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**THREE TREES**

Trees are usually associated with our ideas of a garden or a paradise. They are mentioned quite often in the Bible. The worship of idols in groves on hills was the attempt of man to regain his lost Eden by works. The second tree was necessary because of man eating the fruit of the first. The third tree is for earth dwellers, but not for the members of the Church which is the Body of Christ since they have a heavenly hope.

1. **THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.** It is not likely that God had the knowledge of evil till Lucifer fell. So far as we know, there was only good till that time. In the garden, man knew only good until he disobeyed God. Then he had the knowledge of both good and evil. He was deceived into believing that such a state was very desirable. Satan did not reveal what the character of evil really was. The original word is also translated; wickedness, bad, hurt, harm, sad, ill, sorrow, mischief, wretchedness, sore, wrong, displeasure, adversity, vex, naught, worse, affliction, distress, trouble, calamity, grief, misery, punishment, and similar meanings.

2. **THE TREE OF CALVARY.** For Satan this appeared to be a victory, but it was his defeat. Before God it was a propitiation. In the eyes of the world it was a brutal murder. For the Lord it was an offering of obedience. But for us it was a substitute. Man had sold himself into slavery to sin. It took the precious blood of Christ to buy back or redeem man and set him free. In redemption is also included the forgiveness of sins.

3. **THE TREE OF LIFE.** Eating of the forbidden fruit barred man from the tree of life until redemption is complete. Redemption finds its completion in resurrection. Those who live on the earth in resurrection will again have access to the tree of life. It will be found in paradise and no doubt the dying malefactor will eat of it. It will be used to sustain life in that age.

**DOMINION**

It was intended in the beginning that man should have "Dominion over all the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." Man was to "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it."

The first Adam lost his dominion in the transgression. The second Adam showed that the rule was His. He not only ruled the winds and the waves, but He also ruled the fish when it came time to pay taxes. He also showed that He had dominion over the great enemy, death. He could empty graves.

The 12 had the promise of not only getting back the lost dominion of Adam, but also to have part in the ruling over the nations during the Millennium. They will reign with Him. In end times it is promised to overcomers that some will have power over the nations and shall rule them with a rod of iron, sitting with the Lord in His throne (Rev. 2:26, 27; 3:21).

But the Lord is destined to rule a much wider sphere than the earth. He has been set at the right hand of His father in the heavenly places. He is set far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. All things have been put under His feet (Eph. 1:20-22). Here it is revealed that the Lord will not only rule over nations here on the earth, but over all the universe and whatever powers there may be.

Is there any dominion promised for the members of the Body? They do not have any place in the Millennium or any earth rule. Yet of them it is said in 2 Tim. 2:12 that if they suffer or endure with Him, they shall reign with Him. Where? It is in the heavenly places where the members of the Body will be manifested with Him in His glory. Let us walk worthy of the calling and seek those things which are above.

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### OBJECTIONS

Some have been unable to comprehend that the members of the Body have a distinctive hope, far above those of other dispensations. They would make the resurrection of 1 Cor. 15 and 1 Thess. 4 be the hope for the dispensation of the Mystery. Three references have been offered as basis for the objections.

1. Phil. 3:20. "For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." The English makes this passage a little ambiguous. Those who have the hope of the Kingdom will stand on the earth and see the King coming in the clouds. Of course their citizenship is on the earth. But for those whose citizenship is in heaven, they will stand in heaven, not on the earth, waiting for His manifestation. Care must be taken with the word WHENCE.

2. Phil. 4:5, 6. "The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing." It is too bad that the text here has been spoiled by a verse division. This has no reference to the coming of the Lord or to His appearing. It means that the Lord is near at all times and so there is no need to fret and worry about things. We must be careful not to read something into this verse that is not there. This is a common cause of error.

3. 2 Tim. 4:8. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His APPEARING." The appearing the air is the PAROUSIA. The unveiling on the earth is the APOCALYPSE. But this appearing here is the EPIPHANEA which occurs in the heavens, not from the heavens nor yet on the earth. It is the Lord's manifestation in the heavenly places Paul looks forward to, and Paul would have to be in those heavenly places to see it. Let us hold fast to our hope. Let us not be confused by some other hope.

### GRACE DURING ACTS

We must be careful to distinguish between the gospel of the Circumcision and the gospel of the Uncircumcision in Acts. To the Jews was preached repentance. They, as Christians, were to be awaiting the inauguration of the New Covenant. They were still under the law and very zealous of the law until the end of Acts. The law had been added to the Covenant because of transgressions. So in no way could the gospel of the Circumcision be called a gospel of GRACE. They had certain conditions to perform, one of them being repentance. Also they were to continue with the observance of the Passover as they were taught in 1 Cor. 10, 11. The cup was connected with the New Covenant of Jer. 31 which had been ratified by the blood of Christ on the tree. This Passover had been forbidden forever to Gentiles.

But during the latter part of Acts Paul had a gospel to the Gentiles, the gospel of the Uncircumcision. It was a gospel of GRACE, not of law and covenant. The Gentile was not required to do the works of the law. The council at Jerusalem settled that. He was baptized in water which was a sign that he was identified with repentant Israel. By being so grafted in, he could partake of Israel's blessings. The blessings were his without the works of the law. That was pure GRACE. (Baptism in water was not a part of the law, but was instituted by John).

