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## I knew you before you were born and I designed you for My purposes.

[Jeremiah 1:5](#) (WEB)

*“Before I formed you in the belly, I knew you. Before you came forth out of the womb, I sanctified you. I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*

In today's promise, God is speaking to the prophet Jeremiah and reassuring him that before he was even conceived in his mother's womb, God knew him and designed him for His purposes. I don't know if you have wondered about this Bible verse before, but I have.

How could God have known Jeremiah before he was even conceived? The best way that I can try to comprehend it would be if I compared our creation with how an architect designs a building. (I realize this analogy could never adequately describe the creation process, but it helps me to grasp this promise.) Before a building is built, it has to be designed by an architect.

In the design process, the architect spends much time thinking about the plans and purposes for the building He is going to create. No detail will be too small for the architect to overlook. Even though the building is not yet created, He has already created it in his mind and then he commits the design to paper.

When I think about how God says that He knew us before we were conceived, I think that He carried our design in His heart before the creation of the world and knew us intimately before the wonderful day of our conception.

If you have ever felt misunderstood by anyone, if you have ever felt alone in this life, may the promise that God knew you before the foundation of the world bring great comfort to your heart today. You are His workmanship, created in Christ to accomplish His special purpose!



# Running Scared and God's Sovereignty



The last couple of years have been hard on the Church. We have dealt with various forms of the COVID pandemic with confusion and misunderstanding. It seems as though no one really knows what to believe about the virus, whether it's life-threatening or simply a bad cold/flu. Never before have I experienced a nation-wide "fear-pandemic" as I have witnessed especially in the last several months. It appears that many, if not most people, have contracted the virus in its various forms. You would naturally think that the people would eventually down-grade the possible side effects of COVID, or simply dismiss the severity altogether. This, however, is not the case. In fact, I have noticed an increase of fear even among so called evangelical, Bible-believing Christians who would admit that God is in control.

The part that is concerning for me as a pastor is how much fear and how little trust Christians really put in the prospect of God's control in their own personal lives, even among us who have a Reformed understanding of God as it relates to His sovereignty. As Reformed Christians, we understand that the Bible teaches that all our lives and the number of our days belong to God —

*"My future is in your hands. Rescue me from those who hunt me down relentlessly." (Psalm 31:15)*

*"You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. (Psalm 136:16)*

And yet, even with this kind of knowledge, good, meaningful Christians continue to operate in such careful and self-preserving ways, that they no longer come together corporately to worship the God they are supposed to trust. Now as I say this, many will argue that there is nothing wrong with being careful about contracting the virus, as to limit their time away from people. Yet what I find is that many of those who have chosen to isolate themselves do not stop doing other things that expose them to the very same risks, such as shopping, meeting together in restaurants, etc. You would think these same people would be consistent in their attempts to "flee the disease" and avoid the same risks as coming to worship.

This is not meant to be a guilt trip on those who have chosen to stay home instead of worship, but a concern for the spiritual well-being of these people in the hopes that they do not fall into the trap of the enemy, whose desire is to keep Christian people from Biblical fellowship. There has to be a time when we ask ourselves the question, "*Has this gone on too long...? "Is my physical health more important to me than my spiritual health...?"*" We know that Scripture speaks to this very issue when we read from the Apostle Paul,

*"Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. So, we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you — That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day." (2 Corinthians 11-16)*

We as the Church need the constant reminder that our lives indeed are under the sovereign care of our heavenly Father. The reality stands — none of us can live one minute longer than God has ordained for us. It is that understanding that motivates us to live lives not out of fear, but live lives with the confidence that our God holds each today in His hand and watches out for each tomorrow. This is the life of faith. God is aware of everything regarding our lives. Not even a thought can be hidden from Him regardless of where we are, regardless of what justifications we might give for what we decide to do. So, when it comes down to the issue of sovereignty, do we allow God to be sovereign in our lives? One of His names, *Yahweh Shammah*, means "The Lord Is There." Since we are His children, wherever we are, He is. If we allow ourselves to entertain ideas that somehow our lives might be threatened by disease and death, we lose our understanding of how God is working within every minute detail of everyday life.

(continued)

God's supremacy is so great that He can keep track of all that is happening across the entire expanse of what He has made. Therefore, He is allowing what is occurring in the world. He is permitting it to occur and even directly causing some of the calamitous events to happen. He is not detached from what is going on—in fact, everything is under control. He who sees every sparrow fall also has His eyes on us for our good.

