



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXVI February 14, 2010 No. 6

Confidence Corner

John F. Board

In an earlier column we have examined some thoughts of the Jesusanity movement. The leading proponent of these ideas are Borg and Crossan (you may have seen one or both of these men on documentaries regarding Jesus or the Bible on the History Channel). We want to further examine why such attacks upon the Christian faith hold little validity.

One way that Jesusanity thinkers attempt to sway the minds of those who listen to or read their message is to deal in only presenting what is half-right about a given incident in the life of Christ. They often pose the texts they are dealing with in an "either/or" format rather than as they should properly be viewed—"both/and" incidents and assertions. Sometimes what they acknowledge is correct, but they fail to relay the whole story.

Take the example of the question we read in Mark 12:18-27 regarding the hypothetical woman who had been married to seven brothers. Based upon the principle of the levirate marriage, where a widow with no heir is to be married by her husband's brother, the Sadducees had asked the question regarding whose wife would she be in the resurrection (remember the Sadducees view that there was no resurrection from the dead).

Borg and Crossan, remember, are with the Jesus Seminar. These are men who have decided they have the ability to read the Scriptures and to decide what statements Jesus actually said or did not say and also what those statements meant. In the case above, Borg and Crossan both think that Jesus' answer to the question is a "provocative non-response." They say Jesus' main point was that "God's concern is the living and not the dead (*The Last Week: A Day by Day Account of Jesus Final Week in Jerusalem, HarperSanFrancisco, 2006, pp. 68-69*). The basis of their argumentation was Jesus' use of Exodus 3, which Borg and Crossan say was never used of the afterlife in Judaism and the fact that Jesus could not possibly be saying that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had already raised (or were a state of existence) because that would go contrary to Jewish beliefs of the day that resurrection did not occur till the end (yeah you read that correctly).

But here is where Borg and Crossan miss the point. Jesus' use of Exodus 3 is due to the fact that He is addressing the Sadducees. The Sadducees gave more weight to the Torah (first five books of the OT) and so Jesus points them to what they use as their standard of authority. Jesus did not have to be concerned with how they had used passages in Judaism; as Deity He knew the true meaning of a passage and He knew that the true meaning was not determined by the Jewish Rabbis. Despite what Borg and Crossan write, Jesus' point is just the opposite, in order to see the promises made to them, the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) had to be alive. **Rather than an either or**, as Borg and Crossan state, Jesus was concerned about **both** the living (those here on the earth) **and** (as the Sadducees perceived it) the dead (those who had already died).

jfb

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

John F. Board

Is the Bible a book we can trust? So often people have tried to question and challenge the Word of God. Time and time again, the Bible has withstood the test of time and the attacks of men.

One thing I guess I need to point out early in our study of Archaeology and the Bible, is the purpose of

Archaeology in Bible study. First it may be important to note that contrary to many people's idea, the typical archaeologist has little interest in biblical studies. An archaeologist is an historian who, beyond the written word, digs out the remains of ancient people, and who through such efforts provides a fuller history of the people than the written word alone can provide. Note the importance of an understanding of the archaeologists as humans versus the inspiration of the Scriptures by God.

Truly archaeology illuminates biblical studies; it provides additional information to be weighed in light of what the Scriptures reveal. Remember we are dealing with human interpretations in the field of archaeology. Although archaeological finds have shown some critics of the Bible have been wrong (Hittites, etc), it is very dangerous to take the approach of some like Philip R. Davies who chooses not to believe anything in the Bible unless it has external confirmation (people like Davies are referred to as Minimalists).

Although at times words such as confirm, prove, and authenticate can be used in regard to archaeology and the Bible, it is important to remember that the greatest value of BA "is its ability to increase understanding of the culture and material setting within which the truths of God were given" (Alfred J. Hoerth, *Archaeology and the Old Testament*, p. 21). As Edwin Yamauchi points out in his work entitled *The Stones and the Scriptures*, "...it is a mistake to insist that traditions-including the OT-must interlock with other evidence before it can be believed" (1972). As Christians, our confidence and hope should not rely on any external proof—not even archaeology. Sometimes archaeologists as humans make mistakes or misinterpret something; later digs will provide information and they will adjust their earlier erroneous statements. In addition, if something in the Bible has not been confirmed through archaeologist exploration, let us remember, as Yamauchi writes, that only a small portion of what has existed in the past still exists, that only a portion of that which continues has even been uncovered, and of that which has been uncovered, only a small portion of it has been meaningfully excavated (2%).

jfb

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. — A Church That Grows
Acts 4:1-4

P.M. — Love
1 Corinthians 13

“That They May Be Many Father That the World May Be Confused”

For the second week in a row, you have read the title correctly. Again this week it is used to grab your attention for a very important point. Not all that needs to be addressed regarding the newspaper article in *The Tennessean* was able to be addressed last week, nor will all be addressed this week, but I wanted to make another point while the article may still be fresh in our minds.

