

The Means of Grace

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

"May I learn to depart from this life as from an inn and not from a home."

Those words have stuck with me ever since I heard them in a prayer. May we see our lives in this world not as being in our home, but as being in a hotel. In other words, when we die, we get to go to our real home in heaven. Believers in the past realized that. **"They admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth... they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one" (Hebrews 11:13,16).**

Over the past months, God has certainly been loosening our grip on the things of this world, hasn't he? He's been reminding us that this world isn't really our home. *"May I learn to depart from this life as from an inn and not from a home."* When you're at a hotel you leave behind the things that belong to the hotel. They are not yours. Those things were there for you to use while you stayed there, but they do not belong to you.

"May I learn to depart from this life as from an inn and not from a home." Many times we become too attached to the things we have in this life. It's important to remember that while the temporary things we become attached to in this world can be great blessings they are not intended to last forever. Yet, it's easy for temporary and eternal things to become blurred.

When Jesus said that you cannot love both God and the things money can buy, and that anyone who loves his family more than Him was not worthy of Him, He was reminding us not to attach ourselves too closely to temporary, worldly things. *"May I learn to depart from this life as from an inn and not from a home."*

And what a home we have to go to! Heaven is your home. What do imagine it will like? Dream big! After all, he is **"able to do immeasurably more than we ever asked or imagined" (Ephesians 3:20)** You see, when it comes to your heavenly home it doesn't matter how wide or how high or how deep you set the bar or how great your expectations are... because this much I can guarantee, regardless of what you think heaven will be like it will *exceed all your expectations*. The awe will be greater than anything you thought possible. And the joy will be more immense than anything you've ever experienced. Whatever you are envisioning heaven to be right now it will be better than anything you imagine. *"May I learn to depart from this life as from an inn and not from a home."*



THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Sunday September 27, 2020 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

9:30 AM Worship Service in person
and livestream grace-wels.net/worship or [facebook.com/GraceWELS](https://www.facebook.com/GraceWELS)
OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH-
7610 NE FREMONT
PORTLAND, OREGON 97213
OR online at: bit.ly/GracePortland

Monday September 28, 2020

Pastor in office

Tuesday September 29, 2020

Pastor in office
8:00 AM Confirmation Class

Wednesday September 30, 2020

Bible Class this week (Google Meet) 6-7PM
8:00 AM Confirmation Class

Thursday October 1, 2020

Pastor in office
8:00 AM Confirmation Class

Friday October 2, 2020

Pastor in office
8:00 AM Confirmation Class

Saturday October 3, 2020

Pastor in office-Sermon Preparation

Sunday October 4, 2020

9:30 AM worship Service in person and livestream grace-wels.net/worship or [facebook.com/GraceWELS](https://www.facebook.com/GraceWELS)
OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH-
7610 NE FREMONT
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A Family of Ministries For Christian
Worship, Education and Care

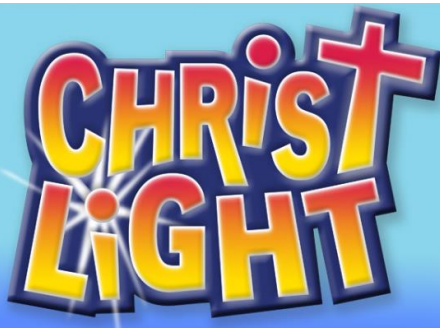


Sonora Baker who had successful eye surgery this week. We pray that God grants her a quick and full recovery.

Cheri Lockart who was readmitted to the hospital as she recovers from a fall at home his summer and from the effects of CVOID19.

Members of Dave House's family – brother, sister, niece, nephew who suffered the loss of their homes and all their possession the fires by Lincoln City this month. A fund has been established at Grace Church to assist those who have suffered losses from the wildfire. Checks / Contributions can be given directly to Grace Lutheran Church for distribution to the families.





Sunday School Lessons for Remote Learning

Attention Parents! In light of current challenges related to classroom gathering, our church is introducing a new approach to Sunday school!

