

Berryville Bible Beacon

Volume 6, Issue 23

June 10th, 2007

The Salvation of Israel

November 29th, 1947 was the day that the United Nations passed a resolution calling for the establishment of the state of Israel in the land of Palestine. Many U.S. citizens supported this move by the United Nations because they believed that the establishment of that state would usher in the millennial age of Christ's reign as King on the throne of David in the physical nation of Israel. Many still believe this today. These folks contend that Old Testament prophecies predict God's unconditional promise of the resurgence of the physical nation of Israel. These same individuals also appeal to Romans 11 to teach that the physical nation of Israel will yet be saved. Does the Bible teach the ultimate salvation of the physical nation of Israel? Or do we find in the scriptures that the existence of the nation of Israel was dependent upon their faithfulness to God?

First, there never has been an unconditional promise by God that the physical

nation of Israel would be saved. We find just the opposite in Deuteronomy chapters 27 and 28. These are the famous "blessing and cursing" passages in which half the nation was to stand on Mount Ebal and half on Mount Gerazim and read both the blessings and the cursings.



In these blessings and cursings God makes clear that their continued existence was conditioned upon their faithfulness. Deuteronomy 28:1-2 states, "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of

the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God." Notice that God promised the blessings IF the nation would listen to Him and observe all His commandments. God's blessings upon Israel were conditional.

We also understand that the cursings were conditional as well. Deuteronomy 28:15 says, "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee." God never promised that physical Israel would be saved in spite of their disobedience; He said just the opposite. If they disobeyed, they, as a nation, would be cursed and destroyed. Deuteronomy 28:45-46 states, "Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou

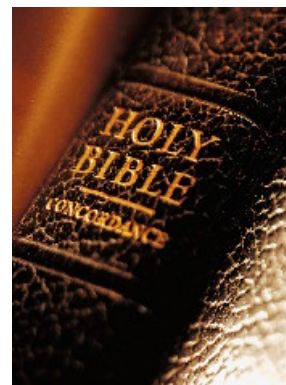
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Welcome To the Berryville church of Christ

- ♦ *We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!*
- ♦ **Elders:**
 - Clay Bozarth
 - Leon Duncan
 - Bill Fort
 - Bruce Foster
 - Glenn Quigley
- ♦ **Deacons:**
 - Ken Smith
 - Rusty Windle
- ♦ **Preacher:**
 - Kevin Cauley
- ♦ **Phone:**
 - 870-423-3068
- ♦ **E-mail:** bvcoc@alltel.net
- ♦ **Address:** 909 West Trimble, Berryville AR 72616
- ♦ *We are located across highway 62 from Pizza Hut.*
- ♦ <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

Bible Studies for the week of June 10th, 2007

AM Sermon	TBA
Scripture Reading	TBA
PM Sermon	TBA
Scripture Reading	TBA
Sunday Class.....	TBA
Wednesday Class.....	TBA
Ladies Bible Class	Dismissed for Summer
Nursing Home Bible Study	The Book of Acts
Home Bible Study	Dismissed for Week



Israel (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee: And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever." Given the obvious history of Jewish people from 70 A.D. to present times, one must wonder if THIS isn't the prophecy that we see being fulfilled.

We need to learn a lesson here: God always prefaces his promises upon conditions of faithfulness to Him. One need merely to pick up an exhaustive concordance and look up the word "if" to discover this truth. 2 Peter 1:10-11 is just one such passage that makes this clear today:

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." That little word "if" makes all the difference in the world. (To be continued.)

Kevin Cauley

Missing the Thread for the Veil

Yesterday we noted 2 Corinthians 3:14-15 where Paul mentioned hearts being veiled when the Old Testament law was being read; hardened hearts that just could not SEE JESUS for Who He is. We also noted the encouragement that in Christ the veil is removed. Every time I read through the Old Testament my mind jumps to the clarity provided in the New Testament as to Jesus being the long awaited Messiah. In fact, the coming of Jesus is a thread that goes throughout the Scriptures. From Genesis to Revelation we have the resounding theme of the Messiah is coming, the Messiah has come, and the Messiah is coming again. If we read through the pages of the Old Testament without recognizing the plan of God from the very beginning to send His Son, those Scriptures have not been understood.

When Jesus was faced with those who were seeking to kill Him (John 5:18) - He stated: "YOU SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES because you think that in them you have eternal life; and IT IS THEY THAT BEAR WITNESS ABOUT ME, YET YOU REFUSE

TO COME TO ME THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE." (John 5:39-40 ESV)

Paul rejoiced when that veil was removed. He could then clearly SEE JESUS in the Scriptures he had previously learned so well, but not fully understood. When trying to reach his Jewish brethren it was "both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets" that he used to help them see. Some were convinced while others were not. (Acts 28:23-24)

We have the privilege of being able to read both the Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures. Let us continue to read carefully so that we do not miss any of the glimpses they provide of our Lord. We need to continually fix our focus on Him as the "founder and perfecter of our faith." (Hebrews 12:2a ESV) SEEING JESUS is the most important focus of our life. May we help others realize that as well.

