

# Campus Chronicles

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## Storms Are Coming

*By Sonia Kotko*

"Hurry, come in and come in now," I told my two boys as they played in the yard. "Why, we want to stay outside and play," my oldest yelled back with his little brother echoing the same words. "Ok, you have been warned and in about a minute or two you both are going to get wet," I explained. As they continued to play in the yard, I slowly began to close the door of the trailer.

"BOOM" the thunder went as the lightning flashed across the sky. Quickly, I threw open the door just to have two very frightened boys run in. Out of breath, they sat in the chairs at the kitchen table. We then all sat in anticipation of the next roar of thunder. Just as things seemed to calm down, IT HIT! The trailer shook and sparks flew out of the wall socket. The lights went out and it was completely dark; it was pitch black.

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**“You shall have no other gods before me.” ~Exodus 20:3**

# Replacing God?

*By Cassandra Friday*

How many Christians know the Ten Commandments by heart? If they were raised in church or in a Christian school, they probably memorized these when they were young, along with the books of the Bible. If not, however, it is possible that some Christians know what the Ten Commandments are, but don't necessarily know them all by heart. It's not like the Ten Commandments are difficult to remember; most of them are pretty self-explanatory and straightforward. "Do not steal." "Do not lie." "Do not covet." It's almost common sense. What about the very first one on the list?

"You shall have no other gods before me." This is the very first commandment that God gave Moses; the first one that is read in Exodus; the first one that is repeated when the commandments are listed out loud from memory. What exactly does this one mean? And why did God place it first?

Allow me to suggest that this commandment purposely precedes the other nine because it

encompasses their meaning. Think about it. When someone sins, they are putting something before God; and therefore, they have ended up making that something their "god." At that moment in time, that someone or something takes place before the Lord God Almighty in the priority list. Therefore, whatever the sin may be, it has violated the first commandment.

Christians often skip over this commandment, thinking that it pertains more to Old Testament times. However, the truth of the matter is that this commandment is still extremely relevant to Christians today. There may not be "other gods" that are being prayed to or bowed down before; but there are "other gods" present in the hearts of people. The Christians' goal is to rid their hearts of the "other gods" of this world, and fill them up with the things of God. If their hearts are constantly full of the Holy Spirit, there will be no room left for these "other gods" to take His place.



# A Giant Step for the Women of Saudi Arabia

By *Stephalyn Cherry*

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia granted the women of that patriarchal nation the right to vote, on Sunday, September 25, 2011, which will go into effect in 2015. This unanticipated move by the King will surely enrage the ultraconservative religious sects in that country.

This for “the first time [will not only] give women the right to vote, [but to] run for local office.” There are conflicting reports as to whether or not women will be allowed to serve on the Shura Council (advisors to the king). This move will give women an official standing in a community where “they remain unable to serve as Cabinet ministers, drive or travel abroad without permission from a male guardian” or leave the house without covered faces.

This is an impressive but marginal edict for the women of Saudi Arabia. Lubna Hussain, a Saudi writer, said, “The king is implementing the reform promises he made when he became leader. It shows he is not willing to pander to religious fundamentalists...who are quite weakened and don’t seem to have the voice they used to.”

Although this is a highly significant triumph for the women of Saudi Arabia, they still have a long way to go in the removal of old ideologies, male predominance, and the disparities that have kept them bound for centuries.

I stand with these women as they begin this poignant journey into liberation. I pray that our Saudi sisters will always remember that they possess an innate and indomitable spirit to overcome the impossible. The table has been set. It is their turn to sit at the table and feast.

Excerpts taken from the *Star Telegram*, an article by JEFFREY FLEISHMAN, Los Angeles Times, September 26, 2011, and from the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, an article by Abdullah Al-Shihri and Hamza Hendawi from The Associated Press.

