

The Keavy Encourager

WELCOME TO THE KEAVY CHURCH OF CHRIST!

(May 10 2026)

- Visitors: Please fill out a visitor card and grab a Visitor Welcome Kit!
- Communion is available in the front of the building on the table.
- Our website is: www.keavychurchofchrist.com, and our email address is keavychurchofchrist@outlook.com Please share this information with your family, friends, and social media pages! Services are available online at our website and on our YouTube page.
- If you would like to be subscribed to brother Mark Tabata's email list (for weekday devotionals and other Bible and Bible related studies), please let him know!

May Prayer List

Kurt And Joanne Martin, Sanders Family, Eddie Craft (Cancer), Jimmy Brooks (Tammy's cousin, cancer), Kathy Mingus (Cancer), Anne Baker (Cancer), Sandi Tabata, Bill and Mary Ruth Browning, David and Ivy Mosley, Margie Turner (Hospice), Jake Robbins (Cancer), Coy Gilliam (Cancer), Carman Carroll, Edward Young Sr., Ed Young, Harmony Mullins, Claude Humphrey (Cancer), Felicity Lanham (Cancer), Piere Daigel, People In Ukraine, Barbourville Work, Rod Hill (Cancer-friend of brother Paul), Charlene Reef (Cancer), Jimmy Turner (Cancer), Danny Day, Kathy McFall (Brother Gary Lewis' Cousin, Cancer), Lisa Hurt, Terry & Rita Wooton And Family, Keith And Kathy Bowling, Tiffany Cox And Family, Keith And Kathy Bowling, Quintin Nelton, Kenny Irvin, James Williams, Shirley Lawson, Ronnie Gregory, Tammy Sapienza, Josh Lewis, Wade Cowden, Jake Hale, James and Anne MacDonald, Gail Storms Family, Terry Wooton's Daughter Amanda, Krista Cox, Delphia Clark Family (Lost Loved Ones), Wayne Sanders, Linda Cowden, Wayne Hamblem, Lillie Bennett

Our Lord Is Always On Time

(More Bible Studies Available @ www.marktabata.com)

Galatians 4:4-But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

Michael (not his real name) sat across from me at a local coffee shop, where we had been contemplating the Good News of Jesus. My friend had been an avowed atheist for several years when we had first met. Having been indoctrinated in the theory of Darwinian evolution and not having been taught the overwhelming scientific case for a Creator, Michael had also been plagued by several tragedies in his young life. Later, I had the privilege of baptizing him into Christ, and we were talking about the amazing providence of God in his life. Michael explained to me that if he had met me just a short time sooner, he would not have been receptive to the truth of the Gospel. He told me that it was only because of the circumstances that he had undergone (from beginning to realize the cracks in Darwinian evolution, to struggles with addiction, and to the death of a beloved family member) which made him receptive to considering the case for Christ that led him to redemption.

In essence, he told me that he was able to see the Lord allowing the difficult things in his life to happen in order to help prepare him for the truth of Jesus.

In the same way, Paul discusses in Galatians how Jesus came into the world at just the right moment. The phrase “fullness of the time” was a phrase that referred to a child who had come to maturity and was ready to be recognized as an adult. The phrase thus denotes that Christ arrived at the perfect time, when the world was most prepared for Him. One former atheist-turned-Christian, J Warner Wallace, discusses how Jesus came to Earth at just the right time. Consider what he says regarding this subject:

So why all the interest in ancient non-Christian history?” asked Susie as I finished dressing for work. “I’m trying to figure out why Jesus appeared when he did,” I responded. “I’ve always wondered about that too,” added Susie. “If Jesus is God, he could’ve come whenever he wanted, right? Why not come in the time of Moses? Or much later in history, maybe when we had the ability to tell the world about him on the internet?” “Well, if he’s not God, it wouldn’t really matter when he arrived.” I was a long way from believing in God or considering Christianity as something that mattered. I still saw Jesus as either a work of fiction or a typical ancient sage. But Susie’s questions rang in my ears for several weeks after our conversation, despite my initial response. Was there an aspect of ancient history—a strand of the “Jesus fuse”—that would identify Jesus as more than an average ancient and explain why he came when he did?...Had Jesus arrived at this point in history (prior to 3500 BCE), complex concepts involving his nature and teaching would have been impossible to communicate in writing. Worse yet, the tablets would have been incredibly fragile, given the nature of clay. But another advance in writing technology would solve at least one of these problems. By 3000 BCE, the development of simplified cuneiforms allowed writers to communicate

