



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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What A Difference a Minute Makes, by Michael E. Brooks

“So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb. And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau. Afterward his brother came out and his hand took hold of Esau’s heel; so his name was called Jacob” (Genesis 25:24-26).

We have a student at Khulna Bible College named Borun. Recently I made a trip to Borun’s home village and upon arriving saw a young man whom I at first took to be Borun. I had to look hard to tell that it was not. When I commented upon the mistake in identity to a companion he laughed and said, “He is Borun’s brother, Orun”.

That explained the resemblance, I thought, but as the day progressed continued to be struck by how alike they were. Finally I asked who was the older, and Orun said it was he. Then I asked, “How much older?” His reply explained a lot: “One minute, we are twins”.

Borun and Orun remind me of Jacob and Esau, who also were born almost together. In the Biblical story Esau, though older by no more than the one minute of the Bangladeshi twins, was counted the firstborn, with the birthright and blessing due him as custom and law provided. There was no more difference between the ages of the two sons than the distance between hand and heel, but it was enough. He was the elder, and that was all that mattered.

In spiritual matters there are many areas where a tiny difference is vast in consequence. Saul kept God’s command to utterly destroy the Amelekites, except for the sparing of one person, the King (1 Samuel 15:9-11). Yet God regretted

making Saul King of Israel and tore the kingdom from him (actually from his descendants) and gave it to another. A small distinction, we might think, but it made a huge difference in the history of Israel as well as in the destiny of Saul and his family.

King Agrippa came very near to believing Paul’s proclamation of the Gospel (Acts 26:28), but just failed to act in obedience. Assuming the standard English translations of the text are correct (some speculate that Agrippa is speaking sardonically as if saying, “You don’t really think you can persuade me so easily do you?”, but there is no evidence for such a rendering), Agrippa was removed only by a small amount from true, saving faith. Yet he fell short, and there is no record of his ever traversing that last gap.

A very small amount of time may make a big difference. It takes only seconds to respond in faith, to help another in need, or to breathe one’s last. Paul encourages us to “redeem the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16).

In other words, we should use our time as effectively and efficiently as possible, because much evil exists to defeat us, causing our lives and souls to be lost. The Hebrew writer reminds us of the Old Testament exhortation, “Today, if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts” (Hebrews 4:7).

Orun is only one minute older than his brother, but he is clearly and definitively the elder son. So we must be aware of the small things that matter so much in our lives, both now and for eternity. Let us not be deceived into thinking that a little difference is of no importance. Such is obviously not the case. Used by permission from Forthright Magazine (www.forthright.net). Copyright © 2009, Michael Brooks

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 3

1. Where are we warned of the danger risked by a wood-cutter?
2. Who was high priest when John the Baptist began preaching in the wilderness? (Feel free to consult reference books to back up your answer, but give scripture with the answer.)
3. What royal official, before he had a man of God put in a dangerous environment, expressed his own confidence that the man would be able to survive due to the intervention of God?
4. Some of us are slow at some things, and fast in other areas. Several passages indicate that God is not fast in one important area. What is God slow in doing?
5. What mountain is described as having hated the people of Israel, and was to be filled with blood of the slain?
6. Ezekiel 18 asserts that the son shall NOT bear the iniquity of the father, nor shall the father bear the iniquity of the son. But in another passage, those who were suffering claimed that they were suffering for their fathers' sins. Where is the passage?
7. Hand clapping is not always applause or expression of appreciation. What city was insulted by those who clapped their hands?

Answers for week of April 26

1. What royal death would cause no lament, but would be characterized as the "burial" of a donkey, dragged outside a city?

Answer: Jehoiakim

Jeremiah 22:18 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning **Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah; They shall not lament for him, saying, Ah my brother! or, Ah sister! they shall not lament for him, saying, Ah lord! or, Ah his glory! 19 He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem.**

2. What nation's military personnel was of the opinion that their loss of a battle was due to God's power

being more on elevated places than in level areas?

Answer: the Syrians (or Arameans in some translations). They thought God's power was localized. . . that if they could get the Israelite army in the valley they could win. The following passage (in verse 28) shows what God thought of that concept of His power.

1 Kings 20:21 And the king of Israel went out, and smote the horses and chariots, and slew the Syrians with a great slaughter. 22 And the prophet came to the king of Israel, and said unto him, Go, strengthen thyself, and mark, and see what thou doest: for at the return of the year the king of Syria will come up against thee. 23 And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him, **Their gods are gods of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they.** . . . 28 And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the LORD, Because the Syrians have said, **The LORD is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys,** therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the LORD. 29 And they pitched one over against the other seven days. And so it was, that in the seventh day the battle was joined: and the children of Israel slew of the Syrians an hundred thousand footmen in one day. 30 But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left. And Benhadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber.

