

# The Keavy Encourager

## WELCOME TO THE KEAVY CHURCH OF CHRIST!

*(June 13 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](http://www.keavychurchofchrist.com), and our email address is [keavychurchofchrist@outlook.com](mailto: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!

### **June 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, Amanda Clark, 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, Krista Cox, Linda Cowden, Wayne Hamblem, Lillie Bennett, Gary Fleming, Tristen Meadors (New Christian), Kathryn Burns Family (Lost Loved Ones), Gabriel McVeigh, Cody Riley, Ashley Wilson, Dianne Joop, Jim And Donna Abell, Frankie Sheeran

Mark Tabata's Weekday Devotionals:

Wednesday June 10 2026

Learning From The First Word Of The Bible

John 5:39-You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

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

There are depths to the Bible which far surpass my limited understanding. One example of this is seen in the complexities of the Hebrew language, in which the Old Testament was composed. Years ago, I learned that the Hebrew language is so detailed and mysterious that rabbis have spent centuries studying it and commenting on its' amazing nature.

There are an estimated 3,000 languages (not counting dialects) and more than 66,000 letters which make up the alphabets for these languages. Only one language and one alphabet is Divinely created, the letters having been formed and shaped by G-d alone. That language is Lashon HaKodesh, biblical Hebrew. It is no wonder, then, that the Hebrew letters are multifaceted. The letters of the Hebrew alphabet, the alef-beis, are so rich with meaning that even Judaism's greatest scholars had to engage in lengthy study to understand why G-d made them as He did. Traditionally, Hebrew letters possess: 1) Design—the specific way each letter is formed. This form represents the Divine energy within each letter. 2) Gematria—each of the letters of the alef-beis represents a certain number, e.g., alef = 1, beis = 2, etc. 3) Meaning—each letter has many meanings, e.g., the letter alef stands for chief, to learn, wondrous, and much more. Beis means house, etc. 4) Nekudos (vowels)—most letters have a vowel that tells us how it is to be pronounced. 5) Crowns—some letters in the Torah have crowns—little lines drawn on the top of Hebrew letters—which add strength to the letters, e.g. . Rabbi Akiva was famous for his expositions upon them. The crowns have their own special meanings beyond the scope of this work. 6) Cantillation—each word in the Torah has a musical note. In this book we will deal with the first four topics. The rest we will leave for another time and another book. (Rabbi Aaron L. Raskin, Letters of Light, 6 (Kindle Edition): Brooklyn, N.Y.: Sichos In English)

This astonishing intricacy is demonstrated by means of the very first word of the Bible. That word is "*bereshit*," and it is translated into English as "*in the beginning*." Bob Mitchell, as he investigated the prophecies of the Bible, was amazed by what he learned from this word.

I began my search in the very first word of the Old Testament "Bereshit" meaning "In the beginning." What would happen if I took the ancient pictographs and substituted them for the Hebrew letters in Bereshit? Would there be a message

hidden beneath the surface text? I was not disappointed.... In the pictograph of Bereshit, the first word of Genesis 1, we read from right to left: בֵּית Resh meaning the highest, אֵלֶף Aleph which can mean God or sacrifice, שִׁין Shin meaning to be destroyed or to destroy, יָד Yod meaning hand or one's own hand, תַּב Tav meaning a cross. (See fig 4) The stunning message we receive from Genesis 1 in ancient Hebrew Pictographs and Bereshit the very first Hebrew word in the bible is: The house / temple of the highest sacrifice (or God) will be destroyed by his own hand on a cross. (Bob Mitchell, The Messiah Code: The Code Hidden In The Hebrew Old Testament Revealing The Identity And Mission Of Israel's Messiah, 84-96 (Kindle Edition): CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform)

Another scholarly work provides even more intrigue on the matter.

