

# Scripture Standard

**Volume 86-3**  
**September 2019**

## **Contents**

- 1 Editorial**
- 2 Benjamin**  
Jonathan Ashurst  
Lexington Kentucky
- 7 Forgiveness**  
Jamie McIlroy  
Stretford
- 14 Obituary**  
May McCallum
- 15 Appeal**
- 15 Notices**

**Pleading for a  
total return to  
New Testament  
principles.**

---

**contend earnestly  
for the faith**  
Jude 1:3

---

## **Jesus Prayed to His Father**

The Beloved Son prayed to His Beloved Father

### **Let the Bible speak:**

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission. Hebrews 5:7

The Greeks come to see Jesus:

Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name! Then a voice came from heaven, I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.... Now is the judgement of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* to me.

John 12:27-28, 31

Judas leaves the upper room:

*Judas*, having received the sop, went out immediately: ... Later Jesus ... looked toward heaven and prayed: Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son might glorify you. For you granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those You have given Him. Now this is eternal life: that they might know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. John 13:30; 17:1-26

Whilst on the cross:

Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. Luke 23:34

Now His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene stood by Jesus' cross. Therefore when Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, Woman, behold your son! Then He said to the disciple, Behold your mother! And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*.

John 19:25-27

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished so that the scripture might be fulfilled, He said, I thirst. Now a vessel full of vinegar was set there: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. then when He received the vinegar, Jesus says: It is finished! John 19:28-30

Calling out with loud voice, Jesus says, Father, into your hands I commit my spirit, and saying these things, He expires.

Luke 23:46

And bowing *His* head, surrenders *His* Spirit

John 19:30

AMEN

The sequence above is as arranged as on this web site:  
<http://muqaddas.eu/muqaddas/parallel/4gspls85.htm>

---

## Benjamin

Jonathan Ashurst, Lexington, Kentucky

*Continuing series on the twelve sons of Jacob.*

Near the town of Ephrath, also known as Bethlehem, a child was born. The family would experience both joy and sorrow that day. For the boy was safely delivered, but his mother Rachel perished

in childbirth. As she was dying, Rachel named the child Ben-Oni, which means “son of my sorrow.” However, his father Jacob named the boy Benjamin, which means “son of the right hand.” It was by this name his father had given him that Jacob’s youngest son would be known. (Genesis 35:16-20)

Since Rachel had been Jacob’s favourite wife, Jacob showed special attention to Rachel’s two sons: Joseph and Benjamin. Their jealous brothers sold Joseph into slavery, but deceived Jacob into thinking that Joseph had been killed by a wild beast. Benjamin likely thought that he would never see his older brother again. (Genesis 37)

Years later, when a terrible famine struck the land, Jacob sent his ten older sons to Egypt, where food was available. However, he kept Benjamin at home, afraid of what might happen to him. When the brothers finally returned, they brought both food and bad news. The ruler of the land had threatened them, kept Simeon prisoner, and demanded that they bring their youngest brother with them to Egypt. Jacob was distraught. (Genesis 42:1-5, 29-38)

And Jacob their father said to them, You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me.

Genesis 42:36, NKJV

Eventually, Jacob had no choice but to let Benjamin go, along with gifts for the ruler and a prayer to the Lord for mercy on his children. (Genesis 43:1-14)

Upon their return to Egypt, they were sent to the ruler’s house and put at ease by the steward. Simeon was released and joined them there. After the ruler arrived, he blessed Benjamin, then suddenly left. Upon returning, he gave them a feast. Benjamin was surprised to see that his serving was five times more than that of any of his brothers. (Genesis 43:15-34)

The next morning, soon after they had left the city, the ruler’s steward caught up with them, demanding to know why they had

stolen the ruler's special silver cup. Benjamin and his brothers confidently affirmed their innocence, stating they would become slaves if proven guilty. What a confusing and sickening sight it must have been when "the cup was found in Benjamin's sack"! (Genesis 44:1-12)