3. What ex-prisoners defied a "gag order" and spoke in the temple where they were apprehended by a captain and officers?

Answer: Specifically Peter and John, as the 'gag order' was given to them, but all the apostles were involved in the teaching and apprehended and later beaten.

Gag order - Acts 4:18-21 - - 18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. 21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the

people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

First arrest of all apostles - Acts 5:12-17

17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, 18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

Apprehended by a captain and officers - Acts 5:25-29

25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, **the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.** 26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, **Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine,** and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

4. What was the name of the first month of the Jewish year during the time of Moses? What was it called during the days of Esther?

Answer: During Moses' time: Abib . . . During Esther's time: Nisan

Moses: Exodus 12:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 **This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. . .**

13:3 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. 4 **This day came ye out in the month Abib.**

Esther: Esther 3:7 **7 In the first month, that is, the month Nisan,** in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

5. What is the connection between "fearing God" and the length of a person's life?

Answer: As a general rule, righteousness leads to longer life and wickedness shortens it.

Prov 10:27 The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened

Prov 9:10: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. 11 For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased. Deuteronomy 6:1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: 2 That thou mightest **fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.**

6. Jeremiah urged Jews in Babylonian captivity to marry and have children. What do we know about his own wife and children?

Answer: There is evidence that he had no wife nor children.

Jeremiah 16:1 The word of the LORD came also unto me, saying, 2 Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place.

That passage perhaps would not be seen as an absolute prohibition of marriage for all time and other places, but I have never seen anything that would make me think he had a wife or children.

7. What animal considers a certain metal as being like decayed timber?

Answer: Leviathan. Leviathan considers brass as rotten wood. That is an indication of how strong he is. Job 41:1 Canst thou draw out **leviathan** with an hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down? . . . **27 He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood.**

Some identify leviathan with Nile crocodiles, or dragons, or large dinosaurs, or sea serpents. Whatever it was (or is) was powerful.

Here are other references.

Psa 74:14 - Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.

Psa 104:26 - There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein.

Isa 27:1 - In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.

Beech Grove News, Prayer Requests

Melissa Dickerson is making progress. Anna Curl is at Stallworth for more aggressive treatment of her respiratory difficulties. Kristen Toops is feeling better. Junior and Ann Conner were in Bowling Green Sunday evening to welcome a new grandchild.

Military connections: Andy Miller family in Japan; Drew and Adam Thomas.

Shut ins: Laura Singleton at home, and William Miller at NHC in Murfreesboro.

We had a good turnout to attend Fredonia's meeting Sunday night to hear Paul Parsley in his first gospel meeting. Paul appreciated the encouragement.

Moved: Nancy Harvey, Diane Hernandez, and Nathaniel have moved to 209 Bane Street in Smyrna. Their phone number is unchanged.

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 for the Week

Mo	Wk	BS	MW	EW	Wed	Cont
Apr	26	23	33	11*	20	\$609
Apr	19	17	24	12	15	\$684
Apr	12	14	35	14	15	\$712
Apr	5	14	24	21	21	\$605

* 11 + those who went to Fredonia's meeting.

Discretion/Modesty

by Ken Thomas

In Titus 2:4-5, older women are instructed to teach young women "to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet chaste..." "Discreet" basically means "having good judgment and self-control." In Proverbs 11:22 we learn that a beautiful woman who lacks discretion is like a golden jewel in a hog's snout. Simply put, outward beauty without inward refinement and good judgment is an awkward combination.

There are many people that have not gained the ability to cope with their physical attractiveness. They have been praised, complimented, and many times "idolized" based only on their outward beauty. As Christians we need to beware of a sinful emphasis on outward appearance. Good judgment would lead us to avoid styles and types of clothing which are revealing, tight, or flashy. As the temperature rises, let us all beware of the temptation to wear clothing that is immodest and shows a lack of discretion. Short skirts may be back in style, but they should not be in style with the daughters of the Lord. Nor should the sons of God be seen with bare backs and thighs. Be discreet!

Assignments	May 3	May 10
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	Lee Rose
Table service (center)	Joe Green	Tim Waldron
(center)	Steve Miller	Steve Miller
(outside)	Junior Conner	T J Waldron
(outside)	Daniel Green	Daniel Green
Closing Prayer	Daniel Green	Junior Conner

