

Periodical  
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<b>CENTRAL'S ASSEMBLIES</b>			
<b>BRING A FRIEND AND ATTEND</b>			
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	9:30 A.M.	
<b>WORSHIP</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	10:30 A.M.	
<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>		5:00P.M.	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>		6:00 P.M.
ALL AVAILABLE ONLINE			

**IN SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

"These were more noble... they searched the scriptures daily..."

**SEARCH PROGRAMS:**  
December 05, "Thy Will Be Done"  
December 12, "God Has Spoken"  
December 19, "The Greatest Gift"  
December 26, "The Second Coming"

### Reading the Bible in a Year Together

December 27, 2021  
1 John 4-5, 2 John

December 28, 2021  
3 John, Jude, Rev 1-2

December 29, 2021  
Revelations 3-5

December 30, 2021  
Revelations 6-8

December 31, 2021  
Revelations 9-12

January 01, 2022  
Revelations 13-15

January 02, 2022  
Revelations 16-18

January 03, 2022  
Revelations 19-22  
Genesis 1-3



You Can Find Our Worship Service On:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/centralchurchofchristshawneeok/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq8ft4soarDDSYok8ol9xpw?>



**Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.**

**Sunday Evening 5:00 P.M.**

<http://www.shawneecentralcofc.org/media.php/t=sermons>

Videos will be uploaded later in the day.

If you would like to mail your offering, mail it to:

**Central Church of Christ**

**P.O. Box 1228**

**Shawnee, OK 74802**

If you would like for someone to bring you



December 26, 2021 Vol. L 25, No. 50

# THE GOSPEL GUIDE

#### ELDERS:

Paul Harris

Steve Kelly

Bob Stephens

#### DEACONS:

Dale Beard

Joe Curtis

Tracy Gettle

Keith Lawrence

Dalton Path

Scott Perry

Ron Taffe

#### Minister:

Logan Edmison

#### Secretary:

Lois Carter

#### MISSIONS:

Haiti Children's Home

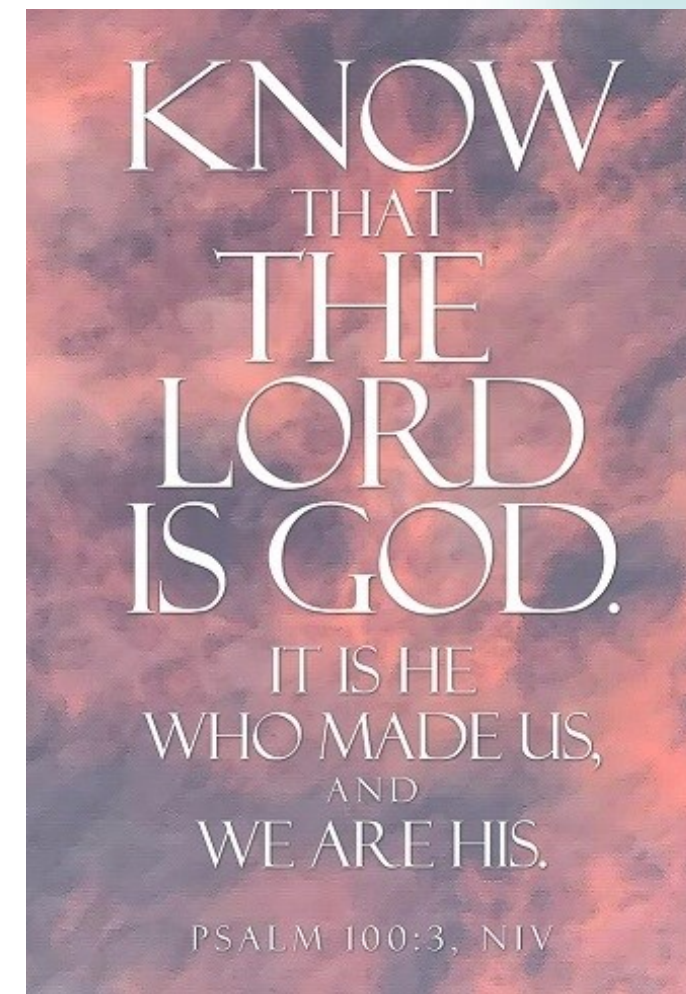
Hope Harbor Children's Home

Lilyfield Christian & Adoption

Nicaragua

In Search of the Lord's Way

Southern Africa Bible College



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## The Greatest Story Ever Told

### Acts 7

The story of Israel is the greatest story ever told because Israel is the story of Jesus. Stephen preaches this sermon in Acts 7, and it is arguably one of the greatest sermons in the entire Bible. Everyone in his audience was a student of the Hebrew scriptures but Stephen was about to educate them on how to read them responsibly. We all need a crash course in reading the Hebrew scriptures.