Upon their return, the ruler told them only Benjamin must remain; the rest could go free. Nevertheless, Judah pleaded to be enslaved in Benjamin's place, telling the ruler how much his father Jacob cherished the lad and missed his brother Joseph. What an unexpected and unbelievable surprise it must have been when the ruler revealed to them that he himself was Joseph! With tears of joy, Joseph embraced his brothers and expressed his forgiveness. He admonished them to bring their father and families down to Egypt, where he would provide for them. (Genesis 44:13 - 45:15)

Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. Genesis 45:14

As the extended family moved to Goshen, Benjamin already had a clan of his own to bring along. (Genesis 46:21)

Later, Jacob blessed his family, prophesying about the future of their descendants.

Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil. Genesis 49:27

In the land of Egypt, it only took a few generations for the family to grow into a mighty nation. (Exodus 1:5-7)

The Lord eventually brought them back to the promised land through the hand of Moses, who gave the following blessing to Benjamin's tribe:

The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by Him, Who shelters him all the day long; And he shall dwell between His shoulders. Deuteronomy 33:12

Just as Benjamin had been protected by his brothers Judah and Joseph, his descendants were bordered on the south by Judah

and on the north by Joseph's two tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh. (Joshua 18:11)

Throughout the history of Benjamin's tribe, the prophetic themes (wolf-like aggression and divine protection) continue to develop.

When settling the land, the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites from Jerusalem. They did assist Deborah and Barak in a victorious battle. Jephthah also delivered the tribe from oppressors. (Judges 1:21, 5:14, 10:9 & 11:32)

It was during the time of the judges that the tribe of Benjamin was nearly wiped out. The depravity of the city of Gibeah shocked the other tribes, but the men of Benjamin refused to punish them. In the ensuing battles, many died on both sides. The destruction brought on by wickedness and pride was disastrous, but the tribe was spared from total annihilation. (Judges 19-21)

When the ark of the covenant was temporarily taken by the Philistines, it was a man of Benjamin who ran to tell Eli the tragic news. (1 Samuel 4:12)

When the nation demanded a human king, the Lord selected a Benjaminite named Saul. Sadly, Saul failed to obey the Lord. In jealousy, he tried to kill the one who would eventually replace him, a man of Judah named David. In contrast, Saul's children Jonathan and Michel were protective of David. (1 Samuel 9:21, 10:1-2, 18:28, 22:7-8)

After Saul's death, his uncle Abner set up Saul's son Ishbosheth as king and led the men of Benjamin in battle against David's men. Later, however, Abner persuaded the men of Benjamin to follow David. It was David who finally conquered and reigned from the city of Jerusalem, which is on the border between Judah and Benjamin. Other relatives of Saul, and thus descendants of Benjamin, included Mephibosheth and Shimei. (2 Samuel 2:8-17, 3:19, 4:4, 9:1-7, 16:11-13)

A few generations later, the kingdom divided. Benjamin and Judah remained under the rule of David's family, but the northern tribes set up their own king. Kings Asa and Hezekiah both

strengthened the land of Benjamin by destroying the idols and renewing the covenant. (1 Kings 12:21-24, 15:22, 2 Chronicles 15:8-12, 25:5; 31:1)

Even as the Babylonian captivity loomed, the prophet Jeremiah purchased land in the territory of Benjamin, demonstrating his faith in the Lord's promise that one day the nation would return. (Jeremiah 32:1-15)

After Persia rose to power, Mordecai and Esther were Benjaminites who helped save the Jews from genocide. Many were allowed to return and rebuild the temple and the city of Jerusalem. Ezra prohibited intermarriage with foreigners, effectively preventing the return of idol worship. Over the next few centuries, the nation anticipated the coming Messiah. (Esther 2:5-8, 9:1, 1 Chronicles 9:1-3, Ezra 10:9-12)

The city of Bethlehem, near which Benjamin had been born, was also the place of the Messiah's birth. When the region wept the deaths of many young boys, Jesus and his family found refuge in Egypt, as Benjamin and his family had done many years before. Just as the tribe of Benjamin returned to their homeland, Jesus returned to Israel, where he would advance the kingdom of God. (Matthew 2)

