



October 29, 2023

Volume XXXI—Issue 44

Is This The End?

The Israel Hamas war is now entering its 4th week. Many in the realm of Christendom believe the unfolding events are fulfilling Biblical prophecy and thus we are entering end time events. Several evangelical leaders are quoting Scripture and writing articles about how this war is ushering in the return of Jesus. I came across a video by Todd Friel, that gave several reasons why Christians need to be very careful claiming this is the end. Although I don't agree with Todd Friel on a lot of things, I do think he makes several good points. I'm not giving all the points, just the ones I think are most applicable. We can't predict the return of Jesus because . . .

1. New Testament writers thought Jesus' return could be imminent. Paul wrote as if he expected to be alive when Jesus returned (1 Thess. 4:17). Paul also said the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night (1 Thess. 5:2). See 2 Peter 3:3,4.
2. Hermeneutics. Don't read the Bible in one hand with a newsfeed in the other hand. That's really bad Bible study and will only help us misunderstand the Bible. The Bible was written to 1st century Christians. The Bible does not prophesy events in Russia, Ukraine, or 21st century Israel. Context, context, context! To properly understand the Bible, you have to keep Scripture in its context.
3. Biblically speaking, prophecies are best determined/understood after the fact. The OT prophesied the Messiah's death and resurrection in several places and Jesus spoke about it as well. But it wasn't until after the fact that the disciples understood what was said and done (Luke 24:13-49, especially vs 44-49).
4. Apocalyptic literature is about a point, not a timeline. Apocalyptic writings in the Bible are word pictures (not literal) to teach us a point, not a timeline of unfolding prophecy. That's what the book of Revelation is about. The point of Revelation is to teach us, Jesus wins and His followers will enjoy His victory (Rev. 2,3; 17:14). The Spirit of God doesn't reveal a day, month, or year that Jesus will return.
5. Jesus could tarry for another 2,000 years. It could be 10,000 years before Jesus returns. In Revelation 22:20, the last recorded words of Jesus say, "Surely I am coming soon." The word "soon" isn't soon as in shortly. The GK word is "tachu" and it conveys the idea of "swiftly and without delay." In other words when the Father says it's time, Jesus will return immediately, He won't wait any longer.

Let's avoid trying to establish a timeline of Jesus' return, because it's impossible to do and don't believe anyone who says they know when Jesus will return. The Bible doesn't help us understand the day, the month, or even the year that Jesus will return. The Bible helps us to be prepared for Jesus' return so we will be ready to see Him!

Let's be sure to keep everyone involved in and affected by the Israel Hamas war in our prayers. The atrocities that fellow humans have committed against other humans is beyond comprehension. Let's pray that God will work through this to bring many sons to glory (Heb. 2:10). Come Lord Jesus!

God loves you,
Shawn

How's your daily Bible reading? Keep up the good work!

Welcome to Woodland Oaks Church of Christ

We are honored you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Thank you for visiting us today! We look forward to meeting you!

Schedule of Services

Sunday	9:00 AM	Bible Classes
	10:15 AM	Morning Assembly
	6:00 PM	Evening Assembly
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Bible Classes

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Elder of the Day Marty Miller
Communion Leader Steve Baker

Adult Bible Classes:

- “Biblical Archaeology Journey: Can You Dig It?” by Marty Miller/Doug Dobbs
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center Auditorium
 - “A Study of Church History” by Steve Baker
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center Room A101
 - “One Nation Under God or Man?...Christianity in a Culture of Chaos”
by Mark Freeman—Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center Room A102
 - “John, Jesus, & Discipleship” (Young Professionals) by Rocky Rutledge/Mike Stevens
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center Room C106 (Magnolia Rm)
 - “From Milk to Meat (Various Topics for Christian Living)” by David Sparks
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center Auditorium
 - “Young Adults” (Ages 18-25) by Andrew Isherwood & Ross Riggs
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in Room A102
- Teen Bible Classes:**
- “Romans” (9th–12th) by Jordan Fontenot
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Education Center B-107
 - “Genesis” (7th –8th) by Brant Mathis
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Education Center B-101
 - “1 & 2 Thessalonians” (9th –12th) by Jordan Fontenot
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Center B-107
 - “Apologetics” (7th –8th) by Bryce Caldwell
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Center B-101

Treehouse Kids Bible Classes:

0–1 year	A103
1 year	A105/A106
2 years	A107
3 years/Pre-K	A108
Kindergarten	B200
1st grade	B202
2nd grade	B203
3rd grade	B207
4th grade	B208
5th grade	B206
6th grade	B209

A **Facility Map** and other information is available at the Welcome Center.

A **Secure Check-in System** is active for children ages 0 to 4 years.