Now in Galatia, it seems that some Gentiles were led to take part in the things of the law, such as feasts and holy days. By doing so they had fallen from grace. Paul was afraid for them. If they partook of the cup, then they would have to be circumcised, and if so, they would be debtors to the whole law. That would completely frustrate grace.

One should think twice before partaking of the cup lest he become debtor to the whole law and thus be judged by the law. GRACE were far better!

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## STUDIES IN JOHN BML #10

1. Did the Lord cross the main body of the sea? 6:1 (See map)
2. In what direction did He travel from Capernaum?
3. Why did the people follow?
4. What time of the year was it?
5. Why does John explain that this is a feast of the Jews?
6. How many times has Philip been mentioned before in this gospel?
7. Why did the Lord ask Philip the question? 6:5
8. What information did Andrew add?
9. Do you suppose that Andrew had any idea that the loaves and fishes could be used here?
10. What were the men to do? (I have wondered what they did with the women and children!)
11. Considering the time of the year, what must have been the condition of the grass?
12. How was distribution made?
13. What wages did the disciples receive for their work? Can you find a lesson in this?
14. What was the opinion of the crowd concerning the Lord? 6:14
15. Since the Lord came to be the King of the Jews, why did He refuse to let them make Him King?
16. Do you suppose that this refusal was a disappointment to the disciples, and so they left Him alone?
17. When they forsook the Lord and went their own way, what happened?
18. Why should they be afraid when they saw Him? Did they have a guilty feeling about what they had been thinking?
19. Did He hold it against them that they had forsaken Him?
20. How did the voyage turn out after He came on board?
21. How did the Lord get to Capernaum without a boat?
22. Did the people sense something unusual here?
23. Now, why did they seek Him and wish to make Him a King?
24. For what meat should one work?

**DEAR YOUNG FOLKS;** New members of the BML are Mrs. B. Whittleton of Springfield, Mo., and somebody from Washington, Ill. who forgot to sign any name. Several have sent in the correct answer to the brain teaser of the Dec. issue. Keep sending in your lessons as fast as you get them finished, even tho I may get behind in grading them.

Now get a piece of string, say 5 or 6 feet long, and hang it up on the wall in your room. You might get a bright colored one, if you like.

Then go back into the 20th chapter of Exodus and read the 5th commandment. It is the first commandment with a promise attached. Do not for a moment think that those commandments are not for us. They state the fundamental laws of nature. It is even well that a man rest 1 day out of 7, tho now it makes no difference which that day may be.

Take your concordance and look up DAYS, LENGTH, LIFE, and similar words, especially in Job, Psa., Prov., and Eccl. You will notice that the days of one's life may be prolonged by obedience, or shortened by wickedness. In Job 14:5 you will find that the days of man are determined.

Of course the 5th commandment speaks of a land given, which was to Israel, but the germ of that commandment is still true today.

Oh yes, now about that string. Let it represent the span of your life. Keep scissors handy. When you do not honor your parents by disobeying them or getting angry with them, just cut off a little piece of the string. Then repeat softly, "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long...."

I am sure that this little device will help you to remember to be a little more thoughtful of your parents. Show your love and appreciation now, for you may not have them for long. (This advice goes for any who may have parents living)

Thanks for all the nice letters.  
Write again soon. Sincerely in HIM,  
OSCAR M. BAKER.

### THE EDITOR'S DESK

The desk is in a rather bad mess at present. The editor has been taking a vacation. He spent Feb. 21-24 in the hospital and most of the time since in bed. Nasty old stomach ulcer that almost finished him off back in 1937 broke out again.

There will be little farm work your editor can do this year, as lifting and rough riding are forbidden. Those extra 50 acres he was going to farm are out now. In the meantime, Mrs. B. and Walter are doing the work.

Thanks to Mr. Bowser of Bremen for taking the class for two weeks. The radio programs went on as usual, only the folks had to take a couple of subjects that were warmed over.

The change of the Bible class to the Hotel Hays on Tuesday nites at 7:45 has not resulted in much increase in attendance yet. We had hoped!

We welcome about 40 new readers this month. Our TFT family is steadily increasing. About 1125 papers are being printed this month. Due to the heavy demand for back numbers we have none left now back of #36.

Do you or your Bible study group by chance have a tape recorder? If so, would you be interested in some Bible studies via tape recordings? Write.

Would you like to sponsor a radio program of 15 minutes each week in

your community if you had a speaker? I think something could be worked out. If interested, write about it. It will take a little time.

The new typewriter, that was expected to arrive about April 1st, came on Feb. 12th. Can you tell the difference? Is it any improvement? At least, it was very fortunate that it came when it did, for your editor would not be allowed to use the old one now. This is the IBM (International Business Machines) Executive Model, and electric of course. We have a warm place in our hearts for those who have been sending "something" on the new typewriter. It has helped a lot.

Receipts for Jan., #407-423 with a total of \$154.50. The expenses were \$47.39.

Receipts for Feb., #424-433 with a total of \$27.90. Now hold your breath, the expenses were \$619.45. Oops! We slipped into the red a little for the first. Our sincere thanks for all your help.

See the last issue for the book list.

Have 2 copies Bagster LXX WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION on hand at \$6.30 each, postpaid. Still have the \$20 four Vol. set of WORD STUDIES IN THE NT by Vincent, like new for \$16.

If you fail to get any books ordered, or any receipts, let us know.

Would like to have Nos. 1-5 of THE BABBLER by Harrop. Also the complete works of Lightfoot.

Tel. Atwood 2684. Oscar M. Baker.

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