



Church of Christ at Beech Grove

meeting at Beechgrove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

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

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Will the Real Messiah Please Stand Up?

I have to confess that initially this passage made me scratch my head. Based upon what is recorded earlier in Matthew 3, John's question to the Lord in Matthew 11 really didn't make sense. It appeared, at least on the surface, as something of a biblical contradiction.

Chapter 3 says Jesus came to John for baptism (3:13). John objected at first, but Jesus convinced him otherwise and the immersion took place (3:16a). Scripture then records that the heavens opened up and the Spirit descended in the likeness of a dove. At that same moment, the Father declared, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (3:16b-17; cf. Mark 1:10-11).

Whatever doubts John might have had about Jesus prior to this occasion, they must have been erased, for he was in the presence of the Godhead (Romans 1:20; Colossians 2:9) and had incontrovertible evidence as to the identity of Jesus. And yet, when you get to chapter 11,

John (now in prison) sends a rather puzzling question to the Lord. He asks (via a messenger), "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" (11:3).

What?! Wait a minute! "Are You the Coming One...?!" How can Jesus not be the One?! John, have you somehow forgotten about what you saw and heard back at the baptism? Are you suffering from some type of self-induced amnesia? Has imprisonment clouded your mental faculties? Of course Jesus is the Coming One!

Evidently John, like many of his Jewish peers (Acts 1:6), held certain preconceptions about the Messiah. He was looking for a king like David of old. He was looking for a military figure who would overthrow the yoke of Roman tyranny and oppression. He was looking for a political entity who would restore the kingdom to its former glory.

(Continued back page)

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 March 22

1. Who killed a man that was digitally overly equipped (in reference to fingers and toes)?
2. What two famous Old Testament characters listed the sons of Israel and expressed his "blessing" upon them (and their descendants) concerning the future? (There may have been others but I know at least two.)
3. A high place (in the Old Testament) was an elevated place that was used for idolatrous practices. At one place it is said that the altars at one high place would have nuisance plants growing up on them, and the altars are described in scripture as talking to the mountains. What did they say to them?
4. What was the original name of a king whose eyes were put out?
5. (Refer to #4) Who had made him king and changed his name?
6. What Old Testament prophet predicted that the Lord would bring civil war to Egypt and that they would be ruled by a fierce king?
7. What cleanly dressed people are slated to walk with Jesus according to a New Testament passage?

Answers for week of March 15

1. At what place was the tabernacle erected and then the land distributed to the tribes of Israel?

Answer: Shiloh. This was not the first place the tabernacle was erected, but after it was erected here the land was divided.

(Josh 18:1-10) And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together **at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation** there. And the land was subdued before them. 2 And there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes, which had not yet received their inheritance. 3 And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you? 4 Give out from among you three men for each tribe: and I will send them, and they shall rise, and go through the land, and describe it according to the inheritance of them; and they shall come again to me. 5 And they shall divide it into seven parts: Judah shall abide in their

coast on the south, and the house of Joseph shall abide in their coasts on the north. 6 Ye shall therefore describe the land into seven parts, and bring the description hither to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD our God. 7 But the Levites have no part among you; for the priesthood of the LORD is their inheritance: and Gad, and Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh, have received their inheritance beyond Jordan on the east, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them. 8 And the men arose, and went away: and Joshua charged them that went to describe the land, saying, Go and walk through the land, and describe it, and come again to me, that I may here cast lots for you before the LORD in Shiloh. 9 And the men went and passed through the land, and described it by cities into seven parts in a book, and came again to Joshua to the host at Shiloh. 10 And Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD: and there Joshua divided the land unto the children of Israel according to their divisions.

Joshua 19:51 These are the inheritances, which Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel, divided for an inheritance by lot in Shiloh before the LORD, at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. **So they made an end of dividing the country.**

2. What does a person do to prove that they have small strength?

Answer: If a person just gives up when difficulty comes, they demonstrate their weakness. Strength in adversity comes through faith, and faith is "the victory."

Prov 24:10 - **If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.**

3. What prophet was deserted by his companions and left to see a fearful vision by himself?

Answer: Daniel - Dan. 10:5 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins [were] girded with fine gold of Uphaz: 6 His body also [was] like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude. 7 And **I Daniel alone**

saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. 8 Therefore I was **left alone**, and saw this great vision, and there **remained no strength in me**: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.

4. What king was taught by his mother to speak up on behalf of those who could not speak for themselves?

Answer: King Lemuel (Proverbs 31:1, 8-9)

(KJV) 1The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him . . . 8 **Open thy mouth for the dumb** in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. 9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

(NIV) Prov. 31:1 The sayings of King Lemuel-an oracle his mother taught him: . . . 8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

5. Just for fun . . . what passage in 1 Corinthians 15 could also be posted on a sign in the church nursery?

Answer: 1 Corinthians 15:51 (KJV) Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, . . .

