



Church of Christ at Beech Grove

meeting at Beechgrove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

Highway 41 near I-24 exit 97

 P.O. Box 85 -- Beechgrove, TN 37018

Phone 931-394-2305

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

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

Kenneth L. Thomas, minister - 615-890-6959

Nation of Whiners

by J. Randal Matheny

As an advisor to the presumed Republican presidential candidate John McCain, Phil Gramm took criticism from all sides last Wednesday when he called America "a nation of whiners."

If ever there was a nation of whiners, it was Israel in the desert. Because of their grumbling, says the apostle Paul, they "were destroyed by the Destroyer" (1 Corinthians 10:10 ESV).

Nothing suited the Israelites. They tired of the manna raining down from heaven to feed them and wanted meat. They tired of marching behind Moses. They tired of a benevolent and patient God.

Will the church, as God's people, be a nation of whiners?

Not if they eat from the Lord's table, which reminds them of the price that was paid for their souls. Not if they drink the cup and remember the precious blood that gives them life. Not if they eat and drink until he comes, for gratitude will be infused into their hearts so deeply that suffering will be counted joy for the kingdom.

The remedy to whining is gratitude. And the Supper is an exercise in thanksgiving that expands that feeling toward the sacrifice of Christ.

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful" (Colossians 3:15).

Rather than a nation of whiners, we will be, gathered around the Table, singers of thanksgiving with mouths full of praise to the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

(by permission, Forthright Magazine Randal Matheny, 2008)

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

(Wording is based on KJV)
by Kenneth L. Thomas

Questions for week of July 13

1. Who will think it unusual that the new convert to Christ does not run with them?
2. Who had siblings that could not speak in a peaceful way to him?
3. Who would not go with the Israelites to the promised land because of their (Israelites') stubbornness?
4. In what short section of five verses are people advised NOT to do four things? I know of at least one section in which the form for each is "_____not". (Do not consider the Ten Commandments in this question.)
5. Find verses in both New and Old Testaments that tell God's people NOT to walk as certain others. (You probably will find several candidates, but try to choose the clearest examples.)
6. What kind of activity on the part of humans was said to be prerequisite to the Lord's guidance, prosperity, and a comparison to a watersource that fails not?
7. Whose hospitality included an admonition not to stay in the roadway?

Answers for week of July 6

1. What was sent by the Lord to bring birds from the sea to feed hungry people?

Answer: A wind

Numbers 11:31 And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.³² And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp.

Compare also the Psalms account:

Psalms 78:23 Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven, ²⁴ And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had

given them of the corn of heaven.²⁵ Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full. ²⁶ He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south wind. ²⁷ He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea: ²⁸ And he let it fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations. ²⁹ So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire;³⁰ They were not estranged from their lust. But while their meat was yet in their mouths, ³¹ The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel. ³² For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works

2. What bird builds its nest at high elevation?

Answer: The eagle. The last two passages are used to motivate humility and to condemn a "high and mighty attitude". God can bring us off our "perch!" Job 39:27 Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?

Jeremiah 49:16 Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the Lord.

Obadiah 1:4 Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.

3. What bird's flight illustrates the flight of riches?

Answer: Eagle

Proverbs 23:4 Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. ⁵ Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

NIV wording: "Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle."

4. What two birds were said to nest in the temple?

Answer: Sparrow and swallow

Psalms 84: 1 How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! ² My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. ³ Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine

altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God. 4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah

5. If bought in pairs these birds cost "two for a farthing", but in larger quantity the cost is 2/5 farthings each. (Two references verify this.)

Answer: Sparrows - Matt 10:29-31

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:6: Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? 7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

As a mathematician, I wonder if there was a "going rate" on sparrows in New Testament times, with discounts for quantity purchases. Comparison of these two verses might suggest that idea. Maybe the price was "buy four and get one free."

A marvelous idea is suggested here. If sparrows are of such small value to man, but not one of them falls to the ground without being noticed by God, how much greater must be the care of God for us?

6. In a passage describing the desolation of Edom, its wasteland would be inhabited by four birds that are named in a single verse. What birds are named?

