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Keavy Church of Christ

371 LEVEL GREEN ROAD, CORBIN, KY 40701

Across from Keavy Elementary School

Meeting Times

Sunday Bible Classes (All Ages)	10:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 PM
Tuesday Support Group for Addicts and Survivors of Domestic Violence	6:00 PM
Wednesday Afternoon & Evening Jail Ministry @ Knox County Detention Center	1:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Classes	5:00 PM

Trunk Or Treat On Elm Street

(More Bible Studies Available @ marktabata.com)



A HALLOWEEN ADVENTURE



Frank: Come on, Joe! I wanna get to Elm Street before it gets late. They have the best candy in town! (Plus, I can't wait to see what Heather O'Malley is dressed up as. I wonder if she will like my Halloween costume?)

Joe: Hold your horses, I'm just about ready! What's the rush, man? Are you wanting to see what Heather thinks about your costume? I bet she will like your pirate costume.

Frank: Man, I hope so! I've been thinking about asking her to the dance next week.

A HALLOWEEN ADVENTURE



It was the fourth coolest holiday of the year: Halloween! My sixth grade heart beat only for Heather Stirham. But I didn't know if she gave me a second thought. Maybe tonight I would figure it out!! Me and my best friend, Joe, were about to set out to Elm Street, the best place in town to get candy. I knew that we would eventually run into Heather. She was helping her church at something called Trunk Or Treat.

Frank: Dude, your costume is dope. You look just like Freddy Kruger! And how cool that we are going to Elm Street?!

Joe: Thanks bro!! And yeah, it's gonna be great!



We set out with our Trick Or Treat bags, joining in an endless flood of other young Halloweeners whose hearts were intent on getting as much candy as humanly possible and dressing up as the most terrifying and sometimes freaky outfits imaginable.

After about an hour gathering great supplies of candy, I made the decision.

Frank: Hey Joe, I think I'm ready! There's Heather's church across the road, the Elm Street church of Christ.



Taking a deep breath, I grabbed Joe's arm and we started across the road to the church. There were a lot of kids and parents here. I saw a lot of friends from school that I knew, and some of us waved and spoke to each other.

Then I saw Heather.

She was standing across the church kitchen area, serving drinks to the other kids. Heather was dressed like an angel. Of course, in my personal opinion, the angels were nowhere near as beautiful and classy as she was! She looked up and saw me and Joe, and grinned at us.

Heather: Frank, you look like a great pirate! Are you guys having a lot of fun?



Frank: Oh, we are having a blast!

Joe (Grumbling): Yeah, we were making out like bandits on the candy on Elm Street, but Frank just HAD to come see you.

I glared over at Joe, feeling my face on fire as I tried to salvage what was left of my dignity.

Frank: Joe just means that we wanted to come check out your Halloween costume…Er, I mean your church….. We've never been to a Trunk Or Treat….. Not that your costume isn't great…You look great…. I mean, everything here is real nice….. How is your Halloween going?



I kept falling all over my words, but Heather didn't notice. Well, more likely, she noticed but was trying to take pity on me. Joe was just standing there, grinning like an idiot, while I fell deeper into the pit of embarrassment in front of my dream woman.

Heather (blushing faintly): Oh, I'm having a great night, thanks! I want you all to meet my preacher. His name is Derek.



She waved over a tall black-haired man who was dressed like some kind of rock star from the seventies. He came over to us, and seemed pretty friendly. After the normal pleasantries and introductions, Derek asked me the question that preachers inevitably ask people they have just met.

Derek: So, do you guys go to church anywhere?

Before I could answer, Joe beat me to the punch.

Joe: My parents don't make me go to church anywhere. They don't believe in all that stuff.

Frank: Ummm…. I don't go to church anywhere. But I'm definitely open to learning more about it.



I said that with a hopeful smile towards Heather. Maybe she could tell that I was an enlightened soul worth spending time with. I would go to church, talk about God, even go and eat dog food on a dare if it meant I could spend time with her!