This year Sunday School lessons will be taught by experienced WELS teachers and will be available free via YouTube. The engaging and age appropriate Lesson Videos will tie to printed Student Lessons that our church will provide to you at no cost. This new approach presents an easy yet meaningful way for you to encourage your child’s faith in Christ.

Each week, you will receive an email from Pastor containing all the lessons and the YouTube links. Simply print the appropriate lesson and click on the appropriate You Tube link for your child and bring Sunday School into your home!

Each week we will also feature a book of the bible. In the announcements we will include the book from the previous week and the new book feature for this week. Last week was GENESIS. This week is EXODUS.

We will also include the YouTube link for the previous week’s Chapel Chat from Grace School with Pastor Bitter or Mr. Eternick.

May God bless your child as we together continue to share His love with the next generation!

Pastor Bitter

GENESIS
AT-A-GLANCE

O.T. BOOK #1 AUTHOR: MOSES WRITTEN: 1430 BC

Covering the time period **Creation to 1850 BC**

Old Testament: 28 Books New Testament: 27 Books

CLAIM TO FAME:
It is the first book in the Bible and covers the longest span of time: Over 2,000 years!

FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Creation story
- Noah's Ark
- Tower of Babel
- Father Abraham's journey
- Isaac is almost sacrificed
- Jacob sees the Ladder
- Jacob's name is changed to Israel
- Joseph is kidnapped to Egypt

MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. — **Genesis 1:1**

I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel. — **Genesis 3:15**

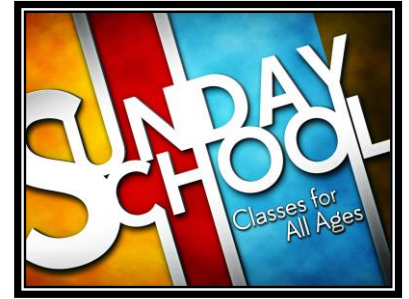
Genesis can be broken down into two parts:

- 1. History** contains everything from Genesis 1 to 12, or everything until the birth of Father Abraham. The first part includes creation, the Great Flood and the Tower of Babel.
- 2. From Genesis 12 to 50 is the story of the Patriarchs** They include Abraham, his son Isaac, and Isaac's son Jacob. Jacob was also the father of Joseph, who is not considered a patriarch but is very important. These men make up the start of the nation of Israel.

Ministry plans at Grace in September:

September 27th – Sunday Morning Sunday School / Bible Study

We are currently planning a distance learning Sunday School curriculum to begin our fall schedule. We are also discussing the possibility of in-person Sunday morning adult bible study or an addition Google Meet Bible Study on Sunday mornings. Please watch for details.



September 27th – Confirmation Sunday

We have 3 students eligible for confirmation this year.

Traditionally this would have happened in May. We had hoped that by the fall COVID restriction would have been lifted allowing us to worship with a full congregation, but that doesn't appear to be the case. Please plan to join us as you are able to celebrate the confirmations of Rebekah Bitter, Noah Tanner, and Keith Garner on September 27th.



Shoe Drive – Ends this month

Keep collecting those shoes! We want to finish up this fundraiser by the end of September. Shoes can be dropped off at school when you come for the student Binder Return next week Thursday 3:00 - 7:00 or Friday 8:00 - 3:00, or whenever you are driving by the school. Staff members are here from 8:00 to 3:00, Monday through Friday. We collect all sizes of children's, men's, and women's boots, high heels, tennis shoes, sandals/flip flops, soccer cleats etc. (No roller skates, roller blades or ice skates, please.) New and gently used. We ask that the soles are still in good shape and that they are relatively clean and have no holes in them. The shoes collected not only help raise money for the school, but they also help micro-entrepreneurs (small business owners) in developing nations like Haiti, Colombia, and Tanzania.





ONLINE GROUP STUDY

6:00 – 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS

An invitation and link will be sent to your email.
If you don't get an email with an invite and link please call
Pastor Bitter at 503-290-6316.

