



# M Grace Messenger

## GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

122 Walnut Street  
Madison, AL 35758  
256-837-8821

### GBC HOMEPAGES

<http://www.gracemadison-al.com>  
<http://sermonaudio.com/gbcmadisonal>

*"Preaching the free grace of God which brings a change of lifestyles, masters and destinies."*

**DEAN OLIVE, Pastor**

— February 2014 Issue —

*"Do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the Lord with all your heart." 1 Samuel 12:20*

### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### February

03 Troy and Jessi Moseley  
10 Melanie Myatt and Amber Solan  
17 Kristin Scarbrough and Lori Hewlett  
24 Linda Olive and Vicki Johnson

#### March

02 Kevin and Sara Smith  
09 Jenny and Peter Lovassy  
16 Melanie Myatt and Amber Solan  
23 Troy and Jessi Moseley  
30 Kristin Scarbrough and Lori Hewlett

### CHURCH CLEANING

**February** - Lovassys  
**March** - Myatts  
**April** - Moseleys  
**June** - Amises

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2014

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 12,401.83
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 12,366.07
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 1065.00
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 9,527.93
Designated Missions (ytd)	\$ 660.50
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 200.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$ 10,388.43
January Love offerings	\$ 200.00
January General Fund offerings	\$ 9,527.93
January Designated Missions	\$ 660.50
Building Fund balance	\$118,689.34
Missions Fund balance	\$ 3,655.67
General Fund balance	\$ 60,152.44

## SPECIAL GUESTS AT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

### February 23 – Barry King

Pastor of Edlesborough Baptist Church, England and Director of Grace Baptist Partnership

- 9:30 AM Preaching Morning Service
- 11:00 AM Grace Baptist Partnership Update
- 6:00 PM Preaching Evening Service



### March 2 – Nathan Finn

Associate Professor of Historical Theology and Baptist Studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forrest, North Carolina

- 9:30 AM Preaching Morning Service
- 11:00 AM Lecture on Andrew Fuller
- 1:30 PM Preaching Evening Service



## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

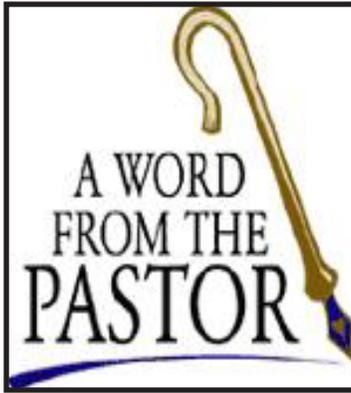
Morning Worship 9:30 AM  
Sunday School 11:00 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting  
7:00 PM

### FIRST SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning Worship 9:30 AM  
Sunday School 11:00 AM  
Dinner at the Church 12:00 Noon  
Afternoon Service 1:30 PM  
(No Evening Service)



## Lessons From a Bridal Search

Genesis 24 concerns the mission of Abraham's servant in journeying to Mesopotamia to get a bride for Isaac. Abraham didn't want his son to marry a Canaanite girl. He wanted him to marry a woman who believed in Jehovah as God and one whose culture would be compatible with his.

One of the primary promises that God gave to Abraham concerned descendents. We sometimes focus so much on the land promise God made to Abraham that we forget the key promise, that of a people who would dwell in the land! We read God saying to Abraham in Gen. 22:17, "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore."

If that promise was to be fulfilled, then Abraham's son must have a wife and she must bear children. Genesis 24 is about how Abraham obtained a wife for his son Isaac. At a recent prayer meeting, I read all 67 verses of Genesis 24. It is quite a lengthy passage of Scripture, taking over 10 minutes to read. I then walked through some of the primary lessons that emerge from that portion of God's Word.

There is an important lesson about obedience. Abraham's servant carried out his assignment in full accord with Abraham's wishes. The servant that Abraham sent to find a wife for Isaac isn't named, though he may have been Eliezer, whom is mentioned in Gen. 15:2. But whoever it was, the servant did exactly what Abraham asked him to do, down to the smallest detail. And he was successful; he brought back a suitable wife for his master's son.

The servant was an honest and trustworthy man. He was a faithful laborer. He stands out as one of the tremendous characters of Genesis. He was a man of integrity and could be depended upon. He carried out his task completely. We can learn much from this godly man about obedient service.

There is also a lesson about prayer. The servant of Abraham called upon the Lord to help him with his assignment (12) and then worshipped him and praised him when his prayers were answered (vv. 26-27, 52). He could not complete his task without help from the Lord so he sought God's will in earnest prayer.