Jesus' ministry culminated in Jerusalem, the city of David. Jesus' resurrection broke the power of sin and death! From Jerusalem, His followers were equipped to proclaim the wonderful victory of their conquering King. (Matthew 21:1-11, Acts 1:1-8)

Many of them died for their message, but this only served to further advance the cause. One of their most vehement opponents was Saul, a descendant of Benjamin. After Christ appeared to him, this Benjaminite who had set out to destroy the movement became one of its most zealous proponents. Most of the books in the New Testament were written by Saul, also known as Paul. (Acts 26:4-18, Romans 11:1, Philippians 3:5-7)

The youngest of Jacob's sons, Benjamin was treasured by his entire family. His small tribe went on to play a dynamic role in God's strategy of redemption.

# Forgiveness

Jamie McIlroy, Stretford

Have you ever noticed the five-letter word hidden within the word **Forgiveness**? It's the word **GIVEN**. I noticed this for the first time one day. As we journey through life, we will all upset at least one person along the way; it's inevitable. Some things we do may seem trivial **to us**, whilst others more serious. But how often do we think about our situation through the eyes of the person that we've upset? How often do we consider what **they** are thinking or how **they** are feeling? Because ultimately, **it's not us** who get to decide the severity of what we've done, it's the person who we've upset who gets to decide.

And **it's not us** who can fix the situation either. It's **only** the person who has been upset who can fix it. Right now you might be thinking,

That's rubbish... of course **I can** fix it! **I can** say sorry and promise not to do it again. **I can** even demonstrate my love for the person that I've upset by showering them with genuine acts of love and kindness. **If I** do all of these things, then surely everything will be all right and that person **has** to forgive me?

But how would you react if I told you that this is actually a completely illogical and fundamentally flawed way of thinking? What if I told you that, even though your heart may be in the right place, and even though you may think that you are being genuine, you are actually being **arrogant!**

- **You are** placing all the emphasis on yourself
- **You are** trying to control a situation that you have no right to control
- **You are** the guilty party here and you do not call the shots

Yes, we can offer a heart-felt apology and smother the person who we've offended with genuine love and kindness. But **WE can't make things right** no matter how hard we try. Believe me when I say that I know from personal experience that it's

impossible for **us** to fix a problem that **we've** created. **We can't earn forgiveness** no matter how remorseful we are or how many good deeds we do. The victim of our offence doesn't owe us anything. **We will be separated** forever from that person until they choose to **forgive** us. **We will be held captive** by whatever it is that we've done against that person until they choose to **release** us. We can't force the act of reconciliation or redemption. It has to be **given** to us. And that is what I came to realise when I stumbled upon the five-letter word within the word forgiveness.

Forgiveness is a **gift that is GIVEN** and cannot be **TAKEN** for granted. And it is only given by the gracious act of the person who has been hurt. Remember, the person who has been hurt doesn't owe us anything!

So why am I telling you all this? Well, for two reasons. The first reason is because this is a useful thing to know if we are ever in a situation where we are trying to make amends with someone that we've deeply upset. And the second reason is because this is exactly the situation that every one of us is in with God from the moment we have sinned.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

This means that every single one of us has offended God, and we don't get to decide the severity of what we've done. It's God who we've upset and He gets to decide. We can't fix the situation either, it's **only** God who has been upset who can fix it.

...and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

Romans 3:24

This means that God has **graciously** decided to forgive us for what we've done - through the redemption that is in Christ.

When mankind sinned, God was very upset. However, He was graciously willing to be appeased for those sins by accepting Christ's righteous blood as the atonement (or propitiation) for all the sins of the world. We know this from verse 25



God set forth Christ... as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed... Romans 3:25

Why did He do this? Verse 26 tells us.

...to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:26

This explains that God has graciously offered forgiveness to **only** those who have **faith in Jesus**. It is up to God to set the terms of our release from the state that we are in. Just as it is up to the person who we've offended to set the terms (if they are willing) of our forgiveness.