A **Nursery** is available during Sunday morning worship for children 0-23 months. For children 24 months and up, there is a **Training Room** available at the back of the auditorium, behind the glass windows.



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Elders

Scott Blake
Mac Brockman
Mark Freeman

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Staff

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Youth Jordan Fontenot
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Deacons

Administration Joel Blake
Audio/Visual & Media Mark Jetton
Building & Grounds Todd Watrous
Children's Programs Richard Hyde
Education Preschool Matt Fitzgerald
Education Grade KG–2 Steve Baker
Education Grade 3-6 Quinn Tolbert
Family Life Center Chris Davis
Fellowship Tim Riggs
Finance Jeff Fleming
Brandon Smith
Foreign Missions Paul Gidden
Adam Fracht
Information Technology Al Ardito
Involvement Frank Kerze
Networks/Special Ministries Jeremy Haynes
Sharing Kyle Gordley
Bradley Welborn
Reaching Out Gavin Dao
Serving Hearts Daniel Fair
Ushers Tony Bloom

Welcome Center/ Visitor Contacts

Visitation - Hospital & Homebound/Men's Ministry Robert Shock

Worship Eric Kirkland
Bill Malone
Kevan Taylor
Youth Brant Mathis
Scott Simpson

Contacts:

Faithful Fathers: Chuck Bryant
Celebrate Recovery: Nathan Ingram

Missions

For updates regarding the mission efforts supported by WOCC, please visit our church website, woodlandoaks.org, under Connect, click Ministries and Missions.

Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, October 22, 2023

9:00 AM Bible Class	401
10:15 AM Worship	537 @ WOCC
	235 Views online
6:00 PM Worship	Not counted
Contribution	\$43,291.25

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

7:00 PM Bible Class	Not counted
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You may give online at:

<https://woodlandoaks.givingfire.com/>
Or mail contributions to our PO Box at:
Woodland Oaks Church of Christ
6700 Woodlands Parkway Suite 230-252
Spring, TX 77382

Budget

Actual unrestricted contributions through August 31, 2023 are \$1,218,883, compared with a budgeted amount of \$1,114,174 produces a surplus of \$104,709.

Notes

Announcements

Men's Breakfast will be this Saturday, November 4 at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center.

Mark your calendars! **Daylight Saving Time Ends** next Sunday, November 5. Don't forget to turn your clocks back.

Congregational Singing will be Sunday, November 5 during the evening assembly. Song requests can be made in the foyer.

Those who signed up for **Senior Saints—Beauty & the Beast**, we will meet at 4:45 p.m. on Friday, November 10 in the church parking lot. We plan to go out to eat at McKenzies in Conroe. You can find more information at: <https://nationalyouththeater.org/beauty-and-the-beast/>.

It's time for **College Care Packages!** Please sign up your college/military kids by Wednesday, November 8 in the foyer. Item donations and letters of encouragement can be placed in the box at the Welcome Center. Monetary donations may be given to John Tolbert, Denise Tolbert, or Kendra Blake or place checks in the offering plate with College Care Package marked in memo line. Please have all notes and donations turned in by Sunday, November 12.

Friends Day

Be praying for **Friends Day**, which will be Sunday, November 12. You should receive a letter in the mail about the activities planned for the day.

Everyone is encouraged to invite at least three friends to Friends Day. There will be a **Fellowship Luncheon** immediately following the morning assembly. Each family is asked to please bring a cake or cookies in a disposable container.

Reminder: There will NOT be an evening assembly on Sunday, November 12.

Prayers

- ✠ **Mary Jane Nevels**/COVID-19 with complications of an upper respiratory infection.
- ✠ **Janice Tadlock**/began chemotherapy on Friday, October 27 and will receive infusions every 15 days for the next 6 months/Please keep Janice in your prayers.
- ✠ **Lewis Tadlock**/scheduled to have surgery November 7 at MD Anderson to have brain tumor removed.
- ✠ **Charles Smithson**/had an MRI and appointment with Oncologist to determine next steps.
- ✠ **Elmo Collins**/father of Peggy Giles/has returned home/Please continue to pray as Elmo prepares to move to the Conroe.
- ✠ **Denise Tolbert**/surgery has been postponed.
- ✠ Please remember our members: **Pam Garner, Tom Kernan, Linda Reeves, Laurie Riggs, Danyce Rundell, Barbara Taylor, Debra Thompson.**
- ✠ Please remember our friends & family: **Barbara Conaway, Steve Harding, J. Paul Spelce.**
- ✠ Members battling cancer: **Tony Bloom, Bill Blumenshine, Pharis Fowler, Don Gilbert, Cynthia Haney, Cynthia Lockwood, Erica Lunn, Bob McDougal, Marsha Owens, Joanie Roberts, Janice Tadlock, Scottie West.**
- ✠ Friends & family battling cancer: **Mary Aldaz, Darren Brooks, Tesa Cornett, Dorcas Dillard, Dan Fayweather, Paul Hendrickson, Melissa Hightower, Phil Martinez, D'Ann Norwood, Jerry Smith, Rose Talbott, Suetta Williamson.**

