

# HOLE CONNECTION

Community Bible Church | Jackson Hole Bible College | Jackson Hole Christian Academy

## Hopes for our country

by Don Landis

We have a new President! We are hopeful about what was said during the election process, that there might be some actual benefits we can expect.

JHBC kicked off the semester studying Church History. It is a very relevant study of the church through the centuries from the second chapter in the Book of Acts until present day.

We looked at the pendulum swing in England during the Reformation between Protestant and Catholic/Anglican theologies. It was a terrible time under Henry VIII and his heirs.

The English suffered going back and forth between the two at the whims of the King and the beliefs of Edward, Bloody Mary, and Elizabeth. The cost was also very high for the religious leaders of each side as well.

But we see in history that certain values and belief can be either enhanced or rejected by those in power. We saw increasing real opposition to Christian values over the last eight years. Now merely days from



President Trump's election, decisions have been made that cause us to hope for a return to traditional values in America.

**First** we hope for a more conservative view concerning the unborn! Our prayer is that under this new leadership millions of babies might be spared the death penalty of abortion. President Trump has already defunded our tax money being used to pay for abortions overseas. Our tax money should not pay for abortions. The federal courts

had no constitutional right to alter a moral law. Our hope is for all funding for Planned Parenthood to stop and the 300,000+ murders they commit each year - slaughtering babies - will stop as well.

**Second** we hope a new foreign policy which will ease the suffering of Christians in the Middle East. There is no doubt born-again brothers and sisters in Christ have been suffering at the hands of ISIS. Now

## LIVESTREAM UPGRADES

We've upgraded our livestream service at church so we can stream directly to our website: [cbcjacksonhole.org](http://cbcjacksonhole.org). Visit our site to watch our live streams and view archived videos as well. We hope this will be more convenient for you to access Pastor Don's weekly teaching.

there is hope this new year will bring some relief and the persecution will stop if ISIS is contained or eliminated.

**Third** we look forward to a better relationship with and support for the nation of Israel. I am one who believes it is still literally true that those who bless "Abraham" are blessed. We have been walking the edge on this issue for several years and now even the leadership in Israel is looking forward to our new President's administration.

I might mention here that support for Israel is not because we would agree with their policies or practices. It goes deeper than that; we believe in a distinction between Israel and the Church in the Bible. God is not done with Israel yet and there are still literal promises made to Israel as a nation and people that have not been fulfilled. I am convinced what I'm seeing in my lifetime is the beginning of Ezekiel's prophecy of dry bones. The bones have been brought together by God and this was the formation of the nation in 1948. Muscle and sinew has come also and someday the breath of God will make them alive again. Someday, perhaps sooner than we expect, Israel will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

*Ez. 37:14 "I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD."*

I will also bring to your attention the BDS movement, whose goal is to penalize Israel with a boycott. I met with some Jewish leaders here in Jackson Hole and have been informed about some details of the movement. I personally support the move many states have already adopted into law that no state money should be invested in companies that boycott Israel. I support the efforts to get anti-BDS legislation approved in Wyoming. You might want to see if your state is already on the list!

**Our fourth** hope is, for the sake of future generations, the nation's terrible debt will be diminished. This debt, when not payable, becomes a moral issue.

**And fifth** we hope there will be a new openness for believers to feel less fear in sharing their faith and speaking out boldly for the Gospel's sake.

We encouraged folks to pray for our last president and we encourage the same for President Trump, his family, and his team.

We are not directly involved in politics. But we believe deeply that our responsibility in teaching and training at the church and college is to hold forth the Word of God and encourage God's people to walk worthy. There is no question that our nation was founded with a Judeo-Christian base! We have seen a rejection of that base and the costs will be enormous. God is not mocked. Now our prayer is that a new openness and awareness of our foundations will flourish under our new President.

The Lord wants us to be faithful in the work He has called each of us to do. Thank you for your prayers and support and we hope He will bless you in your part of the Kingdom work.

Sincerely,

Don

**Manna Ministry in the News!**

Tim Thornton was asked to share about our food donation ministry for an article in the newspaper. Here's a little excerpt from the article:

*"The principal goal of the [Good Samaritan Mission] food program is not only feeding those in need, but also distributing food. This same mentality is shared by organizations around the valley, including those running Jackson Hole Bible College, where refurbished food has been on the menu since 1996. "One of the most elaborate meals I have seen created with almost entirely salvaged food was bacon and minced mushroom stuffed pork tenderloin with mashed potatoes, salad bar and various toppings, the full nine yards," said Tim Thornton, food distribution manager for The Manna Ministry, which uses the Bible College as a hub to help distribute an estimated 100,000 pounds of food a year throughout the valley."*

documentaries about ancient history. My parents would mute or forward through places where the narrator talked about certain things; ideas about history that were secular. The Bible did not talk about that stuff, so young ears did not need to hear about it. But a young mind starts to connect the dots, begins to wonder why the only way to look at ancient history is from a perspective that doesn't agree with the Bible. As I got older, I realized that the realm of interpreting ancient history has been largely left up to the Non-Christian crowd. This passive acceptance of a secular worldview is hindering Christians in their understanding of history. Instead of seeing God's special design for mankind, we get lost in the popular speculation that ancient man was less intelligent or less capable than we are today. Adopting a Biblical worldview when looking at ancient history is something every Christian should consider. If Christians were to peel back the layers of secular speculation and get at the realities of ancient man, they would see that everything secular historians present as evidence fits perfectly within a Biblical model.