Well, I thought with a grimace, maybe not the dog food part.

Derek: I understand where you all are coming from. There are a lot of questions people have about God and church. What are some of the things that your parents have a hard time believing in, Joe?



Uh-oh. The preacher didn't know what he was getting into. Joe was my best friend, and he was an all around good guy. But he could debate with a garbage man about the smell of trash on a hot July day in downtown Texas during a heatwave. This preacher may have met his match in my best friend!

Joe: Well, take Halloween. We know a lot of people in churches who say that Halloween is "the devil's time of year." They say that kids who dress up and get candy are somehow best friends with Satan! Why would someone think that about kids going to get candy? It's crazy.



Good grief, Joe. We just met the guy! Take it easy on him, I thought to myself.

But Derek didn't seem bothered by Joe's words, or his challenging tone.

Derek: That is unfortunate. I'm sure those church people mean well, but they are mistaken about that.

Joe: I'm surprised to hear you say that, Rev. But thanks! So tell me, why do they think that? And why do you have a better view of it then they do?



Derek: Please, call me Derek. Our church doesn't use religious titles, as the Bible teaches. 1 And that's a good question! My guess as to why some Christians are creeped out by Halloween is because they might know it's connection with Noah.

I had only been half-listening, trying to be polite but also doing my best to catch Heather's eye. She was still handing out sodas to the others, but was clearly listening to her preacher and Joe's conversation.

Joe: Noah? You mean that guy in the Bible that built the boat with all the animals cause there was a Flood coming?

Derek: Yes, sir.



Joe: What does he have to do with Halloween?

Derek: Well, that worldwide Flood you mentioned….there is a lot of evidence that it started on October 31! 2 There are even cultures all over the world that celebrate festivals in connection with the Flood, all centered around Halloween. 3 A lot of our Halloween traditions (like dressing-up and trick-or- treating) are based on non-Christian religions. 4

That really got my attention, and Joe was definitely intrigued now as well.

Frank: Hold on. Derek, I don't mean to sound disrespectful, but Noah and the Ark…that's just a fairytale, isn't it?



Derek: I appreciate your sincerity and your question, Frank. But in fact, Noah, the Ark, and the worldwide Flood are as real as you can get.

Joe: There wasn't any kind of worldwide Flood, Derek. Science tells us that the Earth has continued the same way for millions of years.

Derek: Actually, science tells a very different story. There are lot of evidences which show the Bible's account about Noah is true.

Joe: Like what?

I expected Derek to start backpedaling when asked for proof, but to my surprise, he was ready!



Derek: Well, we could talk about the fact that there are millions of fossils around the globe and over ninety-nine percent of them are buried in rock that forms under water. 5 Huge graveyards of animals have been found that were drowned together, and a lot of these animals are from different parts of the Earth. 6 There are millions of seashells and other things that live under water especially in oceans that have been found on top of the highest mountains in the world, another evidence that at one time all of the mountains were in a global Flood. 7 There are also references to Noah and the Flood in cultures from all over the globe. 8



Before I could think of what to say, Heather spoke up.

Heather: I remember something you said in your sermon last week, Derek. The Chinese language is one of the oldest in the world, and their written word for "boat" even tells us about the Flood. It literally means "eight people saved. 9

Joe: How does that prove anything about Noah and the Flood?

Heather: Because the Bible teaches that only eight people were saved in Noah's Ark. 10

Frank: So, if Halloween is the day that the Flood started, why does your church encourage kids to take part in it? That's an awful lot of death and destruction, isn't it?



Derek: Another great question. It's because God has made every day of the week and so every day can be used to give glory to Him.11 Even if there are bad events that happen on some of those days, we can use them to honor God and His Son, Jesus Christ. In the Bible, there are lots of examples of things that had been one time devoted to evil but were then redeemed to serve God.12.

Joe: But Derek, what difference does any of this make? I mean, there is no such thing as Satan or anything like that, right?



