



Precious Promises for Your Journey

PASTOR JOEL ODONDI

In the frantic pace of our modern lives, it is easy to feel as though the wind is permanently against us. We look at the headlines, our health, or our bank accounts and conclude that everything is working toward our downfall. Yet, to find true comfort, we must look back to a time when the world felt just as precarious. The historical backdrop of Isaiah 41 is one of geopolitical upheaval and sheer terror. The Babylonian Empire was rising like a tidal wave, and a new conqueror from the East, Cyrus the Great, was systematically dismantling nations. For the people of Israel, this wasn't just a political shift; it was an existential crisis. They watched the "superpowers" of their day fall one by one, and they knew they were next on the map.

The surrounding nations reacted to this looming threat with a desperate, human-made security. Isaiah gives us a vivid, almost satirical picture of their response: craftsmen encouraged one another to build bigger and "better" idols. They were literally trying to weld and solder their own safety, hoping that a god fastened with nails would stay upright when the world started shaking. Israel, however, was tempted by a different reaction: the paralysis of fear. They felt small, forgotten, and discarded, convinced that their path was hidden from the Lord. It is into this atmosphere of international "dismay"—the literal looking about in anxious terror—that God speaks. He begins by confronting the heathen for their idolatry, but He immediately turns to comfort His children, reminding them that they live under an economy of grace.

The Lord declares, "Fear thou not; for I am with you." (Isaiah 41:10) Note that God does not send a representative; He comes Himself. This presence is powerful enough to drive away the spirit of fear and personal enough to meet us in our specific circumstances. It is also perpetual. He doesn't just start the journey with us; He stays until the end. God



Many family and friends journeying miles together to celebrate the life of Grace Odondi, Pastor Joel's mother.

continues His promise by saying,

"Be not dismayed; for I am your God."

To be dismayed is to look about anxiously for help that isn't there. But God halts our wandering eyes by reminding us of who He is. The relationship is personal—He is *your* God—He is the Almighty who can do anything. When we realize that the God who rules the heavens is the same God who calls us His own, the reality of our situation changes. If the Unchanging One is on the throne, why should we faint? He hasn't lost His power, and He hasn't changed His mind about you.

Finally, the Lord offers a three-fold guarantee of His strength.

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Get to Know:

JOSHUA AND ERIN SCHMADERER

Joshua and Erin met in the fall of their freshman year, 2011, at K-State. They quickly became friends, often playing on the same team for ultimate frisbee. Both engineering majors, they shared several classes together and grew closer through their love for swimming, the outdoors, animals, and playing games. Over the next couple of years, Joshua and Erin worked together to encourage each other's success through school, allowing their relationship to grow stronger. In December 2014, they officially tied the knot and began their careers as engineers in Salina after graduation. With their future in mind, they purchased a home on 28 acres to raise children, ensuring them enough space to roam and play.

After a year of trying to start their family, Joshua and Erin learned they were infertile. Having always been pulled to adoption, they quickly started their adoption journey in 2016, opening their home to four children since. Their first, Gabriella, came with hurdles as her birth mother struggled with keeping or placing her. In the end, she placed Gabriella with Joshua and Erin, creating the start of their beautiful family. Gabriella is eight now and loves animals, is a wonderful big sister, and enjoys being "mommy's leader."

A year and a half later Joshua and Erin were contacted by another adoption agency telling them they had been chosen by a birth mom in Tennessee. After a 3-hour plane delay and a 14-hour drive through the night, they met with Sebastian's mom and found they were a perfect match. A month after matching with Sebastian's mom, they received a phone call from Joshua's sister asking if they'd be open to another adoption. Having always talked about the joy twins bring, it seemed that the blessing would come true when they matched with Simon's mom a shortly before Sebastian was born. Sebastian and Simon are both 6 years old - seven weeks apart to the day - and the joy of twins of which Joshua and Erin had always dreamt. Sebastian enjoys puzzles, cuddles, and books, while Simon enjoys helping around the house, board games, and spending time with his siblings. In July of 2023, we adopted our youngest, Theodore. He is two and enjoys trains, reading, and reading about trains.

