



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXV November 30, 2008 No. 47

Confidence Corner

John F. Board

As we continue on our life long journey of building our faith, consider some thoughts regarding the first chapter of the Bible. Genesis One has long been a chapter for discussion among those who study the Bible—even more so for those

who consider themselves “scholars.”

Comparisons have been made of Genesis One and many other “creation accounts” of various nations. The Babylonians have a creation story. The Sumerians have a creation story. The Egyptians have a creation story. Because of these stories, scholars are determined to find how Genesis fits into the other creation accounts. But when the various creation stories are compared to Genesis One, there is really no comparison. The creation account of Genesis One is lofty and unique. Here, as is often the case, scholars have assumed something must be the case and then held the Bible to their unproven assumptions.

It is ironic that the very uniqueness of Genesis One causes many to investigate it further. Those who consider themselves Biblical Critics **have decided** that every part of the literature of the Bible (Old and New Testament) must be categorized. They search to find “what type of writing is Genesis One?” The problem again with such thinking is that God is the author of Genesis One and as such, Genesis One is unique—it does not fit, nor must it fit into some man-devised system of literary categorization.

German scholars have attempted to explain Genesis One as the story that survived from influences upon the Israelites who did not go into Egyptian captivity (the idea that not all Israel went into captivity is error). From such a faulty assumption the critics contend that the Israelites first learned the story of creations from Mesopotamian accounts. As the critics devise, this Mesopotamian story was filtered through Canaanitish influences and finally purged of the polytheistic elements by the priest of Israel till the resultant Genesis One emerged—not from the mind of God but from the hand of man.

From man or God? I think I will hold to Paul’s statement that scripture is inspired of God (2 Tim 3:16) and as such, would transcend any human documents or ideas. Such is not a “lead in the dark”...it is founded upon solid evidence!

Ray’s Ramblings

Ray Pack

I hope no one has eaten too much during the Thanksgiving holiday. We all have so much to be thankful for. It would be nearly impossible to list all the blessings we enjoy, but at some point why not make a list of your blessings. Keep this list

where it can be seen each day and thank God daily for what He has given you.



The lock-in this past weekend was a great success. I may have miscounted, but if I counted correctly, we had 19 young folks and 12 adults in attendance. Some of the adults were there for parts of the night, others stayed the entire time. A movie was watched and games were played. Thanks to Brenna and Luke for teaching my wife another card game that seems to be useless. John delivered a devotional message. Great fun was had by all. There were a few harmless pranks pulled on some who felt the need to get some sleep.



Ladies Bible class will meet through the 16th of December. We will take a three week break due to the holidays. and will resume class on January 13th. If you are not currently attending this class, please allow me to offer a word of encouragement to you to attend.



If God brings you to it,
He will bring you through it.
Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.

Sunday’s Sermons:

A.M. - *Five Calls to Mankind*
2 Thessalonians 2:14-17

P.M. - *5th Sunday Night Singing*

NAHOS AS THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN THE APOCALYPSE

The term *nahos* appears in the book of Revelation sixteen times. It is translated into English as “the temple” or “temple of God.” Some who hold to a materialistic view of the second coming of Christ look for a literal interpretation of the concept of a temple. To do so overlooks the highly figurative nature of the Revelation letter. This writer feels that the term *nahos* is used by John, through inspiration, to indicate the concept of “the very presence of God.” Examine just a few of the passages below.

In Revelation 7:15 the text reads, “Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple.” The saints depicted here have access to God much as it was in the beginning with Adam and Eve before the fall. Here the saints continue to serve God. The temple in this passage fits more with the concept of the holy of holies. The holy of holies would indicate the dwelling place of God or the very presence of God. Here then the saints are depicted in the role of being in the presence of God forever. Even under the Mosaic covenant, the best that could be said of man was that one man on one day would enter into the holy of holies.

In Revelation 11:1-2 the text reads, “And I was given a reed like a rod and was told, ‘Arise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there.’” Perhaps the imagery reminds the reader of the vision of the measurement of the new temple area given by God to Ezekiel and Zechariah (Ezekiel 40-43; Zechariah 2:1). At any rate, in the Revelation letter the appearance is that the temple cannot be measured. This makes sense if the area of the temple of God represents the very presence of God and the place where his saints meet him.

In Revelation 11:19 the text reads, “And the temple of God in heaven was opened and his ark of the covenant appeared in his temple.” Here is perhaps depicted the presence of God and some elements that would remind the reader of Leviticus 16 (in connection with the Ark of the Covenant). The fact that the ark contained reminders of God’s care for his people, this could symbolize or serve to remind the Christian of the care they would receive while in the presence of God.

In Revelation 16:1, 17 the text indicates, “And I heard a loud voice from the temple.” Some may see a problem at this point with the temple indicating the presence of God. This writer would suggest that the loud voice came from the presence of God (ie from God himself). God is the origin of the loud voice. This too could be a source of comfort.

Revelation 21:22 reads, “And I did not see a temple in it. For the Lord God almighty and the Lamb are its temple.” Here God and his people dwell together in the new Jerusalem. It is referred to as the city of God. If it is the city of God, then it would be the dwelling place of God. In the dwelling place of God, the city becomes the temple. If as this writer believes, the Revelation letter was written around AD 96, then the temple of God in Jerusalem had already been destroyed. In the new Jerusalem though, there would be no need for the temple as God’s presence would be everywhere. This thought of comfort was one ultimately realized in heaven, but also the case for Christians alive on the earth.

All of the passages indicated seem to convey that John’s use of *nahos* was a figurative attempt to convey the presence of God. This thought would be a very comforting fact especially in view of the theme of the Revelation letter. The presence of God from the very beginning has always been a source of encouragement to those who follow God.

