

# The Messenger

## The Atlanta Church of Christ

*in Gwinnett*

### Elders

Steve Galbreath  
Alan Rouse

### Evangelist

Richard Alawaye

### Teacher

Gary Roberson

### Women's Ministry & Welfare

Sarah Alawaye  
Roxanne Galbreath  
Sherry Rouse

### Teens

John and Marisabel  
Becker

### Deacons

Birt Anglin  
Peter Berry  
Steve Collier  
Danny Emmett  
Bill Francis  
Patrick Freeman  
Glenn Hayes  
Kendall Knight  
Karl Lynn  
Russ McGarr  
Jeff Mueller  
Todd Reynolds  
Todd Shultz  
Dan Stehr  
Ken Watson

## The Nobles of the Nations Assemble

By Jeff Mueller

Do big changes in our nation and world get you too distracted? If yes, then let's consider:

*Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, and honor the king. (I Peter 2:13-17)*

As I write these thoughts on the eve of another election in which we as temporary citizens of the United States get to participate, let us not forget that we who are disciples immersed in Jesus are PERMANENT citizens of a far greater place, with a far greater promise, and with far greater consequence to our present lives today. What I want to

remember is that God does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. God taught this lesson to kings in the time of the Old Testament, to those who knew Him and to those who did not (but soon would!).

David, the man after God's own heart and Israel's greatest king, proclaimed this:

*For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne. The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted. (Psalm 47:7-9)*

Solomon, David's son and heir as Israel's king, and the wisest man of his time, taught that:

*The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases. (Proverbs 21:1)*

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

1/17-19: Teen Bash (In Gwinnett County)  
1/23-24: Leaders Retreat (Unicoi State Park)  
Sun. 1/25: Guest Speaker: Mike Fix Granite City Church of Christ, New Hampshire  
Sun. 2/22: Guest Speaker: Craig Morgan, Atlanta Church of Christ at Cobb

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# The Nobles of the Nations Assemble

(Continued)

While David and Solomon certainly believed that they belonged to God, God demonstrated these truths to kings beyond the borders of Israel. Nebuchadnezzar, a pagan king who was God's instrument of Judah's exile, got an up close and personal lesson on the truths of Psalm 47 and Proverbs 21 throughout the book of Daniel. I will leave it to you to read the story. Such was the impact of God's discipline in his life that this pagan king was ultimately able to acknowledge the same truth as David and Solomon:

*At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.*

*His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing.*

*He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth.*

*No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" (Daniel 4:34-35)*

And in sharing with Belshazzar his father Nebuchadnezzar's convictions, Daniel reminded Belshazzar that God humbled his father Nebuchadnezzar:

*..he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone he wishes.*

*Daniel 5:21*

The point is that all kings, presidents, mayors, military juntas, gauleiters, dictators, governors, executives, legislators and judges rule ONLY because God allows them. If God did not want them ruling, would they be ruling? If you struggle with politics, or who is in charge, please remember to trust that God knows what he is doing;

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.*

*"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)*

I believe that all of the earth's leaders today are fulfilling the ways of God for the purposes that He has. This belief came with the help of Paul, from a later time in history when governments like the Roman Empire were arguably even worse than today. Hey, at least today I get to have a voice in this temporary government through the secret ballot. I cannot discern that many of our fellow disciples, either throughout history, or even today throughout our present world, had or have the same privileges. But the attitude I am commanded to have about the government(s) I live in convicts and challenges me to repent when I get too angry or frustrated about politics:

*Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. (Romans 13:1-7)*

The call of these scriptures is to live above the world and to not let the events of the world distract us from our purpose. Be not too elated nor too depressed with the events of the world, but have peace of mind that our Lord sets the kings and leaders of the nations of the world in their places.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

### *Names Associated with God in the Old Testament*

By Bill Francis

*When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. She fell at his feet and said: "My Lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. May my Lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name-his name is Fool, and folly goes with him. But as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my master sent. (1 Samuel 25: 23-25)*

As we read about this incident in the life of David one can only wonder how Nabal received his name.

Was he born with this name, or did his lifestyle and dealings with people lead to this dubious distinction? Whatever the reason, his name said a great deal about who he was and how others viewed him. The ancient world placed a lot of significance on names, whether for persons or places. I was personally enlightened about a year ago when Richard spoke about the value that is placed on naming children in his native country. We in the Western world could do well to emulate this practice.

The name of an individual can often times range from very simplified to being very descriptive. For example, Esau means red, Jacob stands for cheat or deceiver, and Abraham means Father of a Multitude. Consequently, to destroy the name is to destroy the person. In I Samuel 24:21, Saul made David swear that his descendants would not be cut off and that his name would not be removed from his father's family. So, what's in a name? Well, there's no better research into the meaning of names than to look at the meaning of the names associated with God in the scriptures.

Recently, I have been doing a study on the Names of God and it has been very insightful. The name of God in its various forms does not just state who he is for identification purposes, but it reveals who he is in his makeup as well as his dealings with man. The Old Testament contains a number of names and compound names for God that helps us to better understand his nature. Let's take a look at some of them:

#### ELOHIM

This word stands for the general name of God. It is used 2,570 times in the Bible and appears 32 times in the first chapter of Genesis alone. So often, Elohim describes the power of God (see Deuteronomy 10:17). It is God-Elohim that created the universe.

