

Blue Ridge Brandmarks

“...I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus”. - Gal. 6:17

Volume 4

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Number 2

Bible Q & A

A Bible correspondence student recently sent in two questions.

“Did Christ visit America after he was resurrected in Jerusalem?”

A summary of Jesus activity between his resurrection and ascension is given in Acts 1:1-3:

Acts 1:1-3 NASB *The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. 3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.*

According to this Scripture, Jesus was occupied over the forty day period between His resurrection and His ascension, with two things:

1. Presenting Himself alive to His apostles through resurrection appearances
2. Teaching them things concerning the kingdom

To examine each of these more closely, consider:

1. Jesus presented Himself alive at various time and places:
 - To Mary Magdelene (John 20:10-18) the day He rose
 - To the other women (Matt. 28:8-10) the day He rose
 - To Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus that evening (Luke 24:13-32)
 - To the eleven disciples and others that night (Luke 24:33-49)
 - To the apostles and others with Thomas absent (John 20:19-23)
 - To Thomas and the other apostles, one week later (John 20:26-40)

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- To seven apostles, by the sea in Galilee (John 21:1-14)
- To the disciples on a mountain in Galilee (Matt 28:16-20)
- To the apostles at the Mount of Olives before his ascension (Luke 24:50-52 & Acts 1:4-9)
- 1 Cor. 15:1-8 also mentions that Jesus appeared to Simon Peter alone (Luke 24:34), James (his brother) alone, and to a group of 500 disciples at one time. Paul saw Jesus after his ascension

2. Jesus also was engaged in teaching His disciples regarding the kingdom. This teaching kept him occupied up until the very moment He ascended, according to Acts 1:6-11.

So then, the Bible gives no indication that Jesus visited any other parts of the world other than Palestine between His resurrection and ascension, and the record given of Jesus' specific activities in Palestine that were ongoing over the full period of forty days rules out any extended travel to other areas.

“Were there people in America that Jesus needed to visit?”

To the best of my understanding, the same Native American peoples that we read about in history books today and

whose descendents in some cases still live in parts of North America were living there at the time of Jesus' earthly ministry. Like all sinful human beings, they needed, and need, the saving message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As far as the Biblical record is concerned, Jesus' earthly ministry was limited to the children of Israel who were living in Palestine at the time. However, in addition to His atoning death for all mankind, He made provision for all men, Jews and Gentiles, to hear the message, by selecting, training, equipping and commissioning His apostles to take the gospel to the whole world.

This was part of His teaching to the apostles during that period between the resurrection and the ascension:

Matthew 28:18-20 NASB *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Jesus did not personally teach the entire Jewish nation, even in Palestine, during His earthly ministry. Acts 2:5-11 makes it clear that even if He had, there

would have been multitudes of Jews from other nations who did not hear of Jesus until after the ascension when the gospel was first proclaimed by the apostles on the day of Pentecost. From these truths we can understand that Jesus' earthly mission was geographically limited, but

that the disciples He selected and trained were His ambassadors to the whole world (2 Cor. 5:17-20). Jesus' disciples today continue "to observe all that Jesus commanded" by taking the gospel to all nations in the current generation.

◀Brent Paschall▶

What am I? by Dody Gibson

Often you'll find my name in the
Scriptures
Both in the New and in the Old;
Seldom regarded with much disfavor
But too much of me is bad I'm told.

I'm likened to an abundant supply
Prosperity and blessings to the extreme.
As a popular pronoun I am used
A positive expression it would seem.

A source of hard questions and dishonest
answers;
A favorite story comes to mind.
But though I'm compared to deceptive
words,
I'm mostly known for the other kind.

I'll tell you about the ones who make me:
I owe my existence to the powers that be.
A proverbial expression marks their
diligent zeal
And they're mentioned four times in the
NKJV.

Once an angel told someone to eat me;
The consequences were good and bad.
Twice I came out of a rock;
However in offerings my use was forbad.

Our Savior enjoyed my substance once;
No one discredits my claim to fame.
Even a great prophet's need I met.
Yes, even this poem contains my name.

What was I?

The answer to last month's riddle was "nails".

Here are the details:

Verse 1 - Nineteen times in the KJV

Verse 2 - True with few exceptions

Verse 3 -

* Words of wisdom (Ecc. 12:11)

* Weight of the gold nails used in

Solomon's temple was fifty shekels (2 Chron. 3:9)

* Strength (Isa. 41:7)

* Security (Isa. 22:23)

* The Old Law was nailed to the cross of course (Col. 2:14)

Verse 4 - The story of Jael the Kenite who
drove a wooden tent peg, or nail, through the

temple of Cisera the Canaanite army general
with a hammer killing him (Judges 4:22)

Verse 5 -

* Iron (1 Chron 22:3)

* Gold 2 Chron 3:9

* Wood Isaiah 54:2

* Brass Dan 7:9

* Answer close at hand -- fingernails (Deut 21:12)

Verse 6 - The three nails used in the
crucifixion

None of the Gospel writers mentions nails
except John who records the conversation of
Thomas (John 20:25)

Verse 7 - Jesus was the son of a carpenter

FEBRUARY 2010 DUTY ROSTER

Weekday	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED
Date	2/3	2/7	2/10	2/14	2/17	2/21	2/24	2/28	3/3
Opening Prayer		Jeremy P.		Eric B.		Ed M.		James M.	
Morning Message		Jimmy F.		Charlie K.		Alan M.		Don H.	
Announcements	John M.	Matt M.	Charlie K.	Randy F.	Matt M.	Bill A.	Larry P.	Jeremy L.	Larry P.
Leading Songs	Bill A.	Bill A.	Larry P.	David T.	Leo R.	Brad F.	Alan M.	Alan M.	John M.
First Prayer	Randy F.	Jeremy L.	Jimmy F.	James M.	Eric B.	Leo R.	Jeremy L.	John M.	Charlie K.
Lead at Lord's Table & Contribution		Ryland II		Don H.		Randy F.		Charlie K.	
Assist		Jerry D.		Ryland II		Larry P.		Tripp H.	
Assist		Ryland III		Ed M.		Ryland II		David T.	
Assist		Tripp H.		Matt M.		Jeremy P.		Brad F.	
Read Scripture		Eric B.		Tripp H.		Ryland III		Ed M.	
Preaching		Brent P.		Brent P.		Brent P.		Brent P.	
Wed. Exhortation	Jimmy F.		Randy F.		Bill A.		Jerry D.		Eric B.
Closing Prayer	Leo R.	Don H.	David T.	Jerry D.	James M.	Jimmy F.	Jeremy P.	Ryland III	Leo R.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday

9:15 - Morning Message

10:00 - Bible classes for all ages

11:00 - Worship

Wednesday

7:30 - Bible Classes for all ages

Elders:

Jim Fields, Alan Moeller & Leo Rodrigue

Deacons:

Eric Bridge & John Malloy

Evangelist:

Brent Paschall

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class material at

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