concepts by adding phonograms (symbols for vowels and syllables) to the communication palette.³ This allowed writers to better express themselves, but their surfaces (clay tablets) were still fragile and temporary. That all changed when the ancients began using papyrus. The Egyptians can be credited with this communication advance, as they were the first to use papyrus (a writing material made from a reed that grows around the Nile River). Around the same time that cuneiform writing emerged, Egyptians began pressing strips of papyrus at right angles, and this naturally bonding material, once it was exported, became the most popular writing material of the ancient Greek and Roman world. Papyrus, unlike clay tablets, could travel safely.... Had Jesus arrived at this point in history (around 1050 BCE), even with these advances in writing technology, it still would have been difficult to communicate the truth about him across the known world. While the Phoenician alphabet was well established, most humans on the planet didn't use it. But other alphabets were on their way.... The Romans exported another important communication tool in addition to an alphabet: the Greek language. Even though the Romans had conquered much of the region, the linguistic legacy of the Greeks still overshadowed the culture. A common form of this language, known as Koine Greek,⁵ dominated trade and civic interactions throughout the empire. Even the Jews used it to speak to Gentiles. Only at this point in history—once the Roman Empire had adopted the Etruscan-modified Greek alphabet, embraced Koine Greek as a common language, and adopted the use of papyrus—could the message of Jesus be effectively communicated with a shared language and letters. Had Jesus arrived prior to 100 BCE, this would not have been possible... Still only a city-state, Rome did not control the entire Italian peninsula until 264 BCE. Had Jesus appeared at this point in history, his life and message (as he lived and traveled in what is now called Israel) would have been confined to the obscure language and government of the Jewish region. But the growth of the Roman Empire would soon change that.... The size of the Roman Empire allowed Jesus's teaching to spread within its expansive borders, but it was also the power of the empire that allowed the message of Jesus to be heard.... Under Augustus, a time of Roman peace began, known as the "Pax Romana."⁸ It lasted from 27 BCE to 180 CE and allowed Jews living in cities like Jerusalem to retain their culture and customs (so long as residents paid a tax known as the "Fiscus Judaicus" and obeyed the Roman laws).... Had Jesus arrived at this point in history, his followers would still have faced the limits of transportation within nations in less-than-perfect road conditions. But as before, the Roman Empire provided a solution. As the Roman Empire grew militarily, so did its need for roads. As a result, Roman roads were widespread and usually well paved. Wherever they conquered, the Romans built long, relatively straight roads to make the movement of military equipment easier.... If Jesus had appeared during the

period of history in which these empires reigned (from 2000 BCE to 30 BCE), none of these systems would have benefitted him (or his followers) beyond the limited regions each nation occupied. Once again, Rome would provide a more sophisticated solution. Augustus created a service called *cursus publicus* from 30 to 25 BCE. At the time of its creation, it was the most advanced system on the planet. It did more than deliver messages; it also transported officials and tax revenues from distant provinces to Rome. The network relied heavily on Rome's superior transportation system (nearly 47,000 miles of new roads were built by Augustus and his successors) and the security and strength the Roman Empire offered. Using the Persian system of "relays," the Romans built forts and stations on their exceptional roads, each positioned about one day's ride apart. The *cursus publicus* was fast and reliable, especially compared with its predecessors.¹² More importantly, the system was built to circulate information across the geographically expansive Roman Empire, with the ability to reach beyond its borders. By the time Jesus appeared on the scene, the Roman Empire was ready to transmit his message. But more importantly, their attitude toward religion would allow the teaching of Jesus to take root.... In any case, a thirty-year window of opportunity opened to spread the message of Jesus (prior to Emperor Nero's maltreatment of Christians in 64 CE).¹⁴ And even though some Roman emperors in the years ahead would persecute Christians, others returned to a version of Roman tolerance, allowing Christianity to flourish in every region under Rome's control. Jesus arrived at this point in human history, when the Roman Empire embraced a version of religious tolerance unique to the history of the ancient world, providing a small window of opportunity. This window allowed Jesus to preach a message his followers could communicate to the world. (J. Warner Wallace, *Person of Interest: Why Jesus Still Matters in a World that Rejects the Bible*, 10-22 (Kindle Edition): Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Reflective)

Wallace summarizes:

Any careful investigator of ancient history could also see something was about to happen in what we now call the first century. A cultural fuse was burning, preparing antiquity for whatever would eventually initiate the Common Era. The Roman Empire had unified much of the known world, adopted a popular language, provided a shared alphabet, established peace, constructed roads, developed the world's best postal service, and embraced just enough religious tolerance to detonate an explosion. Even before the arrival of Jesus of Nazareth, it ought to have been apparent to any careful student of history that events within the Roman Empire were aligning for someone special to arrive and for something special to happen. (J. Warner Wallace, *Person of Interest: Why Jesus Still Matters in a World*

that Rejects the Bible, 22 (Kindle Edition): Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Reflective).