No matter what we undertake to do, we need to commit it to the Lord in prayer. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6). That is exactly the picture we have of Abraham's servant.

There is a lesson about faith. Abraham was confident that God would provide a wife for his son from the right family. He was the possessor of God's promises and he would trust God to work out all the details of marriage for Isaac.

And the servant went forth in faith, trusting the Lord to guide him every step of the way. By faith he devised a test to find the right girl. It was a character test. In order to determine the fitness of the woman to marry his master's son, he decided that the girl he would choose must come to the town well, offer him a drink and then offer to draw water for his thirsty camels (vv. 13-14).

Watering one camel is a big job (they like lots of water)! And Isaac had 10 camels to water! It would require far more than general politeness for someone to volunteer to draw water for that many camels. The servant decided that the girl who passed this test would be the one "appointed" (v. 14) for Isaac. Faith from both Abraham and the servant stands out as a principle lesson in this chapter.

There is a lesson about providence. Abraham's servant was led every step of the way in obtaining Isaac a bride. Nothing in this story happened by chance. God brought a girl to the well that was the right girl. Her name is Rebekah. And she came to the well before the servant had even finished praying (v. 15). This was a precursor to Isa. 65:17: "It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear."

God has not wound up the universe and is letting it tick down like a clock. God is intricately involved in every detail of all that occurs. He was at work in every aspect of this intriguing story.

There is a lesson about submission. Laban and Bethuel, the father and brother of Rebekah, could not question that the Lord was at work in all these things so they bowed reverently to his will. They did not rebel against the Lord but instead sweetly submitted to him (vv. 50-51). It was obvious to them that the LORD was in this matter. Everything that had happened and the way it had happened made it clear that God was involved. Too much had transpired for this to be an accident or a chance event.

The same was true of Rebekah (v. 58). A woman didn't have much say about these things in those days but they asked if she was ready to go with Abraham's servant to be married to Abraham's son. And she was.

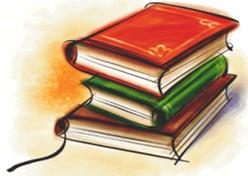
There is a lesson about marriage. Romance does not make a marriage, commitment does. There was love in the marriage but that wasn't because of physical attraction, rather it was because of individual commitment to God.

Isaac had never met Rebekah before and she had never met him, but they married. They both followed God's will. And we are told that Isaac loved her (v. 67). Love followed their union rather than being the thing that prompted it.

It is through Rebekah that the promise of a multitude of descendants for Abraham began to be realized. The promise would be fulfilled through their son Jacob and his 12 sons, which made up the 12 tribes of Israel.

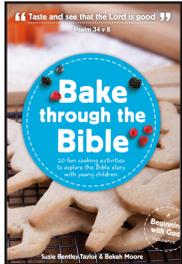
May the Lord God help us to learn these lessons and live our lives in the will of God. Take time to read Genesis 24 and look for these spiritual truths and make application of them in your life.

# BOOK REVIEW



## Bake Through the Bible: 20 Fun Cooking Activities to Explore the Bible Story with Young Children

Susan Bentley Taylor and Bekah Moore, The Good Book Company, 2013, 64 pages



This book contains 20 Bible stories, told in a simple, engaging style, that take your child through the whole storyline of the Bible. Each story is supported by a cooking activity that reinforces the main teaching, along with questions to discuss while cooking, and a simple recap to use when enjoying what they've cooked.

Cooking activities include: Sparkly promise cookies to remember God's wonderful promises to Abraham; Happy crepe faces in response to God's promise to send His Rescuer and Forever-King; Spiral tuna wraps for a picnic that links with Jesus' miracle of feeding thousands; An empty bread tomb with Easter dips to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

The themes all tie-in to a strong gospel message. The language is appropriate for young children. The stories are told in an engaging manner they can understand. The theology is sound. You don't have to be a good cook—just ready to have some fun as you Bake through the Bible!



**FEBRUARY 2** – The annual church business meeting will be conducted after the first Sunday meal.

**FEBRUARY 23** – Barry King, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Edlesborough, England, and General Secretary for Grace Baptist Partnership, will be preaching.

**MARCH 2** – Dr. Nathan Finn, Associate Professor of Historical Theology and Baptist Studies at Southeastern Theological Seminary, Wake Forrest, North Carolina, will be speaking in the two worship services and Sunday School.

