



JERICHO?

Christianity represents a full splitting of the spiritual from the secular governance and in that light the role of religion is significantly different today than it was 3000 years ago.

It is hard to imagine a spiritual only kingdom, but that is exactly what Jesus teaches in John 18:36. Various groups from Quakers to Muslims go back and re-establish a combination of secular government with spiritual, sometimes with challenging results.

Christ split them apart, so before it was not split. Judaism represented a full combination of secular and religion. Judaism was functionally not in secular charge in the first century because they lost the war to the Romans. Though not because they didn't want to be in charge.

What this meant before Christ and the Romans was that it was the job of Judaism to make religion and to make war. Many pacifist today justify their position because Jesus' actions were non-violent. Judaism was God's (Jesus') religion before the first century. What was instructed to be done before the first century was functionally blessed by Jesus.

This brings us back to Jericho. It is a wonderful children's Bible class story about walking around the walls once for 6 days, 7 times on the 7th day, shouting, and the walls fell down. It is related in Joshua 6:1-20.

Then we stop reading. Only those who want to be critical of God do not stop reading.

Continued on page 3

HOUSTON AREA ELDER'S WORKSHOP

The Oklahoma Christian Church Growth Think Tank is holding a Houston Area Elder's Workshop at the Memorial facility at 900 Echo Lane on June 6.

This is the results of more than 2 years of discussions on the state of the church and some ideas as to how to return the church to a scriptural, evangelistic model.

Kent Allen of OC is the Keynote speaker and other principle speakers are David Duncan (Memorial), Gary Smith (Fifth Ward), Larry Keele (Champions) and Benton Baugh (Memorial). More information is given on the following page.

Come participate in these presentations and the following discussions.

Also, in our locally autonomous (& scriptural) organizational style, contacting a large number of elders is difficult. We would appreciate if you would distribute this to other elders you know or send us their e-mail addresses so we can. Send to bbaugh@thearray.org.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Jericho	1
Houston Area Elder's Worksho	1, 2
Impossible for Evolution #51	4
Disaster Relief Effort	5
Listen to Jesus - Brown	6
Area Wide Activities	7



HOUSTON AREA WIDE ELDER'S WORKSHOP

JUNE 6, 2015

DISCUSS TOPICS SUCH AS:

- REINFORCING OUR SCRIPTURAL BASIS
- THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE CHURCH
- NEW APPROACHES AND CONCEPTS
- ROOT CAUSES OF CHURCH GROWTH
- THE ELDER'S ROLE IN CHURCH GROWTH
- GETTING MORE INFORMATION FOR DECISIONS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: KENT ALLEN, OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

The OC Church Growth Think Tank has been addressing church growth with over 500 years of collective church of Christ experience, a great respect for our scriptural basis, and a keen understanding that some of our customs and practices are not accomplishing the Great Commission. The primary speakers at this workshop will be those Think Tank members.

Located at **MEMORIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST**
900 ECHO LANE

**EXIT SOUTH FROM I-10 TO ECHO LANE BETWEEN LOOP
610 WEST AND SAM HOUSTON TOLLWAY WEST.**

GENERAL SCHEDULE:

Breakfast and fellowship: 8:00 - 9:00
Sessions: 9:00 - 12:00
Lunch and fellowship: 12:00 - 1:00
Sessions: 1:00 - 4:00
Wrap-up: 4:00 - 4:30

TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE:

**Register online at mcoc.org
under Event Registration**

This event is organized by the Oklahoma Christian University Church Growth Think Tank and is being sponsored by Memorial Church of Christ, Fifth Ward Church of Christ, Champions Church of Christ, and the Christian Array E-Magazine.



JERICHO - P. 2

What follows in verse 21 is “And the utterly destroyed everything in the city, bot man and woman, young and old, and ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.”

Who authorized the full destruction of the town and people of Jericho. God did, He is a loving God, and we need to be prepared to discuss this topic.

It is easy enough to discuss war in general as Israel was a nation and you must have a national defense or you will simply be overrun. We have pacifist groups around who do not fight, but simply exist because others protect them. The Quakers are an example of this. They are pacifist who exist solely because the rest of us defend them. If you don't believe that have any nation in the world announce that they (nor the USA) will not defend themselves if someone attacks and see how long they last.

Jericho was different. Jericho was a sovereign governing unit and was attacked by an aggressor. The aggressor not only attacked, but killed every man, woman, and child. Respectable war is killing men and leaving women and children alone, so how do we explain this?

Consider what we think of respectability from the point of view of a person. From our daily personal point of view, this is really hard to explain. Life is all we know and it is with great trepidation that we consider shortening someone's.

Consider instead trying to look at God's point of view as best we can.

Surely in God's point of view we live on earth for an extremely short period of time and then we spend eternity somewhere based upon that.

For our concept of thinking, consider that we live on earth for 1 minute and then live in eternity for a thousand years. God sees a thousand years plus one minute and we focus on the one minute.

In this example the average person in Jericho lived for 30 seconds, and went to judgment day based upon what they did for those 30 seconds. Maybe some would have become better persons in the last 30 seconds, maybe some would have become worse, but no one decides the end time for themselves.

The plan of God as implement from the time of Abraham was to bring forth the Christ from a clear lineage back to Abraham some 2000 years later. The plan involved a specific location and a specific people. In order to make this happen, God did something hard for those of us focused on the 1 minute to accept, but appeared to be reasonable from God's point of view.

