



# 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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## No One Left Out by Tim Hall

What happens to Christians who are no longer able to gather with the saints?

The conversation took place many years ago, but I remember it vividly. A well-known preacher was in town to conduct a gospel meeting. As I gave him a tour of some of the sights of our area one morning, I was surprised at how he confided in me.

Tears rolled down his cheeks as he spoke of health afflictions that had beset his family. For many years friends were constantly dropping by. Now, hardly anyone even called. Age and infirmity had separated him from most of those who had once been close.

I've seen it on other occasions. Those who enjoy good health are welcomed into the mainstream of social activities. When limitations make it difficult to get out, everyone seems affected. Isolation makes the burden of physical afflictions even more painful.

A scene from long ago is recorded in Nehemiah 8. A remnant of God's people had returned to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity and were gathered safely behind newly-rebuilt city walls. Ezra led the assembly in reading the law of God, assisted by several Levites.

As the reading continued, sobbing was heard, "for all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law" ( Nehemiah 8:9, NKJV). Ezra urged them not to cry, "... for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength" ( Nehemiah 8:10).

How unfortunate that not all could be present to hear Ezra's exhortation on joy. As in any community, some were unable to meet due to age, infirmities, illnesses, etc. But these were not forgotten on that occasion. Ezra instructed them to "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared" ( Nehemiah 8:10). No one was to be left out. Spread the joy to all, they were told. (Cont. Back page)

### Sunday Schedule

<b>Bible Classes</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>11 AM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>6 PM</b>

**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

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## Questions for week of December 21

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1. Who is near the broken-hearted?
2. Find verses that describe things that God hates and what He loves. (in the same verses)
3. What happened to Judas of Galilee and his followers?
4. What did Theudas brag about?
5. What New Testament prophet predicted a widespread famine?
6. Who, along with family members, was stoned and burned after he confessed he had sinned?
7. Whose praying, weeping, and confessing was followed by crying of an assembled multitude?

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## Answers for week of December 7

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1. What city was referred to as the lady of kingdoms, but was perverted by thinking its evil deeds were invisible to others?

**Answer: Babylon** (see verses 1, 5 and 10)

This city was in the area called Chaldea, but the name of the city was Babylon.

Isaiah 47:1 Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. . . . 5 Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms. 6 I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke. 7 And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it. 8 Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children: 9 But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children,

and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments. 10 For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

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2. What woman is remembered for generosity even though she was poor?

**Answer: A widow who gave all she had. . .two mites (the smallest coin used by the Jews of Jesus' day)**

Mark 12:41-44 - And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. 42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. 43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

Luke 20:46-47 - Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts; 47 Which devour widows' houses, and for a show make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation.

Luke 21:1-4 - And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. 2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. 3 And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: 4 For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.

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3. What tearful woman became the symbol of mothers who have lost their children?

**Answer: Rahel or Rachel. (Jer. 31, Mt. 2)**

As the favored wife of Jacob (Israel), Rachel symbolized the mother of the chosen people. When they were taken captive, Jeremiah pictured Rachel, long dead, as weeping for her children. This also is used by Matthew to represent the anguish of the

mothers in Bethlehem as the infants were slaughtered by Herod. He calls it a fulfillment of the prophet Jeremy (Jeremiah)

Ramah was a fortress of Israel where captives were collected (See Jer. 40 and other references). Rachel was buried at Bethlehem after dying in the midst of bearing Benjamin (Gen 35:16-20) And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. 17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. 18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin. 19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. 20 And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day.

See the connections with the texts below: Jeremiah 31:15 - Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. 16 Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy.

Matthew 2: 16 - Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

**4. What widow's sin was punished by immediate death?**

**Answer: Sapphira. (Acts 5:5-10)**

And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried

him. 7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. 10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

**5. Whose foreign wife had a house built by her husband so she would not live in "the city of David"?**

**Answer: Solomon's**

2 Chr 8:11 - And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto the house that he had built for her: for he said, My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come

**6. Who was accused of not feeding the hungry and of refusing drink to the tired?**

**Answer: Job**

He is accused of these failures by Eliphaz, the Temanite. Eliphaz assumed that a righteous man would not have trouble like Job was having, so he made the accusations on the basis of Job's situation. Job 22:1 - Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said, 2 Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself? 3 Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect? 4 Will he reprove thee for fear of thee? will he enter with thee into judgment? 5 Is not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite? 6 For thou hast taken a pledge from thy brother for nought, and stripped the naked of their clothing. 7 Thou hast not given water to the weary to drink, and thou hast withholden bread from the hungry.

**7. Whose bones are described as talking to the Lord, and what do they say?**

**Answer: David's bones, Psalm 35:10**

David is faced by many foes, but he asks for and

anticipates God's help. That help will make his soul express joy, and his "bones" shall ask rhetorically, "Lord, who is like thee. . .to deliver?"

This chapter is a prayer of David. "All my bones" is like we might say, "Every fiber of my being cries out for justice."

(Psa 35:1-10 ) A Psalm of David. Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me. 2 Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help. . . 10 All my bones shall say, LORD, who is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?

(Talking bones are also mentioned in Ezek. 37:11.)

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### **No One Left Out (from front page)**

God still teaches that all need encouragement, whether ambulatory or not. To whom did the Son of Man grant admission to the "kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"? Two criteria mentioned were "... I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me" (Matthew 25:31,36).

If people cannot come to our assemblies, must they be forgotten? Must the old adage that says "Out of sight, out of mind" describe the Lord's church?

Spending time with an aged friend in a nursing home may not be a popular pastime. We can give many reasons for not paying a visit to someone no longer able to be out. But again we must ask the piercing question: Whom do we serve?

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" ( James 1:27).

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## **Beech Grove News, Prayer Requests**

Prayer needs: Brother Wymer Wiser is very weak and having care 24/7. William Miller (NHC); Laura Singleton in Manchester; Melissa Dickerson is at home following her surgery. Vadna Trail was able to be in worship this week. Margaret Langford passed away and was buried this week. She is the grandmother of Ken's cousin, Beverly Bynum, wife of LaVergne's preacher.

Thanks to Greg Ray and Alan Northcutt, high school students at Coffee County and Warren County. They are both members of the Trousdale congregation where Mike Ray preaches, and filled the pulpit at Beech Grove while Ken was away. Also thanks to Wayne Gannon for teaching the adult class for Tim Waldron and Tim for teaching the teens for Ken. Ken and Judy had a good visit with relatives and visited the good congregation at Buford, Georgia where Scott Harp preaches.

**Pantry Is Being Restocked:** Thanks to all who have brought food for giving to the needy. 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.

Welcome, visitors

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### **Attendance and Contribution for the Week**

Dec 14	BS 22	MW 23	EW 25	Wed 17	Cont. \$535
Dec 7					
Nov30	BS 18	MW 33	EW23	Wed 10	Cont \$598
Nov23	BS 22	MW 29	EW 21	Wed 13	Cont. \$710
Nov16	BS 27	MW 36	EW 21	Wed 14	Cont. \$596

# Happy Holidays