Would it surprise you that a wealth of information is embedded into the first words of the Hebrew Scripture just waiting to be discovered? Let's begin our search....The first two letters of the word 'beginning' are beyt and reysh. The pictographs for beyt is the picture of a tent or a house. The pictographs for reysh is the picture of the head or highest person. It may help you to understand that abba (father) is written with two Hebrew letters-the aleph and the beyt. Abba is the pictographs of the strong leader (aleph) of the tent or house (beyt). So it follows that the strong leader of the house is the father. The highest person or head that comes out of the house or tent is the son. The word for "the son" translated 'bar' is beyt reysh....Aleph, the third letter in the word 'in beginning, is pictured as an ox. We just learned how this letter is used to construct the word 'Abba.' We now understand that aleph means the strong leader...Aleph also means one. It has the meaning of indivisible and unique. Finally aleph, as it is used in Hebrew words, is often the letter that represents God. Sheen is the picture of teeth. Sheen has the meaning of: sharp, to press against, to devour, to destroy. Yood is the picture of an arm and hand. Yood has the meaning of accomplishing a deed with a hand. The picture is of a bare arm flexing to do a work or task. Tav is the picture of crossed sticks or a cross. Tav has the meaning of: a sign or mark, monument, covenant. So lets see what pictographic message is embedded in the Hebrew word 'in beginning.'...'The Son Of God Pressed By His Own Hand To A Cross.'...Let this revelation soak into your soul that the Lord God, our Savior Yeshua Ha-Mashiach, revealed His redemptive purpose in the very first words of Holy Writ. Can there be any doubt that the Messiah, Yeshua Ha-Mashiach, is hidden in plain sight inside the letters of the Hebrew aleph-beyt? (C.J. Lovik, The Living Word: Volume One-Genesis 1:1 The Mystery Of The Aleph & Tav, 23-28; Rock Island Books)

Put this together with me friends. The meaning behind the first word of the entire Bible may be translated in these ways.

*“The house / temple of the highest sacrifice (or God) will be destroyed by his own hand on a cross.”*

*“The Son Of God Pressed By His Own Hand To A Cross.”*

Truly, Jesus Christ is the Focus of God’s holy Word.

### Announcements

- Brother Gary Fleming continues to have many health issues and problems. Please remember him when you pray!
- Sister Sandra Frazier and brother Roger are needing help with meals. There is a signup sheet in the entryway for anyone who can help.
- Thanks to everyone who helped plan and in any way supported our recent church picnic!
- There is a signup sheet for our church dinner Sunday June 28 after morning services.
- Mark Your Calendar! Our Vacation Bible School will be July 19-22. 6-8 PM every night. The theme will be, “Superheroes Of The Bible.” There will be classes for all ages (including adults). If you are willing to teach there will be a signup sheet in the entryway. There is also a signup sheet for help with food every night and volunteers for decorating the building and other activities.
- 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); Keavy Fellowship Meal (Every Last Sunday of The Month After Morning Service)

### Bible Class And Sermon Notes

A.M. Sermon: They Ran Part One

P:m. Sermon: They Ran Part Two

# They Ran

(More Bible Studies Available @ [marktabata.com](http://marktabata.com))

## Abraham

*Genesis 18:2-So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground...*

### Run To Show Kindness

*Hebrews 13:1-2-Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.*

*1 Peter 4:8-10-And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "LOVE WILL COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS." 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

## Esau

*Genesis 33:4-But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.*

### Run To Restore Relationships That Need Restored

*Matthew 5:23-24-Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

*Romans 12:18-If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

## David

*1 Samuel 17:48-So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.*

### Run To Fight The Good Fight Of Faith

*Matthew 16:13, 18-When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? ...And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

The theological messaging couldn't be more dramatic. Jesus says the "gates of hell" will not prevail against the church. We often think of this phrase as though God's people are in a posture of having to bravely fend off Satan and his demons. This simply isn't correct.

Gates are defensive structures, not offensive weapons. The kingdom of God is the aggressor. Jesus goes to ground zero in biblical demonic geography to announce that Bashan will be defeated. It is the gates of hell that are under assault—and they will not hold up against the church. Hell has no claim on those who align themselves with Jesus. He will reverse the curse of death and His own will rise on account of Him. (Michael S. Heiser, *Reversing Hermon: Enoch, the Watchers, and the Forgotten Mission of Jesus Christ*, 95-96 (Kindle Edition): Crane, MO: Defender Publishing)

*2 Timothy 1:7-For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

*2 Timothy 4:6-8-For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. [7](#) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8](#) Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

### **The Father**

*Luke 15:20-And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.*

### **Run To The Penitent**

*Deuteronomy 21:18-21-If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and *who*, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, [19](#) then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. [20](#) And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' [21](#) Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.*