As a family, we love to play games, ALL games. Video games, board games, outside games, tag, hide and seek; you name it, we have probably played it! Our children have their own game shelf, and among the many games, our favorite right now is Spoons. The kids are also active in gymnastics, swimming, and soccer.

We started attending FBC in July 2025. We are thankful to have found a home church to continue growing closer to Christ. We've enjoyed attending service and fellowship with our fellow Christians.



A loving home nurturing the personalities of each child allowing them to shine through.
From left to right: Sebastian, Erin, Theodore, Joshua, Simon and Gabriella.

LOVE GOD | LOVE OTHERS | MAKE DISCIPLES

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 2026
6 - 7:30 p.m.



The term "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning "command." On the night Jesus was betrayed, he shared the Passover meal with his disciples in the upper room. After washing their feet, he gave them this command: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

We invite you to join us for our Maundy Thursday service in Fellowship Hall. A free meal will be provided as we gather around the table, just as Jesus did with his disciples. The service will conclude with communion, commemorating the Last Supper. All ages are welcome!

Join Us

Easter Sunday
April 5, 2026

7 a.m. Sunrise Service
at Indian Rock Park Shelter

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
at First Baptist Church (843 Lewis Ave.)

10 a.m. Worship
in the Sanctuary



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HE IS
RISEN



www.fbcsalina.org

Is He Coming or Not?

PASTOR KEVIN HAZELTON

On January 1, 1988, the World Bible Society published the book, *88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1988* by Edgar C. Whisenant. Whisenant claimed Christ would rapture the Church from earth sometime between September 11-13, 1988. He was quoted as saying, “Only if the Bible is in error am I wrong.” He later updated his prediction to 1989, stating his calculations were off by one year as he had not factored in the lack of a year zero. Whisenant died in 2001. His predictions never came to pass.

How did people respond to when Whisenant made his predictions? The same way people have always responded to “doomsday prophecies”—some quit their jobs, some sold all their possessions, some gathered in anticipation wearing in white robes, some bought food and guns and holed up in underground bunkers. Sadly, many athiest used it as another reason to mock Jesus.

Whisenant’s failed prediction isn’t unique. It’s part of a long pattern of speculation. And it raises an important question: what should Christians believe about Jesus’ return?

Believe the Gospel, the good news of Jesus, which assures us that Jesus will return one day to judge the earth and establish His Kingdom (John 14:3, Acts 1:10-11, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, Revelation 22:7, 12, 20). **Believe the King is Coming!!**

Believe the King is coming again. That is definite. When and how Jesus will return are speculation at best.

There are four prominent views among biblical Christians regarding the nature of Jesus’ return. Proponents of each view take the Bible seriously, believing their interpretation makes the best sense of what the Bible says. Yet, proponents of each view, despite their doctrinal differences, agree on what matters most: Jesus will come again.

When teaching about his return, Jesus told his disciples to “Keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” (Matthew 25:33) For over 150 years, men and women at FBC have sought to do that exact thing: Keep watch. How? By loving God, loving others, and making disciples.

That is why I don’t obsess over specific details of when or how Jesus will return. Our focus is on what is certain, not on speculation.

Our FBC Statement of Common Faith says this about the Lord’s Return and Last Things:

We believe that Jesus will physically return to Earth to raise all the dead, judge all people and nations, condemn Satan and his followers to hell, and bring all who believe in Jesus by faith into the eternal presence of God.

Like Edgar Whisenant, Christians have been anticipating Jesus’ second coming to earth for almost 2,000 years. Everyone in the history of FBC Salina has waited. I wait. You wait.



“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.”

Matthew 24:45-46



The question to ask is not whether He will come. He will!
The question is whether HE will find us faithful and wise servants:
Loving God, Loving Others, and Making Disciples
until he returns.

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He promises to...

1) Strengthen us, providing the power to see every duty and every day through to its conclusion.

2) Support us, giving us exactly what we need in the precise proportions we require.

3) Sustain us with His power.