Can you see the wisdom of God in sending Jesus into the world when He did?

Can you see God's providence at work in your life?

Like the Galatians, we need to submit to God's plan of redemption:

Galatians 3:26-29-For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Announcements

- Brother Bill continues to recuperate after his surgery. Please remember him and sister Mary Ruth and their family in your prayers.
- Brother David and sister Ivy thank everyone who had helped them recently with food. They are very grateful!
- Please make plans to join us for our Church Picnic on June 6 from 12-5 at Laurel Dam Picnic Area. Located on KY 1193 outside of London.
- Regularly Scheduled Events; Sunday Bible Class All Ages (Every Sunday @ 10:00); Sunday Worship (Every Sunday @ 11:00 AM And 5:00 PM); Wednesday Evening Bible Class All Ages (Every Wednesday @ 5:00); Keavy Ladies And Supportive Saints (K.L.A.S.S. Every First Sunday Of The Month After Evening Service); Keavy Support Group And Youth Group Meeting (Every Tuesday @ 6:00); Adult Night (Every Second And Fourth Friday @ 6:00); Keavy Fellowship Meal (Every Last Sunday of The Month After Morning Service)
- Our Monthly Potluck Meal is scheduled for Sunday, May 31, after morning service. There is a signup sheet in the foyer. Whether you can bring food or not, please make plans to stay and join us if you are able.

Bible Class And Sermon Notes

A Mother Named Naomi

(More Bible Studies Available @ marktabata.com)

“A PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Whereas, By a Joint Resolution approved May 8, 1914, " designating the second Sunday in May as Mothers' Day, and for other purposes," ...Now, Therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the said Joint Resolution, do hereby direct the government officials to display the United States flag on all government buildings and do invite the people of the United States to display the flag at their homes or other suitable places on the second Sunday in May as a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country.”

Godly Mothers Show Us That People Aren't Perfect

Ruth 1:1-2-Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. **2** The name of the man *was* Elimelech, the name of his wife *was* Naomi, and the names of his two sons *were* Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

Ruth 1:20-21-But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. **21** I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

Godly Mothers Show Us That Sometimes Family Is More Than Blood

Ruth 1:11-But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? *Are* there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?"

Ruth 1:16-17-But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, *Or to* turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people *shall be* my people, And your God, my God. **17** Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If *anything but* death parts you and me."

Godly Mothers Need To Be Honored And Provided For

Ruth 2:11-12-And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and *how* you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. **12** The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

Ruth 2:18 (ERV)-Ruth carried the grain into town to show her mother-in-law what she had gathered. She also gave her the food that was left from lunch.

Godly Mothers Show Us That Our Saved Loved Ones Are In God's Safekeeping

Ruth 2:20-Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed *be* he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man *is* a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

Ruth 2:20 (CEV)-The LORD bless Boaz!" Naomi replied. "He has shown that he is still loyal to the living and to the dead. Boaz is a close relative, one of those who is supposed to look after us."

Ruth 2:20 (ERV)-Naomi told her daughter-in-law, "The LORD bless him! He has continued showing his kindness to the living as well as the dead." Then Naomi told her daughter-in-law, "Boaz is one of our relatives. He is one of our protectors."

Godly Mothers Show Us That God Works All Things Together For Good For His People

Ruth 4:14-17-Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed *be* the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! **15** And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." **16** Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. **17** Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children. (William Thackeray)

A mother is one to whom you hurry when you are troubled. (Emily Dickinson)

*The heart of a mother is a deep abyss
at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness. (Honoré de Balzac)*

God could not be everywhere, so he created mothers. (Jewish Proverb)

*A mother is not a person to lean on,
but a person to make leaning unnecessary. (Dorothy Canfield Fisher)*

Tribute To Mothers

*A mother like ours is more than a memory.
She is a living presence.*



THE PATH OF LIFE

The young mother set her foot in the path of life. "Is the way long?" she asked. And her guide said, "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning." But the young mother was happy and she would not believe that anything could be better than those years. So, she played with her children, she gathered flowers for them in the way, and bathed them in clear streams; and the sun shone on them and life was good, and the young mother said, "Nothing will be lovelier than this."



THE STORMY NIGHT

The night came, and the storm; the path was dark, and the children shook with fear and cold; and Mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said, "Oh, Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near and no harm can come." The mother said, "This is better than the brightness of the day, for I have taught them courage."



