

From the Pastor:

James 5:19-20 record the words of James that are preserved in the New Testament as the end of his letter. However, this may not have been the end of his letter. James is one of the three books or letters preserved in the Majority Texts of the Greek New Testament that does not end with "Amen." The other two are the Book of Acts and 3 John. Since the Bible does not say why there is no "Amen" at the end of these books and letters, we can only speculate.

To speculate on why this is, we need to first understand the significance of the word "amen." Amen is of Hebrew origin. According to the Online Bible Greek Lexicon (OBGL) when "amen" is used at the beginning of a discourse "amen" means "surely, truly, of a truth." At the end of a discourse "amen" means "so it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled." Therefore, "amen" at the end of a book or letter would have the meaning of "may it be fulfilled."

"It was a custom, which passed over from the synagogues to the Christian assemblies, that when he who had read or discoursed, had offered up solemn prayer to God, the others responded "Amen", and thus made the substance of what was uttered their own." (OBGL)

"The word "amen" is a most remarkable word. It was transliterated directly from the Hebrew into the Greek of the New Testament, then into Latin and into English and many other languages, so that it is practically a universal word. It has been called the best known word in human speech. The word is directly related (in fact, almost identical) to the Hebrew word for "believe" (amam), or faithful. Thus, it came to mean 'sure' or 'truly,' an expression of absolute trust and confidence." (OBGL)

So why is there no "amen" at the end of the Book of Acts, James, and 3 John?

The Book of Acts contains (as the full title records) "The Acts of the Apostles." However, the Book of Acts doesn't end with the death of Paul or any of the other apostles (only James the brother of John who was killed early on in the New Testament age – Acts 12:2 is recorded). Acts ends during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome. Paul died during his second imprisonment. 2 Timothy was written by Paul before he died during his second imprisonment. Therefore, the Book of Acts doesn't even record the important acts of all of the early apostles. Acts covers some of Peter's activities plus a little about other apostles (John, James, and Barnabas for example). But, Acts is mostly about Paul. Is there no "amen" at the end of Acts because more is yet to be written about the acts of the rest of God's apostles through the ages? We don't know.

How about James? James addressed his letter to the twelve tribes scattered abroad (James 1:1). In his closing did James indicate where the twelve tribes were and God did not want that known yet? We don't know. But, it appears that the end of the letter was apparently left off since the letter seems to abruptly end without a usually closing.

3 John deals with the apostasy and the false teachers who were involved in that apostasy which was occurring at the end of the first century A.D. Did John identify that group which was spreading heresy more clearly at the end of his letter and God wasn't ready for that to be revealed yet? We do not know. But, again, it appears that the end of the letter was apparently left off.

We will only know the truth of the matter in the future.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:23pm	8:22pm	8:21pm
Sunset Friday 8-2	8:19pm	8:19pm	8:18pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



July 27, 2019

Victoria

Sermon: Larry Tucker

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez

Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Split Sermon: DVD

Split Sermon: Michael Watts

"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly."

Proverbs 13:24

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 7/27	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 8/3	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Monsivais will speak in Corpus Christi. Mr. Mendez will be in Harlingen.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

Corpus Christi Speech Club: Friday, July 26, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the regular church hall.

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be on August 3.

Corpus Christi and Harlingen Speech Club: The first South Texas Speech Club meeting will be held Friday July 26th at the St. Paul United Church of Christ Meeting Hall. The meeting time is 6:00 pm --7:30 pm. A meal will follow at the Mendez Home at 8 pm. All are invited to the meal. See Janie Mendez for details about the meal.

Biblical Seminars: Harlingen will be hosting Noah's Ark and Early Man Seminars. The seminars will take place in Harlingen on the Sabbath of August 17th. The Noah's Ark seminar will take place from 10 am - 12 noon. There will be a meal break and the Early Man Seminar will take place from 2-4 pm. Included in the presentations will be a question and answer session. For more information see the announcement link at:

<http://corpuschristi.cogwa.org/announcements/>