

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

[gibsoncitychurchof
Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofChrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—32
Wednesday—13
Contribution—\$950

For meditation:
Proverbs 28.17–18
Did Ahab's position as king give him immunity from his murder of Naboth? What warning is given here to those in positions of leadership?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Spoils come after the siege

I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil. Psalm 119.162 KJV

In antiquity, what enticed men to join the military was the prospect of spoil; they became soldiers hoping to become rich by sharing in the spoil that followed the capture of a city. And here David says he is “like one who strikes it rich” (THE MESSAGE) because of God’s word. Herewith four thoughts.

THE SPOIL

The spoil is the treasure to be found in God’s word. The wisdom imparted, the understanding gained is a treasure more valuable than “thousands of coins of gold and silver” (v 72).

THE SIEGE

Capturing spoil isn’t easy. Walled cities do not greet besieging armies with draw-bridges down and gates open; cities are bulwarks—stubborn, resistant, guarding their treasures behind wide moats, thick walls, and inner keeps. Tremendous effort is needed by the besieger to capture the spoil. Many things in nature are this way. Think of the effort required for farmers to reap the bounty of the soil or for miners to extract coal from the earth, but the treasure gained is worth the effort expended.

THE STUDENT

Christ said, “learn of Me” (Matt. 11.29) and learning/study is the only way to acquire the treasures of revelation. But how delightful it is—“I rejoice at thy word”—when diligent study (reading closely, thinking carefully) results in treasures of understanding and wisdom (Col. 1.9–10, 2 Tim. 2.15).

The treasure is great and is ours for the taking. **But the spoil comes only after the siege.**

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

AWWWWW

Sadie Earlene Nettles
7 lbs., 8 oz., 20"



Sermon: 1 Peter 5.5–7

Peter's five points on humility

New Year's Eve 2023

The riddle about the resurrection

This is the only time Mark mentions the Sadducees, an aristocratic group of priestly families from whom the high priest was chosen. They only accepted as genuine Scripture the books of Moses, the first five books of the OT. Since most references to resurrection the OT appear outside Genesis to Deuteronomy, the Sadducees denied the resurrection, which was a major bone of contention between them and the Pharisees.

The question they put to Jesus involved the “brother-in-law” provision of Deuteronomy 25.5–10, which gave a widow the right to claim a brother-in-law in marriage and perpetuate the name and legal rights of her dead husband by a child born in a second marriage. Their question was not about this marriage law but rather was about resurrection life.

Based on Christ’s reply (vv 24–27), here are three thoughts. ***The possibility of resurrection cannot be doubted.*** “Your problem,” said Jesus, “is that you rule out the power of God.” Why would anyone think it incredible that a God powerful enough to give life would not perpetuate it (Acts 26.8)? Once you admit that “with God all things are possible” (Mk. 10.27), all philosophical opposition to the resurrection becomes mute.

The authority of resurrection cannot be denied. “Your other problem is that you don’t know your Bible”—for Christ found the doctrine of the resurrection in Exodus 3.6. The logic seems to be based upon God’s use of the present tense: centuries after the patriarchs died, God said, “*I am* the God of the patriarchs, not “*I was*.” When a couple divorces, do they then say, “I am” married or “I was” married? To use the present tense implies an existing relationship, and God’s use of the present tense implies that the patriarchs lived after they died, which enabled a continuing relationship with God. Christ’s one-two punch based on God word and power drove the Sadducees from the field.

The certainty of resurrection cannot be dismissed. That God is love ensures the reality of resurrection. How so? Because we seek to keep alive what we love. If we had the power to keep alive a beloved spouse, parents, child, friend, would we? Of course we would! It’s utterly absurd to believe death robs God of His relationships!

“For I am persuaded that death is not able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Amen!

kenny

Herodian Masada, 8

After that, a fourth animal appeared in my dream. This one was a grisly horror—hideous. It had huge iron teeth. It crunched and swallowed its victims. Anything left over, it trampled into the ground. It was different from the other animals—this one was a real monster. Daniel 7.7, EUGENE PETERSON

A Roman legionnaire was a professional soldier. He usually served for twenty years or more, and drilling and fighting were his life. It was his skill in battle that held the far-flung Roman empire together. When called upon to put down a rebellion, the legions seldom stopped until the opponent was nearly annihilated. After breaking into a besieged city, Roman soldiers typically killed every living thing they came upon. Those not slaughtered were enslaved; approximately 100,000 Jews were enslaved after the fall of Jerusalem.

Roman armies were divided into contingents called legions, consisting of 5,000 or more infantry who wore metal helmets, armor, and carried javelins, daggers, and double-edged swords.

Fighting alongside the legions were thousands of foreign soldiers called auxiliaries. These might include calvary, archers, and slingers who could hurl stones with deadly accuracy.

Engineers operated siege weapons: battering rams, catapults, and ballistas (ancient missile launchers that shot javelins or heavy balls).

When the Roman general Vespasian invaded Galilee, Josephus described his army on the march (*Wars* IV.6.2):

Lightly-armed auxiliaries and archers went first; heavily armed troops on foot and horseback followed. Then came a group of ten men out of every hundred with equipment for setting up camp. Then the engineers to prepare the route of march [which included cutting down forests that might impede the army]. Next came Vespasian and his officers protected by armed horsemen. Then the calvary, 120 armed horsemen for each legion. Then the mules hauling the siege engines. Then the army commanders. Then the Roman eagles (banners). Then the ranks of troops—thousands upon thousands, marching shoulder to shoulder. Then a group of slaves carrying the equipment for the legions. Then nonRoman soldiers and extra mercenaries. Then the rear guard made up of infantry and calvary.

The Roman army was, indeed, a real monster.

kenny

News about us

- Sadie Earlene Nettles was born Tuesday, and Jordan and Cody announced they are expecting again. If we can maintain this pace, we’ll double the size of the congregation before we know it!