Unlike a human master who might abandon a sick servant, God promises to hold us fast until we reach our heavenly home. He did not save us to abandon us along the way; He who began a good work in you will surely perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

It is one thing to read these promises, but it is another to live as though they are true. There is a beautiful story of an elderly saint who, in her final days, found her memory failing. She lamented that she could no longer remember the specific promises of Scripture that had sustained her for decades. A friend gently reminded her, "It's alright if you can't remember them; what matters is that God never forgets them."

Where have you been looking anxiously? Where have you felt abandoned by the shifting winds of life? Take those specific fears to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for being faithful even when your faith is weak. Our journey may be long or short, easy or arduous, but we can count on the One who promised to strengthen us, to support us, and to sustain us.

He is with you, He is your God, and He will uphold you.



FBC Salina,

"I want to express my deepest thanks to each of you for the overwhelming support you showed my family and me. Your prayers sustained us, your cards comforted us, and your generous financial support made it possible for us to honor my mother in such a meaningful way. In times of grief, the true beauty of the Church is revealed. I am profoundly grateful for the people of God we have become—a community that truly carries one another's burdens and reflects the heart of Christ."

Pastor Joel



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LOVE GOD | LOVE OTHERS | MAKE DISCIPLE



OUR COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

Help us grow closer as a church family and build lasting relationships by getting your photo taken for the FBC pictorial directory. Members and anyone who considers FBC Salina their church family are invited to sign up for a 10-minute time slot. It's quick, easy, and **FREE!**

**Digital copies of your photos will be available for personal use.*

When: Photos will be taken in 10-minute time slots in the FBC Studio across from the nursery. Please use the southwest door.

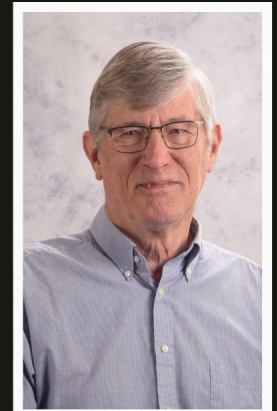
- **Sunday, April 19 | 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM**
- **Friday, May 1 | 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
- **Saturday, May 2 | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**



What to Do:

- Schedule your photo session by scanning the QR code above or contact the church office at: office@fbcshalina.org | 785-825-4643
- If unable to come to the church, contact the office to arrange a separate session or submit a professional family photo.

**For those who have already had their picture taken, you do not need to update it unless you would like to take this opportunity to do so.*



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April Sermons

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”
Matthew 4:17

With His first message, Jesus introduced his mission to initiate the kingdom of God on earth. In 2025 we studied the first four teaching sections in the Gospel of Matthew:

- Matthew 5 – 7: Sermon on the Mount
- Matthew 10: Kingdom Mission
- Matthew 13: Kingdom Eyes
- Matthew 18: Kingdom Church

Following Easter, we will study the climax of Jesus’ teachings in Matthew 23-25, beginning with Kingdom Warnings and Woes.” Join us in worship for these sometimes confusing and always challenging teachings.

April 5 - Easter Sunday - Matthew 11:28-30
Pastor Kevin

April 12 - Kingdom Warnings- Matthew 23:1-12
Pastor Kevin

April 19 - Kingdom Woes - Matthew 23: 13-15
Pastor Kevin

April 26 - Kingdom Woes
Pastor Joel - Matthew 23:16-24

Upcoming Events

Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday

6 p.m. Dinner & Communion at FBC Salina

Sunday, April 5 - Easter

7 a.m. Sunrise Service at Indian Rock Park Shelter

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast at FBC Salina

10 a.m. Easter Worship at FBC Salina

Tuesday, April 7

6 p.m. Elders

Thursday, April 9

6 p.m. In Touch at Shirley Gawith's

6 p.m. Out of Touch @ John Show's

Tuesday, April 21

6 p.m. Elders

Tuesday, April 27

6:30 p.m. 4H Presents "*The Boy Who Didn't Go to Church*" an Adventures in Odyssey Play

Find the calendar online at : www.fbcsalina.org/calendar

Join Us in Person

Sundays

Worship at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

Praise & Growth Groups at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Prayer Group at 9 a.m.

FBC Kids and Youth at 5:30 p.m.

Adult Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

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