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*

News and Notes

ELONDA CRAFTON is currently in HealthSouth, Room 205, for therapy. **ALLI MOSS** had her tonsils and adenoids removed Monday. **JIM WHITE** will have outpatient surgery Friday at Norton's Hospital in Louisville. **WANDA HOGAN**, Dennis Hogan's mother, will have back surgery December 3 in Chattanooga.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Carl Mercer
Neil Burden	Tom Morgan
Dana Fox	Joyce Pack
Howard Gardner	Grace Speer
Faye Guess	Gene Stough
Nellie Hart	Barbara Underwood
Roy Johnson	Lonnie Undewood
David & Ruby Keister	Payton Walker
Kent Lane	Lawrence Wells
Diane Lewis	Dyrena White
J Martin	

Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers:

Dave Fulbright, Robert E. Wooten, Justin Gardner, Kelly Leverett, George Edwards, Joe Betterton, Myles Brothers, Dale Martin, Terry Turner, Cameron Ponder, Brett Fleming, Mike Chandler, Nathan McClain, Willie Mitchell, Ronald O'Bryant, Roni Reed, Hector Meza, Aaron Wellman, Michael Morrow, Israel Fox, Barry Barclay, Brian Wilkins
Additional Prayer List: Charlene Akridge, Jan Allen, Weita Anderson, K.C. Avery, Delsie Axton, Bill Bigelow, Christa Bradley, Gloria Brown, Grace Brown, Sue Cantrell, Joyce Cecil, Michael Clymer, Billy Cyrus, Betty Davis, Sydney Dover, David Fant, Royce Goodman, Priscilla Gratton, Renee Green, Terry Griffin, Ginell Harris, Don Hatcher, Louie Hodge, Rose Johnson, Mike Lane, Michelle Lawson, Lina Lee, Bruce LeFevre, Jennifer Martin, Gayle Massey, Erman McClaskey, Lucinda McCune, Terri McDonald, Julie Murphy, Joe & John Pawley, Ann Peters, Joe & Patsy Richter, David & Geneva Risinger, Carlos Smith, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Florence Stull, Patsy Taylor, Juanita Tillery, Kevin Weaver, Kendell Whisenant, Nora Wilkins, Sondra Woosley

Sympathy

We express our deepest sympathy to the Bernard Gillim family. Bro. Gillim passed away Sunday night in Owensboro. A memorial service will be held Saturday at 1:00 p.m. CST in Fordsville, Kentucky at the Friendship Church of Christ. Please continue to keep the Gillim and Hogan families in your prayers.

Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 11/30/08

Canned Soup

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY GET-TOGETHER**, Sunday night, **November 30**, in the South Wing. CSG #3 & #4 will host. Please bring finger foods.
- **ADULT HOLIDAY PARTY**, Saturday night, **December 6**, 6:00 p.m. in the South Wing. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board for food items to bring. The meat will be provided. Cost is \$3 per person and this can be given to Mary Woodring. CSG #1 will be in charge of activities for the evening; CSG #2 will have set up and decorating duties; and CSG's #3 & #4 will have clean up duty following the meal. If you would like to participate in a gift exchange, each person is asked to bring a \$4-\$5 gift.
- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP**, Monday, **December 8**, at 10:30 a.m.
- **5TH GRADE & UNDER HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHER**, Sunday, **December 14**, in the South Wing after morning services. This will be a potluck lunch. Boys are asked to bring a gift suitable for a boy and girls are asked to bring a gift suitable for a girl. Price range for each gift is \$3-\$5. Also in addition to a gift, each boy is asked to bring a can of green beans and each girl is to bring a can of corn for our food center.
- **YOUTH (6th-12th grade) HOLIDAY PARTY**, Saturday night, **December 20**, hosted by the Hogan family.

NOTE

The church office will be closed the following days during the upcoming holidays:

November 27 & 28
 December 25 & 26
 and January 1 & 2, 2009.

OUR RECORD FOR

November 23, 2008

Sunday Bible Study	145
Sunday Morning Assembly	197
Sunday Evening Assembly	126
Wednesday Bible Study	127
Ladies Bible Class	16
Contribution (Budget -- \$6,309)	\$7,053

Elder/Coordinator for December
Henry McAlister

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Secretary:
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Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.etowncofc.org

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: Who was the man that killed 600 men with an ox goad?

Last Week's Bible Question: Who killed a lion in a pit on a snowy day? The correct answer is Benaiah, 1 Chronicles 11:22 & 2 Samuel 23:20. Joyce Pack, Kay Thomason, Bloria Taylor, Rick Eiler, Marietta Solomon, and Edna Ashlock correctly answered the question.

Please write down your answer and give it to Ray, put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to ray.pack@kvnet.org by Tuesday afternoon. Please include the Scripture reference and your name.

Schedule of Services

Sunday:
Bible Classes 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.

Tuesday
Ladies Bible Class 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday
Evening Bible Class 7:00 P.M.

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

1. Romans 11:25-15:33
2. Romans 16; 1 Corinthians 1:1-4:13
3. 1 Corinthians 4:14-7:40
4. 1 Corinthians 8:1-12:11
5. 1 Corinthians 12:12-15:28
6. 1 Corinthians 15:29-16:24; 2 Corinthians 1-2
7. 2 Corinthians 3-7

Nov. 30 — Birthday/Anniversary Get-together
Dec. 6 — Adult Holiday Party
Dec. 8 — Church Workers Workshop
Dec. 14 — 5th Grade & Under Holiday Party
Dec. 20 — Youth Holiday Party

PARTICIPATION
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