

From Chris' Heart

You may have noticed last month that my article was missing a paragraph or two. We had a little printing glitch. In the missing paragraphs I wrote about the way I had been teasing Nick lately about spending so much time in his study working on "whatever." I am always telling him he needs to get out more.

However, lately, between his Friday lunch group, consisting of two precious friends who love to discuss all kinds of theological subjects, and

the inspiring sermons on the Lord's Prayer by our son-in-law, Nick felt motivated to do an in-depth study on prayer. Nick was compelled to find an answer to the age old question "Why should we pray?" If God is sovereign, which He is, and if God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, which He is, then why does He not just do as He pleases, why does He need us to pray?

Nick went to work. For several days I saw very little of him. Then, the other night, I heard him yell from the study, "Oh no!" As I got to him I

could tell he was in a panic. He had lost at least eight hours of work, which he believed was true revelation knowledge from God. I was just sick for him, but there was nothing I could do to help. The computer had swallowed it. After a day searching for it and even help from a computer technician who actually came to our house, he had to accept the fact that it was truly gone.

When he talked about it later with friends, I could hear the discouragement in his voice. He questioned whether he could ever get

it back on paper again, but before long we began to recognize really what had really taken place and who was responsible. We know whatever God gives to us in revelation, Satan cannot steal. When it is finally rewritten, I know it will be exactly what God wants written and it will hold more truth and life than even Nick could imagine. "Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world."



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THE ROAR

THE VOICE OF THE LION OF JUDAH...
THE ROAR OF RELATIONAL GRACE

July 1, 2006 - Volume 29

Ariel Chapel to Hold July Meeting

By Nick Harris

On July 9, the Ariel Chapel will gather again, in preparation for our kick-off event in Norman on August 13. The meeting will once again be held at the home of Brian and Ann Bishop at 4:00 P.M. Brian and Ann live at 1030 J. Keeley Dr, one block west of Lindsey and Pickard. You are cordially invited to attend.

At our initial meeting we found that God has brought together all the gifts required to get our chapel service going. It was amazing to look at the way the spiritual gifts of those present complimented one another, from teachers to givers---from empathizers to exhorters.

The key to any successful endeavor is a covering of prayer support, and we have had so many people call to tell us that they are praying for us. It is so very uplifting and encouraging.

Another great thing about the initial meeting was the way those present caught our vision for taking the gospel to the world. They believe in the mission, and believe that we can make a difference, as we train students to go out and minister in the name of the Lord.

We were unaware when we planned the initial meeting that we were gathering on Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the church. Later, when this dawned on us we were thrilled. It was another sign from God. I could not help but think of those hundred and twenty people gathered in the upper story of the Porches of Solomon in Jerusalem. The book of Acts describes our meeting entirely. It says that the people were gathered in "One accord in one place." That was our attitude that Sunday afternoon, and will continue to be our attitude. Ariel Chapel will be, "A place of Grace."

This week Brian has been busy securing a place for the chapel services to be held. At the time the Roar is being printed we are looking at a theater in Norman as our temporary place of residence, until property can be purchased. We will give you the final details in the August Roar. Meanwhile, please lend us your prayer support.

Holy Ground Stations and Times:

All programs air at 11:15 AM and 3:00 AM

KMSI---88.1 FM, OKC, Ok
KNYD---90.5 FM, Tulsa, Ok
KOZO---89.7 FM, Branson, Mo
WOKN---88.7 FM, Canton, Ok
WYCF---91.5 FM, Hampton, Va
KCNW---1380 AM, KC, Mo
Air Time - 9:45 A.M.

WLMR---1450 AM, East Tn.
Air Time - 7:00 A.M.



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Our mission statement:

"Transforming lives through the good news of relational grace."

Establishing a Lasting Peace

By Nick Harris

In Genesis 21, there is a fascinating series of events revolving around the theft of a well that had been dug by Father Abraham in the Negev desert, on the edge of territories controlled by the Philistines. The Philistine king was a man whose name was Abimelech, and he was a covenant friend of Abraham.