#### ADONAI

The use of this name in the Old Testament reveals the relationship God had with his people and his expectations for them. It first appears in Genesis 15 after Abraham rescues Lot and God reveals himself to Abraham as his exceedingly great reward. Abraham, in turn, responds to God by addressing him as Adonai, which means master. The Jewish people were very familiar with the servant-master relationship. The name Adonai appears over 200 times in the book of Ezekiel describing God as Lord not just of the Israelites but the entire world.

#### JEHOVAH-JIREH

Probably the most familiar of all designations for God, it appears first in Genesis 22. Abraham, after many years of waiting to be blessed with a son through his wife Sarah, and then receiving his son, is asked to sacrifice the boy. However, God provided another sacrifice instead of Isaac. From this point on, Abraham was confident of God's ability to provide for him when he needed him to.

These are just a few of the names attributed to God in the scriptures. There's JEHOVAH, the god of special revelation; El Shaddai, the almighty god; Jehovah-Rophe, the god who heals; and Jehovah-Nissi God, our banner.

As I've studied these aspects of God's character, my knowledge of him has deepened. There are three lessons I've learned from this study. First, the names of people and places have a major role in the shaping of not only Israel's history but all our histories. What I'm saying is that if God did not have a vision for us and we don't have a vision for our children where would we be? None of us in our right minds would name our child 'Nabal'. Second, the study crystallized my reverence for the Lord. God is JEHOVAH; lord and master of all things and not to be mocked in speech or actions. Finally, the study helps me to see clearly God's intimate love for his creation. Not surprisingly, I have a fuller understanding of what it means to be a father as a result of this study. I would recommend this study for all men seeking to be a better parent.

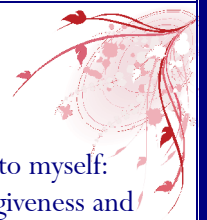
As the holiday concludes, I want to encourage you to spend more time in the word of God and consider doing a study in the names for God. You'll discover that there's more in a name than you imagined.



*Women's  
Corner*

## What the Cross Means to Me

By Dorci Richards



I was looking over my notes from a communion service last year and found a comment I had made to myself: Write your own communion message. I thought, "What *does* the cross mean to me?" It means forgiveness and love.

The two things I think I need most from others are forgiveness and love. I am a perfectionist. I hate making mistakes, and I hate being wrong. I have the hardest time accepting that I've made a mistake or a bad decision – whether it's about a life issue or which checkout line to stand in. Because it is difficult for me to forgive myself, I don't expect others to forgive me unless I've worked really hard to earn it. But that is not how Jesus forgives.

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:8-12)*

Forgiveness tells us that it's okay that we messed up; it's okay that we're not perfect. Striving to be infallible is prideful. Jesus' forgiveness is humbling.

*When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13-14)*

Christ forgave me when there was nothing I could do to make up for what I'd done. As for my need for love, Jesus' love is unsurpassed. I am a "hopeless romantic"; I love a love story. Like most women, I feel a deep need to love and be loved – to give my heart to someone and to be adored by him. I found that love in Christ.

*The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. (Jeremiah 31:3)*

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. (1 John 3:16)*

Jesus showed me at the cross that He adores me, and that I have no reason to doubt His love for me. I can freely give my heart to Him because He freely gave His life for me.

### Deacon's Directory

|                 |                  |              |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Karl Lynn       | New Members      | 770-979-4292 |
| Ken Watson      | Benevolence      | 678-376-2677 |
| Peter Berry     | Benevolence      | 678-376-1878 |
| Patrick Freeman | Kingdom Kids     | 770-921-1811 |
| Glenn Hayes     | Kingdom Kids     | 770-985-6921 |
| Dan Stehr       | Visitation       | 770-925-2943 |
| Bill Francis    | Visitation       | 770-806-8645 |
| Todd Reynolds   | High School      | 770-682-0027 |
| Russ McGarr     | Middle School    | 770-381-5045 |
| Steve Collier   | Teens-Parents    | 770-717-5784 |
| Danny Emmett    | Hope, Events     | 770-985-4542 |
| Todd Shultz     | Communications   | 770-277-4276 |
| Birt Anglin     | Ushering         | 678-849-0180 |
| Jeff Mueller    | Order of Worship | 770-492-0544 |
| Kendall Knight  | Music Service    | 770-972-6887 |



### Family Group Leaders

|                           |            |              |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Peter & Nancy Berry       | Suwanee    | 678-376-1878 |
| Steve & Barbara Collier   | Lilburn    | 770-717-5784 |
| Jim & Chandra Dew         | Lilburn    | 770-330-3479 |
| Danny & Cynthia Doble     | Lilburn    | 770-931-0601 |
| Audie & Jackie Flowers    | Snellville | 770-277-5749 |
| James & Quiana Martinez   | L'ville    | 678-985-5511 |
| Alvin & Beatrice Modest   | Snellville | 678-344-0061 |
| Jeff & Jessica Mueller    | Tucker     | 770-492-0544 |
| Ricky & Bridgett Roberson | Snellville | 770-879-0868 |
| Joseph & Lisa Washington  | L'ville    | 678-407-0306 |
| Ken & Kat Watson          | Suwanee    | 678-376-2677 |