



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>

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GOD'S BOOK OF LIFE

As Jesus nears the end of His ministry, He sends disciples (seventy, in addition to the twelve) on a "special mission" in places where He would later go (*Luke 10:1ff.*). After their return they said to Jesus, "... Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name (V. 17). Jesus says to them, *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven* (Luke 10:19-20). The power Jesus gave to these disciples was miracles to prove their message was from heaven, and not from the minds of men. Rather than rejoicing over such miraculous things, Jesus taught there is something greater to rejoice over, i.e. their names being written in heaven. Later, the apostle Paul would write, *And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life* (Phil. 4:3). While Paul does not state how these women helped him in the work of the Gospel, he does declare these have their names in the "book of Life". These verses show that in some way God has a "divine record" of the faithful. Paul also wrote, *the Lord knoweth them that are his* (2 Tim. 2:19).

It is obvious to the Bible student the reference is not to a literal book. God is a spiritual being, and heaven is a spiritual place (*John 4:24; Heb. 9:24*). But, "how" does one have their name in the book of life? There is a song with the title, "I Know My Name Is There". Can we know our name is in the book of life in heaven?

In a letter to Hebrew Christians, the inspired writer uses an expression to show a distinction between the old law and new by saying: *For ye are not come unto...* (Heb. 12:18), followed by the words, *But ye are come unto*. A careful study of these verses will show where these are (and are not) spiritually. They have not come to Mt. Sinai (i.e. representative of the law God gave to Israel through Moses), but they have come to "mount Sion" (Zion), which the writer identifies as *the heavenly Jerusalem* (V. 22). While the Law of Moses came from Sinai, the law of Christ (*Rom. 8:2*) would begin in Jerusalem (*Isa. 2:2-3*). Observe further, *To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant* (Heb. 12:23-24).

The scriptures clearly teach whose names are in the book of life, and written in heaven. It is the church of Christ, i.e. the one body (*Eph. 4:4*) He established by means of His shed blood (*Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28*). From Pentecost (*Acts 2*), the saved have been added to this number (V. 47). All who obey Christ and become a part of this heaven born and blood bought body have their names in the book of life (*Acts 2:38-47*). A warning to those who do not remain faithful, their names will be blotted out of the book of life (*Rev. 3:5*). What a wonderful thought, having our names in the book of life.

Wayne Lankford, East Main Church in Murfreesboro

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 May 31

1. What non-Israelite was both a king and shepherd. (He gave thousands of sheep to Israel until Israel's king passed away.)
2. What heathen kings were as lions to God's sheep (Israel)?
3. What well known story involves sticks, water, bread, and oil?
4. A woodcutter was highly concerned when he lost (in a river) a part of a tool that had been loaned to him. How was the tool retrieved?
5. Whose son hit a prophet in the face and then asked a question about a spirit?
6. Of whom was it implied that he was assisting the ungodly and loved those who HATED God, and thus had brought the wrath of God on himself?
7. What man determined that God really wanted him to deliver Israel, and tested that premise by wringing water from a "fleece"?

Answers for week of May 24

1. Who asked for God to open his eyes so he could see the wonders of God's law?

Answer: the unnamed author of Psalm 119.

Psalm 119:18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

2. Though some passages indicate that God's eyes are always open, and that he sees everything, all the time, some people prayed that God would "open His eyes". Find at least one who did so.

Answer: Solomon, Hezekiah, Daniel and Nehemiah

Solomon, at the dedication of the temple

1Kings 8:29 That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

1Kings 8:52 That thine eyes may be open unto the supplication of thy servant, and unto the supplication of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them in all that they call for unto thee.

2Ch 6:20 That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the

prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place. . .40 Now, my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

Hezekiah, when receiving threats from Sennacherib.

2Ki 19:16 - LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: **open, LORD, thine eyes, and see:** and hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach the living God.

Isa 37:17 Incline thine ear, O LORD, and hear; **open thine eyes, O LORD, and see:** and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God.

Daniel: Da 9:18 - O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; **open thine eyes, and behold** our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.

Nehemiah: Nehemiah 1:6 - Let thine ear now be attentive, and **thine eyes open**, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.

There are a number of places where God is shown to have his eyes "open" all the time--at least he is overseeing and caring for us.