**God's terms**, which were entirely His prerogative, were to accept the **righteous** blood of His son Christ as the atonement for our sins. And as a result, He promised to **GIVE** the gift of forgiveness to those who have **faith in Jesus**.

If we think about this logically, this implies that Jesus' righteous blood on its own wasn't enough for all mankind to be saved from sin. We also have a part to play in our salvation.

Does it make sense for everyone on the planet to expect Jesus' blood alone to save them? Why would God forgive the sins of those who are not Christians? Why would God forgive the sins of those who follow other religions? That doesn't make any sense to me, because the Bible clearly states in numerous places that we must have faith in Jesus if we are to receive God's gracious gift of forgiveness.

Jesus didn't just come here to live a quiet righteous life and die peacefully, so that His innocent blood could be offered privately to God. He could have done that with only a few close friends being aware of who He was. In fact, if God just wanted His righteous blood, Jesus didn't really have to tell anyone who He was. He just had to live a sinless life.

Instead He allowed His death to become a public humiliation. He

came here to proclaim a public message. He came here to display God's amazing grace and give us hope in Him through faith. It is through listening and adhering to Jesus' words that we are able to grow in faith.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

Jesus is the Word of God, and so when He speaks, we must listen **if we are to receive** God's gracious gift of forgiveness for our sins. **Jesus, The Word, explained** many things when He was here. He said that those who truly love Him and follow His righteous example have nothing to fear when the time for judgement comes, because He has paid the ransom price (His blood) for our forgiveness and has been given the authority to judge every soul that has ever lived.

For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who **hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me** has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

John 5:22-24

We need to pay attention to what Jesus had to say and we need to believe in God and His saving grace.

Jesus performed many miracles to grab people's attention and display the authority that had been granted to Him. But even after all the supernatural things that He did, such as healing the sick and even raising people from the dead, they still refused to learn from Him.

Jesus assured us in that His message was one of comfort and hope.

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and **learn from Me**, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. Mt 11:28-30

If we severely offend our brother, or sister, or friends, or husbands, or wives, then **ONLY THEY** can **exempt us from the consequences** of our offence. And so it is with God. Only He can provide rest for our souls.

So far, I've addressed about what the Bible says about the guilty, but what does it say about the person who has been wronged?

Peter asked Jesus the very same question.

Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:21-35

**Luckily for us** they were both speaking figuratively! **Luckily for us** Jesus didn't say 490 strikes and you are out! Because if I consider that there are only 365 days in a year and I'm likely to sin at least once a day and given I'm in my forties, I'm goosed!

So, Jesus used a parable to explain what He meant.

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

which I understand to mean a **vast amount of money**

But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all. Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

So, if the servant owed him a vast amount of money, then this must have been an extremely generous gesture!

But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii

which I understand to be a very small amount by comparison

And he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me what you owe! So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, **Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.** And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you? And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

Jesus delivers the punchline...

So My heavenly Father also will do to you... **IF each of you, from his heart, does not forgive** his brother his trespasses.

Matthew 18:21-35

God wants us all to live in peace and harmony with each other. He doesn't want us to fight with each other. He wants us to show compassion for each other. The servant who owed the money fell down at his feet and begged for mercy. He clearly showed remorse when it says that he offered to pay back all that he owed. He didn't just beg for mercy to avoid his punishment.

So, when I read that I thought, Well, OK, Maybe it's easy to forgive a thief, but it's not so easy to **forgive a murderer**. What about someone who has murdered our children? Are we to forgive them too? And then it struck me, God's son Jesus was murdered.

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.

Luke 23:34

Jesus was pleading for His perpetrators. God would eventually pour out His wrath at what had happened by utterly destroying Jerusalem, but He didn't do it immediately. He waited 40 years! And He only took revenge on those who refused to repent and

heed His warning. Jesus had prophesied what God's reaction would be in the few verses beforehand, when He turned to the onlookers and said,

Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed! Then they will begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us! and to the hills, Cover us!  
Luke 23:28-30

Two thousand years later and people are still talking about it. When the Romans invaded Jerusalem in 70 AD there was such a massive slaughter that bodies lay everywhere.

