

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1209

April 1, 2018

Psalm 103:12, *“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”*

Spring began on Tuesday, March 20. The first day of Spring and the first day of Fall are the only two days of the year that the sun rises due east and sets due west. Remember what the LORD has said about east and west. There is much in the Bible.

I'm always reminded of the great comfort from the above verse, Psalm 103:12. We all have certainly sinned, but we are forgiven when we obey the LORD. It's easy to let the mistakes of the past come back in our minds and even weigh us down. We can know that the LORD has removed our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west. That distance is immeasurable. Our forgiven sins are so far away from us, it cannot be measured. We can take much comfort in that.

Matthew 8:11, *“And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.”* Jesus had been talking with a centurion which was a Roman soldier over a hundred men. When

Jesus saw his faith, Jesus actually marveled and said, *“... Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.”*

The fact this man was a centurion almost certainly meant he was a Roman citizen and therefore not of the people of Israel. I'm sure when those following Jesus heard of his great faith they were surprised. They probably felt no one outside of Israel had faith and were close to God.

Before the people could even question Jesus concerning this, He told them that many would come from the east and west. All over the world people would come to the LORD. This includes us today. Jesus was letting them know that it was not only the Israelites who would be in the kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus mentions three early Bible patriarchs who would have been held in high esteem by the Jews. He told them those coming from the east and west would sit with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven.

We learn much about Heaven from this verse. We find out that we will be with the saved who have gone on before. They will still be known as the people they were on Earth. The saved will have a new name (Revelation 2:17), but we'll be able to visit with all the saved who have gone on before us. That includes not only these people of the Bible, but our loved ones gone on before us and those yet to even live who will be saved. What a wonderful thought and great hope that gives us.

Zechariah 8:7-8, *“⁷Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; ⁸And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.”*

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Sunday 9 AM & 6 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

News

—Continue to remember **Jewell Watkins, Jean Coffey, Alice Thrasher, Steve Seaton, Brad Terry and Shirley Parson.** Ruby Edwards is in Arkansas. She plans on being there two to three weeks to help care for her mother, **Wanda Bozarth**, who recently had a stroke. She is doing well and recovering.

—I was unable to produce bulletins for March 18 and 25 due to being quite sick with an infection. On the website I will go back and fill in attendance, contribution, and lessons for those weeks to maintain a record of worship services. I deeply appreciate all the prayers and concerns for me while I was so sick. —Marty.

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The LORD through Zechariah said He would save His people from the east country and from the west. Those living in that part of the world were the east. The west would have been this side of the world which includes us. Even before Jesus spoke regarding people coming from the east and west to the kingdom of Heaven, the LORD had spoke of the same in the Old Testament. He would save His people and they would dwell in Jerusalem. I feel certainly this is a spiritual Jerusalem which would be the church now, and then after this life, “new Jerusalem” or Heaven. John called Heaven the new Jerusalem in Revelation 3:12 and 21:2.

The last time the terms east and west are mentioned in the Bible is Revelation 21:13. John mentions all four directions. Regarding the gates of Heaven we are told, “*On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.*” The gates of Heaven face all directions. This would represent people going into Heaven from all over the earth. But only those who are saved can enter these gates.

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Sunday, March 25, 2018

Classes	12	II Timothy 2:14-18
Preaching	20	Job 1:1-2:10
Contribution	\$635.00	
Evening	14	Habakkuk 1:1-19
Wednesday, March 27, 2018		
Classes	17	Revelation 11:1-19

Visitors— Mar 25 (PM) Margaret Sandidge (Hardyville, KY)

Bible Quiz

What did John take out of the angel’s hand and eat?

Last Week’s Answer— By a lock of his head (Ezekiel 8:3)

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Whether we are from the east or west, and wherever our lives take us, let’s make sure we live in such a way that we enter into those gates of Heaven which face east, north, south, and west.

—Marty Edwards❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)