



THE MESSENGER

JULY 12, 2020

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
TBD

Weekly Bible Studies
All temporarily being conducted via Zoom. Check our “friends” page on Facebook for more information.

Times of Service
Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month
Singing
7:30 PM

Address and Contact

University Heights Church of Christ
445 Columbia Ave., Lexington,
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(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

LESSONS FROM A DIFFICULT PASSAGE (1)

Did you know that Exodus 34:6-7 is the most referenced passage in the Hebrew Scriptures? It's not surprising when we consider that it describes beautiful aspects of God's character. In fact, it sounds wonderful until we come to the end of verse 7 and a declaration that seems harsh, even unjust. Let's read the passage before going on.

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and fourth generation."

There is a lot to unpack in these two verses. There are vital truths taught here about God, His love, His mercy, His justice, human activity and responsibility, and more. This is a task requiring more than a single bulletin article. Lord willing, over the next few weeks, we will set ourselves to the task and strive to become better acquainted with one of the most important passages in all of scripture.

We must begin with the larger context. Having escaped from Egypt with God's help, Israel arrived in the wilderness of Sinai in Exodus 19:1. Moses is before God on the mountain. Pause to read 19:3-6. This is very much like a marriage contract. In fact, God used that language to describe His relationship with Israel from time to time. (Hosea makes this point very strongly)

While God is entering this covenant with Israel, *as He is speaking the very words*, Israel chooses to practice infidelity. (Exodus 32) Well within His right to dissolve the covenant on

Members Needing Our Prayers

John Thompson, The Powell family, Mary Weatherholt, Bennie Poynter, Jill Harrison, Joyce Bolton, Karen Spivey, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Whitney Crouch

Others Needing Prayers

Jason Shepherd, Chassey Seabolt, Terry Daniels, Rachel White, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, Valerie and Barry Boyd, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Cindi's niece, Dana, and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Mark (Carol's son), Victoria Poynter, Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

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the spot, God chooses rather to complete it and take them as His treasured possession. Exodus 34:6-7 is in the context of God completing the covenant.

Let us conclude this article by painting a more modern picture to help us understand what we've just discussed. Suppose a man and woman are in the midst of their marriage ceremony. The groom is in the process of speaking his vows when the bride casts a wandering eye over the guests, notes a man she likes the look of, and walks over to have sex with him in front of everyone, including the groom. It is nearly impossible to imagine the union between bride and groom happening after her unconscionable act of infidelity. And yet, the justifiably grieved and angry groom takes her by the hand and completes his vows, thus securing the covenant. Who would ever forget that ceremony!?

This is *precisely* what happened in Exodus 19-34. *Don't forget this*, for it is essential to grasping the significance of the two verses under discussion. Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