Derek: Well, if the Bible is God's Word, and if it teaches that Satan and the powers of darkness exist, then they exists. The Bible is the Word of God (we have many undeniable evidences of this), 13 and the Bible teaches that Satan and the powers of darkness exist. 14 Therefore, they exist. That's one reason why Christians take such things very seriously.

Frank: But wait. Why would God destroy the whole world to begin with? Isn't that a pretty mean thing to do?



Derek: That's another great question. The truth is, the world was more wicked in Noah's time then you ever could imagine. The Bible shows a lot of this, 15 and so do other ancient Jewish history books. 16. The Flood itself was a judgment of God against sin, and so was a demonstration of God's justice. Plus, it pointed the way to Jesus and how we are saved through Him. 17 I'll tell you what: I am actually preaching on some of these things this Sunday. How about coming out and joining us for church?

Frank: I would like that! If my parents are cool with it, we will be here Sunday.



Joe: Yeah, I might come along, but I ain't making no promises. Thanks Derek, it's been an interesting night!

Derek: Hey, thank you guys! I'll hopefully see you all Sunday. And remember, fill up on lots of candy before you go home!

As Derek left, I turned around to Heather.

Frank: That was pretty interesting, I hadn't heard all of that before.

Heather: Yeah, Derek has a lot of interesting knowledge. He really knows the Bible, and all kinds of other stuff too. And Frank….if you come to church Sunday… I hope you will sit with me.

After she said that, the rest of the night was a blur.



As Joe and I started back home, all I could think about was the interesting stuff Derek had told me.

And, of course….that Heather wanted me to sit with her at church!

[1] Matthew 23:6-10-They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, 7 greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' 8 But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. 9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.

Psalm 111:9 (KJV)-He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend *is* his (God's) name.

Job 32:21 (NET)-I will not show partiality to anyone, nor will I confer a title on any man.

[2] We have seen that after the flood Noah commanded the observance of the equinoxes and solstices to practice repentance, have family fellowship, and study prophecy. See the chapter on Equinoxes and Solstices. The date the Flood came was set aside to remember God will not always tolerate sin and to remember the water and fire judgments predicted to come upon the earth. Genesis records the exact date of the Flood began. "And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights." Genesis 7: 10-12 According to the Dead Sea Scroll calendar, the seventeenth of the second month would be Iyar 17th, which would fall in mid-April to mid-May. If we use the Pharisee calendar, the date of the Flood would be placed in the autumn. It would be Cheshvan 17th, which falls in our mid-October through mid-November. The seventeenth would fall around October 31st. (Ken Johnson Th.D., Ancient Origins of Modern Holidays, 1246-1281 (Kindle Edition): CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform)