Have a great day WITH EYES AND HEART CONTINUALLY OPEN TO JESUS!

Carl Hanson
Port Townsend, WA

The Week in Review: June 3rd, 2007



Sunday Bible Class.....	72
Sunday AM Worship.....	87
Sunday PM Worship.....	53
Wednesday Night Study.....	51
Contribution.....	\$1682.50
Budget.....	\$1743.39

Kevin's Korner

Today my family and I are in Heber Springs, Arkansas. I am holding a meeting for the Downtown church of Christ on the theme, "Back to the Bible Pattern." I was down in Heber Springs with this same congregation a few years ago and I was very encouraged by the group that is meeting there. This congregation has supported me in several of my mission trips in the past couple of years and I am very grateful that they are once again inviting me to come and hold their meeting. I'm also very thankful to the elders here at Berryville for allowing me to hold such meetings away from the home congregation several times a year. I'm very blessed in this regard and I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude.

While I am expressing gratitude, let me also say a word of thanks to Bob Deffenbaugh for filling in for me today. I am very appreciative that he comes to fill in for me regularly and am quite jealous that the congregation looks forward to hearing him when I am away! (Read a bit of humor in that previous sentence, please!) Bob does a good job and it is certainly a delight to know that I can call upon someone

who will fill the pulpit in such an exemplary way. Thank you Bob!

Didn't you just immensely enjoy our annual Friends and Family day this past Sunday? I must say that I considered it a great success. We had several come and visit us who had not been here previously and I just want to thank all of our members out there who invited their friends and family to come and be with us this past Sunday. You guys did great and I certainly appreciate your efforts in that regard. Let us also keep in mind that while we do make this special effort once a year to invite our friends and family, that that ought not to limit our efforts to JUST once a year. We need to be Christians 365 days out of the year and continue to invite those who are special and dear to us at every opportunity that we have. God bless all of you as you seek to do this in your lives.

I was very glad to hear that Glenn Quigley's artery blockage condition had not changed since the last time he had it visibly checked. Evidently the ultrasound equipment can give some exaggerated readings and this was the case with brother Quigley. The doctors said that the condition of those

arteries remain the same as they were two years ago and we're certainly thankful that it has not progressed any worse.

This past week you may or may not have heard that the democratically controlled congress passed a bill that would expand federal funding for stem cell research. President Bush has said that he will veto the measure if it comes to his desk. These stem cells are harvested from babies (I refuse to call them embryos) that have been created in the laboratory specifically for this purpose. Perhaps what you have NOT heard in the news this past week is that some scientists have devised a way to create the same kind of stem cells (embryonic stem cells) from ordinary skin. If this research is developed, that would mean that babies would not have to be killed in order to obtain stem cells. You would think that congress would be funding THAT research more, but such is not the nature of politics in our country when a political statement must be made by the democrats on abortion which is really what that passed bill was!

See you guys next week when we get back.

Announcements

- Please remember in prayer: Sylvia Anderson, Jerry Brown, Bill Fort, Opal Hull, Joan Sanderlin, John Stuckey, Richard VanHook, Bill Webb, Nancy Williamson.
- The Green Forest church of Christ is hosting a Vacation Bible School starting Monday, June 18th. There will be classes for all ages to attend. All are invited.
- Kevin and family are in Heber Springs for a Gospel Meeting. Please pray for his efforts there.
- Our pantry item is: Bath Soap.
- The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times "Now, said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

Welcome!

Visit our web site: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:20 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Wed. Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM
Thursday Nursing Home Bible Study	2:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	June 10th, 2007	June 17th, 2007
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Glenn Williams	Ken Smith
Preaching:	TBD	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ken Smith	Bruce Foster
Scripture Reading:	Matthew Morrell	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table	Ervin Hand	Glenn Williams
	Michael Morrell	Dan Hand
(assist)	Benjamin Windle	Jerry Roller
	Floyd Bills	John Gass
Closing Prayer	Ervin Hand	Matthew Morrell
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Rusty Windle
Preaching:	TBD	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Quigley
Scripture Reading:	Perry Foster	Benjamin Windle
Lord's Table	George Eddings	Jerry Roller
	Dan Hand	Matthew Morrell
Closing Prayer	Leon Duncan	Dan Hand
Wednesday		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Floyd Bills
Opening Prayer:	John Gass	Clay Bozarth
Invitation:	Rusty Windle	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Ken Smith	Kelly Ray Webb

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