



**March 9, 2008**

# 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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## **Imagine That!**

One of the questions last week asked you to determine what God's appraisal is for the "imagination" of mankind. Two among many scriptures are here.

(Gen 6:5) "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**"

(Jer 23:17) "They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that **walketh after the imagination of his own heart**, No evil shall come upon you."

John Lennon asked us to imagine that there is no heaven or hell. He also asked us to imagine people living for today. In his philosophy, there seemed to be no "tomorrow" In his zeal to eliminate war he suggested that there could be peace if there were no countries and no religion. It is true that many wars have been fought for nationalistic causes, and others have been fought in the name of religion. There is no real peace without the Prince of Peace, Christ Jesus.

Lennon also suggested that no one should have possessions which he called his own, but should share in the brotherhood of man. But we do not have to "imagine" that concept. The early church practiced that life style. (Acts 4:32) And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

## **Imagine**, by John Lennon

Imagine there's no heaven  
It's easy if you try  
No hell below us  
Above us only sky  
Imagine all the people  
Living for today...

Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion too  
Imagine all the people  
Living life in peace...

Imagine no possessions  
I wonder if you can  
No need for greed or hunger  
In a brotherhood of man  
Imagine all the people  
Sharing all the world...

You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope some day you'll join us  
And the world will be as one

<http://www.john-lennon.com/songlyrics/songs/Imagine.htm>

### **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

(Wording is based on KJV)

by Kenneth L. Thomas

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## Questions for week of March 9

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1. An Old Testament prophet condemned other prophets that led people into error, and warned that visions and divination and answers from God would no longer illuminate them. Instead they would be embarrassed and confused because they would be in spiritual darkness, a time of prophetic "sundown." Who was that prophet who claimed to be fully powered by God's spirit, in contrast to the ones who were not warning people about their sins?
2. What priest spoke of a married couple loaning something to God? Also, what was loaned?
3. What structure contained a "shooting" bar?
4. What did God shoot out?
5. The psalmist speaks of scorners who shot something out. What was it?
6. What nation was described (in a comparison) as being so weak that it could not be leaned upon for support? The danger of trusting this "ally" was compared to experiencing a manual piercing.
7. Who announced the presence of a dangerous feline in the roadway?

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## Answers for week of March 2

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1. One of the blessings of those who obeyed the statutes and commandments of God (under the law of Moses) was abundant food, enough to consume until they were filled. What was an accompanying danger that came with that blessing?

**Answer:** The expected answer was in Deuteronomy 8

**A full belly and the prosperity implied by that was dangerous in that their heart would be "lifted up", and they would forget God, the source of their blessings. They will in fact give themselves credit for their prosperity.** Idolatry was another danger according to Deut. 11. Nehemiah simply records the fact of the people's disobedience and rebellion.

(Deu 8:10-17) "When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. {11} Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: {12} Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; {13} And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; {14} Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; {15} Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; {16} Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; {17} And thou say in thine heart, My

power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth." (Deu 11:13-17) "And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, {14} That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. {15} And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. {16} Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; {17} And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you."

(Neh 9:25-26) "And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness. {26} Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations."

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2. Question was a repeat of #1. (Did YOU see it?)

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3. One king of Judah is credited with using engines for war. Give his name and tell how old this king was when he came to the throne of Judah.

**Answer: Uzziah, who was 16 when he came to the throne.**

(2 Chr 26:1-16) "Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah. {2} He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers. {3} Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. {4} And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did. {5} And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper. . . . {13} And under their hand was an army, three hundred thousand and seven thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy. {14} And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones. {15} And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong. {16} But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense."

Also note in the context that as long as Uzziah sought the Lord he prospered, but when he became strong, his pride caused his downfall.

4. Considering the biblical use of forms of the word "invent", would you say that God is more likely pleased or displeased

with what people invent?

**Answer: "Displeased" based on the prolific references to the word in the KJV.**

The inventions in the next several verses refer to creative ways (inventions) by which men have violated the will of God.

(Psa 99:8) "Thou answeredst them, O LORD our God: thou wast a God that forgavest them, though **thou tookest vengeance of their inventions.**"

(Psa 106:29) "Thus **they provoked him to anger with their inventions:** and the plague brake in upon them."

(Psa 106:39) "Thus were they defiled with **their own works, and went** a whoring with their own inventions."

(Eccl 7:29) "Lo, this only have I found, that **God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.**"

(Amos 6:5) "That chant to the sound of the viol, and **invent to themselves instruments of music,** like David;"

(Rom 1:30) "Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, **boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,**"

**5.** On occasion the Israelites would come across the idols of the heathen nations which they conquered through the power of God. Some of these idols were covered with precious metals. Were they allowed to dismantle the idols and keep the valuable metals? After you answer the question, give at least one appropriate passage to prove your answer.

**Answer: They were commanded NOT keep any part of an idol, including silver and gold.** (Recycling was not a part of idol elimination .)

Idols were to be destroyed, thus eliminating keeping even a tiny vestige of the idol.

(Deu 7:23-26) "But the LORD thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed. {24} And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them. {25} **The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein:** for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God. {26} Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing."

