

# GOOD NEWS

*From Getwell*

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Publishers of  
**THE SPIRITUAL SWORD**

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***The Truth in Love***

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Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

The Getwell congregation sends monthly support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN  
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN  
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY  
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

#### SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

##### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.

Worship.....10:20 a.m.

Worship.....5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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## ON THE HOME FRONT

What a great day it was at the Getwell church of Christ! We were able to have our first potluck lunch in over a year. These great meals have been on hold due to COVID, but we were able to finally share a meal together once again. All of the food was great, like always, and the fellowship was even better. It was so good to be able to be together in that capacity once again. It also served as a joint birthday party for myself and Pat Phillips, and we were surprised by a birthday cake and singing "Happy Birthday."

It was also great to have Jeff Miller and his family visiting with us as they were passing through on their way back to Montgomery. He does great work with Apologetics Press. You can benefit greatly by checking out their website. We have had a number of their speakers on our lectureship. Last year we had Eric Lyons and Dave Miller, Jeff's father, and Lord willing this year we will have Kyle Butt. All of these men do great work for the kingdom.

We continue to press onward for the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Spiritual Sword Lectureship. Our brochures have been sent to the printer and it is only a matter of time before we begin our mass mailing. We are so excited for this upcoming event.

Bradley Smith

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## From The Desk Of Bradley Smith

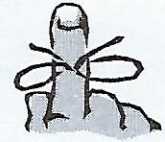
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### When Everything Comes Crashing Down

We all face tragedy and hardship in our lives. The things that plague our lives like disease and death are all due to sin entering into the world (Gen. 3). There are times, though, where it seems like everything is going wrong. It seems like everything is coming crashing down and so many things are falling apart. What can we do when we are in these hard times?

- 1. Remember that God loves you.** It might seem obvious or overused, but God truly does love us. God loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for us (John 3:16, Rom. 5:8). Even in our darkest days, God is still with us (Heb. 13:5), and still loves us (Rom. 8:38-39). Since God is with us, we always have the privilege of prayer (1 The. 5:17). God has given us an open line of communication to bring our cares and concerns before Him.
- 2. Remember that your brothers and sisters love you.** We are to edify (build up) one another as members of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:16). It should deeply grieve us to see a brother or sister enduring hardship (Rom. 12:15). We need to lean on one another for comfort and help in our times of need.

# RON'S REMINDERS



## MY BIBLE AND ME

The books of the Bible largely came into being to address immediate concerns. However, there was always a broader purpose being pursued in the background. Consequently, as books were added, as they joined to form the Book (the Bible), they provided the teaching bridges and connections needed to navigate the larger journeys of faith. The wide variety of individual people, places, and things encountered in Scripture, connect together to form the patterns in God's comprehensive narrative, the story of creation, fall, and redemption.

This being the case, developing a good understanding of the big picture narrative as well as the various "subplots" intertwined within it allow the Bible to effectively interpret itself. Additionally, a student can more easily commit to memory the details of Scripture when they are tied together in narratives. Large, interconnected facts are much more memorable and, practically speaking, more informative than would be the case stark memorization of isolated facts.

Bible narratives, as with our own life journeys, while consisting of vast numbers of individual facts, have meaning to us and to others in the blending of these facts into the form of stories (accounts of inspired journeys in the odyssey of salvation history).

As an example of this principle, when I taught (a generous assessment) Greek and Hebrew, I used a method now commonly employed to teach languages. In class, we almost immediately began translating so that we learned the rules while we were actually using the language. The overall message of a particular text or of connected texts came to be seen holistically rather than as just a compilation of words and rules. A synergism, if you will.

Isolated texts clearly have their place! We all regularly teach pieces of the bigger whole. My point here is not intended to disparage this! My point is to prize cover-to-cover understandings and to draw from these systemic insights to allow for deeper more connected Biblical insights.

Let me now offer you a study challenge drawing from the principles just presented. The tools for the

study include a chronological study Bible (not necessary, but helpful), a good reference Bible, a concordance, a note pad, and a "thinking cap."

Your study challenge will center on God's giving of a particular *promise* and on the word *promise* itself. Start your study with Genesis 3:15. Note, that the word *promise* is not in the verse, but a promise is nevertheless made.

Genesis 12:3b is the next stop on the way. Again, "promise" is not in the text, but we are clearly dealing with a promise (this is the aspect of *promise* that will take over in God's Biblical development. It plugs into Genesis 3:15).

Now, research how both the giving of the promise, primarily to with the ham, Isaac and Jacob, and the word *promise* itself are used to discuss God's purposes.

Notice how many books of the Bible work together to develop the "promise" story.

- After Genesis 12:3b, note verses that repeat this promise to either Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel), or that reference this promise after Jacob dies.
- Additionally, collect the verses that actually use the word "*promise*" to reference what was promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- Take special notice of how *promise* is used in the New Covenant and what that suggests about the fulfilment of this idea in Scripture.

This is a challenging Bible Navigation project, but one well worth your time. By engaging this challenge, the principles presented in the first part of this article will come alive and you will be well equipped for discussing "The Promise" in ways that will fully engage God's great salvation narrative!

*\*Feel free to email me with questions you encounter along the way, [edwinjones@frontiernet.net](mailto:edwinjones@frontiernet.net)*

Edwin Jones, Think Magazine, May 2021