Whatever we do, we must not allow Him to slip from our thoughts as we think about the pandemic around us. Every thought of those who live by faith should begin with Him and His will. It is time for believers to “put into action” the faith they say they have in God.

The words from John MacArthur, as he addressed his church made this statement, “Christ is Lord of all. He is the one true head of the church. He is also King of kings—sovereign over every earthly authority. As His people, we are subject to His will and command as revealed in Scripture. Therefore, we cannot and will not acquiesce to a government-imposed moratorium on our weekly congregational worship or other regular corporate gatherings. Compliance would be disobedience to our Lord’s clear commands.”

I trust you are living each day in this kind of faith — a faith that overcomes the world.

## Why Do We Have Daylight Saving Time?

Ben Franklin thought we'd save on candles.

BY [AMANDA ONION](#)

We lost an hour this morning, awaking to an already sunny sky.

Some may feel robbed of an hour from their day. So why, again, do we do this?

To some degree, we may have Benjamin Franklin to thank.

Franklin, who penned the proverb "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise," was among the first to suggest the idea. In a 1784 essay, he wrote that adjusting the clocks in the spring could be a good way to save on candles.

The practice of changing the clocks has had a somewhat bumpy history in the United States. It was first established in 1918, but then repealed a year later. During World War II, the country again took up the practice to conserve energy from 1942 to 1945.

In 1966 the United States officially adopted the Uniform Time Act of 1966, which outlined Daylight Saving Time to begin on the last Sunday of April and end on the last Sunday in October.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 mandated a change to the observed dates so now DST begins at 2 a.m. on the second Sunday of March and ends at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in November.

Incidentally, states do not have to comply with the act and, in fact, two states, Arizona and Hawaii, do not.

So do we really economize, as Benjamin Franklin said we would, by adjusting our clocks? It appears, in our modern world, not really.

Although a U.S. Department of Transportation study in the 1970s found that Daylight Saving trimmed electricity usage by about 1 percent, later studies have shown that the savings is offset by air conditioners running in warmer climates.

It may not all be for naught, however. Another study, performed in 2007 by the RAND Corporation, found that the increase in daylight in spring led to roughly a 10 percent drop in vehicular crashes.

*Daylight Saving Time (DST) is often misspelled “Daylight Savings” with an “s” at the end. Other common variations are “Summer Time” and “Daylight-Saving Time.”*

**So what is your opinion? Do you like Daylight Saving Time or Not?**



# RETIRE?!?



Retirement is a relatively new concept. In generations past it was assumed that a person would work until he or she died or was no longer able to because of physical inability. Today, most people expect to finish their career by the time they are sixty five and often even earlier. While there is nothing wrong with a retirement from a career, Christians should be aware of worldly attitudes that often go along with retirement. It is not uncommon to hear elderly people say that they will not serve in various capacities anymore. Perhaps they have two homes between which they split their time, or perhaps they travel or are involved in recreational activities. "I've done my time in... council, nursery, Sunday school, or some other church need" has become a familiar refrain.

Christian service, however, is a lifetime career. God does not provide for retirement from kingdom service. In fact, retirement from a career can provide an incredible opportunity to pour our efforts into service in a way that was not possible while we were employed full-time. While leisure is important, it must never fill so much of our time that we no longer have time to serve our churches and communities.

**Where are you needed and being called to serve...be open to what God still has for you to do in His church.**

**A servant leader is characterized by an overwhelming desire to accomplish a purpose through serving others.**

## WOODVILLE CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE

### February

6 Barb Atkins & Bethany Derks  
13 Deb Thorne & Karen White  
20 Jackie Teja & LeeAnna Yates  
27 Barb Knight & Marilyn Davis

### March

6 Renee Frantz & Jenna Minor  
13 Lynda Kolehouse & Carianne Smith  
20 Adriana Beckwith & Sharen Franklin  
27 Mary Helmus & Christie Pikaart



**Thank you, ladies, for your service in caring for these little ones.**


*If you are unable to serve on the date that you are scheduled please contact Annie Mercer at 231-245-7693 as soon as possible.*