(Isa 2:18-20) "And the idols he shall utterly abolish. {19} And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. {20} **In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold,** which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats;"

**6.** Who received a proposal from God to create a mighty nation of him, but he instead made an appeal for God to overlook the stubborn evil of the nation that his would have replaced.?

**Answer: Moses**

(Exo 32:9-14 KJV) And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: {10} Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. {11} And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great

power, and with a mighty hand? {12} Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. {13} Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever. {14} And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

**7.** Please consider as many passages as you can find in the King James version that refer to the "imagination" or "imaginings" of man. (I found at least 36.) Then from that study tell me what you think God's appraisal is for the imagination of mankind.

**Answer:** Most passages in the KJV use the idea of imaginations to refer to those things which man has "imagined" which are not according to God's will. Today we praise imagination and creativity, but when it comes to obedience to God, He seems to prefer obedience rather than the vain service and rituals devised by the imaginative mind of man. While we might prize imaginative people, **in the realm of right and wrong, imagination is just an exercise of "man's thoughts" as opposed to God's thoughts.** See Isa 55:8-9.

(Gen 6:5) "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**"

(Gen 8:21) "And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for **the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth;** neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done."

(Deu 29:19) ". . . he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, **though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst:**"

(Psa 2:1) "Why do the heathen rage, and **the people imagine a vain thing?**"

(Psa 10:2) "The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: **let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.**"

(Psa 21:11) "For they intended evil against thee: **they imagined a mischievous device,** which they are not able to perform."

(Psa 38:12) "They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and **imagine deceits all the day long.**"

(Psa 62:3) "How long will **ye imagine mischief against a man?** ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence."

(Psa 140:2) "Which **imagine mischiefs in their heart;** continually are they gathered together for war."

(Prov 6:18) "An **heart that deviseth wicked imaginations,** feet that be swift in running to mischief,"

(Prov 12:20) "**Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil:** but to the counsellors of peace is joy."

(Jer 3:17) "At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any

more after **the imagination of their evil heart.**"  
 (Jer 7:24) "But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and **in the imagination of their evil heart**, and went backward, and not forward."

(Jer 9:14) "**But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim**, which their fathers taught them:"

(Jer 11:8) "Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but **walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart**: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did them not."

(Jer 13:10) "This **evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart**, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing."

(Jer 16:12) "And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, **ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart**, that they may not hearken unto me:"

(Jer 18:12) "And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and **we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.**"

(Jer 23:17) "They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that **walketh after the imagination of his own heart**, No evil shall come upon you."

(Nahum 1:9) "**What do ye imagine against the LORD?** he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time."

(Nahum 1:11) "There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the LORD, a wicked counsellor."

(Zec 7:10) "And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and **let none of you imagine evil against his brother** in your heart."

(Zec 8:17) "And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD."

(Luke 1:51) "He hath showed strength with his arm; **he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**"

(Acts 4:25) "Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and **the people imagine vain things?**"

(Rom 1:21) "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became **vain in their imaginations**, and their foolish heart was darkened."

(2 Cor 10:5) "**Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God**, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" God understands whether our imagination is against His will or in harmony with it.

(1 Chr 28:9) "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth

all hearts, and **understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.**"

### **Prayer Needs and Requests**

Ann Conner is at home after complete knee replacement. Junior is doing better, but was still

having some congestion. Jackie Hafer was in St. Thomas Hospital for treatment with Lasix, but was seriously sick last Sunday. She had been infected with MRSA. As soon as possible she will be moved to Manchester Hospital for further treatment. David Graham has been at his brother's house in Cookeville as he deals with his physical problems.. Jessie Pearl Green's brothers, Arlin Mesick and Jerry Mesick continue to need prayer due to their cancer. William Miller continues his dialysis at NHC. Laura Singleton is still confined at home.

**Bible Bowl** ended for this season at McMinnville last Sunday. Congratulations to our senior member, Heather, who was recognized at the concluding assembly, and to Daniel and T J to whom we will look for future years. We placed 7<sup>th</sup> overall for the year, and just missed a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish by one question. That is how tight the competition was.

Wayne Gannon is teaching the adult midweek class this month in Ken's absence.

For the record:	02/10	02/17	02/24	03/2
Bible Study	15	14	15	15?
AM Worship	22	20	27	24
PM Worship	17	24	27	23
Wed. Bible Study	6	23	16	13
Contribution	\$1471	\$560	\$568	\$481

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>March 9</b>	<b>March 16</b>
<b>Song leader (SS)</b>	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
<b>Announcements</b>	Joe Green	Junior Conner
<b>Songleader-Worship</b>	Tim Waldron	Wayne Gannon
<b>Scripture reading</b>	Wayne Gannon	Steve Miller
<b>Opening prayer</b>	Wayne Gannon	Steve Miller
<b>Table service (center)</b>	Ken Thomas	Joe Green
<b>(center)</b>	Junior Conner	Nick Graham
<b>(outside)</b>	Joe Green	Daniel Green
<b>(outside)</b>	Wayne Gannon	T J Waldron
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Andy Miller	James Mason
<i>If you cannot serve, please contact Junior Conner</i>		

