

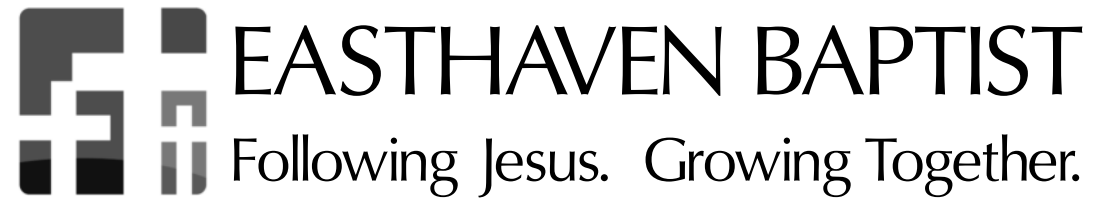


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Dec 2019 /
Jan 2020

The prophets throughout the Old Testament spoke of a coming Messiah. They looked forward to the One who would come and set everything right, but even they did not understand all the details fully. Peter writes that these prophets searched their own writings for a clue about the details concerning the Messiah: *Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories* (1 Peter 1:10-11).

The finer points of Christ's arrival were wrapped up in mystery to be revealed by God at a time of His choosing. But the prophets did speak of His coming. After all the other prophets pass from the scene, we come to the last prophet in the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi. After Malachi's revelation, God "goes off the air." For 400 years, there is no new revelation from God. No divine unveiling. No angelic messengers. No fresh word. Only silence. But let us not forget that there was still activity during this time. Israel still worshipped God, still made sacrifices, still followed His Law. And the rest of the world raged on.

Don't think for a moment that God was inactive though. He was preparing the world's stage for the revelation of the greatest gift of all at the exact moment He had planned. As Paul writes in Galatians, *"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son..."* (4:4).

During these 400 years of silence, the Greeks rose to power. Alexander the Great conquered much of the eastern world, and Israel landed in the hands of the Greeks from the control of Persia. Because of Greek rule, Greek culture spread to the far corners of the earth, and along with the culture, the Greek language. A little while later, the Roman war machine conquered the Greeks and took from them the lands in Europe, Asia and Israel too, and yet, still, no new word from God. But God was at work.

The Romans, though militarily harsh, created a time of great peace. Their road system linked the empire's distant lands in a way that had never been imagined. Most of the people of civilized earth were joined with a unified way to travel and trade, and given the common language of the Greeks, a unified way of communication. When we understand the world at this time, we see that, in every way, the nations were primed for a message of hope. The New Testament would be written in Greek, the gospel would spread quickly by means of the Roman road system and the widespread time of peace would allow the message to move more easily into distant places. The culmination of all the orchestrated events had arrived. The fullness of time. The exact right moment. Cue the forerunner of the Messiah who would prepare the way.

As a priest was doing his duty, the divine silence was broken, and a ray of light pierced the prophetic darkness...*In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah...And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John...And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."* (Luke 1:5a,11-13,16-17).

I love the fact that when the silence is finally broken by the angel's words, the first thing spoken after all those years is "Do not be afraid, Zechariah." His name, Zechariah, means "The Lord has remembered." Quite literally, the angel says, "Do not be afraid, the Lord has remembered." Your prayers have been heard. The promise will be fulfilled. This child will grow up to prepare people for the coming of the Messiah. *Do not be afraid, because the Lord has remembered.*

Zechariah did not have all the details. That is where faith comes in. Always and always our fear will square off against our faith. But our fear can dissolve in the presence of the fact that the Lord remembers. He remembers his plan. He remembers his people. He remembers his promises. Though it may feel like a 400-year span of silence, know that God never causes a wait without a reason; he sees every temporal delay in light of his eternal plan.

