



Church of Christ at Beech Grove

meeting at Beechgrove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

Highway 41 near I-24 exit 97

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<http://kennethlorin.com/BeechGroveChurch.html>

<http://kennethlorin.com/WeeklyBulletin.html>

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Selective Skepticism

by Neal Pollard

“You don’t think the Bible is historically accurate, do you?”

“Moses didn’t cross the Red Sea. It was the Reed Sea, only a couple of inches deep.”

“Jesus was a good man, but the Son of God, born of a virgin, resurrected from the dead? Come on!”

“I just can’t buy that Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament.”

“Creation took place in six, literal, 24 hours day? Who believes that?!”

These are some typical questions people ask, and increasingly they are being asked by professed Christians as well as agnostics and atheists. The concept of a truly limitless God doing the incredible in the unfolding of history and His plan of salvation troubles many.

But there seems to be an inconsistency if not a contradiction with many of these doubters. They will aver that they, their family or their friends have had many encounters with the paranormal. They have seen ghosts or UFOs. They have communicated with “the dead” with Ouija boards or séances. They go to palm readers, read Tarot cards and tea leaves, or religiously scour their horoscopes to get a bearing on how to plan their future. They put complete trust in psychics and spiritualism.

They are willing to swallow every fact spouted by humanistic, evolutionary scientists. In fact, a good number of things are simply assumed to be true because of the sources themselves.

Why do these glaring inconsistencies exist? Because some of this deals with the heart and motives, one must be careful in assessing the whys.

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Sunday Schedule

Bible Classes	10 AM
Worship	11 AM
Worship	6 PM
Wednesday: Bible Classes	7 PM

Mission Works and Evangelism:

House to House/ Heart to Heart
 Restoration Radio
 Jim Waldron
 Manuelito Children’s Home



Bible Search

by Kenneth L. Thomas

Questions for week of January 11

1. What king offered clothing , gold and political power to the one who could read and explain a "writing"?
2. Who asked God if he were responsible for his brother's welfare?
3. Who indicated that his teacher had not fully convinced him to follow Christ?
4. Who talked to Jesus about the eating habits of canines?
5. What was done to help an elderly king stay warm?
6. Who recognized characteristics of both his sons that were evident in the younger of the two?
7. A prophet of God volunteered to be sent by God with God's message after seeing a vision of God on his elevated seat. The vision is dated by the death of what king of Judah?

Answers for week of January 4

1. OT - What were the meek to seek in order to escape God's wrath?

Answer: They were to seek the LORD, righteousness and meekness, Zeph 2:3

Zephaniah 2: 1 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; 2 Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the

fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD's anger come upon you. 3 Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger.

2. OT - What source of light is compared to a life that "goes out"?

Answer: lamp, candle, spark. The demise of the wicked is described as a flame on a candle or in a lamp being put out.

Prov 13:9 The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

Prov 20:20 Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

Prov 24:19-20 Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked; 20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

Job 18:1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said, 2 How long will it be ere ye make an end of words? mark, and afterwards we will speak. 3 Wherefore are we counted as beasts, and reputed vile in your sight? 4 He teareth himself in his anger: shall the earth be forsaken for thee? and shall the rock be removed out of his place? 5 Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine. 6 The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him. Job 21: 1 But Job answered and said, . . . 7 Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power? . . . 16 Lo, their good is not in their hand: the counsel of the wicked is far from me. 17 How oft is the candle of the wicked put out! and how oft cometh their destruction upon them! God distributeth sorrows in his anger.

3. Old Testament - Who compared his past life to a time when God lighted his path with a candle?

Answer: Job. Verse 2 speaks of the past, verse 3 speaks of the candle (lamp), and the rest of the chapter has Job recounting situations from the past when life was better.

Job 29:1 Moreover Job continued his parable, and said, 2 Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me; 3 When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness; 4 As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle; 5 When the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were about me . . .

4. The secrets of men always seem to come to light. What teacher illustrated that idea using the common practice of placing a light in an elevated place rather than down low?

Answer: Jesus (the master of teaching) Jesus indicates that secrets have a way of being found out and being publicized.

Mark 4:21-23 And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? 22 For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. 23 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

Luke 8:16-17 - No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. 17 For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

5. With what shall those who practice hypocrisy be surprised?

Answer: Fearfulness

(Isa 33:14) The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?

6. What six characteristics describe the spirit of the Lord as it stayed upon a descendant of Jesse?

Answer: Wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord.