# February 2022

Sunday		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 10:00 a.m.  <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 11:40 a.m.	<b>Greeters for February:</b>  <i>Vic &amp; Linda Berkompas</i>		<b>1</b> Men's Bible Study  Ladies Bible study  YOUTH GROUP	<b>2</b>  WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>3</b>  Praise Team practice	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Elders' Prayer Time
<b>Tuesday</b>  <b>MEN'S BIBLE STUDY</b> 7:00 a.m.  <b>LADIES BIBLE STUDY</b> 9:30 a.m.  Youth Group 6:00 p.m.	<b>6</b>  <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>Sunday school</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Men's Bible Study  Ladies Bible study  YOUTH GROUP  Men's Monthly Bible Study	<b>9</b>  WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>10</b>  Praise Team practice	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Elders' Prayer Time
<b>Wednesday</b>  <b>AWANA</b> 6:00 p.m.  <b>NIGHT SERVICE</b> 6:30 p.m.	<b>13</b>  <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>Sunday school</b>	<b>14</b>  	<b>15</b> Men's Bible Study  Ladies Bible study  YOUTH GROUP	<b>16</b>  WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>17</b>  Praise Team practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Elders' Prayer Time  Men's Monthly Breakfast
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday</b>  <b>BOARD MEETING</b> 6:00 p.m.	<b>20</b>  <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>Sunday school</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>22</b> Men's Bible Study  Ladies Bible study  YOUTH GROUP	<b>23</b>  <b>AWANA Begins</b>  WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>24</b>  Praise Team practice	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Elders' Prayer Time
	<b>27</b> <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>Sunday school</b>	<b>28</b>					

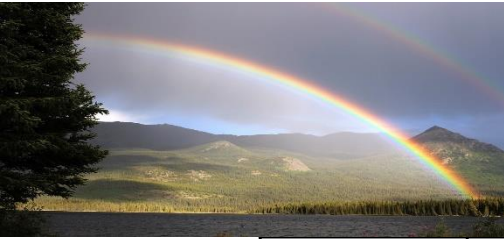


## February Birthdays

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 4 Ricky Yates   | 20 Jayden Tolhurst |
| 5 Bob Shoemaker | Marilyn Davis      |
| 8 Amy Hysell    | 21 Mary Cook       |
| 11 Karen Bartee | 24 Dan Doornbos    |
| 19 Bob Doornbos | 25 John Byers      |

## February Anniversaries

- |    |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 14 | Gordon & Marian Witte<br>(58 years) |
| 16 | Richard & LeeAnna Yates             |
| 27 | David & Susan Meyers<br>(63 years)  |



# March 2022



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sunday</b> WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 a.m.  SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:40 a.m.	Greeters for March: 		<b>1</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study Youth Group	<b>2</b> AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Elders' Prayer Time
	<b>Tuesday</b> MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 a.m. LADIES BIBLE STUDY 9:30 a.m.	<b>6</b> WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study Youth Group Men's Evening Bible study	<b>9</b> AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>10</b> Praise Team practice	<b>11</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> AWANA 6:00 p.m.  NIGHT SERVICE 6:30 p.m.	<b>13</b> WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study Youth Group	<b>16</b> AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>17</b> Praise Team practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Elders' Prayer Time <b>Men's Monthly Breakfast</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday</b> BOARD MEETING 6:00 p.m.	<b>20</b> WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL <i>Spring Equinox</i>	<b>21</b> <b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>22</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study Youth Group	<b>23</b> AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>24</b> Praise Team practice	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Elders' Prayer Time
	<b>27</b> WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study Youth Group	<b>30</b> AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	<b>31</b> Praise Team practice		



## March Anniversaries

15 Larry & June Frontjes  
 16 Marty & Kelly Johnson

## March Birthdays

4 Marian Witte	18 June Frontjes
10 DeeAnn Ruiters	19 Gary Frantz
11 Pauline Wabeke	25 Gabriela Pike
12 Doreen Jusino	26 Phil Rottman
13 Wes Knight	28 Jim Edewaard
14 Amanda Hahn	29 Nancy Redd
15 Lynda Kolehouse	31 Lori VanderArk
16 Ari Ruiters	Gary Teja

Items on this calendar are subject to change

# Food For Thought...

## EASY CHICKEN PARESAN

• **Author:** Sam | Ahead of Thyme

• **Total Time:** 50 minutes

• **Yield:** 5 servings

Easy chicken parmesan (parmigiana) with crispy breaded chicken, tomato sauce, and melted mozzarella and parmesan cheese. The best comfort chicken dinner.