Even though the well had been taken over by the Philistines, King Abimelech, himself, had known nothing about the theft. In a demonstration of truly Godly wisdom, Abimelech and Abraham chose to pursue peace, rather than war.

What the two of them did could be used today as a model for resolving conflict. The two of them adopted the “Golden Rule” as their standard of operation. He treated Abraham as he expected to be treated, and Abraham did likewise.

After a series of cordial negotiations, Abimelech returned the well to Father Abraham, and the Hebrew patriarch presented Abimelech with the gift of oxen and sheep, and the two men struck a second covenant between themselves. This appears to have been a mutual commitment to a nonaggression pact, and a pledge of support in the event of an outside attack on either of their peoples.

This demonstrates to me that peace can come in any conflict, whether it be international, tribal, or familial when the grieved parties choose to engage in honest give-and-take, laying down their “rights” for the good of everyone involved.

If nations or even individuals would imitate the actions of Abraham and Abimelech, war would become obsolete. Whenever a grievance arises, two parties should first discuss the grievance openly, just as Abraham and Abimelech did.

Then, the one who initiated the grievance should remove it. Of course, Abimelech did not steal Abraham’s well, but his people did, making him culpable, so Abimelech chose to do the right thing, and return the well.

However, the reason this treaty worked, the reason peace resulted was the final step. It seems like a strange thing to have happened in a litigious society like ours. When someone aggrieves us, we expect to be recompensed. Since Abraham was the aggrieved party, we see him as the one who should have been rewarded.

That was not what occurred. Abraham gave gifts to the one who aggrieved him---in this case oxen and sheep. The lesson seems to be this: if peace is to come from a conflict, perhaps the AGGRIEVED PARTY should bless the party who grieved them with gifts of gratitude, as Abraham did, rather than demanding gifts from the ones who aggrieved them.

Once again, Abraham was the one whose well was stolen, but he presented these gifts of oxen and sheep to the very people that took his well. It defies modern logic, but it works. The two of them established a peace accord that would last throughout their lifetimes.

Once the pact was concluded, Abimelech noticed something unusual. Genesis 20 1:28-31 reads:

“And Abraham set seven ewe lambs apart by themselves. Abimelech said unto Abraham, What mean these seven ewe lambs, which you have set by themselves. And Abraham said, For these seven ewe lambs shall you take of my hand that they may be a witness unto me that I have dug this well. Therefore, Abraham called this place Beersheva, because there they swore, both of them.”

The presence of the seven ewe lambs

constitute an interpretive riddle. The Hebrew word translated as “witness” in verse 30 is derived from the Hebrew sacred number, seven. On the surface, these seven lambs were to be given to Abimelech to witness to the fact that the disputed well had been dug by Abraham and belonged to him. Had the well not been his, the covenant that was established that day would have been based on a lie, making it invalid, but it was not; thus the seven ewe lambs.

But what is God’s purpose in recording the presentation of these lambs? What did this act typify? Why did Abraham set apart seven “female” lambs, as opposed to five male lambs? Surely a reason existed for the recording of these facts in the Torah.

Consider the following known factors in this presentation of seven ewe lambs. Seven is a sacred number, which indicates the completion of a given thing on the earthly plane. When these lambs are presented, it will mark the completion of a thing. We must also remember that Jesus Christ is “the Lamb of God,” so the seven ewe lambs represents the completed church in all ages of time. The ewe lambs are the bride of Christ, the Lamb of God.

Like the seven lambs, the church has been separated, set-aside, as revealed in the Greek noun translated as “church” in the Bible, the word EKKLESIA. It means “the called out ones.” This called-out group, the redeemed of God, bear witness to God’s faithfulness in the earth. The church is the “bride of Christ.”