For those who did not read last week's bulletin article I referenced an article that appeared in *The Tennessean* that was entitled, *Churches of Christ drop Isolationist view, work with other faiths*. The article does not really convey the true picture; actually the minister of the group who is addressed as “working with other faiths,” is not a minister for the body of Christ. He is a minister for a denomination “flying under the flag” of a community church claiming to be tied to the churches of Christ. The Church we read about in the Bible would not practice the various things that the group that is quoted in the article practices (Otter Creek). You may think I am simply “spewing sour milk,” I assure you that is not the case. Am I upset? You bet I am because what the Otter Creek group is doing is a direct assault on the Church for which my Lord died. Let me give you one example from the article that indicates we are not dealing with the Church we read about in the Bible. Bob Smetana writes regarding the Otter Creek group, “In recent years, congregations like Otter Creek have adopted a more progressive view of their faith. They've added instruments to church services on Sunday nights and during the week.” Otter Creek is also advocating more association and cooperation with denominations (specifically noted in the article is charitable projects, but I assure you the wording of the article in no way excludes other avenues of spiritual fellowship with denominations as well—such is not according to the standard God has revealed for all such fellowship in 1 John 1:7).

Now return with me for a moment to the title of this article. Those who read it probably recognize it as a purposeful misquote of a statement of our Lord. In John 17 Jesus is praying to the Father. He asks, not as the title suggests for division, rather Jesus prays that the believers may all be one, that the world might believe. In other words, that based upon the unity and oneness of the church people would be brought to belief in Jesus.

Now contrast that with Otter Creek's philosophy, or for that matter, denominationalism in general. Denominationalism suggests not that Christ's followers be one, but that they be divided into “many” groups. Have you ever heard people in their frustration cry out, “Why even try to follow Jesus—there are so many different groups who claim to follow Jesus who believe different things...what is the use; I give up!” That is what I was referring to at the end of the title of the article—that they all may be confused. We know that is not that which Jesus prayed.

You see those who want to follow Jesus, rather than endorsing denominationalism, ought to be sickened by it. All followers of Jesus should seek unity and a oneness of belief. But how is that possible you ask? I am glad you do not need to rely on me for that answer. In the same prayer, Jesus answered that question clearly. He prayed for the followers to be one and said that the way that could be accomplished was through sanctification through the Word of God. To make it clear, Jesus said His Word would set apart people from the world into one group (later known as the body or church—Col 1:18; Eph. 4:4). The result of that for which Jesus prayed is not many groups claiming all to follow Jesus; the result is one group of believers unified by the truth of God's Word. Is that exclusive—is that isolative? Yes it is, but it is so because of Jesus and not man.

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*

News and Notes

MARY WOODRING was released from Hardin Memorial Friday morning. **GALE RADFORD**, Mayford Spear's daughter, has surgery scheduled February 11 in Lexington. **DOROTHY HAWKINS** had a procedure done in Louisville Monday on her knee. **NEIL BURDEN** was seen in the ER at Hardin Memorial last Sunday morning. **JIM WHITE** underwent tests Monday in Louisville. **RONALD O'BRYANT** had an MRI done on his knee Monday. **CHARLES HARDIN** underwent an emergency appendectomy last Tuesday night at Hardin Memorial and was released Wednesday. **ROGE-GE-NEAL SMITH**, Diane Lewis' sister, was in the hospital last weekend with emphysema.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Rosa Lee Norman
Carl & Delsie Axton	Ruby Keister
Howard Gardner	Helen Raby
Faye Guess	Pansy Sells
Roy Johnson	Grace Speer
Betty Lawson	Oleta Stranahan
Ron Lemasters	Kay Thomason
Diane Lewis	Barbara Underwood
J Martin	Lonnie Underwood
Carl Mercer	Dorothea Weaver
Tom Morgan	Lawrence Wells
Andy Nevins	Jim White

Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers: Robert E. Wooten, Kelly Leverett, Korry Leverett, Joe Betterton, Terry Turner, Cameron Ponder, Brett Fleming, Nathan McClain, Ronald O'Bryant, Roni Reed, Hector Meza, Aaron Wellman, Michael Morrow, Israel Fox, Barry Barclay, Brian Wilkins, Nathan Miller, Dan Sloat, Gregory Stack, A. J. Anderson, Travis Clonch (Afghanistan), Drew McAlpin (Iraq), Matt Hanson (Afghanistan)

Mission News

We are collecting garden seeds for our brethren at the Central congregation in Donetsk, Ukraine. Please bring these by February 21 and put them in the box in the lobby under the mission board.

