

Berryville Bible Beacon

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July 1st, 2007

The Salvation of Israel (part 2)

In a previous article, we discussed how some argue that national, physical Israel will be saved today through returning to the land of Israel. We showed in the previous article that all of the promises that God made to Israel were conditioned upon their faithfulness. We turn now to the question of prophecy regarding the future of Israel.

Those who argue for the modern restoration of Israel argue that there are prophecies yet to be fulfilled. No doubt, there are many prophecies in the Old Testament regarding the restoration of Israel. Such passages include: Daniel 2:40-43, Joel 3:2, Isaiah 11:11,12, Jeremiah 16:14-15, Jeremiah 23:7-8, etc.. Without discussing each of these passages, can we find what such passages might be referring to?

First, we need to consider that these passages were written to a nation that was either about to go into captivity or was in captivity. The prophets constantly warned that captivity was coming. Isaiah 5:13 says, "Therefore my people are gone into captivity...." The prophets also spoke of a time of coming out of captivity. Jeremiah wrote, "And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive" (Jeremiah 29:14). These passages and all like them must be kept in their historical contexts. Israel did indeed go off into captivity, nevertheless, there was a remnant that returned and was reestablished again in Jerusalem after 70 years. Jeremiah 29:10 states, "For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place." Jeremiah 27:22 states in plain language: "They shall be carried to Babylon,

and there shall they be until the day that I visit them, saith the LORD; then will I bring them up, and restore them to this place." It should be clear that these prophecies concerned the eventual return of Israel immediately after the Babylonian captivity, not with the return to their land thousands of years later in the 1940s.

Second, we ought to consider what the apostles taught concerning these prophecies. In Romans 9:27 Paul quotes from Isaiah when he writes, "And Isaiah crieth concerning Israel, If the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that shall be saved." Paul is in the midst of discussing the point that both Jews and Gentiles are saved. He said in verse 25-26 "As he saith also in Hosea, I will call that my people, which was not my people; And her beloved, that was not beloved. And it shall be, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, There shall they be called sons of the living God." Paul's reference here is not to a physical nation, but a spiritual one. Paul so states in Romans 11:5 "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Paul said the remnant existed in his time, not at some time in the remote future. The remnant is the church; these are the people of God (2 Corinthians 6:16); these are the sons of God (Galatians 3:27-4:6). The church fulfilled the prophecies regarding the restoration of Israel.

Where do individuals get the idea of unfulfilled prophecies? They must either take prophecies out of the historical context in which they were given or they must take a prophesy intended to apply to the church and use it to talk about a physical national restoration. Both of these means do injustice to the text of the Bible. We must conclude that there are no prophecies regarding Israel's future that have been left unfulfilled.

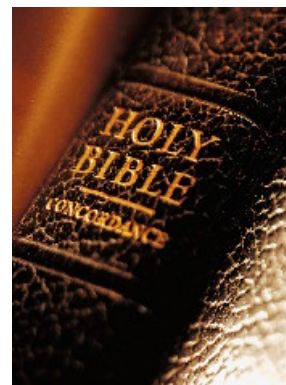
To be continued....

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 July 1st, 2007

AM Sermon	The Ten Commandments #3—The Name of God
Scripture Reading	Exodus 20:1-17
PM Sermon	"Farther Along"
Scripture Reading	1 John 2:1-3
Sunday Class.....	The Agony of the Cross
Wednesday Class.....	The Book of Proverbs
Ladies Bible Class	Dismissed for Summer
Nursing Home Bible Study	The Book of Acts
Home Bible Study	Dismissed for Summer



“...If It’s For the Church”

Years ago a dear friend and I had a discussion concerning gambling. I contend that gambling is gambling whether it is the flip of a coin for a soft drink or a quarter million dollars on a poker table. Gambling is gambling. My friend agreed, but added, “I don’t mind if it is for the church”.

Historians tell us that St. Peter’s Cathedral in Rome was greatly financed by the sale of indulgences. Simony was commonplace at that time.

As I was growing up we suspected that shady characters bet on pool games at the billiard hall, but that was about as close as gambling came to our little town. Hot Springs was a long way away. Las Vegas was in another world. But, now gambling is everywhere. Casinos are nearly walking distance away. Free buses will take you there and bring you home (broke). Almost 90 billion per year is lost in gambling. A hundred years ago gambling was a national vice, frowned upon nationally. Just thirty years ago you had to travel to Nevada or Atlantic City to gamble legally. Now the states have caved in to the

pressure of the underworld and gambling has exploded. Thirty-two states allow casinos. Go into any convenience store and you will find a roll of lottery tickets. The gambling industry took 32 billion of dollars from consumer’s pockets and the consumers took nothing in return. Bad deal!

Here in Texas the gambling interests

“You don’t measure gambling by what it brings in to consumers. You measure it by loss of homes, broken homes, bankruptcy, prostitution, theft, robbery, embezzlement, etc.”

and bought politicians promised the profit would go to our schools. Have you seen any such profit? Beaumont Independent School District is trying hard to sell a billion dollar bond issue to improve our dilapidated schools. Where’s all the gambling money?