(Isa 11:1-2) And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; . . . Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.

7. Who asked that his killers not be charged with what they were doing wrong?

Answer: Stephen and/or Jesus. Because of the wording of the text, the word "charge" best fits the death of Stephen.

Acts 7:59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, **lay not this sin to their charge.** And when

he had said this, he fell asleep.

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Selective Scepticism, continued

However, it is manifest that such a reality prevails. The Bible talks about the mindset that leads one to put faith in the fanciful all while rejecting the reasonable explanation of God and his ways found in scripture. Certainly, we can treat the claims of scripture as fairly as we can a crystal ball or a Himalayan guru.

The pagan mind of the average Roman citizen was susceptible to the mystical and the cultic.

Paul writes,

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures” (Romans 1:18-23).

Ironically, with that worldview as a foundation, immorality of the grossest varieties followed (Romans 1:24-28) as well as unrestrained, chaotic behavior that was violent and destructive (Romans 1:29-31).

Tucked into the middle of this latter list was the fact that such were “haters of God” (30). Could this be a viable factor? People might not articulate their personal philosophy in such pungent terms, but what is the consequence of their belief system? They reject out of hand the idea of the incarnation (literally, “God in the flesh”), a vicarious death (an innocent one dying for the guilty), an objective, normative and authoritative divine revelation (i.e., that the Bible came from God’s work in guiding men to write down his will to guide all people

of all time) and such Bible themes as sin, repentance, redemption, a universal judgment, heaven, and hell.

Could it be that mankind is disturbed by the thought of accountability and submission? Would we rather have our fancy tickled by clairvoyance, black magic and Martians than have it all explained by special revelation brought about by an Uncaused Cause who not only set things in motion but takes an active role and shows active concern in our individual lives even today?

I cannot speak for what drives a person to choose the ethereal over the eternal, but I can counter the fanciful with some basic facts of faith.

Our morality, our spirituality, our drive to have standards of right and wrong and our yearning to adore and worship cannot be satisfactorily explained by evolution, synapses of the brain or even inexplicable chance.

In our desire to titillate ourselves with apparitions and interpreting space noise, we have aimed infinitely low. If we will look up and put our trust in the all-powerful, perfect God and live our lives from that perspective, we unlock for ourselves the portal to peace and the pathway to purpose.

In our heart of hearts, we know that belief in God is the better explanation. To that end, may we follow our hearts.

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Welcome, visitors

Beech Grove News, Prayer Requests

Other prayer needs: William Miller (NHC); Frances Cartright (Nancy Harvey's mother) at Boulevard Terrace. Laura Singleton (now at home); Melissa Dickerson. Jessie Pearl Green entered Harton Hospital this week. James Mason entered MTMC on Friday and will have an arteriogram Monday. Diane Harvey has continued having respiratory problems.

Food Pantry :Please continue a sustained effort to bring items. If you know of a pressing need for food (including your own) please let it be known.

Last Sunday we were short on team members due to family sickness, but our Bible Bowl contestants competed well last week. Next competition is at West Sparta on February 1.

Thanks to Steve Miller for repairing electrical equipment in the meetinghouse and at the fellowship house. The breaker for the heat system at the house had become unreliable, and a socket below a ceiling fan in the auditorium had deteriorated with age.

We had a good time as a few of us were together to see the New Year in with a brief devotional after a night of singing, playing games, and fellowshiping in conversation. A highlight came when a few were able to talk to Andy Miller in Japan. He reports that the family is doing well.

Attendance and Contribution for the Week

Jan 4	BS 21	MW 33	EW 20	Wed 11	Cont	\$587
Dec 28	BS 16	MW 26	EW 24	Wed 19	Cont	\$662
Dec 21	BS 19	MW 37	EW15	Wed 14	Cont	\$778
Dec 14	BS 22	MW 23	EW 25	Wed 17	Cont	\$535

Assignments	January 11	January 18
Song leader (SS)	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
Announcements	Junior Conner	Joe Green
Songleader-Worship	Tim Waldron	Wayne Gannon
Scripture reading	T J Waldron	Daniel Green
Opening prayer	Ken Thomas	Steve Miller
Table service (center)	Joe Green	Ken Thomas
(center)	Daniel Green	Steve Miller
(outside)	T J Waldron	Ernie Green
(outside)	Junior Conner	Daniel Green
Closing Prayer	Steve Miller	Lee Rose