**APRIL 4-6** – Spring Bible Conference with Dr. Brandon Meeks, pastor of Jonesville Bible Church, Jonesville, LA.

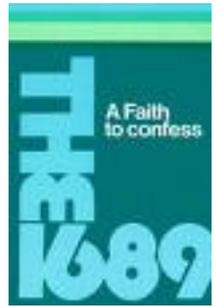
**OCTOBER 5-7** – Geoff Thomas, pastor of Alfred Place Baptist Church, Aberystwyth, Wales, is the preacher for our Fall Bible Conference in conjunction with our hosting the regional FIRE conference.

## We Believe

### The 1689 Confession of Faith

#### CHAPTER 30 (PARAGRAPHS 1-4)

#### THE LORD'S SUPPER



1. The Lord's supper was instituted by the Lord on the same night in which He was betrayed. It is to be observed in His churches to the world's end, for a perpetual remembrance of Him and to show forth the sacrifice of Himself in His death. It was instituted also to confirm saints in the belief that all the benefits stemming from Christ's sacrifice belong to them. Furthermore, it is meant to promote their spiritual nourishment and growth in Christ, and to strengthen the ties that bind them to all the duties they owe to Him. The Lord's supper is also a bond and pledge of the fellowship which believers have with Christ and with one another.

1 Cor. 10:16-17, 21; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

2. In this ordinance Christ is not offered up to His Father, nor is any real sacrifice made in any sense of that term for remission of sin of the living or the dead. The supper is only a memorial of the one offering up of Christ, by Himself, upon the cross, once for all. It is also a spiritual offering up of all possible praise to God for the once-for-all work of Calvary. Hence the popish sacrifice of the mass, as it is called, is utterly abominable, and injurious to Christ's own sacrifice which is the sole propitiation for all the sins of the elect.

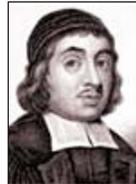
Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:24; Heb. 9:25-26, 28

3. In this ordinance the Lord Jesus has directed his ministers to pray, and to bless the elements of bread and wine, and in this way to set them apart from a common to a holy use. They are to take and break the bread, then to take the cup, and to give both to the communicants, they themselves at the same time participating in the communion.

1 Cor. 11:23-26

4. The denial of the cup to the people, the worshipping of the elements, the lifting up of the elements, the carrying of them about for the purpose of adoration, and the reserving of them for any pretended religious use, are all contrary to the nature of the ordinance and to Christ's intention in appointing it.

Exod. 20:4-5; Matt. 15:9; 26:26-28



### Thomas Watson Puritan Preacher & Author

“When Christians abate their fervency in private devotions, God abates their peace. If you slacken the strings of the violin, the music is spoiled; so, if a Christian is slack in duty, they spoil the sweet music of peace in their souls. As the fire decays, the cold increases; so, as fervency in duty abates, our peace cools.”

# THE PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL EXEGESIS

Part of a course on basic training for church planters

by Barry King

A text must be understood and explained in light of its scriptural, historical, and grammatical context. A text must be understood and explained in light of its actual content. A text must be understood and explained in light of the specific conduct obedience to the text requires.

## CONTEXT

A text must be understood and explained in light of its scriptural context. Is the text in the Old Testament or the New Testament? If it is an Old Testament text, is it in the historical, personal, or prophetic section? If it is in the historical or prophetic section is it from the period before or after the exile? If it is a New Testament text, is it in the historical, Christian Church epistle, personal, or Hebrew Christian epistle section?

A text must be understood and explained in light of its historical context. What historical event or set of circumstances

provides the backdrop for the text?

A text must be understood and explained in light of its grammatical context. Is the text historical narrative, poetic, prophetic, or didactic in nature? What literary type does the author employ? What light does the paragraph and sentence structure shed on a proper understanding and explanation of the text?

## CONTENT

A text must be understood and explained in light of its actual content.

Begin by asking observation questions.

- Who is speaking?
- Who is this about?
- Who are the main characters?
- What is the subject or event being addressed?
- When did or will events occur?
- Where did or will this happen?
- Why is something being said or mentioned?

- Why did or will this happen? How is it to be done?

Mark key words and phrases. Look for lists. Note comparisons and contrasts. Pay attention to expressions of time. Identify terms of conclusion.

## CONDUCT

A text must be understood and explained in light of the specific conduct obedience to the text requires.

**Doctrine** – What false belief do I need to reject in light of this text?

**Reproof** – What behaviors do I need to repent of in light of this text?

**Correction** – What corrections need to be made in regard to my beliefs and behaviors?

**Instruction** – What steps can I take to avoid the trap of unbiblical beliefs and behaviors in the future?