The subject of some of those childhood documentaries was the ancient civilization of the Olmec. The Olmec were an advanced mystery culture that appeared in Mesoamerica and had caused heated debates

## JHBC 20-Year Reunion

Sign up now for the JHBC 20-year reunion, July 2-8, 2017! The cost is \$250/person which includes lodging, meals and textbooks for the mini-classes. A \$50 non-refundable deposit will hold your spot in the dorms. The lodging is available for singles or for families willing to split up into respective girl/guy sides of bunkhouse. For those not staying on campus the cost is \$150, with a \$20 non-refundable deposit. Activities such as Bar-J, rodeo and whitewater rafting will cost extra. For those interested in whitewater rafting, \$70 will be due by March 1, 2017.

We have an amazing week lined up including mini-sessions with Pastor Don and Dr. Benware, with a few other possible professors on the schedule. Plans are in the schedule for free time to hike, sightsee in Grand Teton or Yellowstone National Parks, and class competitions in ultimate frisbee, volleyball, etc.

To secure your spot, send the deposit to JHBC, PO Box 6490, Jackson, WY 83002. If you have any questions, call Holly at (307) 690-5202.

## Olmec Origins: Perspectives

By Bethany Youngblood

When I was a child, we would sit together as a family and watch



within the scholarly community for years. The Olmec could have occurred naturally through a gradual growth of culture. However, some say the Olmec were too advanced to have occurred naturally. If not natural, then they must have had help from an outside source, perhaps from across the ocean in what is called transoceanic contact. Both of these theories are operating within the bias that ancient man evolved and started off as less intelligent than we are today. In the case of the Olmec, we cannot know for sure by which method they became a thriving culture. However, we can look at the secular evidence for both possibilities and see if it aligns with a Biblical model of ancient man. While this will not prove one way or the other how the Olmec developed, it will help illustrate that a Biblical worldview answers some of the questions about ancient history.

If the Olmec came about through a gradual growth in culture, we bump into problems from a secular point of view. The Olmec were capable of advanced building projects and impressive social and economic organization. Those are some of the complexities Schneider wrestled with when he talked about culture change. According to Schneider, culture is something passed down from generation to generation. It does not just spontaneously appear. Schneider is explaining that the Olmec did not just pop up out of the evolutionary model. They had some historical background before getting to this point. From a Biblical perspective, it makes sense that the Olmec culture could have come about naturally. We know that man started off intelligent and creative enough to organize and build an advanced culture. So ancient man from a Biblical perspective could have easily formed the Olmec cultural naturally without outside help. However, this does not exclude the possibility within a Biblical perspective that transoceanic contact occurred.

Scholars use the theory of transoceanic contact as an alternative to the natural growth of the Olmec culture. The idea behind the theory is that the people of Mesoamerica were contacted by another culture from across the ocean. According to the theory, these seafarers passed on the knowledge and technology required to make the people of Mesoamerica into the advanced Olmec culture. For a secularist to use the theory of transoceanic contact is to admit some possibility that ancient man was intelligent enough to build a ship and navigate the oceans in the first place. Schneider rejected the possibility of such contact happening by accident or people simply drifting to the Americas. He was of a similar opinion to Kehoe, who has already shown us from a secular perspective how capable ancient man was of sea travel. From a Biblical perspective even transoceanic contact fits with the model. Ancient man was intelligent enough to build seafaring vessels and pass that knowledge down for generations.

From this example of the Olmec, we see several things stand out. Secularists struggle to explain how the Olmec cultural could have gradually become so advanced when their traditional model points to a version of ancient man that is less intelligent than modern man. Whereas a Biblical perspective sees ancient man as intelligent from the very start, so the progression towards an organized, advancing culture is expected instead of being a surprise. And for the transoceanic contact theory, both sides see that there is evidence for boat building on a small and large scale all across the ancient world. The Olmec remain a mystery. As mentioned before, it cannot be proven if the Olmec occurred naturally or if another people group influenced them through transoceanic contact. However, we have seen that both options are possible from a Biblical perspective.

*(Read more on our blog: [geniusofancientman.blogspot.com](http://geniusofancientman.blogspot.com))*