



THE MESSENGER

JULY 19, 2020

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

Today at 5

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

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(859) 255-6257

www.uheightschurch.com

THOUGHTS FROM A DIFFICULT PASSAGE (2)

In the previous article we began a discussion on Exodus 34:6-7. As the most referenced passage in the Hebrew Scriptures, this is clearly a very important passage.

“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.”

In this article we’re going to approach the passage in reverse order. While the first part of the passage is a pleasure to read, the second part of verse 7 gets uncomfortable. To some, it even smacks of injustice on God’s part. Let’s work to understand what is being said here.

“But who will by no means clear the guilty.” (7b) We must determine to whom “the guilty” refers. Just before these words we find God describe Himself as, *“forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.”* This means “the guilty” of this passage refers to the unrepentant. In Exodus 20:4, God makes “those who hate me” synonymous with “the guilty” of 34:7. There is no avenue of forgiveness available to those who insist on stubborn rebellion against God while in that frame of mind.

“Visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children to the third and fourth generation.” This is the statement that really gives people pause. Is God being unkind, even unjust, in saying this? Let’s consider two things that I think will help us to understand.

First, wicked actions from a parent often do carry ramifications that outlive that parent. It can come in the form of

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

Jen Victoria Poynter, Andy Kincaid, 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), Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

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financial hardship, great injury to the family dynamic, and much more. The generations following may not be guilty of the wickedness committed by the parent(s) yet they certainly suffer the ramifications of it for years to come. Just a little thought shows us the truthfulness of this. Perhaps some have even experienced it within their own family. This is part of what God is saying in this passage.

Secondly, let us not fail to recognize the terrible influence wielded by a wicked parent over their children and grandchildren. Much of the later history of the very people God was entering covenant with when He made these statements would be a continuous pattern of infidelity and rebellion. One generation after another witnessed it and, by and large, followed after their forebears. If "the guilty" parent bears children who learn from them to behave in the same way than they need not be surprised to see them suffer the same consequences.

Man is responsible for his actions. He must consider the ramifications of his actions upon those he loves and strive to set an example of godliness, not rebellion. 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	