[3] The force of this argument is illustrated by the fact of the observance of a great festival of the dead in commemoration of the event, not only by nations more or less in communication with each other, but by others widely separated, both by the ocean and by centuries of time. This festival is, moreover, held by all on or about the very day on which, according to the Mosaic account, the Deluge took place, viz., the seventeenth day of the second month—the month nearly corresponding with our November. The Jewish civil year commenced at the autumnal equinox, or about September 20th, and the seventeenth day of the second month would therefore correspond with the fifth day of our month of November; but as the festival was originally, as in Egypt, preceded by three days' mourning, it appears to have been put back three days in countries where one day's festival only was observed, and to have been more generally kept on November 2nd. Mr Halliburton says:—" The festival of the dead, or feast of ancestors, is now, or was, formerly observed at or near the beginning of November by the Peruvians, the Hindus, the Pacific Islanders, the people of the Tonga Islands, the Australians, the ancient Persians, the ancient Egyptians and the northern nations of Europe, and continued for three days among the Japanese, the Hindus, the Australians, the ancient Romans and the ancient Egyptians….Again, with reference to the Peruvian festival of the dead, Mr Halliburton writes:—" The month in which it occurs, says Rivers, is called 'A ya Marva, from 'Aya,' a 'corpse,' and 'Marva, 'carrying in arms,' because they celebrated the solemn festival of the dead with tears, lugubrious songs and plaintive music, and it was customary to visit the tombs of relations, and to leave in them food and drink. It is worthy of remark that this feast was celebrated among the ancient Peruvians at the same period and on the same day that Christians solemnise their commemoration of the dead —2nd November."2 Again, speaking of the festival of agriculture and death in Persia, Mr Halliburton says, " The month of November was formerly called in Persia 'the month of the angel of death.' In spite of the calendar having been changed, the festival took place at the same time as in Peru ;" and he adds that a similar festival of agriculture and death, in the beginning of November, takes place in Ceylon.3 A like ceremony was held in November among the people of the Tonga Islands, with prayers for their deceased relatives. 4 The Egyptians began their year at the same time as the Jews, and on the seventeenth day of their second month commenced their solemn mourning for Osiris, the Lord of Tombs,5 who was fabled to have been shut up in the deep for one year like Noah, and whose supposed resurrection and reappearance was celebrated with rejoicing. (John Garnier, The Worship of the Dead: Or, The Origin and Nature of Pagan Idolatry and Its Bearing Upon the Early History of Egypt and Babylonia, 206-271 (Kindle Edition): Miami, FL: HardPress)

[4] Many of the traditions associated with Halloween today find their roots in a few different pagan festivals. In Gaelic tradition, it was known as Samhain, while among the Celts it was known as Calan Gaeaf. 2 These celebrations were meant to do three things– 1) Celebrate the harvest 2) Honor the good dead spirits 3) Keep the evil dead spirits at bay. Many of the traditions we associate with the holiday were meant to complete the third objective. Masks, disguises, bonfires, offering food to the spirits, fortune-telling, and even apple-bobbing were used to keep the evil spirits away or predict the spirits' actions to avoid them altogether. 2. (Bethel Grove, Redeeming All Hallows' Eve: A Christian Perspective on Celebrating Halloween, 6-7 (Kindle Edition))

[5] In other words, what the fossil record tells us is that all over the surface of the earth we have layers of rock that were laid down very rapidly under massive water flows, trapping and burying untold numbers of plants and animals, which ultimately resulted in the extinction of 98 to 99 percent of the different types of species. Simple organisms to large creatures were fossilized. Because very rapid conditions are required to produce these enormous fossil beds, these formations must be very, very much younger than the geologic column ages —probably only thousands of years old. (Dr. John Ashton, Evolution Impossible: 12 Reasons Why Evolution Cannot Explain The Origin Of Life On Earth, 1634-1646 (Kindle Edition); Green Forest, AR; Master Books)

[6] Remnants of this worldwide flood can be found all over the earth. Marine crustaceans have been discovered on 12,000-foot mountaintops. Pillow lava is formed only under water, and yet geologists have found a field of pillow lava as high as 15,000 feet on Mount Ararat. Hippopotamuses, now living only in Africa, have been uncovered in England. Hundreds of dinosaurs have been found buried together with other creatures that did not share the same habitat. The Norfolk forest beds in England contain fossils of northern cold-climate animals, tropical warm climate animals, and temperate zone plants all mixed together. Research has revealed findings that include moose-deer (natives of America) buried in Ireland; elephants (natives of Asia and Africa) buried in the midst of England; crocodiles (natives of the Nile) in the heart of Germany; shell-fish (never known in the American seas) together with the entire skeletons of whales in the most inland regions of England. A whale's skeleton was even found on top of the Sanhorn Mountain, which is 3,000 feet high. 11 How were such diverse creatures transported and buried thousands of miles from their normal environments, at unexplainable elevation, except by a devastating universal flood? (Joe White with Nicholas Comninellis, Darwin's Demise: Why Evolution Can't Take The Heat, 669-674 (Kindle Edition); Green Forest, AR; Master Books)

