



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXVI January 11, 2009 No. 1

Confidence Corner

John F. Board

As we continue on our life long journey of building our faith, consider some thoughts regarding Jesus Christ. In the past few years works have been written that try to establish that Jesus refused to claim that he was the Messiah, that Jesus did

not come to earth to be the Messiah, and that because of a failure to understand these concepts properly, many Jews have been wrongfully persecuted. Are these claims correct? Let us examine the Scriptures together.

Mashach is the Hebrew verb from which our English term Messiah comes. *Mashach* has the meaning of "to anoint." Of the close to seventy times the word is employed in the Hebrew Bible, it is most often used of the act of anointing a prophet (I Kings 19:16), a king (I Samuel 16:12), or a priest (Exodus 29:7). It is noteworthy that in the New Testament, Jesus fulfilled each of these roles as one person (Acts 3:22-23; Hebrews 4:14-15; Revelation 19:16). He therefore fulfilled a unique role as the "anointed" of God. In the New Testament, Jesus is called *Christos* 529 times; this term is translated as "the Anointed One" and its transliteration gives us the term "Christ." From a linguistic point of view, there is no doubt that Jesus was and is the Messiah.

What about Jesus' claims? An examination of only a few verses will establish that Jesus **did make** the claim of being the Messiah. In John 4:25-26, Jesus spoke with the woman at the well. In this conversation she stated, "I know the Messiah is coming (He that is called Christ): when He arrives He will declare unto us all things." Jesus in response said, "I who am speaking to you am He." In Matthew 16:13-20 Jesus noted that it was "my Father which is in heaven" who revealed to Peter that He was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Did Jesus not agree with His own Father? Jesus even rebuked the Jews for failing to acknowledge (despite the signs that He did), that He was the Messiah (John 12:37-41).

Men inspired of Holy Spirit, whom Jesus would send to guide them into all truth, recorded as a part of that truth that Jesus was the Messiah (John 20:30-31; Acts 2:36; etc). This also proves that rather than refuse the claim of being the Messiah, Jesus continued to teach that such was the case, even after he left earth to reign in heaven. *JFB*

Ray's Ramblings

Ray Pack

Looking Back at 2008

The apostle Paul encourages us to look to the things ahead, but a look at the past can help us as we desire to attain greater things in the future. As I look back at 2008 and see the growth of the congregation both numerically and spiritually it shows the dedication of so many of you. Allow me to commend you for your desire to see the church grow.

In March, John, Brenna, Kayleigh and Emaleigh Board moved to Elizabethtown and began to labor with us. John has challenged our thinking with his sermons and his writings in the Caller. I for one have grown spiritually by the thoughts he has shared.

Reviewing the records kept in the office the following took place during the year.

12 FOLKS WERE BAPTIZED
11 FOLKS WERE RESTORED TO THEIR FIRST LOVE
10 FAMILIES PLACED MEMBERSHIP
2 COUPLES WERE MARRIED
7 OF OUR MEMBERS PASSED AWAY
**FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS THERE WERE NO
NEWBORN BABIES**

As we move into 2009 my prayer is that we will continue to move forward individually and as a congregation. The future is bright and how you react will determine where the congregation goes in 2009.

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. - *Dispensational Premillennialism—The Battle of Armageddon, Part 1*
Revelation 16:12-16

P.M. - *Dispensational Premillennialism—The Battle of Armageddon, Part 2*
Revelation 19:11-16

Israel in the Divine Plan

By Wayne Jackson

This article is written by Wayne Jackson and is from the website www.christiancourier.com. Our homepage for quite some time has had a link to this website. This year the elders, at the request of Mickey Gattis, added the Christian Courier Online as a mission work. There is a wealth of biblical information on this site. Many throughout the world have been converted from the teachings of this website. I have edited this article to fit our bulletin format. I thought it would be good to remind ourselves of Israel in God's Plan (jfb).

A balanced study of the nation of Israel must include at least four elements: the selection, testing, rejection, and replacement of the Jewish people.

Selection

Almost two thousand years before the birth of Christ, Jehovah selected Abraham to be the founder of a new nation. It was declared that through him a seed would come by whom all peoples of the earth would be blessed (cf. Genesis 12:1-3; 22:17-18). Several centuries later, Abraham's offspring were delivered from an era of bondage in Egypt. They were given a special law and ritualistic system of worship which were designed to separate them from the other nations of the world (Exodus 19:5-6; cf. Ephesians 2:14). All of this, of course, was in view of the coming Messiah (cf. Galatians 3:24-25; Hebrews 9:1-10).

Testing

For some fifteen hundred years the Lord God attempted to cultivate the nation of Israel in preparation for the first advent of the Lord Jesus. It was a constant struggle to get the Hebrews to maintain a semblance of fidelity. They grossly violated the law, frequently went after "strange gods," and they viciously persecuted the prophets that Jehovah sent to call them to repentance. Jeremiah summarized the history of the Israelite people when he charged that they did "nothing" of all that Jehovah commanded them (32:23).