1 Peter 3:12-- For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

Deut 11:12 A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.

2 Chron 16:9--For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Ps 11:4--The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

Prov 15:3--The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Zech 4:10-- For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth

3. What Israelite asked God to make several of Israel's

enemies blind, then led them to a capital city where their sight was restored?

Answer: Elisha led them to Samaria, capital of Israel.

2 Kings 6:18 - And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. 19 And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria. 20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

4. What quality has a value unknown to man and cannot be found in the "land of the living"? (Not located under deep water. Cannot be bought with precious metals or stones. Its 'way' and location are understood by God.)

Answer: Wisdom - Job 28:12 - But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? 13 Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living. 14 The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me. 15 It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. 16 It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. 17 The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold. 18 No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies. 19 The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold. 20 Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding? 21 Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air. 23 Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears. 23 God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.

5. In Exodus, Psalms, and Isaiah you should find a passage containing this expression: "The Lord is my st_____ and so_____ and sa_____."

Answer: Strength, song and salvation

Exodus 15:2- The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. Psalm 118:14 - The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

Isaiah 12:2 -Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

6. Scarcity of necessary food causes grain prices to rise. One symbol of famine in the Bible is represented by a horse and rider with scales to weigh the food. What color is the horse in this description?

Answer: The horse was black.

Revelation 6:5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

[According to the sources I consulted, the measure of grain described here was enough for a man's daily ration, but would not allow any expenditure on his family, though it cost a day's wages.]

7. Who were the grandsons of Hammedatha, and who killed them?

Answer: The grandsons of Hammedatha were the 10 sons of Haman. They were **killed by the Jews in Shushan the Palace** when the Jews were allowed to defend themselves against the genocide engineered by Haman. They were **Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vajezatha,**

Esther 9:1 Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;) 2 The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people. 3 And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. 4 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater. 5 Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them. 6 And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men. 7 And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha, 8 And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha, 9 And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha, 10 The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand.

Beech Grove News, Prayer Requests

William Miller (father of Steve) has passed away. Due to the interest and visits of Wayne Gannon he studied the Bible while a patient in NHC, and we were able to baptize him in a therapy pool at NHC several months ago. He never had opportunity to worship with us, but he did get to attend services and fellowship with members of the church who conducted services at the nursing home. Visitation will be at Jennings and Ayers (Murfreesboro) today from 4-7 PM and a graveside service will be conducted by Ken Thomas at Roselawn Cemetery at 11 AM Monday.

Melissa Dickerson has been released by her doctor and is doing well.

Continue to pray for:

Anna Curl and her respiratory difficulties.
Military: Andy Miller family in Japan;
Drew and Adam Thomas in the US.

Shut ins: Laura Singleton seems improved at home, but is still having a hard time breathing.

Nita Summers, wife of John, (preacher at Smith Grove), NHC McMinnville

Welcome, visitors

Let us know how we may serve you. We are glad that we are frequently blessed with visitors. If you have any questions why we do as we do, feel free to ask.

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

Attendance and Contribution

Mo	Wk	BS	MW	EW	Wed	Cont
May	24	17	28	24	15	\$694
May	17	18	29	22	17	\$799
May	10	10	30	15	20	\$493
May	3	23	31	15	11	\$463

Missionary Report and Guest Preacher

Today we have **Randal Matheny**, 20 year missionary to **Brazil**, as our guest. We have also planned to have a pot-luck fellowship after worship. Please stay for the time together.



Randal is in the US to visit congregations that have an interest in his work as well as to be with his son Joel for graduation from Freed-Hardeman and Joel's marriage to Tansy Waldrop of Mt. Juliet.

We appreciate the fact that Randal allows us the use of articles from his online magazine, *Forthright*.

Marriage announcement:

A Friday wedding in Smyrna united of Nathaniel and Andrea Hernandez. Nathaniel is the son of sister Diane Hernandez of this congregation. Best wishes to them

Assignments	May 31	June 7
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	Tim Waldron
Table service (center)	Junior Conner	Tim Waldron
(center)	Steve Miller	Steve Miller
(outside)	Ken Thomas	T J Waldron
(outside)	T J Waldron	Daniel Green
Closing Prayer	James Mason	Lee Rose