[7] 19. The top 3,000 feet of Mount Everest (26,000-29,000 feet) is made up of sedimentary rock packed with seashells and other ocean-dwelling animals. 20. Sedimentary rock is found all over the world. Sedimentary rock is formed in water. 21. Petrified clams in the closed position (found all over the world) testify to their rapid burial while they were still alive, even on top of Mount Everest. 22. Bent rock layers, fossil graveyards, and polystrata fossils are best explained by a Flood. (Ray Comfort, The Evidence Bible, 36374-36379 (Kindle Edition); Alachua, Florida; Bridge-Logos)

[8] Whole volumes of books could be written if we put every account into one volume. Many accounts are nearly chapter-length in duration! So instead, here are excerpts and recounts from a few shorter examples from various parts of the world to "whet your appetite." Aztec Legend of the Flood A man named Tapi lived a long time ago. Tapi was a very pious man. The creator told Tapi to build a boat that he would live in. He was told that he should take his wife, a pair of every animal that was alive into this boat. Naturally everyone thought he was crazy. Then the rain started and the flood came. The men and animals tried to climb the mountains but the mountains became flooded as well. Finally the rain ended. Tapi decided that the water had dried up when he let a dove loose that did not return. 14 Hawaiian Legend of the Flood Hawaiians have a flood story that tells of a time when, long after the death of the first man, the world became a wicked, terrible place. Only one good man was left, and his name was Nu-u. He made a great canoe with a house on it and filled it with animals. In this story, the waters came up over all the earth and killed all the people; only Nu-u and his family were saved. 15 Chinese Legend of the Flood Another flood story is from China. It records that Fuhi, his wife, three sons, and three daughters escaped a great flood and were the only people alive on earth. After the great flood, they repopulated the world. 16 Miao Legend of the Flood So it poured forty days in sheets and in torrents. Then fifty-five days of misting and drizzle. The waters surmounted the mountains and ranges. The deluge ascending leapt valley and hollow. An earth with no earth upon which to take refuge! A world with no foothold where one might subsist! The people were baffled, impotent and ruined, Despairing, horror stricken, diminished and finished. But the Patriarch Nuah was righteous. The Matriarch Gaw Bo-lu-en upright. Built a boat very wide. Made a ship very vast. Their household entire got aboard and were floated, The family complete rode the deluge in safety. The animals with him were female and male. The birds went along and were mated in pairs. When the time was fulfilled, God commanded the waters. The day had arrived, the flood waters receded. Then Nuah liberated a dove from their refuge, Sent a bird to go forth and bring again tidings. The flood had gone down into lake and to ocean; The mud was confined to the pools and the hollows." There was land once again where a man might reside; There was a place in the earth now to rear habitations. Buffalo then were brought, an oblation to God, Fatter cattle became sacrifice to the Mighty. The Divine One then gave them His blessing; Their God then bestowed His good graces. 17 Tanzania Legend of the Flood Once upon a time the rivers began to flood. The god told two people to get into a ship. He told them to take lots of seed and to take lots of animals. The water of the flood eventually covered the mountains. Finally the flood stopped. Then one of the men, wanting to know if the water had dried up let a dove loose. The dove returned. Later he let loose a hawk which did not return. Then the men left the boat and took the animals and the seeds with them. 18". (Ken Ham, Bodie Hodge, A Flood of Evidence: 40 Reasons Noah and the Ark Still Matter, 33-35 (Kindle Edition): Green Forest, AR: Master Books)