#### God Sends Abraham

The covenant of circumcision is critical to the story because Stephen is about to accuse them of being uncircumcised. Israel would go into bondage, but God would judge the captors and deliver the captives. We need to remember that God has sent Jesus to deliver us and if we are spiritually descended from Abraham, we will not resist this deliverance. This is the reason that God sent Abraham.

#### God Sends Joseph

Joseph is rejected by his brothers even though his vision was from God. They sell him into captivity, but God delivers him. He does not deliver him by bringing him out of Egypt, but by being with Him. God's presence is the reason Joseph is blessed, and why the Israelites will be blessed. Stephen's audience are not only rejecting Jesus, whom God sent to deliver them, but also, they are rejecting His presence, from which God's blessings are possible.

#### God Sends Moses

Initially, Moses is rejected because Moses "supposed that his brethren would" understand "that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand" (7:25). Likewise, Stephen's audience did not understand that God would deliver them by Jesus. We are beginning to see a pattern of Israel rejecting those whom God has sent. "This Moses whom they rejected... is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer..." (7:35). Hopefully it is clear what Stephen is doing here. Jesus whom they rejected is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer.

#### God Sends His Angel

On Mt. Sinai, the Angel spoke to Moses giving to him the living oracles. Surely the people would not reject the word of the Lord this time. But sure enough, they "would not obey, but rejected" (6:39). Not only did they turn back to Egypt, their captors, but they made for themselves their own gods. Everything that God had given them that they might be holy and dwell with God, they rejected and resisted. Until eventually, they worshiped the host of heaven.

#### God Sends His Spirit

The tabernacle was the dwelling place of God. God's presence was with the people even until Solomon built a house, or a dwelling place. However, God's dwelling place does not dwell in locations made by human hands. When Israel is disobedient to the law given to them at Sinai, they are rejecting God's spiritual presence.

#### Stephen's Conclusion

Israel was stubborn at every point since their birth. They were stubborn towards Joseph, Moses, the Angel at Sinai, and the Spirit of God in the temple. They continually resisted the Spirit of God. The presence of God blessed Joseph, blessed Israel through Joseph, and blessed Israel through Moses, but they continually pushed God away. As a matter of fact, Stephen asks them, "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute?" (7:52). Stephen's point is that they are still stubborn, and they are still resisting God's presence, blessing, and deliverance. God sent the Holy One, and they rejected Him, just as Israel has done from the beginning. Stephen explains that this is betrayal, murder, and is completely irresponsible for people in charge of the Law.

This is how to read the Hebrew scriptures. Stephen has covered every phase of Israel's history showing how Jesus is the long awaited Holy One to deliver the world and bless all nations. This would be the message to the Jews and Gentiles for the rest of the book of Acts, and the gospel for all time; the greatest story ever told.

-- Logan Edmison



We currently have no Central members in the hospital.

### Has it already been a year?

A New Year is about to begin and bring 2021 to a close. In the year of 2021 we have lost loved ones, welcomed new life, and wished dear friends off as they moved away. We have also welcomed not only new members to the church but new brothers and sisters into Christ. We started January 4, 2021 to read the Bible together in a year. We will start the year 2022 doing the same thing. We look forward to growing together and studying the Bible with our church family.

If you would like a copy of the reading schedule let Lois know and she will get you a copy.

Happy New Year!

Virginia Herrera has a new phone number.

1-405-617-9762

If you have an update for the directory please let Lois know .

### TIPTON HOME

Our Tipton Home collection for the month of **December** is **Lysol Wipes** Please place these items in the barrel in the foyer. Thank you



## RECORD FOR December 19, 2021

<b>Bible Study</b>	55
<b>Worship Service</b>	89
<b>Sunday Evening</b>	25
<b>Wednesday Evening</b>	25
<b>Contribution</b>	\$ 3,226.21

## SERVING THE CONGREGATION December 26, 2021

<b>Announcements:</b>	Dennis Brodersen
<b>Scripture Reader:</b>	Tom Chesnut
<b>Song Director:</b>	The Beard's
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Paul Harris
<b>Sermon:</b>	Logan Edmison
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Eddie Beard
<b>Lord's Supper:</b>	Dale Beard
<b>Elevator Side:</b>	<b>Annex Side:</b>
Tracy Gettle	Steve Kelly
Henry Arthur	Brian Nipper
<b>Projection:</b>	<b>Video/Audio:</b>
Dalton Path	Bob Stephens

### CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS

Don Mack	Chad Beard
Carla Dame	Carl Weeks
Boyd Cheney	Lola Mullinax
John Rampey	John Sullivan
Winona Seikel	Frank Romberg
Debra Campbell	Diane Lawrence
Fredith Hanifan	Selene Williams
Sandon Hilditch	Dorothy Strickland
Thearlene Morris	Gary Knoles

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Wednesday Bible Study at 6:00 pm**  
**Jan 2—The Annual Praise Him Service**