This holiday season, know that, even in times of God's seeming silence, he remembers you. *Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.* – Isaiah 49:15

Pastor Dustin

Sunday
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Prayer Time / Bible Study /
Small Groups

Wednesday
5:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal
6:15 p.m. Midweek Bible Study
Children's Ministry, The Studio
Student Ministry, The Hub
Worship Ministry Rehearsal

Church Office Hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday -Thursday
8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Friday

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📷 ebc_brookhaven

————— **Mark Your Calendar** —————

Thursday, December 5	Sr. Adult Christmas Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, December 8	Boomers' Christmas @ Porches, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 10	Women On Mission, 10:00 a.m. @ EBC
Sunday, December 15	The Sounds Of Christmas, 10:30 a.m. Marquis Laughlin, The Bible Live, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 17	Women's Ministry, 6:00 p.m. in The Hub
Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Service, 12:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 5	"Overcomer" Movie Night, 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 8	Midweek Activities resume
Tuesday, January 21	Women's Ministry, 6:00 p.m. in The Hub
Thursday, January 23	Sr. Adult's to Pleasant Hill, 9:15 a.m.
January 31 - February 1	Student Ministry Disciple Now

CONNECTING & SERVING MINISTRY



Tuesday, December 17
at 6:00 p.m. in The Hub

Bring a finger food to share. We will also do a cookie swap for anyone that is interested. Bring a bag of cookies with the recipe attached.

January Ladies Fellowship
Tuesday, January 21
at 6:00 p.m. in The Hub

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

THERE WILL BE NO ELEVATE KIDS CHURCH DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.



COMING TO ELEVATE IN JANUARY

On top of this mountain, we do everything to the EXTREME! From skiing to snowboarding, ice sculpting to snowball fights, nothing is too EXTREME! for us. Especially living EXTREME! lives for God. This series takes an EXTREME! look at the teachings of Jesus.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Sunday Mornings at 9:15 a.m.



Jesus and Tough Times
December 1 - 22

Jesus and Your Image
January 5-26



January 31-February 1
\$30 per student

Register online at easthaven.net

SMOKY MOUNTAIN OUTREACH CAMP : JUNE 21-26
Cost is \$325 per person Register at www.easthaven.net

New Members Class

December 29 and January 26
9:15 a.m. in The Fireside Room

This is for those who have recently joined or anyone who is considering joining. Contact Sonya Foster for more info.

small groups ministry

A new semester kicks off on January 12th

Please contact Sonya Foster if you are interested in leading or attending a small group. A sign up sheet will be available on January 5th.

Worship Ministry

The Sounds of CHRISTMAS Sunday
December 15

featuring the Adult Choir & Orchestra and the Kidz Worship Choir

Special Guest : Marquis Laughlin

MARQUIS LAUGHLIN
PRESENTS

THE BIBLE LIVE : A.D.
DECEMBER 15 AT 5:00 P.M.



Missions Ministry



WOMEN ON MISSION

December 10 at 11:00 a.m.
at Easthaven followed by lunch at Porches

VISION 2020 : MISSION INTEREST MEETINGS

Sunday, December 15 after Morning Worship

World Changers at Oakwood in July for Students and Adult Chaperones. Meet with Bro. Phil in the Fellowship Hall

Long Weekend at Oakwood in July for Adult. Meet with LaRon Ballard in the Fellowship Hall

LOTTIE MOON OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Pray about how God can use your gifts for His glory!

I saw a great multitude from every nation, all tribes, peoples and tongues standing before the throne.

Senior Adult Ministry

Christmas Fellowship Lunch

Thursday, December 5 at 10:30 a.m.

Special Guest : Allen Ishee, Piano Concert Artist

Blake Scafidel
Christmas Concert
Thursday, December 12

Sunday Morning Gathering

December 8 at 8:54 a.m.

Hosted by the Dot Baker & Sonya Foster SS Classes

Soup & Cornbread Rally at Pleasant Hill

Thursday, January 24
Depart EBC @ 9:15 a.m.

Boomers Ministry

BOOMERS CHRISTMAS AT PORCHES
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 6:30 P.M.

Tickets are \$18 per person and must be purchased by December 4. Select your entrée and dessert at that time.

End of Year Giving

December is the time to consider year-end gifts for income tax purposes. Offerings/gifts received in the Sunday offerings through December 29, in the US mail through December 31 and Easy Tithe posted through December 31 will be posted to your 2019 contribution records.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES IN DEC / JAN

Robert Mayfield – Worship Pastor – 13 years
Carey Williamson – Music Associate – 15 years
Tommy Sproles – Music Associate – 13 years
Charles Carter – Custodial Team – 16 years

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

2019-2020 Sixteen Week Report

Needs: \$236,720 Receipts: \$228,598
Expenditures: \$185,503

Closing Balance, November 22, 2019 - \$43,095