Jail Ministry

Jail Ministry volunteers or those wishing to assist with the Jail Ministry Program must attend an upcoming training session for NEW volunteers Monday night, February 22, at 7:00 p.m. Training fee: \$10. All active volunteers are requested to attend this meeting also. Please contact Wayne McClaskey for more information.

Pantry Items of the Week

Week of 2/14/10—Canned green beans & corn

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP**, Monday, **February 15**, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 10.
- Mark your calendars for the **SWEETHEART DINNER** on Saturday, **February 20**, 6:00 p.m. in the South Wing. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Men, are asked to sign up to bring two dishes. CSG #1 will be in charge of activities; CSG #2 will be in charge of activities; and CSG #3 & #4 will have clean up duties.
- **YOUTH DEVOTIONAL**, Sunday night, **February 21**, hosted by the Nowland family.
- **CYC**, in Gatlinburg, TN, **February 26-28**, for our young people.
- **SINGING AT ATRIA**, Sunday afternoon, **February 28**, at 3:00 p.m.
- **LADIES DAY**, Saturday, **March 13**, with Mary Greene, from Bowling Green, KY speaking. Topic: "Reflections of the Heart."

Thank You

Special thanks to all the ladies who have been helping me in the clothing center, especially when I was sick.

Mary Walker

Thank you so much for the expressions of sympathy, cards and visits to the funeral home when my uncle passed away.

Ken Bybee & Family

Pantry Items of the Week

Week of 2/14/10—Canned pork'n'beans and soup

Where Can I Watch the Gospel Broadcasting Network?

-DISH NETWORK VIEWERS—Good News Today, Sundays, 7:00 a.m., on Dish Network Ch. 259

-DIRECT TV VIEWERS—GNT, Sundays, 7:00 a.m., on Direct Ch. 364

-COMCAST CABLE VIEWERS—Inspiration Network, Ch. 38, Sundays, 7:00 a.m. Followed by "In Search of the Lord's Way" with Bro. Mack Lyons and Phil Sanders at 7:30 a.m.

"The Truth and Nothing But the Truth" 24 hours a day, daily
Web site: www.gbntv.org

OUR RECORD FOR

February 7, 2010

Sunday Bible Study	152
Sunday Morning Assembly	208
Sunday Evening Assembly	156
Wednesday Bible Study	116
Ladies Bible Class (No class-weather)	
Contribution (Budget -- \$6,888)	\$7,172

Elder/Coordinator for February
Rick Whobrey

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: What disciples were mistaken for Jupiter and Mercury?

Last Week's Bible Question: What king's hand dried up? The correct answer is Jeroboam, 1 Kings 13:4. Those who correctly answered the question are: Mary Walker, Joyce Pack, Bloria Taylor, Rick Eiler, Betty Bray, Doris Phelps, Lorene Harris, Edna Ashlock, and Reagan & Samuel White.

Please write down your answer and put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to chofchrist@windstream.net 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.

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Church Office: 765-6446
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Elders:

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Henry McAlister	765-7386
Mike Pence	737-8123
Rick Whobrey	769-9267

Minister:

John Board	763-1677
	cell # 505-3925

Secretary:

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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Email: chofchrist@windstream.net

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

Daily Bible Reading Schedule
 Feb. 15 — Numbers 8-10
 Feb. 16 — Numbers 11-13
 Feb. 17 — Numbers 14-15
 Feb. 18 — Numbers 16-17
 Feb. 19 — Numbers 18-20
 Feb. 20 — Numbers 21-22
 Feb. 21 — Numbers 23-25
 Feb. 15 — Church Workers Workshop
 Feb. 20 — Sweetheart Dinner
 Feb. 21 — Youth Devo
 Feb. 26-28 — CYC, Gatlinsburg
 Feb. 28 — Singing at Atria
 Mar. 2 — Tuesday Lunch
 March 13 — Etown Ladies Day

PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Elizabethtown Church of Christ
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