# Old Testament Law

By R.J. Young

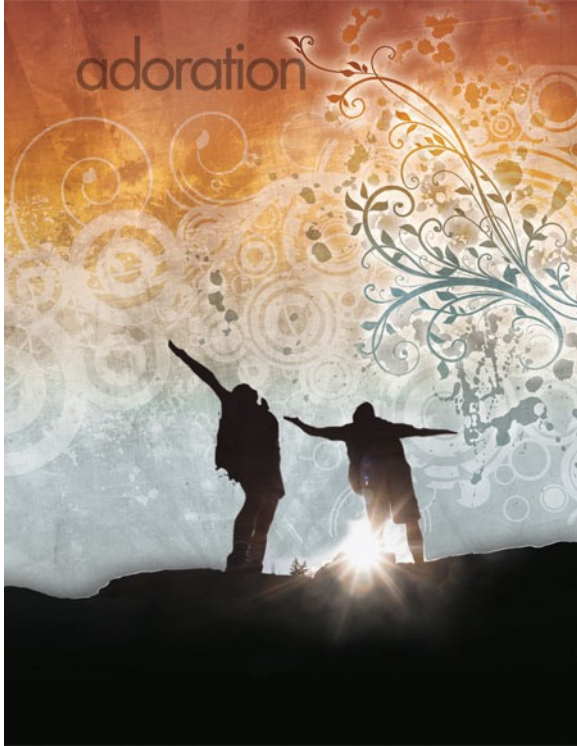
We frequently hear, “The Bible says... The Bible says... The Bible says...” But does it really? Sometimes the “restriction” being promoted is a narrow interpretation, an exception or specific circumstance, or simply not in scripture. Then there are many groups of Christians who are always pointing out where “in the Old Testament it says” that people should behave in a particular way, or keep a particular practice. While the Old Testament is the Word of God and is certainly pertinent, if you are going to insist that men cannot have long hair, or that women must wear theirs a particular way, then shouldn't you also be following the commands that say someone caught breaking the Sabbath should be put to death?

What many people don't realize is that we, as New Testament believers, have been released from the Old Testament law—which is not the same as ignoring the law. We also need to remember, there are differences between the Ten Commandments, Levitical law, and rabbinic traditions and interpretation. For example, in Acts 14:20-21 James is speaking to the council at Jerusalem. “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.”

Once Jesus was asked by a Pharisee, “What is the most important commandment?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31). In Romans 8 it says that Christ fulfilled the law and we are free and now “walk...according to the Spirit.”

Of course there are many other issues the New Testament deals with apart from the law, but let's try not to be so legalistic regarding the Old Testament. Maybe the point is to truly read the Bible to find what is there, rather than looking for “scripture” to back up our own opinion or perspective.





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## Storms Are Coming

*...continued from page 1*

I grabbed a flashlight and as I scanned the room to where the boys should have been there were only empty seats. Moving the flashlight down, I discovered them huddled together under the dining table. With eyes wide open, they had not expected such a thing to happen. Yet, their fears seem to calm as the flashlight lit the room and they saw me.

The storms of this world will always battle against us. As Christians, we need to be prepared to fight back. We need to heed the warnings that God gives us about the storms that will be coming our way and we need to be prepared, especially spiritually. As the thunderstorm brought darkness into the trailer, so does this world bring darkness. We need to be able to recognize it and overcome it with the power of the Holy Spirit. As the flashlight fought back the darkness, so will the Word of God fight back against the darkness of the enemy, Satan. The light of God will brighten all storms.

## We are getting closer!

Electrical updates for our building are in progress. Other areas being updated include: plumbing, ADA, and heating and air conditioning. Final blueprints should be submitted to the County within the week. Please continue pray that the approval process will be expedited and we will be able to move forward with our renovations.

Through the *Campus Chronicles*, I will continue to keep you posted on the timeline for completion. This \$350,000+ project is going to be an EPIC MIRACLE MAKEOVER!!

In His service,

*Ron Harden*

## Epic Miracle Update

## YEARBOOK PORTRAITS

If you missed the chance to get your yearbook portrait during Registration Chapel week, you can still get your picture taken each Friday, during the Quarter, in the Journalism room between 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.



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