Youth News

There will be **NO Tuesday Bible Study** this Tuesday, October 31. We will resume next Tuesday, November 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Those who signed up for the **Youth Fall Retreat** will depart WOCC at 6:00 p.m. this Friday, November 3 and return on Sunday, November 5 at around 2:00 p.m. Please bring money for food on the way there and back.

The next **Youth Girls Dinner Devo** will be Thursday, November 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Jennifer Tolbert's home. Please RSVP to Elise Fair or Jennifer Tolbert.

Youth Group Service: The Youth Group will meet at the building Saturday, November 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a service day. We will work around the building to get it ready for Friends Day. Lunch will be provided. Please also mark you calendars for the upcoming Youth Service dates: December 21, January 20, & February 3!

There will be a **High School Night @ Main Event** on Friday, November 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$20—includes a night of bowling, laser tag, and arcade with dinner provided. Please RSVP at: <https://bit.ly/WOCCHSMainEvent>.

There is now a **Youth Group Website** with information on upcoming events and links to RSVP. Check it out at: <https://www.basicyouthministry.com/>.

Treehouse Kids

Bible Builders: Children ages 2yrs-Kinder will be dismissed at Sunday evening assembly to go "through the Bible in a year" and learn how God has interacted with His people throughout the ages.

Sprout's Craft Time meets every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. for science, craft and playtime! Preschoolers and homeschoolers welcome! Meet in the Worship Center Foyer. Pack a lunch and stay a while!

The next **Dorcas Class** (for girls K- 6th grade) will be Saturday, November 11. Meet in the Chapel Center from 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. For more information, please see Jane-Ann Fleming.

Those who signed up for the **THK—Beauty and the Beast**, we will depart WOCC on Sunday, November 12 after Friends Day lunch.

Texas Bible Bowl

Bible Bowl Practice meets Sundays at 6:00 p.m. Grades 3rd—6th will meet in the Magnolia Room C106. Grades 7th—12th will meet in the Chapel Center Auditorium.

Sympathy

Heartfelt condolences to Julie Smithson at the loss of her mother, **Cheryl Brewer**, on Saturday, October 21 in Oklahoma. The arrangements are pending. Please Julie and the family in your prayers.

This Week

Today	9:00 a.m.	Bible Class
	10:15 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
		Bible Bowl
		Bible Builders
Monday	4:00 p.m.	Pickleball—Women
	6:00 p.m.	Pickleball-Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Ladies Bible Class
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting Group
	10:00 a.m.	Sprouts Craft Time
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Meal
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Class
Thursday	6:15 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Denny's on 1488)
	10:00 a.m.	Community Bible Class
	7:00 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery
		Basketball
Friday	6:00 p.m.	Youth Fall Retreat
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast

Upcoming Events

November 5	Daylight Saving Time Ends Installation of New Deacons Congregational Singing
November 7	Ladies Bible Class—Optional Homebound Visitation Men's Luncheon—Crust Pizza @ Alden Bridge
November 8	Sign up for College Care Packages Due
November 9	Youth Girls Dinner Devo—Jennifer Tolbert's Home
November 10	Senior Saints—Beauty and the Beast
November 11	Dorcas Class Youth Group Service Project—WOCC
November 12	Friends Day Donations/Notes for College Care Packages Due THK—Beauty & the Beast
November 14	Ladies Bible Class—Thanksgiving Luncheon Senior Saints Game Night & Potluck Supper
November 15	Sprouts Thanksgiving Feast
November 17	High School Night
November 19	Pick Up College Care Packages Youth Invasion
November 21	Men's Luncheon
November 22	Combined Devo—No Meal/No Children's Bible Classes
November 23-24	Church Offices Closed
November 26	Youth Invasion
December 1	Ladies Ornament Exchange Bible Bowl Study Group—Hooks Home
December 2	Men's Breakfast Dorcas Class
December 3	Winter Quarter Begins Sunday Social: Cookies & Cocoa Congregational Singing Youth Devo
December 8	Junior High Night

Expectant Families

Lindy & Jeremy Haynes
Angel & Matt Houser
Janna & Kevin Wilkerson

A cart for all donations is in the Worship Center foyer.
The **WOCC Sharing Pantry** is in need of canned meats.

If you could use meals during times of need, please contact the church office at 936-273-0010 or information@woodlandoaks.org