THE HILL OF HARDNESS

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary, but at times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there." So the children climbed and when they reached the top, they said, "We could not have done it without you, Mother," and the mother, when she lay down that night said, "This is better than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage—today I gave them strength."



THE CLOUDS AND THE LIGHT

And the next day came strange clouds—clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children groped and stumbled; and the mother said, "Look up. Lift up your eyes to the light." And the children looked and saw above the clouds an Everlasting glory, and it guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. "This is the best of all," she said, "for I have shown my children—God."



THE JOURNEY'S END

And the days went on, and the years— and Mother grew old and bent. But her children were strong and walked with courage. And when the way was hard, they helped their mother; and when she was very rough, they lifted her, for she was light as a feather. At last they came to a hill beyond which they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide. The mother said, "I have reached the end of the journey and I know the first, for my children will walk alone. The children said, "You will walk with us." And they watched her go alone and the gates closed after her. It was said, "We cannot see her, but she is still with us. A mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence."



*Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her.*

PROVERBS 31:28 (NIV)

Author: Anonymous

Profound Truths From The Book Of Genesis # 1: Scientific Truths

(More Bible Studies Available @ marktabata.com)

God Exists And Made The Universe

Genesis 1:1-In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The biggest problem with this view is that it violates the First Law of Thermodynamics, sometimes known as the law of conservation of mass and energy. This fundamental law, which Isaac Asimov called ‘the most powerful and most fundamental generalization about the universe that scientists have ever been able to make’,²⁴ states that matter and energy can neither be self-created nor destroyed...The First Law of Thermodynamics clearly supports the idea that an expanding universe must have had a beginning but could not have created itself. The Second Law of Thermodynamics, which states that any isolated physical system becomes less ordered and more random over time, provides another piece for the cosmic jigsaw. Applied very simply and generally, it means that our entire universe is running down. As the rotation of the planets and their moons slows down, and as stars (and whole galaxies) burn themselves out, the matter in our universe is becoming more and more disorganized as its energy is dissipated. The logical consequence of this is that the universe cannot be eternal. If it were, the stars would have ceased to shine long ago and all the energy in our universe would have long since been evenly spread throughout space. At the same time, this suggests that if the universe is becoming less ordered, it must have been more ordered in the past, and have had a highly ordered beginning. (John Blanchard, *Does God Believe In Atheists?* 5601-5620 (Kindle Edition); Carlisle, PA; EP Books USA)

Humans And Dinosaurs

Genesis 1:25-And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

For those who may chalk this up as just some anomaly that should cast no doubt upon the multi-million-year evolutionary timetable, consider what MSNBC science editor Alan Boyle reported two years later: “Today, paleontologists are still stunned

—not only to find material that looks like dinosaur cartilage, blood vessels, blood cells and bone cells, but to see the stuff in so many different specimens” (emp. added). Paleontologist Kristi Rogers of Macalester College said: “It’s not just a fluke occurrence. (Eric Lyons & Kyle Butt, *The Dinosaur Delusion: Dismantling Evolution's Most Cherished Icon*, 183 (Kindle Edition): Montgomery, AL: Apologetics Press)

The Flood

Genesis 7:19-And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered.

19. The top 3,000 feet of Mount Everest (26,000-29,000 feet) is made up of sedimentary rock packed with seashells and other ocean-dwelling animals. 20. Sedimentary rock is found all over the world. Sedimentary rock is formed in water. 21. Petrified clams in the closed position (found all over the world) testify to their rapid burial while they were still alive, even on top of Mount Everest. 22. Bent rock layers, fossil graveyards, and polystrata fossils are best explained by a Flood. (Ray Comfort, *The Evidence Bible*, 36374-36379 (Kindle Edition); Alachua, Florida; Bridge-Logos)

The Ark

Genesis 7:20-The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered.

Most ship-builders will tell you that the draft of a boat that can withstand the pounding waves of the ocean is $\frac{1}{2}$ its height. In other words, that boat has to be able to settle into the water roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ its own height to keep from capsizing. What about the ark? Was it built for speed? No. It didn’t have anywhere to go. But it did need to be able to withstand the pounding waves. So again, the draft would have been $\frac{1}{2}$ its height. In Genesis 6:15 we learn Noah was to make it 30 cubits high—which means it would have settled into the water roughly 15 cubits. That means it would have required 15 cubits of water clearance. Now look at Genesis 7: 18-20... God knew precisely how much water He needed to place on the tops of the mountains to keep the bottom of the ark from crashing into them. (Brad Harrub, Ph. D., *Convicted: A Scientist Examines The Evidence For Christianity*, 4271-4283 (Kindle Edition); Brentwood, TN; Focus Press)