Answer: Cormorant, bittern, owl, and raven Is 34:9

5 For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon **Idumea**, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. 6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in **Bozrah**, and a great slaughter in **the land of Idumea**. . . . 9 And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. 10 It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever. 11 But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it:

and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness. 12 They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all her princes shall be nothing. 13 And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of dragons, and a court for owls. 14 The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the satyr shall cry to his fellow; the screech owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest. 15 There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate.

To connect Edom, Idumea and Esau: Gen 36:8-9 Esau father of Edomites lived in Mt. Seir. Also compare Gen. 25:30, Gen. 32:3; Gen 36: 1, 19,43; and Obadiah Ezek 35:15 Mt. Seir was in Idumea (Edom) Isaiah 34:5-11 Birds described in desolation of Idumea.

The following was sent by an online friend, and shows the head-scratching that some of the questions cause. Since the quiz is built on King James wording, the answer above stands as the "official answer". But some translations name other animals, and show the difficulty of coordinating ancient names for the animal with current names.

Desert owl. Screech owl. Great owl. Raven. Isaiah 34:11 The 2nd one had me going for awhile. I found Isaiah 34:11 right off. "But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness." But according to the definition in my KJ Bible, the cormorant is a pelican, and the bittern is a hedgehog. That made only 3 birds so I thought I had the wrong verse. I finally got on line and pulled up the New International Version and it read " The desert owl and screech owl will possess it; the great owl and the raven will nest there. God will stretch out over Edom the measuring line of chaos and the plumb line of desolation".

I had fun tho. And even if it is not the right answer, I learned something new. lol. Jennie

Here are other translations, followed by a reference to a wonderful discussion I found at <http://www.jhom.com/topics/birds/doom.htm> That URL reference tends to justify the KJV

renderings. If you have curiosity about this, you should find this fascinating..

But the hawk and the porcupine[21] shall possess it, the owl and the raven shall dwell in it. . . (ESV) Note: [21] The identity of the animals rendered hawk and porcupine is uncertain

But the pelican and the porcupine shall possess it; and the owl and the raven shall dwell therein: . . . (ASV)

This discussion is based on Zephaniah 2 and Isa. 34. The ka'ath, named first in both warnings, is uncertain but it would surely be the stalking scavenger, the marabou, rather than the pelican named in some old translations. The cormorant, which may well have shared the name, might also be a bird of doom, because of its black feathers.

Isaiah 34:11

Kippod, twice named also, means the "the bristler," and several early translators mistook it for the porcupine or hedgehog. But birds bristle, too, thought they do not have spiny quills, and when they are angry enough - or frightened enough - their feathers stand on end in fearsome array. The bittern bristles not only in threat or fear, but every time he brings out that deep-toned croak that echoes across the silent marsh like a sudden voodoo drumbeat. So of all the birds he is surely the "bristler," and his solitary ways second his impact as omen of doom and destruction.

<http://www.jhom.com/topics/birds/doom.htm>

7. What bird (without human wisdom) is mentioned as flying south?

Answer: hawk

Job 39:26 Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south?

Assignments	July 13	July 20
Song leader (SS)	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
Announcements	Ken Thomas	Joe Green
Songleader-Worship	Tim Waldron	Wayne Gannon
Scripture reading	Daniel Green	T J Waldron
Opening prayer	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
Table service (center)	Joe Green	Andy Miller
(center)	Ken Thomas	Joe Green
(outside)	Daniel Green	Daniel Green
(outside)	T J Waldron	Steve Miller
Closing Prayer	James Mason	Lee Rose

If you cannot serve, please contact Junior Conner

Beech Grove News, Prayer Requests

Thanks to Wayne Gannon wfor teaching the class Wednesday. Since I was away all week, I do not have an update on local news. Ken Thomas



Welcome,
visitors

Let us know how we may serve you. We are glad that we are frequently blessed with visitors, Most of the time visitors are familiar with what to expect in our services, but if you have any questions why we worship as we do, feel free to ask.

Beech Grove Gospel Meeting

July 27 - 30

**Darrell Blankenship,
evangelist**

**Sunday morning at regular
times, night services at 7:30**