

midtown

M E S S E N G E R

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Fulfilled in Their Own Time

By: Dan Jenkins

Zacharias did not believe the words of Gabriel about the fact that he and Elizabeth were to be the parents of the forerunner of the Messiah. Instead of accepting the message from heaven, he thought what God had said just could not happen. How could two old people become parents? The answer from Gabriel gives us insight into the nature of prophecy. The angel said, “Behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time” (**Luke 1:20**). Look at those closing words—my words will be fulfilled in their own time! This is the nature of prophecy.

Many prophecies specify a time for their fulfillment. Jesus was to be raised on the third day and the words of this prophecy had to come about on that day. Otherwise, Jesus was not God. If what He said did not happen, it was proof that He was a fraud (**Deut. 18:21-22**).

The Old Testament prophesied about the coming of the Messiah and the fact He would come and be a king. The book of Daniel has prophecies about the time this would happen. However, most of Christendom read these prophecies from Daniel and Ezekiel and using human wisdom declare that the kingdom will come at Jesus’ second coming. The coming of the Old Testament specified the time it would come. Remember that the words of prophecy

“...will be fulfilled in their own time.” What is that time? Listen to Jesus. “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel” (**Mark 1:15**). Those who teach that the kingdom is future believe they can decide the time of the fulfillment of the words of God. The Messiah looked at those prophecies and said the time for their fulfillment was in the first century.

The time of the Exodus was prophesied over two hundred years before the Jews went into Egypt. This was over 600 years before the Exodus. At age forty, Moses had used human wisdom and decided that the time was fulfilled, and he was to be the one to bring about the exodus. At his birth, “the time of the promise drew near” (**Acts 7:17, 20**). “Now when he was forty years old...he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand” (**Acts 7:23, 25**). He understood much of the prophecy and his place in the exodus. What he failed to understand was that the determination of the time of fulfillment is not found in human wisdom. He missed it by 40 years.

There is far more to be said about this concept, but when you read His promises, never forget that the fulfillment of prophecy will happen “...in their own time.” God does not need our help in deciding when that time is!

13 Things Every Teen Needs to Know (#5)

By: Selected

We have an amazing God, who sent His amazing Son and then gave us an amazing book! Don't ever take those truths for granted; cherish them and let them motivate you every day. I have something else that I hope you will truly consider, take to heart and keep with you for the rest of your life.

Lock this in your heart: **The Bible is our only authority and has everything we need!** There are all sorts of ideas and philosophies out there about what this life is all about and what our purpose is on this earth, but there is only one source of truth that really matters and to which we need to turn and accept. Knowing that every word in the Bible is inspired of God, notice how He connects the chain of authority.

Truth: Jesus Christ has all authority! Those who heard Jesus recognized that "He taught them as one having authority" (**Matt. 7:29**), and the reason for that is what He revealed Himself before He left earth, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (**Matt. 28:18**). Jesus Christ is to be heard in all things (cf. **Matt. 17:5; Acts 3:22-23**).

Truth: All of Jesus Christ's authority is in His Word! While God spoke through prophets in the Old Testament, "God...has...spoken to us by His Son" (**Heb. 1:1-2**). And the Word of Christ is the ultimate authority, for it is the Word given directly by God ("whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak," **John 12:50**) and it is the Word that "will judge [us] in the last day" (**John 12:48**).

Truth: All of Jesus Christ's authority on earth today resides in the inspired words of the Bible! Before Jesus left earth, He told His apostles that the Holy Spirit would "guide [them] into all truth" (**John 16:13; 14:25-26**), which He did by moving them to pen the words of the New

Testament. Therefore, the very authority of Christ is inherent today within the inspired words of the Bible!

Truth: The Bible is all we need! We have a perfect God! And, when it came time for Him to complete His revelation to mankind in the Bible, He gave us a perfect book! Just as God is lacking in nothing, His Word is lacking in nothing! The reader can be made "complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (**2 Tim. 3:17**), for in them God "has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (**2 Pet. 1:3**). We do not need to go anywhere else to know what God wants us to do; He gave all of His authoritative truth to us in one book!

Truth: We must respond to Christ's authoritative Word with respect and obedience! Only those who do the will of God can be pleasing to Him and go to heaven (**Matt. 7:21-27**), and the only place to find what is pleasing Him is in His Word (**Col. 3:17**). Let's respect and obey what He says!



Upcoming Events

TODAY: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning service. Please bring a potluck dish/dessert to share. There will also be a 12:45pm service.

Saturday, Oct. 7: Youth Devo at the Jobes' home at 6pm. (Just a reminder this is a different day than the usual Sunday.) Boys bring drinks and girls bring desserts.

Area Events:

Nov. 11: Weber Road church of Christ Bible Bowl.

More Area events are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Ben Moseley who had tests done and it is indicative of Cancer of the blood/bone marrow.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Volunteers Needed

Sign up sheets for hosting Youth Devos, preparing communion, and opening & closing the building for 2023 are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Food Helpers for the month of Oct. - Team B

Compassion Card Program:

If you know of a non-Christian who is in need of encouragement, and lives within a 30-mile radius of Victoria, please see James Cammock.

Service Roster

Week of October 1, 2023

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Will Burleson
Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Ron White
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Dan Fielder
Cup..... Joseph Sheeran
Offering..... Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons
Assist..... Kanin Jacobs
Assist..... Steve Randle

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Joseph Sheeran
Closing Prayer..... Bryce Dolan

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Ken Dorries/
Bill York

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Brandon Starling
Song Leader..... Rick Bass
Devotional Ron White

Other

Prepare Communion for October..... Randle

Congregational News

Birthdays

Tamyra Carroll..... Oct. 1
Joyce Faires..... Oct. 2
Sandra Mericle..... Oct. 7
Willie Cannady..... Oct. 7

Anniversaries

Scott & Mickey DeDear..... Oct. 7

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all
run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a
way that you may obtain it.”
1 Corinthians 9:24

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of September 24, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....71
A.M. Worship.....99
P.M. Worship.....75
Wednesday Bible Class.....91

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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