### FOR THE CHICKEN:

- 2-3 chicken breasts, sliced in half lengthwise
- 2 teaspoons salt, divided
- 2 cups Panko breadcrumbs
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil (for pan-frying)

### FOR THE SAUCE:

- 1 cup onion, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons garlic, minced
- 2 cups tomato sauce
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

### FOR THE TOPPING:

- 5 slices of mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley, finely chopped

## INSTRUCTIONS

### PREPARE THE CHICKEN:

1. Preheat oven to 425 F.
2. Slice each chicken breast carefully in half lengthwise. Place each halved chicken breast between 2 sheets of plastic wrap or in a freezer bag. Carefully flatten the chicken breasts with a rolling pin to achieve uniform thickness, about 1/2-inch thick. Don't pound the breasts too hard. It could tear them apart.
3. Pat dry each breast completely with a paper towel and season with 1 teaspoon salt. Set aside for at least 10 minutes.
4. In a shallow plate, whisk together Panko breadcrumbs, Parmesan cheese, garlic powder and the remaining 1 teaspoon salt. Set aside. Add beaten eggs into another shallow plate.
5. Dip both sides of each halved chicken breast into the eggs to evenly coat them, and then dip it into the breadcrumb mixture. The breadcrumbs will stick to the egg wash.
6. Heat oil in a non stick cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat for 2 minutes until the hot oil is sizzling and shimmering. Pan fry the chicken breasts for about 4-5 minutes on each side until golden and crispy. Set aside on a plate. The chicken should be almost fully cooked and the internal temperature should reach above 155 F.

### PREPARE THE SAUCE:

1. Remove all but 2 tablespoons of the hot oil in the skillet. Add onions and sauté for 2 minutes until soft and tender. Add garlic and sauté for another 2 minutes until fragrant.
2. Add tomato sauce, tomato paste, Italian seasoning, parsley, and salt. Stir well to combine and bring the sauce to a simmer. Turn to low heat and let it simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and transfer sauce into a bowl.

### ASSEMBLE AND BAKE:

1. In the same skillet, or in another cast-iron skillet or baking dish, evenly spread 1/2 cup of the sauce on the bottom. Place the chicken breasts spaced evenly apart over the sauce.
2. Cover each breast with 1/4 cup sauce, and top each breast with a slice of mozzarella cheese and 1 tablespoon Parmesan cheese. Sprinkle finely chopped parsley on top.
3. Bake in the preheated oven at 425F for 15-20 minutes until the cheese melts and turns golden brown.
4. Serve with spaghetti and garnish with more parsley on top.

## Cocktail Meatballs

**Prep:** 20 mins  
**Cook:** 1 hr 25 mins  
**Total:** 1 hr 45 mins  
**Servings:** 10  
**Yield:** 10 servings

### Directions

- **Step 1**  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- **Step 2**  
In a large bowl, mix together the ground beef, egg, water, bread crumbs, and minced onion. Roll into small meatballs.
- **Step 3**  
Bake in preheated oven for 20 to 25 minutes, turning once.
- **Step 4**  
In a slow cooker or large saucepan over low heat, blend the cranberry sauce, chili sauce, brown sugar, and lemon juice. Add meatballs, and simmer for 1 hour before serving.



### Ingredients

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 3 tablespoons minced onion
- 1 (8 ounce) can jellied cranberry sauce
- 3/4 cup chili sauce
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons lemon juice



“...A merry heart doeth good like a medicine...”

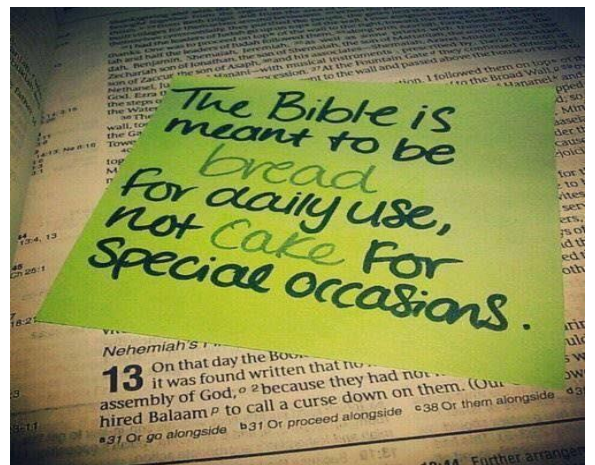
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Thanks to Ondrej Paska (See Matthew 14:24-33) 01-04-2008  
PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER



The biggest lie I tell myself is  
“I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it.”