Rejection

Because of the accelerating rebellion of the nation, consummated by the murder of Jesus Christ, God rejected the Hebrew people. Inexcusably, the Jews rejected their own Messiah; accordingly, Jehovah repudiated that nation and determined to scatter them as dust (Matthew 21:44). Thus, in the providence of God, the Roman armies came against Palestine in A.D. 70, and Judaism was destroyed (cf. Matthew 22:7; 24:1-34); the Jewish "vessel" was smashed, and it cannot be put back together (cf. Jeremiah 19:11). According to Josephus, some 1.1 million Hebrews were slaughtered, and thousands were taken into slavery. All Jewish records were lost in that holocaust. Today, there is not a single Jew who knows his tribal ancestry (McClintock and Strong 1969, 771). The physical nation of Israel is dead. The "Jews" that make up the State of Israel today (less than twenty-five percent of the world Jewish population) cannot legitimately be called a "nation."

Replacement

As a consequence of Israel's rejection of the Messiah, God has replaced physical Israel with a new nation, **spiritual Israel**. Today, the "Jew" is not one who is so physically, but one who is so inwardly, i.e., spiritually (Romans 2:28-29). In this age, those who submit to the gospel plan of redemption—whether Jew or Gentile (Romans 1:16)—become children of God, and thus are constituted as the true "seed of Abraham" (Galatians 3:26-29).

News and Notes

GAVIN CALLOWAY underwent outpatient surgery Monday at Kosair Hospital in Louisville. **CURTIS BRADLEY**, Sheldon Lackey's brother, underwent double bypass surgery last Friday at Audubon Hospital in Louisville. **JIM WHITE** began his six months of chemotherapy treatments last week. **MARY WALKER** has been undergoing some tests.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

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

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, Ronald O'Bryant, Roni Reed, Hector Meza, Aaron Wellman, Michael Morrow, Israel Fox, Barry Barclay, Brian Wilkins, Phillip Moore

Attention Senior Saints

Senior Saints interested in attending the Freed Hardeman Bible Lectureship are asked to sign the sheet posted on the bulletin board by January 15. Plans are to leave Monday, February 2, and return Thursday, February 5. If you have any questions, please see Gene or Karen Stough.

We Rejoice

Katy Watson was restored and asked for the prayers of the congregation December 24. We are thankful for Katy's decision and commend her for her commitment to God.

BENEVOLENT CENTER UPDATE DECEMBER 2008

Food Center	130 families helped
Clothing Center	63 families helped

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

	DECEMBER	2008
Courses graded	176	2,739
New enrollees	23	362

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

3. Alli Moss	20. Peggy Hogan
4. Kristy Vernon	21. Howard Gardner
8. Charles Hardin	25. Angie Carter
9. Will Bybee	26. Jackson Pawley
	27. Kay Thomason
12. Kyle Nowland	29. Joyce Pack
13. Shandy Allen	

ANNIVERSARIES

Chuck & Pam Ball	January 7
Lawrence & Kathleen Wells	January 24

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to Karen & Gene Stough in the death of their 40 year old nephew, Mike Jones. His funeral was held in Huntsville December 31.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☐ **CHRISTIAN SERVICE GROUPS** will meet Sunday morning, **January 11**, after services to choose leaders and sign up for visitation assignments to our sponsored congregations.
- ☐ **LADIES DAY MEETING**, Sunday afternoon, **January 11**, at 5:00 p.m. in Room 10. All ladies interested in helping with our upcoming Ladies Day are asked to attend.
- ☐ **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP**, Monday, **January 12**, at 10:30 a.m.
- ☐ **EVANGELISM UNIVERSITY** in Savannah, Tennessee, **January 16-18**.
- ☐ **SINGING AT ATRIA**, Sunday afternoon, **January 25**, at 3:00 p.m.
- ☐ **FHU BIBLE LECTURESHIP**, **February 1-6**, in Henderson, TN.
- ☐ **SWEETHEART DINNER**, Saturday, **February 21**
- ☐ **LADIES DAY**, Saturday, **March 21**

Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 1/11/09

Canned pork'n'beans

OUR RECORD FOR January 4, 2009

Sunday Bible Study	157
Sunday Morning Assembly	227
Sunday Evening Assembly	147
Wednesday Bible Study	135
Ladies Bible Class	No Class
Contribution (Budget -- \$6,783)	\$7,250

Elder/Coordinator for January
Mike Pence

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www.etowncofc.org

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: Who is the King who became a herbivore and began to eat grass?

Last Week's Bible Question: There was no question in the previous bulletin.

*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. Genesis 1-2; Matthew 1
 2. Genesis 3-5; Matthew 2
 3. Genesis 6-8; Matthew 3
 4. Genesis 9-11; Matthew 4
 5. Genesis 12-14; Matthew 5:1-26
 6. Genesis 15-17; Matthew 5:27-48
 7. Genesis 18-19; Matthew 6

Jan. 11 — CSG Meeting
 Jan. 11 — Ladies Day Meeting
 Jan. 12 — Church Workers Workshop
 Jan. 13 — Ladies Bible Class resumes
 Jan. 16-18 — Evangelism University, TN
 Jan. 25 — Singing at Atria
 Feb. 1-6 — FHU Lectures
 Mar. 21 — Ladies Day

**Are You Part of the
 PARTICIPATION**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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