What God did not authorize was torturing, but a simple early termination of their earthly lives.

READY ANSWER

God had a plan for returning the Israelites to the promised land to prepare the way for the Christ. We are here but for a brief time and when God terminated the lives of those in Jericho early to implement the plan, it meant that they would go to judgment day just like the rest of us and would be judged and live for eternity based upon the lives they had lived to that point.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #51: OLD AGE

The “survival of the fittest” basis of evolution basically teaches that things evolve to be the most fit. Easy enough concept.

Old age seems natural to us. We live a life, get old and die. We seldom think about what old age actually is. It is said that every cell in our body is replaced every seven years, so we are functionally never more than seven years old. The theory of evolutionary survival of the fittest should mean that those who can live the longest and become stronger as you go are going to survive better.

We observe just the opposite happening.

Consider the following things which are characteristic of old age:

1. Our hair is preprogrammed to turn gray or white most of the time.
2. Our ears get bigger.
3. We tend to lose stamina.
4. We become more susceptible to disease and sickness.
5. Our skin becomes thinner.
6. We lose the capacity to reproduce.
7. We die.

Consider that:

1. There is serious programming associated with getting old. This programming is not required to simply be young and more fit for survival.
2. As we age we simply become weaker and weaker to the point which we will die due to something, even if it is a minor medical problem.
3. All the programming to make old age happen occurs after propagation is complete. It can have no evolutionary impact. The characteristics developed in old age cannot

be passed on to those already born.

We want to suggest that there are no evolutionary reasons for changing hair color, ears getting bigger, losing stamina, thinner skin, inability to produce, or dying. In fact, most of those items make it more difficult to survive (Especially dying). Each of these things happen characteristically, so it means that they are programmed to happen. It means that they are preprogrammed weaknesses.

Literally old age programming is not for the purpose of “survival of the fittest”. It is for the elimination of the generation. If we were to control evolution ourselves, we would live forever in healthy lives.

It takes the larger view of an external designer to see the benefit of preprogrammed weaknesses to allow one generation to live and pass and make way for the next generation. Simply a larger world view than microscopic accidental changes can accomplish.

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.



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LISTEN TO JESUS ELIZABETH BROWN

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" (Matt. 17:5b)

While the disciples were floundering around thinking they should honor Moses and Elijah as equal to Jesus, God made it crystal clear. From the mountain top God shouts, "Listen to Jesus!" Jesus brings us God's message for today.

And Jesus brings us God's message exactly as God wants it spoken. "...I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me." (John 8:28b) The Holy Spirit brings the same message as Jesus Christ, who reveals exactly what God wants him to speak. "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." (John 16:13)

We know that in the past God spoke to men and women in dreams, visions, prophecies and in many different ways but now his final and complete message is through Jesus Christ. There are no further revelations whispered in the hearts of men today. "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son..." (Heb. 1:2)

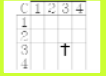
How do we listen to Jesus? We listen with our hearts and lives lived in obedience to all his commands. Need help in making application of the message of Jesus? Look to the Word first and then continue to ask, seek and knock for wisdom, insight, understanding, guidance and direction. Ask for God's discipline and training to correctly discern the Word. And praise God because he has given us everything we need for life and godliness.



We are happy to announce that the 2015 Schedule of Daily Bible Readings and Questions is ready to print. Our printer tells us that it will be about \$15/copy. Please publicize this to your family and "circle of friends" through your internet contacts. This is non-profit and we want it to be to the Glory of God! We just want folks to read their Bible every day! We will be glad to mail/ship copies to you, so please help us. Each copy will average about \$5/copy, which includes postage and mail envelope. Kirk and Linda Castleman 7419 Bairnsdale Lane, Houston 77070
kirk.castleman1942@gmail.com
830-900-9771 Any extra funds will be used to print copies to give away for evangelism. Love and blessings to all, Kirk and Linda

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

AN E-MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION



HOUSTON AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

2nd Tues. Houston Preacher's Luncheon, confirm with Dale Foster at dalefoster@gmail.com for address.

5/13/15 Houston Foster's Home For Children Golf Tournament—Blackhorse

6/6/15 Houston / OC Area-Wide Elder's Workshop

YAHOO GROUP

HoustonCofC is a Yahoo group hosted by Steve Sandifer [steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net] for the purpose of communicating Houston area news among the brethren. It is open to any member of the church at no cost.

The Christian Array E-Magazine

This e-magazine is sent to members of the church on a monthly basis as an attempt to promote scriptural teachings, area wide activities and church growth. If you do not want to receive this e-magazine, send an e-mail to bbaugh@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, send their e-mail addresses to bbaugh@thearray.org. All past copies of the newsletter can be found on the website "thearray.org".

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A goal of this newsletter is to develop a mailing list of as many members of the church as possible and to communicate church related information to as many members as possible. In that light, we would appreciate it if you would:

1. forward the church member e-mail addresses which you have,
2. send the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have, and
3. give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

The Christian Array is dedicated to support the sustained scriptural growth of the churches of Christ. It is published by BCE Publications, a 501(c)(3) organization with Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E. as editor. BCE is solely responsible for the content. Any announcements, requests for publication, or comments should be e-mailed to bbaugh@thearray.org.