[9] Literally hundreds of ancient legends of a universal flood from which only a handful of ancestors escaped exist in a wide variety of cultures around the world. China is certainly no exception, and this fact is testified to by several characters that would appear to have their roots in this story. This first character is made up of a pictograph of a boat (zhōu, fune) to which the characters for "eight" (bā, hachi) "people" (kǒu, kuchi, "mouth") are added. The first large boat in history was the ark of Noah on which 8 people rode to safety. 136. hóng, KŌ flood, vast In numerous characters that appear related to the Garden of Eden stories, we see symbols representing that first couple, such as , , , , and . In a similar way, then, characters that would seem to have their roots in the Flood account contain the symbol for eight . This is true of the character for flood . One ancient form of this character is particularly interesting, as it shows water "covering the earth" , along with the number eight and a pair of hands extending from the top, as if calling out for help. 88 Another very interesting ancient character that apparently has the same meaning shows four hands joined together "floating" over the waters . 89 137. yán, EN, so(u) follow along, pass along This character also contains the combination "eight mouths" . In present-day Japanese usage, the meaning is limited to the idea of "following along" or "lying along," but in the original Chinese, it also had the meaning of "passing along to following generations." In its ancient form , see the "eight people" "floating" above the water .90 According to Genesis, all knowledge and traditions were passed along to the following generations from those eight people on the Ark. (Timothy D. Boyle, The Gospel Hidden In Chinese Characters, 173-174 (Kindle Edition): Xulon Press)

[10] 2 Peter 2:5-and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of* eight *people,* a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

[11] Psalm 118:24-This *is* the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

[12] In Leviticus 27:21–28, a servant, an animal, or a field is "set apart" (haram). But they are not destroyed. Parallel terms indicate that they are "consecrated" (qadash) and are "most holy" (qodesh qodeshim) to the Lord. That is, they are "set apart" for priestly use and cannot be released from this new status. So, a servant may be haram—set apart to serve in the sanctuary—but not killed. We could add that in Joshua 6:17 the entire city of Jericho was "under the ban [herem]," but articles of gold, silver, bronze, and iron were not destroyed but put into the treasury of the Lord's house (6:24). John Goldingay points out that the verb "devote" (haram) involves "giving something over to God" without having to involve death at all: "So the word doesn't simply mean slaughtering people."8 Walter Moberly states that in Deuteronomy specifically, herem is used as "a metaphor for unqualified allegiance to [Yahweh]."9….We see, then, that the term haram as "utterly destroy" needs to be revisited. It can convey "decisive defeat," "consecration/ removal from ordinary use," "exile," or "identity removal." In the next chapter, we build on this haram theme, looking at how the book of Deuteronomy appropriates and dramatically intensifies this rhetorical language. (Paul Copan, Is God a Vindictive Bully?: Reconciling Portrayals of God in the Old and New Testaments, 207-210 (Kindle Edition): Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic)

[13] Evidences for the inspiration of the Bible come from such fields as the supernatural unity of the Bible, prophecy and fulfillment, the scientific foreknowledge of the Bible writers, archaeology, miraculous attestation, etc.

[14] Ephesians 6:10-12-Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places.*

[15]. Genesis 6:5-6-Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Genesis 6:11-The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

[16] 1 Enoch 69:12-“And the fifth was named Kasdeia, he who showed the children of men all the wicked smiting of spirits and demons, and the smiting of the embryo in the womb[clxiii], that it may pass away, and the smiting of the soul, the bites of the serpent, and the smiting which befalls through the noontide heat, the son of the serpent named Taba'et.” (Ken Johnson, Ancient Book of Enoch, 86 (Kindle Edition): CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform)

[17] 1 Peter 3:18-22 (ERV)-Christ himself suffered when he died for you, and with that one death he paid for your sins. He was not guilty, but he died for people who are guilty. He did this to bring all of you to God. In his physical form he was killed, but he was made alive by the Spirit. **19** And by the Spirit he went and preached to the spirits in prison. **20** Those were the spirits who refused to obey God long ago in the time of Noah. God was waiting patiently for people while Noah was building the big boat. And only a few—eight in all—were saved in the boat through the floodwater. **21** And that water is like baptism, which now saves you. Baptism is not the washing of dirt from the body. It is asking God for a clean conscience. It saves you because Jesus Christ was raised from death. **22** Now he has gone into heaven. He is at God's right side and rules over angels, authorities, and powers.