

obey His will. Later on in this epistle, John stated: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 Jn. 5:3).

4. Those who claim they love God, but hate their brother in Christ. "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can

he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 Jn. 4:20).

5. Those who deny the deity and humanity of Christ—God incarnate—that He came and lived in the flesh. "Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is anti-christ who denies the Father and the Son....and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is

the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world" (1 Jn. 2:22; 4:3).

In view of the seriousness and the eternal consequences of lying, we again emphasize – put "away lying, each one speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another" (Eph. 4:25). ~

# NAVARRE MESSENGER

March 3, 2019



We meet at 8490 James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre.

Phone 850-396-9431

### ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Class for all ages 9AM

Morning Worship Service 10AM

Evening Worship Service 6PM

Wednesday

Bible Class for all ages 7PM

This entire publication and previous issues are available online at

Navarrechurchofchrist.net

Along with other useful information

### Navarre church of Christ

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**VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

Jarrold Jacobs

After an article about Ai, I had a dear friend ask me how God could kill thousands upon thousands. He said it was hard for him to believe that God would want this. I appreciate this question and respect him for asking it. When we examine the Scriptures, we see that God wants folks to examine, test, and ask questions like my friend did

(Isa. 1:18; Matt. 11:29; Acts 17:11; Eph. 5:10; I Thess. 5:21; Rom. 12:2). Below is my answer to my friend's question. I print it here in the hope that perhaps this answer might help others who have had the same question.

It is hard to imagine God telling the Israelites to kill another nation, but I have to remember that this is part of a larger context. It is not God

randomly saying He wants to kill one group or another for no reason.

God had been patient with these people for at least 400 years. Go back to Abraham and read this in Genesis 15:1-17 where God promises to give the land of Canaan to Abraham but says he cannot have it now "because the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." When God saw that

the people would no longer repent, then He took them out of the land. Therefore, when the Israelites came there under Joshua's leadership to take the land of Canaan, it was a fulfillment of God's promise, yes, but it was also as a punishment for the sins of the Amorites, Jebusites, Canaanites, etc.

We see a similar theme through the rest of the Old Testament. Even the Jews would be allowed to be killed at times and taken into captivity because of their sins before God. When they refused to repent, they would be handed over to another nation for a while until they repented. We see this described in Judges 2:11-23. Also, when God gave over the northern tribes of Israel to Assyria, or later, the southern tribes over to Babylon, it was because of their sins and their refusal to repent (Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.).

God would overthrow Babylon later for similar reasons.

**Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.**

*Deuteronomy 9:5*

God has a way of making folks face the consequences of their sins. This is true of individuals, and this is also true for entire nations of people. Read Daniel 4:31-32 about Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

Read Romans 1:21-32 and you'll see a synopsis of God's dealings with the Gentiles over the years as they contin-

ued to sin before God. Especially notice v. 28. These people were given over when they got to the point they didn't like to retain God in their knowledge.

I believe these things recorded in the Bible are also for our learning (Rom. 15:4). We need to understand that God keeps His word and that He will not allow sin to go unpunished. We learn that one day if we are in sin and away from God, we will be lost in Hell. Individual people will be judged –when He judges and shows how they had sinned before Him for years and years and years.

So, that is what we see happening in the Bible in places like Ai, and many others. This is not the acts of a random or vengeful God, but the act of a just and righteous God who has said these people have lived in sin and refused to repent for too long and must answer for what they have done. ~

## The Consequences of Being a Liar

R. J. Evans

The sin of lying is a serious matter that has eternal consequences. In Revelation 21:8 we are told: "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." The Apostle Paul specifically told Christians to put "away lying, each one speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another" (Eph. 4:25).

I find it interesting that the Apostle John spoke of five different types of liars in the First Epistle of John. Please take note of these types of

liars:

1. Those who claim to be in fellowship with God, but are walking in sin. "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth" (1 Jn. 1:6). For a good contrast between walking in the light of truth, as opposed to walking in the darkness of sin and error, please read Ephesians 5:6-16.

2. Those who say they have not sinned and have deceived themselves. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we say that we have

not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (1 Jn. 1:8, 10). God has told us that we all have sinned (Rom. 3:23). To claim that we have not sinned is a lie ("the truth is not in us"), and while doing so, we attempt to make God a liar because He has clearly established the fact that we are sinners. "Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar" (Rom. 3:4).

3. Those who claim to know God, but do not obey Him. "He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 Jn. 2:4). To love and know God is to