We know from the book of Acts that a lot of the people of Jerusalem did repent once they realised what they'd done.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, **they were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Those who were cut to the heart were just like the servant in Jesus' earlier parable who fell down and begged for mercy. Peter didn't **say** to the people, You've blown it! You killed the son of God! Instead he said,

Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission** of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
Acts 2:36-38

This assures us that all those who crucified Jesus AND repented of it received God's grace. Because the word **remission** means the exemption from the consequences of their sins. How amazing is that? Not only would they inherit eternal life, they also knew to heed Jesus' warning to flee Jerusalem when the time would come for the Jewish temple to be destroyed once and for all.

So, Yes, **God did forgive** those who begged for His mercy after they realised that they had murdered His son. Just as

He also forgives those of us who have repented of our sins, believe in God and His amazing grace, and have been baptised for the remission of those sins.

---

## **MAY MCALLUM**

Obituary written by Ian Davidson



We chronicle the death of sister May McCallum, who passed away on the 23rd of June, 2019 at the age of 102 in Peacock Nursing Home, Livingston. She was associated with the above congregations for a long number of years.

May was baptised sometime in the early 1940's, following her marriage to the late brother John McCallum. They were to play an important role in the history of the Blackridge church, which is, sadly, no longer with us.

Both were stalwarts in the Lord's service. May continued to be so even without John in the last twenty-eight years of her life. She proved to be firm, strong and unwavering in her Christian faith, right to the end. She will not be forgotten by all who knew her.

The funeral at the Livingston church meeting place was conducted by brother Ian Davidson of Motherwell and the service of interment at Whitburn by brother John Mooney of Livingston. We thank all the nephews, nieces, fellow saints, friends and carers who were in attendance.

May's constant hope was that one day she would see Jesus "Face to Face" - the title of one of her favourite hymns. That hope is now realised.

We thank God for her long, humble and honourable life.

---

## **GHANA APPEAL**

The Church of Christ at Dennyloanhead is very grateful to all sister churches, individual brothers and sisters who contribute to the Ghana Appeal.

Please send donations to:

Mrs. Christine Wood, 11 Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RE

Email: [ctkwood@hotmail.com](mailto:ctkwood@hotmail.com)

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Reading Cards are available from John Kneller:

2/2 High Waterfield, Fairmilehead, Edinburgh, EH10 6TQ

0131-445 1832 [johnkneller4gpr@btinternet.com](mailto:johnkneller4gpr@btinternet.com)

**Special meeting – The Green Hut**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

“Why Jesus is The Life!”

**1:00 pm** Lunch **2:00 pm** Message

Pilomon Raja: Tel. 07963 876942

**The Green Hut, 538 Kings Rd., Stretford, Manchester, M32 8JT**

Further information available on the new website:

**[www.stretfordcoc.org](http://www.stretfordcoc.org)**

**Special meeting – Eastwood**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

“Jesus and His Return”

**6:00 pm** Refreshments **7:00 pm** Meeting

Adrian Limb: Tel. 01773-761 670 [cofceastwood@aol.com](mailto:cofceastwood@aol.com)

**Seymour Road, Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, NG16 3ND**

**THE SCRIPTURE STANDARD**

FOUR ISSUES PER YEAR

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION – UNITED KINGDOM .....£5.00

*OVERSEAS RATES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE TREASURER*

**EDITOR:** Allan Ashurst

60 Kenwood Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 8PT

**TREASURER:** Kim Boland

2 Bryn Teg, Llanarth, Usk, Monmouthshire, South Wales, NP15 2AX

***Send correspondence & articles to:***

***ScriptureStandard@gmail.com***

**DOWNLOADABLE BACKNUMBERS:** [www.ScriptureStandard.eu](http://www.ScriptureStandard.eu)