A sister in Christ lost \$40,000 gambling. One wonders how she will answer to God regarding the matter of

stewardship. How many orphans and widows could have been clothed, sheltered and fed with this. How many missions could have been supported with this?

You don’t measure gambling by what it brings in to consumers. You measure it by loss of homes, broken homes, bankruptcy, prostitution, theft, robbery, embezzlement, etc. My friend had no problem gambling for a cake if the prophet went to the church. When did it become O.K. to sin a little if the profits go to the church? The Roman Catholic Church has done this for centuries. Does this make it right for Christians? When gambling enters and area bankruptcy increases between 11.2% and 29% according to the ‘number of casinos. Personal bankruptcy rose 69%. .Don’t take a chance.

John Davis

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:5)

The Week in Review: June 24th, 2007



Sunday Bible Class.....	50
Sunday AM Worship.....	66
Sunday PM Worship.....	64
Wednesday Night Study.....	67
Contribution.....	\$1749.16
Budget.....	\$1743.39

Kevin's Korner

My family arrived safely in Austin, Texas this past Thursday evening. They ran into a few thunderstorms on the way just south of McAlester, OK. Other than that, I don't believe they had any travel bumps at all. They evidently made several stops as they didn't get home until around 9:30 P.M. though they left here at 8:30 A.M. I suppose that's about par for the course though when so many are traveling together. I'll fly out of Northwest, Arkansas airport on July 12th and meet up with them in Austin and then we will begin our annual family vacation. I'll be returning the next week.

For the next two weeks, I'll be by my lonesome here at the ol' house. It sure was quiet this past Thursday night after they left. I'm hoping it will give me an opportunity to catch up on a bit of the Internet work that I do. Glenn Williams records my sermons onto CD and then I take those CDs, convert them to MP3s and put them on the Internet. I haven't done that in a while so I'm a bit backed up at the moment. But if you would like to listen to my sermons on the Inter-

net, you can listen to them at http://www.the-churchofchrist.com/audio_sermons.htm. We have quite a collection already. My sermon outlines are also available on our web site as well if you ever want to go back and restudy some of the things that we've discussed here. They are available at http://www.the-churchofchrist.com/sermon_outlines.htm. Let me know if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions on any of my sermons. I would appreciate it!

Today in our Bible class we are beginning an effort that was spoken of by brother Eddie Cloer last year when he came to visit with us. This effort is in regards to evangelizing the lost in our area of Berryville. The effort is scheduled for the year 2008 as part of Truth For Today's Effort to take the gospel to the whole world by the year 2015. We are beginning this effort by studying the subject, "The Agony of the Cross." This subject is designed to motivate each individual toward greater service to God in their lives. We will be studying this subject in our Sunday morning Bible class over the next quarter. Since I will be gone

much of July on vacation and in a lectureship at the end of July, Ken Smith will be teaching the class in July. I will then teach in August and we will have another brother in the congregation selected to teach in September. Once we have completed this material, we ought to be sufficiently motivated to begin to learn how to take the gospel to the lost. We will then use the Wednesday night class period to watch a set of DVDs with instruction on how to do this. This will be a wonderful effort that we will be making to reach the lost who are around us and I hope that you will eagerly participate as we seek to do this. Our Lord has commanded us to take the gospel to the whole world and that includes our own neighborhood also. So I pray that each one of us will consider how we can be present for these classes in July, August, and September so as to sufficiently motivate us for this task and then also plan on being present on Wednesday night in October, November, and December to learn how to do the evangelizing and then we will begin our campaign to evangelize our community in January of 2008!

Announcements

- Please remember in prayer: Sylvia Anderson, Lois Bales, Mary Forehand, Joan Sanderlin, Nancy Silvers, Netta Stone, Bill Webb.
- There is an elders and deacons meeting scheduled for tonight after services. If anyone has a business item for these men, please see one of them.
- On July 15th, there will be a baby shower for Lisa May at 3:00 PM here at the building. Please come!
- We are saddened to announce the departure of the Webb family. They were only with us for a short time, but they filled our hearts with gladness while they were here. They were a great blessing to us and I know they will be to the congregation where they move as well. We pray God's blessings upon them as they begin their new life in Prairie Grove.
- Welcome to July! We are half-way through the year today! Please check the schedule for changing duties for the month.
- Our pantry item is: Fabric Softener.

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

	July 1st, 2007	July 8th, 2007
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Glenn Williams
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Clay Bozarth
Scripture Reading:	Brandon Foster	Leon Duncan
Lord's Table	Matthew Morrell	Bruce Foster
	Floyd Bills	Dan Hand
(assist)	John Gass	Michael Morrell
	Benjamin Windle	Ray Duncan
Closing Prayer	Leon Duncan	George Eddings
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Bill Fort
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ken Smith	Dale Pinkley
Scripture Reading:	Dan Hand	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Glenn Williams	John Gass
	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	Dale Pinkley	Ray Duncan
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Floyd Bills
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Kevin Cauley
Invitation:	Dan Hand	Rusty Windle
Closing Prayer:	George Eddings	Leon Duncan

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