Here are some I've received in the past for this question:

verse 1: I delivered unto you. . .

verse 8: born out of due time

verse 10: I labored more abundantly than they all

verse 49: we have borne

verse 58:ye know that your labour is not in vain

I hope you enjoyed reading this great chapter in the process of searching.

6. What three men encouraged Paul and Barnabas to focus on preaching to the heathen, while they themselves planned to go and preach to those of Jewish background?

Answer: About a year after Paul joined Barnabas in Antioch, the two men visited Jerusalem and conferred with the three "pillars" of the church there--**the apostles Peter and John, and James the Lord's brother (Gal 2:1-10)**. The result of this conference was an agreement that the Jerusalem leaders would concentrate on the evangelization of

their fellow Jews, while Barnabas and Paul would continue to take the gospel to Gentiles.

Gal 2:1-10 (See esp 7-10) Gal. 2:1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. 2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain. 3 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: 4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: 5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you. 6 But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me: 7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; 8(For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) 9 And when **James, Cephas, and John**, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. 10 Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

7. Who copied the law of Moses on stones in the presence of the Israelites?

Answer: Joshua

Joshua 8:30 Then Joshua built an altar unto the LORD God of Israel in mount Ebal, 31 As Moses the servant of the Lord commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lifted up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. 32 And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel.

(**Real Messiah**, cont. from front)

From John's skewed vantage point, Jesus didn't exactly fit with his Messianic expectations. Instead of initiating zealous political rallies and instigating a coup against Caesar, the Lord humbly moved among the common people of His day, teaching them and healing their sick. Instead of courting the Jewish hierarchy, Jesus bumped elbows with the unsavory elements of society (9:10; 11:19; 21:32). Instead of delivering his cousin and forerunner (John 1:23, 30, 33-34) from incarceration, He--for some unknown reason--allowed him to languish in a first-century jail cell! John embraced the tradition view of the Messiah and couldn't reconcile the Lord with his longstanding bias.

"Are You the Coming One...?" I hear doubt and confusion in John's question, despite what he had seen and heard back in chapter 3 at Jesus' baptism.

It occurs to me that John is not the only person who has ever looked at the Lord through the lens of prejudice and predisposition. Often times I hear statements to this effect, "Jesus NEVER called names. (He didn't? John 8:42-47). "Jesus was NEVER blunt with folks." (He wasn't? Matthew 8:22; 15:16; 21-28; Mark 2:1-5; 9:14-32; Luke 17:11-19). "Jesus NEVER got angry." (He didn't? John 2:13-16; Luke 19:45-46; Mark 3:6). "Jesus NEVER taught baptism was necessary for salvation." (He didn't? Hebrews 1:1-2; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:1-4; 1 Peter 3:21). Folks view the Lord in light of how they've been raised or what their "pastor" or parents have taught them, and not in harmony with what the Word actually says about Him. He's a product of long-standing oral tradition and not the actual Coming One revealed in the Bible.

Dear reader, I urge you to carefully study what Scripture says about Jesus. Cast off the shackles of preconception and get to know (1 John 2:3, 4; 5:20; John 1:10; 14:7; Acts 13:27;

Philippians 3:10) the real Messiah. What you want Him to be, what you expect Him to be, and what He IS may not be the same thing.

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Welcome, visitors

Beech Grove News, Prayer Requests

Shut in - Laura Singleton is in Manchester Health Care. William Miller is in NHC.

Food Pantry - Please continue a sustained effort to bring items. If you know of a pressing need for food please let it be known.

One of my fellow math teachers, Mona Harris, has asked us to pray for her sister Melanie who has a kidney transplant that is in danger of being rejected.

Kristen Toops was having trouble last Sunday with what appeared to be a severe reaction to her medicine, but she is doing better this weekend.

Sister Jessie Pearl Green was back last week and seemed to be getting better. Sister Iva Rose was out sick last Sunday.

Attendance and Contribution for the Week

Mo	Wk	BS	MW	EW	Wed	Cont
Mar	15	17	24	18	12	\$619
Mar	8	17	23	17	17	\$686
Mar	1	NA	NA	15		\$393
Feb	22	19	30	24	18	\$602

Assignments	March 22	March 29
Song leader (SS)	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
Announcements	Junior Conner	Joe Green
Songleader-Worship	Tim Waldron	Wayne Gannon
Scripture reading	Daniel Green	T J Waldron
Opening prayer	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
Table service (center)	Ken Thomas	Tim Waldron
(center)	Steve Miller	Junior Conner
(outside)	Joe Green	T J Waldron
(outside)	T J Waldron	Steve Miller
Closing Prayer	Daniel Green	Junior Conner