

JUNE 2021



 Omega Baptist Church

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

BEACON

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

The Importance of Daniel, continued

God's Revelation of the Future Given to Daniel

In May we will have studied the first six chapters of Daniel; the narrative chapters. The main theme running through these chapters is God's sovereignty over the kingdoms of people. At the time Daniel lived, the God of the Jews was considered to be inconsequential by many. After all, their God was apparently not strong enough to prevent his temple from being raided. (Daniel 1:2) The Jews of that day needed to know that the Most High God didn't lack strength. The cause of their defeat and the plundering of God's temple was a fulfillment of the judgment of God against them. In the first six chapters of Daniel we see God showing his strength and sovereignty in many very dramatic ways. All the people of that day had the opportunity to know who the real power is. (Daniel 4:1-3)

Having established that fact, Daniel then records some visions that God gave him about the future from the perspective of Daniel's time in history. Some of those visions have already come to pass but many remain in the future from our perspective. Because God is the Sovereign of the universe, we can confidently look forward to the fulfillment of the yet to be fulfilled prophecies.

It is important for us to know as much as we can about these future events. The first thing Jesus said to his disciples when they asked about the

sign of his coming and the end of the age was, "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, "I am the Messiah," and will deceive many." (Matthew 24:3-5) I don't want to be deceived and I'm sure you don't either. The better we understand what is yet to come, the better position we will be in to patiently and faithfully endure until God accomplishes all that he has promised to us.

As the Apostle Peter reminds us, "We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place." 2 Peter 1:19

Please take the time and effort to learn as much as you can about what is coming.

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney

JUNE SERMON SCHEDULE

06 Daniel 7:1-28

13 Daniel 8:1-27

20 Daniel 9:1-27

27 Daniel 10:1-11:1

YOUTH MINISTRY

So I was thinking...

about fire. One of my favorite things to do is to sit around a campfire. There's something mesmerizing about staring at fire: the colors and the different movements of the flame, the dark coals that form at the bottom. I can stare at it for hours. The way the heat seems to dance, and everything flickers with movement.

If you've been hanging around my family lately you might have heard a conversation or two about fire. But not about physical fire, about spiritual fire. It's been talked about so much that Aidan and his friends have renamed their Bible study chat group "The Arsonists". They want to help people find their fire for spiritual things, specifically Jesus. Of course, that ended up with the statement that we want to "set people on fire"! While all that makes me laugh, it's true! I do want to figure out how to help others find their fire for God.

I know that everyone has their own personal spiritual journey to walk. I know that it can't be forced or coerced, that it has to happen as the person develops and experiences life. But how do we spiritually grow on purpose? Well, we learn! We study! We have deep conversations with others! We get plugged into a local church and most of all we fall in love with God's word.

I clearly remember all the times I gave up on the Bible because it was too hard to read. It was too confusing, too old fashioned and too long. Even though I love to learn, apparently there are times when I need the 2x4 method of learning to get moving (i.e. God getting my attention with a piece of lumber to the forehead)! Difficult life situations, hard relationships, grief...all of it led me to dig in despite my objections and insecurities. To come to the point when you know you don't have a choice anymore is a hard, dark, scary place to find yourself. But it was also the best thing that's ever happened because it helped me choose God over everything. That began a 12-year quest to get to this point in my life. I still have a long way to go, but the biggest change and the one I still can't believe has happened is that I truly love the Bible. It amazes me, it frustrates me, and it makes me want to learn more. And above all, it changes me. How did that happen? Slowly...very slowly.

I've recently spent a little time in just chapter one of 2 Timothy. (I've started reading books very slowly and looking at what each verse means.) This is Paul's last letter and was written shortly before his execution. Timothy is a young man Paul has discipled, encouraged, and taught. He loves Timothy like a son. (I resonate deeply with this.) Paul knows he's going to die because he is teaching about Jesus. But he also acknowledges that everything he has accomplished is because of God working through and in him and not something he's done by himself. Paul tells Timothy to "Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but give us power, love and self-discipline." If you are a believer, you have a gift, a God given gift, which leads to a calling. This calling means you have a ministry. Your ministry doesn't have to come with a churchy title, it's wherever God has placed you. The Spirit is part of the gift and it is our power

and our strength. It's the ability to make a choice and change. It's our power for bringing others to Christ. But, before we can help "fan into flame the gift" in someone else's life, we have to fan the flame inside us!

So, what's it going to take to "fan into flame the gift God gave you" in your life? The train that Pastor Rod talked about on Sunday, May 16th, or a 2x4? Or will it be a choice, a choice to light the flame, the choice to discover your gift, the choice to develop your gift. And most importantly, the choice to love the Bible to the point where you want to "set other people on fire" too! And then watch them flicker, dance, and glow like a campfire as they spread what they've learned to the next person.