The church began as a primarily Jewish movement revealed in this story by the fact that it was Abraham, the father of the Jewish religion and nation, who set the ewes aside. They were originally his. But these seven ewe lambs, which represent the church of Jesus Christ, would one day be given to Abimelech, a Gentile, just as the church has become primarily the possession of the

Gentiles during this age of grace.

The well, of course, belonged to Abraham, and the refreshing water from that desert well had nourished those seven ewe lambs, just as God’s living water that flows from the Lord Jesus Christ, an ethnic descendant of Abraham, has nourished the one true church for two millennia. This water is vital, because it the basis of any lasting peace and unity that this sin-sick world will ever know.

In the gift of the seven ewe lambs, we are told the story of the future Gentile inclusion into God’s elect community. This inclusion had once been the exclusive possession of the Hebrew people, but one day a covenant would be established that would include Gentiles like you and me, as well.

This gift of inclusion into the family of God brings a peace that passes all understanding it heals all broken relationships: brokenness between persons, brokenness between nations, and brokenness with God.

Abraham’s gift of the seven ewe lambs did indeed foreshadow a great divine gift, but it also confirmed the covenant that both Abraham and Abimelech swore.

My High School Reunion

By Nick Harris

On June 10, I made a quick trip to East Texas to participate in the High School reunion for the classes of 1956, 1957, and 1958. Since I had a wedding in Oklahoma City that night, I could not attend the banquet that evening, but I was a part of the morning activities.

It had been forty -eight years since I had seen some of these people. I did not recognize many of them, and many of them did not recognize me. However, some of them had seen me on television in the days following the Oklahoma City bombing.

The thing that shocked me was the numbers of people from these three

classes that are now dead. It was a lesson to me in how fleeting our lives really are. I realized that I have spent far too much effort on a life that is like a puff of smoke in comparison with eternity.

Greece Trip Deposits Needed

Deposits for those people who are going to Greece and Turkey with Chris and I, November 1-11, are now coming in. We are cutting this trip off at thirty people. We only have seven spots left.

We will be visiting so many beautiful and historical sites. You do not want to miss this trip.

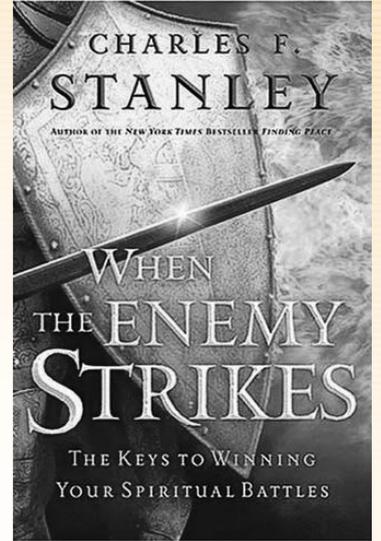
This trip and cruise can be yours for an astounding \$2599. That price is all-inclusive, including a \$100,000 flight insurance policy.

Just send a \$300 deposit to hold an airplane seat, and a cabin for the three day /four night cruise. The balance will be due August 1. As I said, I am cutting this trip off at thirty people. If you are interested and do not have a brochure, e-mail us or call Chris at 405-330-9095 and she will send you one immediately.

Book Review: When the Enemy Strikes

By Dr. Charles Stanley

I am always excited when I discover a new book by Dr. Charles Stanley. No person I know can bring the Word of God and the circumstances of life together like Dr. Stanley.



This great pastor/teacher makes the Bible a manual for things like money management, relational problems, and career choices.

When the Enemy Strikes is especially welcome at this time in history, because this book tells us what we need to know to protect ourselves in these uncertain times.

In this revealing expose on the workings of Satan, Dr. Stanley prepares us for the spiritual warfare that we will inevitably encounter in this world. He arms us with the weapons we need to stand in this present age.

Satan is always prepared to attack God’s people. He looks for weak spots in our finances, our interpersonal relationships, our health, and our spiritual lives.

His knowledge of the Word gives us all the help we need to keep our focus on God and fend off the attacks of the evil one.