

Abiathar: Biblical Lightning Rod

Do you remember Abiathar?

Massacre Survivor

King Saul became a madman, and Doeg the Edomite became his henchman. Saul was sure that David was out to get him; nothing could have been further from the truth. David aimed to be a loyal servant to God and to the king whom God had anointed. Yet Saul was obsessed with killing David. So David was on the run. One day he and the men who followed him got help from the high priest Ahimelech (1 Samuel 21:1-6). When Saul heard about it, he summoned Ahimelech and the rest of the priests. Mercilessly, Saul commanded his servants, “Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me” (1 Samuel 22:17). Saul’s servants refused. But Doeg, Saul’s chief herdsman, was eager to do the dirty deed. He killed 85 priests that day.

Not satisfied, Doeg went to the priestly city of Nob and put to the sword every man, woman and child and all their animals. Who was the only one who escaped? Abiathar, the son of Ahimelech.

Subject of Prophecy

When David became king, Abiathar became his faithful helper—especially during the time when Absalom was trying to supplant his father as king. When David’s life was ebbing, Abiathar’s allegiance shifted to an upstart son of David, Adonijah. Adonijah wanted to be king, but God and David had planned for the throne to become Solomon’s. Upon his establishment as king, Solomon called Abiathar to account: “And to Abiathar the priest the king said, ‘Go to Anathoth, to your estate, for you deserve death. But I will not at this time put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father, and because you shared in all my father’s affliction.’ So Solomon expelled Abiathar from being

priest to the LORD, thus fulfilling the word of the LORD that he had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh” (1 Kings 2:26-27).

Four generations earlier, God sent a prophet to Eli with bad news. Because Eli had turned his head while his sons were publicly immoral and cavalier with the priesthood, God would bring an end to the family and their special role. Read about it in 1 Samuel 2. It happened providentially in the massacre at Nob and when Abiathar was deposed.

Skeptic’s Target

Skeptics say that Jesus is a fraud and that the Bible is not the Word of God. One alleged proof is that Jesus called Abiathar the priest who gave David holy bread to eat, while 1 Samuel 21 says it was his father Ahimelech who did it. Jesus’ words are found in Mark 2:23-28. Did Jesus make a mistake? Do we have a contradiction? Actually Jesus did not say that Abiathar handed over the bread. He said that the incident happened “in the time of Abiathar the priest” (Mark 2:26). Did it happen during Abiathar’s lifetime? Yes. Was Abiathar a priest? Yes. He may have been one of 86 priests in Nob at the time. Even if he only later became priest, calling him “Abiathar the priest” identifies the person specifically. Anne Hathaway was born in 1982 and is a 21st century actress. She is not the same Anne Hathaway born in 1555 and married to Shakespeare for 34 years. And if we talked about what happened to “the actress Anne Hathaway” during her lifetime, we could justifiably include events predating her acting career.

Nice try, skeptics. Jesus is still Lord, and the Bible is still God’s Word.

Danny Boggs

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelist

Danny Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Joyce Clarkson, Ed and Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Glen Crumbliss, Eli Dodson, Joe Freund, Wilma Hill, David Hofer, Gary and Cheryl Neilans, Angel Rivera, Scott Swope, Edith Toney, Bobbie Tuggle, Ruth Ann Wilson.

- Edith Toney is recovering at home.
- Carolyn Bukowich is home from the hospital.
- Gary Neilans is home.

Rejoice: We rejoice with our new sister in Christ, **Kelsie Matthews**. She was baptized last week.

Every "One" Counts: Remember when you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need, often a local family. Last week we helped a family who had an unexpected expense. If you know someone who needs immediate help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.



 **Devo and Donuts:** Join us every Tuesday morning at 7:00 for donuts and a brief devotional. All area students are invited, and bring your friends!

Our children returned from **Lad to Leaders** Sunday evening. We are proud of all they did. Look for the report on their success in the next couple of weeks. Welcome home and great job!

Bobbie Tuggle would like to thank everyone for the cards, visits, and prayers.



This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: *The Draw*
(John 12:32, Danny Boggs)
P.M: Q&A: "Born Again" Edition
(Danny Boggs)

Parents of **young children:** There are some Bible coloring sheets, paper, crayons, and books available for your children for church time. They are located on the west side of the foyer.

VBS planning: We will meet this Sunday after evening services to plan ways to maximize our attendance. Come and share your ideas.

Bob Murray's **Wednesday night class**, room 21, will begin a new study of the "*Beauties of Brotherhood*" on May 1.

The wedding of **Heather Cobb** and **Tony Flint** is May 4.

Everyone is invited to a **potluck and wedding shower** for Melissa Johnson and Nate Miller after morning services on May 5. The couple is registered at Amazon, Walmart, Target and Bed, Bath, & Beyond.

Neosho Christian School is having their annual **PreK-Kindergarten Round-Up** from 9-10 a.m. on May 3. Those who have children turning 4 by August 1 for PreK or 5 by August 1 for Kindergarten are invited to come and make plans for next year. See bulletin board for details.

On May 5, we will host the **Tri-State Area Youth Series**. Please plan on making some **homemade cookies** and dropping them off in the activities center.

The wedding of **Luke Yates** and **Grace Harrison** is May 11.

Vacation Bible School is July 21-24. Be thinking of who to invite and begin praying for a successful week.



Our week at **Green Valley Bible Camp** is June 9-15. You can register online at greenvalleybiblecamp.com

If you or your child are **graduating** this spring, please let us know in the office.

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, April 28

- AM Opening: Glen Honeycutt
- AM Closing: Joe Moreno
- PM Opening: Todd Murray
- PM Closing: Jonathan Keith

Wednesday, May 1

- Opening: Jackson Collinsworth
- Closing: Trace Wilson

RECORDS	04-21-19	04-22-18
Bible Study	104	128
AM Worship	170	189
PM Worship	131	126
Wednesday	129	114
Contribution	\$6,839.97	\$7,726.50
Budget	\$7,717.37	\$7,630.58