GENESIS

AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #1



AUTHOR: MOSES



WRITTEN: 1430 BC

Covering the time period **Creation to 1850 BC**

1

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

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- Creation story
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MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. – *Genesis 1:1*

I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.

Genesis 3:15

Genesis can be broken down into two parts:

1. **History** contains everything from Genesis 1 to 12, or everything until the birth of Father Abraham. The first part includes creation, the Great Flood and the Tower of Babel.
2. From Genesis 12 to 50 is the story of the **Patriarchs** They include Abraham, his son Isaac, and Isaac's son Jacob. Jacob was also the father of Joseph, who is not considered a patriarch but is very important.

These men make up the start of the nation of Israel.

EXODUS

AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #2



AUTHOR: MOSES



WRITTEN: 1400 BC

Covering the time period of 1525 BC through 1400 BC

2

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

CLAIMS TO FAME: Contains the stories from the birth of Moses through the 40 years of the Exodus.

FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Moses at the Burning Bush
- The Ten Plagues of Egypt
- Moses parts the Red Sea
- The Ten Commandments

MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

"You shall have no other gods before me."
Exodus 20:3

"God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" **Exodus 3:14**

Important Points about the Book:

- So many exciting Bible stories are found in Exodus! Exodus starts 280 years after the death of Joseph in Egypt with the birth of Moses. Moses was born in 1426 BC. Chapters 1-2 cover events before Moses was called to lead Israel out of Egypt.
- Chapter 3 covers the story of the Burning Bush and Moses' call
- Chapters 7-12 cover the Ten Plagues of Egypt, including the Passover, established with the 10th plague that called for the death of the oldest child of both man and beast.
- Chapters 13 begins the Exodus
- Chapter 20 contains the 10 Commandments.
- The stories are basically over for the remaining 20 chapters, except that chapter 32 contains the story of the Golden Calf. The other chapters contain laws and instructions for the constructing of the first tabernacle. A tabernacle was like a temple, only portable in the desert.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF PENTECOST 17 2020

Sunday Amos 3:10-13

- ✓ Read this whole section. What do these words depict?
- ✓ Who are the people who are at odds here?
- ✓ What does this tell us about what happens within the church at times?
- ✓ What was Amos' prophecy? How did the priest react to the prophecy of Amos?
- ✓ What does all of this tell us about the condition of the church in Israel?
- ✓ How does this apply today?

Monday Amos 3:14-16

- ✓ How did Amos defend what he did? Who is he?
- ✓ When Amos speaks who is speaking? To whom was Amos speaking?
- ✓ Who is speaking when the truth of God's Word is preached today?
- ✓ How do we know the Bible is the truth? John 17:16-18

Tuesday Amos 3:17

- ✓ List the serious points of Amos' prophecy?
- ✓ How does this seriousness compare with that of God's law which we have?
- ✓ What will be the results of persistent sin? What is the solution?
- ✓ Search the scriptures for in them.....

Wednesday 1 Timothy 3:1

- ✓ What is a trustworthy saying?
- ✓ When such a saying occurs in scripture what must it be?
- ✓ What does it mean to set one's heart on something?
- ✓ Define an overseer in the context of the visible church?

Thursday 1 Timothy 3:2-7

- ✓ Discuss each of these words as they apply to a pastor.
- ✓ Now apply these words to every Christian.
- ✓ How serious is God about the behavior of pastors? His people?

Friday Mark 5:7-9

- ✓ What did Jesus do with the twelve? What power did he give them?
- ✓ What were the travel instructions?
- ✓ Why did Jesus send them out two by two? What was to be their focus?

Saturday Mark 6:10-13

- ✓ Describe the approach they were to use as set forth in verses 10-11.
- ✓ What application does that have for today?
- ✓ What did they do on this mission trip?
- ✓ How does what the twelve did compare with Jesus' ministry?
- ✓ What can we learn from this example of outreach? Ephesians 4:15-25.