$1,258	\$2,242

	This Week: 1/7/18	Next Week: 1/14/18		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	January 2018 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: McCaghren Family Clean Building: McCaghren Family	
Greeters	Maninger Family	Fuller Family		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Larry Petty, Ryan Rudloff	Randy Huckaby*, Hank Wheeler Jack Turner, James Thomas		
Closing Prayer	Rafe Smith	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Rafe Smith		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	James Fuller	February 2018 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Fuller Family Clean Building: Dennis Family	
Communion	Ken Maninger	Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Ryan Rudloff		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 10 Delton McGuire	January 17 Rafe Smith		

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of January 7, 2018

Sunday Class **Romans 9:1**
 Wed. Class **Delton McGuire—"Social Media for Grandparents"**

Do Not Be Conformed to This World – Romans 12:1-2

I. Do Not Be Conformed to This World.

- Christians should not conform to the sayings, feelings and manners of the people who know not God.
- We are warned against following the multitudes (Ex. 23:2).
- The Christian life is one of restraint instead of indulgence (1 Thess. 5:22).
- James made it plain that Christianity is opposite to friendship of the world (Jas. 4:4).
- Love for God and love for worldly things are incompatible (1 Jn. 2:15-17).
- Christians must make a distinction between evil and good and between their attitudes towards each (Rom. 12:9b).
- We must influence non-Christians rather than allow them to influence us (Rom. 12:21; 1 Cor. 5:6b).

II. Be Transformed.

- The Christian life is a changed life (1 Thess. 1:9).
- Peter speaks of some Christians who had made some diametric changes (1 Pet. 4:3-4).
- The Christians at Rome had been transformed from servants of sin to servants of righteousness (Rom. 6:17-18).
- Paul in the 3rd chapter of Colossians states a number of things Christians are to do in completing this change from the world to Christ.
- This transformation is accomplished by the renewing of the mind (Rom. 12:2).

III. The Transformed Mind Concerning Recreation.

- Jesus recognized that wholesome recreation is helpful (Mk. 6:31-32).
- Our recreation should pass a number of tests.
 - Is it a work of the flesh? (Gal. 5:19-21)
 - Does it arouse the indecent within me? (Phil. 4:8)
 - Does it interfere with my spiritual growth? (1 Pet. 2:1-2; 2 Cor. 4:16).
 - Does it weaken me spiritually due to associations with the wicked? (1 Cor. 15:33)
 - Does it weaken my influence as a Christian? (2 Sam. 12:14; 1 Cor. 9:12; Prov. 22:1)
 - Can Jesus walk with me as I do this? (Mt. 28:20; Isa. 59:2)
 - Is it within my financial ability? (Rom. 13:8)
 - Will it injure my health? (1 Cor. 3:16-17)

Reminding Christians of Our Salvation & Our Inheritance & Our Hope Titus 3:4-7

- Reminding Christians of the Importance of Good Works. (3:1-2).
 Reminding Christians of Our Past Life (3:3).
 Reminding Christians of Our Salvation and Our Inheritance and Hope (3:4-7).
- In spite of our sinful life before conversion, we can still be saved from our sins!
 - "God our Savior" (4).
 - Several things that are absolutely essential for any person to be saved.
 - No one could be saved without the kindness of God (4).
 - No one could be saved without the love of God our Savior toward man (4).
 - The magnificent love of God is one of the richest themes in the Bible!
 - "We love Him because He first loved us" (1 Jn. 4:19)!
 - The kindness and love of God our Savior "appeared" (4) – a reference to the time that Jesus came to this earth.
 - No one can be saved by, "works of righteousness which we have done" (5).
 - It is according to God's mercy that we are saved from our sins (5).
 - God saves us, "through the washing of regeneration" (5).
 - "Regeneration" = a beginning again, a new birth.
 - The water in Jn. 3:5 and the washing in Titus 3:5 refer to baptism in water.
 - The word translated "washing" means, "ceremonial washing referring to baptism".
 - The fact that this word refers to water baptism is seen in other passages of Scripture (Eph. 5:25-27; Acts 22:16; Rev. 1:5; Heb. 10:22).
 - Closely connected with this washing of regeneration is the "renewing of the Holy Spirit".
 - "Renewing" = to make new.
 - The agent whom God employs to create this new birth is the Holy Spirit.
 - In v. 6 Paul said God had poured out something on "us" abundantly. The Holy Spirit or salvation?
 - Paul began verse 7 with the word "that".
 - "That" indicates a purpose of the main verb in v. 5 ("saved").
 - "That" we are also "justified by His grace" (7).
 - "That" we could "become heirs according to the hope of eternal life".