## Jonah

*Jonah 1:3 (GW)-Jonah immediately tried to run away from the LORD by going to Tarshish. He went to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid for the trip and went on board. He wanted to go to Tarshish to get away from the LORD.*

### Run To Where God's Word Leads

## Samaritan Woman

*John 4:28-29 (CEV)-The woman left her water jar and ran back into town. She said to the people, **29** "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! Could he be the Messiah?"*

### Run To Tell Others About Jesus

## Mary, Peter, And John

*John 20:1-8-Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. **2** Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." **3** Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. **4** So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. **5** And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, **7** and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.*

### Run To Jesus The Source Of Our Faith

That was also the assessment of Sir Lionel Luckhoo, the brilliant and savvy attorney whose astounding 245 consecutive murder acquittals earned him a place in The Guinness Book of World Records as the world's most successful lawyer. 4 Knighted twice by Queen Elizabeth, this former justice and diplomat subjected the historical facts about the resurrection to his own rigorous analysis for several years before declaring, "I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt." 5. (Lee

Strobel, Case for Christ Movie Edition: Solving the Biggest Mystery of All Time, 276-277 (Kindle Edition): Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan)

Frank Morison, a lawyer, is surely one of the best examples of a scholar who became convinced against his earlier convictions after studying the evidence for the resurrection.

As a young man, Morison began a serious study of the life of Jesus, being much influenced by the works of German liberal scholarship. He did not accept the miracles in Jesus' life and was determined to remove what he felt were mythical outgrowths. Ten years after his first studies he received the opportunity to study the life of Jesus in depth.

An examination of the last week of Jesus' life in particular brought him to a study of the resurrection. However, in endeavoring to write a book exposing these myths which he thought he would find, he was compelled by the factual evidence to write quite a different

book in favor of the resurrection. This work, entitled *Who Moved the Stone?*, became a defense of the resurrection against the theological views formerly held by Morison himself.

He explains that it was because of his investigation of the facts that he reversed his former views and that caused him to realize not only that the resurrection occurred, but that it could be demonstrated. 24

The late Simon Greenleaf, past Harvard professor of law and one of the greatest legal minds that America has ever produced, was a religious skeptic. Challenged by his students to apply the techniques of his legal masterpiece *A*

*Treatise on the Law of Evidence* to the resurrection of Jesus, Greenleaf became a believer. He later wrote a book, the long title of which is *An Examination of the*

*Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice*. 25 In this work he defends the resurrection and explains how, when judged by the laws of legal evidence, this event can be demonstrated to have actually occurred. 26

Another scholar who was convinced by an examination of the evidence is medical doctor Viggo Olsen. He described himself as an agnostic who did not believe in the Supernatural elements of Christianity. But more than this, he constantly questioned the Christian faith and attempted to disprove it. Through the process of trying to expose these beliefs, he studied the resurrection and other evidences. Later he became convinced that God did

exist and that there was more than a sufficient amount of demonstration for the resurrection. He realized that this event actually occurred and that as such it was the center of the Christian faith. It is noteworthy that Simon Greenleaf's book on the Christian evidences was a key influence on Olsen. 27

Other scholars who have looked impartially at the facts have often likewise concluded that the evidence for the resurrection establishes it as a historical event. For instance, such was the conclusion of lawyer Sir Edward Clarke, KC, who also investigated the resurrection in terms of the evidential aspect. He remarked that this factual support was conclusive, as he had often secured a positive verdict in courts of law with less evidence. 28

McDowell lists numerous other instances where other scholars came to similar conclusions after an impartial examination of the facts. 29. (Gary Habermas, *Risen Indeed: A Historical*

Investigation Into the Resurrection of Jesus, 264-265 (Kindle Edition): Bellingham, WA:  
Lexham Press)

**Conclusion:**

1. Run To Show Kindness
2. Run To Restore Relationships That Need To Be Restored
3. Run To Fight The Good Fight Of Faith
4. Run To The Penitent
5. Run To Where God's Word Leads
6. Run To Tell Others About Jesus
7. Run To The Jesus The Source Of Our Faith

*Acts 22:16-And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'*

*Revelation 3:20-Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*