...until next time.
Rebecca Anderson

VISITATION PASTOR

This summer marks 40 years since I have asked God to forgive me for the way I was living and to fix my life. A huge part in finding out that He would indeed forgive me was found in reading the Bible. I did not grow up with Biblical teaching so when I first started reading God's Word I found principles that were foreign to me but made a lot of sense. As I began to apply these truths to my daily life I encountered more specific instruction from Him about the changes that were necessary to conform to His Will for me. Because I came to realize how much I was learning about the nature of God and seeing the corruption of my own nature exposed I decided to commit time to daily study of Scripture. 40 years later I am still struck by the way I am learning about the greatness of our God! Today as I read through Luke 8 & 9 I saw how Jesus calmed a raging storm, delivered a man from demon possession, healed a woman who could not be helped by the physicians, raised a little girl to life, gave the twelve power over demons and to heal, fed 5 thousand with a few loaves and fish, was transformed before 3 of His disciples, and delivered and healed a boy tormented by a demon. Verses 43 and 44 hit me because all those who witnessed these things were **"amazed at the majesty of God"**, which is understandable – who wouldn't be! But Jesus then said something remarkable; **"Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men."** Who could even consider that One who could calm the raging of natural forces be arrested by mere men with sticks and swords! In John 18:36-38 as Jesus was being interrogated by Pilate He told him that if His was an earthly kingdom He would have servants fighting to keep Him from being delivered to the Jews, but this wasn't the case as He stated, **"but now My kingdom is not from here."** Jesus goes on to tell him, **"For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."** The truth He spoke of was concerning the Kingdom of God, how to enter it and how it changes you for the better. My challenge to you who are of the truth is to set apart time for daily study and reflection on God's Word that you may hear His voice!

—Mike Gasser

June Meetings & Ministries

WORSHIP TEAM

6 Lisa, Emily, Jennifer, Tamra
13 Youth
20 Sam & Aimee
27 Linds

ORGANIST

Anja
Dolly
Ellen
Karen

Arranging Special Music for April—Tamra
AUDIO TECH - Jon VISUAL TECH - Sam B/Jane S

MEETINGS

Christian Ed. Brd.	Tue.	1st	7:00 p.m.
Missions Comm.	Thu.	3rd	7:00 p.m.
Trustee Brd.	Mon.	14th	7:00 p.m.
Deacon Brd.	Mon.	28th	7:00 p.m.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM CHANGE

Beginning Sunday, June 13th through Sept. 5th grades 4K-4th grade will be meeting together as one group every Sunday morning at 9:00 for the Sunday School hour. Volunteers are needed to help with this so if you are interested please see Ameris Grapa for details.

Grades 5 - High School will be joining the Adult Sunday School class. Volunteers are needed to help with this so if you are interested please see Ameris Grapa for details. Thank you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

I didn't have a "fireworks moment" for my salvation. I had a "falling in love with Jesus" in Sunday School when I was a child. —Beth Moore

FATHERS



A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society. —Billy Graham

The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him. —Solomon

My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it. —Clarence Budington Kelland

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Joseph Pearson, Jill Smith
- 2 Adam Blomberg, Anne Reynolds
- 3 Dan Blomberg, Heidi Michaelis, Ezekiel Stolhammer, Renee Zook
- 5 Jessica Andreae, Tammie Blomberg
- 7 Jordan Nelson, Ameris Grapa, Danielle Blomberg
- 8 Jeremy VanCamp
- 9 Laura Lord, Malcolm Monroe, Lucas Cook
- 11 June Larson, Tirah Meier
- 12 Bo Jones
- 13 Emilie Blomberg, Pam Wildberg, Kendrick Wear
- 15 Nate Erickson, Diane Bulgrin
- 17 Kyle Belan, Macy Erickson
- 18 Nick Erickson, Gene Haskins, Nancy Espinoza
- 19 Doug Erickson, Tom Schubring, Gabriel Ulrich
- 20 Josh Jones, Preston Nelson, James Gustafson
- 21 Cody Gasser, Sarah Leick, Kailee Mann, Aelita Price
- 22 Joel Esterholm, Tyler Olson
- 23 Garrett Blomberg, Marcia Carlson, Steve Swan
- 24 Andy Swan
- 25 Janet Blomberg, Rebecca Anderson, Ciara Scheithauer
- 26 Brandon Hallstrand, June Johnson
- 27 Vivian Rhody, Brooke Nelson
- 28 Anna Dielschneider
- 29 Kay Sue Belan, Nathan Karlik, Carol Heikkinen, Renita Ulrich, Manny Espinoza Jr.
- 30 Heidi Esterholm, Ron Mattson



TITUS 2

Women of all ages, **please join us** for evenings of encouragement and testimony this summer. We will meet twice each month, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Janet Blomberg's home.



Tuesday, June 8
Jennifer Blomberg sharing
Tuesday, June 22
Heidi Mann sharing



Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family (on our mailing list) has an address change
 - You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
 - You would rather receive your Beacon by email
- Email: info@ogemabaptistchurch.org Thank You!