Bible Trivia...

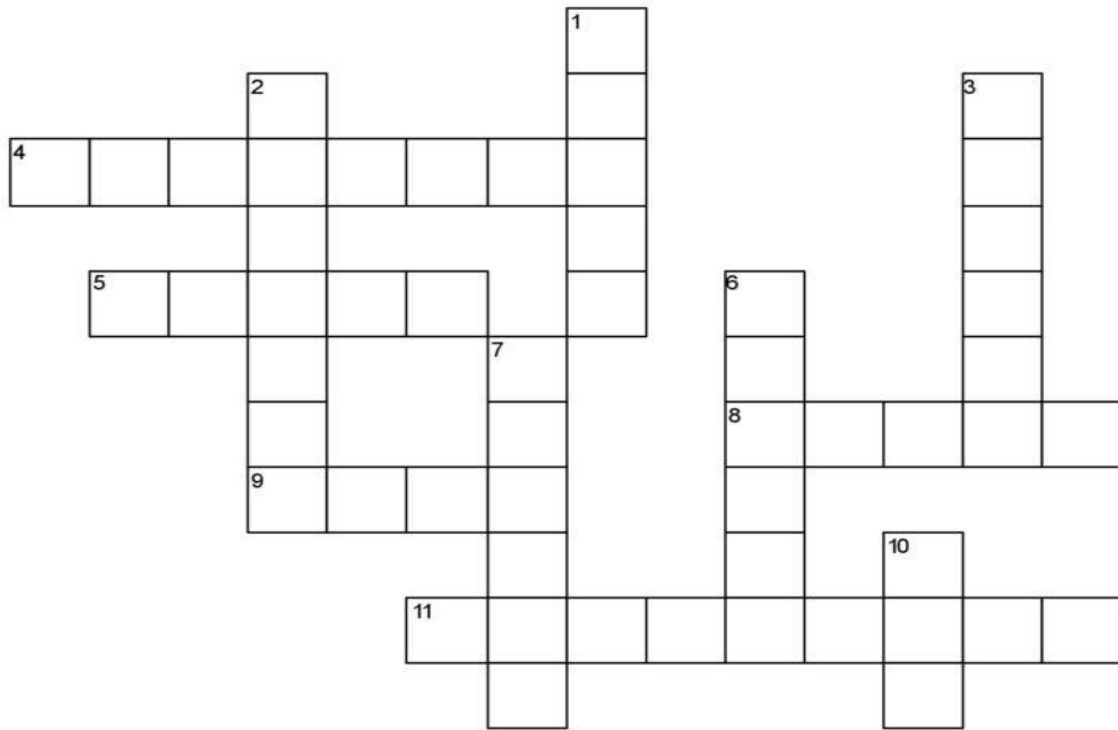
What is the main message of the book of Hebrews?

answer on last page



# ACTIVITY PAGE

## Letter to the Hebrews; Chapter 1 God's Word to Us through His Son



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

### ACROSS

- 4 In times past, God spoke to humanity through these people: the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 In the beginning, of what did the Son lay or create the foundations? (v10)
- 8 The Son reflects the radiance of God's what?
- 9 For these, that everyone has plenty of, the Son, Jesus the Christ, obtained forgiveness.
- 11 The enemies of Christ will be made as this item under His feet.

### DOWN

- 1 This chapter is about one person, the Son. Who is He?
- 2 All angels are these ministering entities.
- 3 God relates to Jesus, His Son, as His what?
- 6 The Son was made much greater than the what?
- 7 In the last days, God has spoken to humanity through \_\_\_\_\_. (two words, no space)
- 10 In verse 8, God plainly states that His Son, Jesus, is what?

**Answer:** The two main themes of Hebrews are **The Supremacy of Christ, and Perseverance in Christ**, especially in the face of persecution.