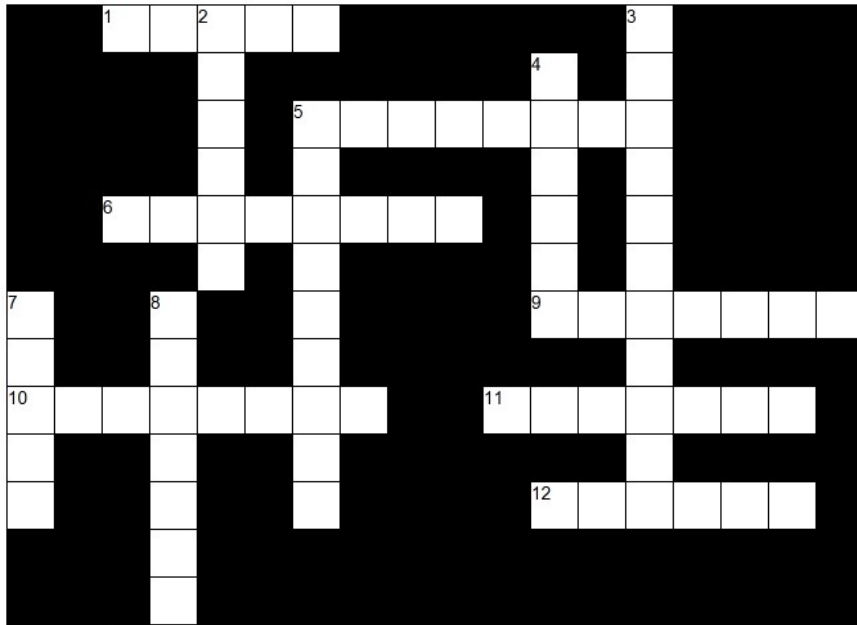


A Bible Crossword: The Book Of Acts, Part 3

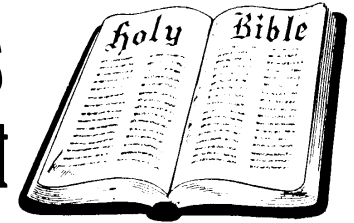


Across: The sick were placed in the streets in hopes that his shadow would fall on them. 5. She lied along with her husband and died. 6. Stephen disputed with Jews from the synagogue of these. 9. He was the first of the seven listed. 10. He warned the council not to fight against God. 11. The first and only Christian proselyte mentioned. 12. Seven men filled with the Holy Spirit and this were chosen to fix the problems with the daily distribution.

Down: 2. The twelve did not want to leave the word of God to serve these. 3. False witnesses accused Stephen of speaking this kind of words against the temple. 4. Some of these were being neglected in the daily distribution. 5. The high priest rose up with this sect and briefly imprisoned the apostles. 7. Stephen had the face of one when he was tried before the council. 8. He sold a possession and pretended to give all the proceeds to the apostles.

—All answers can be found in Acts 5-6, NKJV.

Chapman Acres Church of Christ



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December 21, 2012: The End of the World?

In July of next year, Sony Pictures will release a film titled *2012*. The title refers to a widely-spreading belief that a series of apocalyptic disasters will devastate or completely destroy the world in December of 2012.

The proponents of this view point to the ancient, Mayan calendar as evidence. Our modern calendar, called the Gregorian calendar, measures time in days, months and years. The far-more complex Mayan calendar was actually three calendars in one, containing a religious calendar, a solar calendar, and a unique, long-count calendar. Scholars believe that the Maya used their three-fold calendar to view the religious and solar influences to predict the influences that would guide mankind's fate on a specific, future date.

The most curious thing about the long-count calendar is that unlike a typical, monthly calendar, the Mayan long-count calendar has a fixed beginning and ending point. Archaeologists have determined that this Mayan calendar began on August 11th, 3114 B.C. On December 21, 2012 A.D., the calendar expires. Some believe that when the calendar expires, the world will expire with it. First an internet phenomenon, the view will be presented next summer in a major motion picture.

Not everyone concurs, of course. Astronomer Philip Plait argues that the Mayan calendar does not really end at all. Like the odometer on your car, when all the numbers reach 9, it simply restarts at 0 and begins a new cycle. Will the world actually end on December 21, 2012? I doubt it.

Peter writes, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). Thieves don't call you and tell you to mark the date they will rob you on your calendar, so a fixed date for the end of the world seems unlikely.

The twentieth century saw dozens of dates come and go, dates when men predicted the world would end. I expect December 21, 2012 to come and go with no special apocalypse.

What concerns me the most about errantly set dates is that they desensitize us. What if the world does end in 2012? What if the world or I never make it to 2012? Will I be prepared?

Peter followed his warning about the coming of the day of the Lord with this exhortation, "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?" (2 Peter 3:11-12).

We can't let the false predictions of pseudo-scholars turn us into scoffers. We don't know when it will all end, but we know the end is coming. We have to be prepared.

—RAB

Seven "I AM" Statements of Jesus

1. I AM the bread of life. John 6:48: "I am the bread of life."
2. I AM the light of the world. John 9:5: "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
3. I AM the door. "John 10:7: Therefore Jesus said again, 'I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.'"
4. I AM the good shepherd. John 10:11: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
5. I AM the resurrection and the life. "John 11:25: Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.'"
6. I AM the way, the truth and the life. John 14:6: "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"
7. I AM the true vine. John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Prayer List

Keith Copeland	Herman McKenzie	Faye Seiler
Dennis Depew	Louise Moore	Gene Shannon
David Depew	Sara Nance	

Area Meetings

Various Speakers, Jackson Drive, Thursdays—
11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/31
David Bonner, Pepper Road, December 5-7