

LANAKILA NEWS

SUNDAY

Ladies Ministry:
9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Morning Worship:
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Children's Service:
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Youth/Young Adult:
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bible Study:
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study:
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

AWANA:
6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Men's Ministry:
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

CONNECT

Website:

www.lanakilabaptist.com

Email:

Secretary@lbanakila.org

Social Media:

"LanakilaBaptist" on:



If you would like to be a part of our Lanakila Ohana please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and drop it in the offering or at our **Welcome Desk**.



FOOLS FOR CHRIST

Most of us have been the recipient of an April Fool's Day prank. We feel foolish when we realize that we've been had. We might laugh at ourselves, or we may get angry, plotting our revenge. The origin of April Fool's Day (April 1) is uncertain. William Ralston Balch wrote, "This is said to have begun from

the mistake of Noah in sending the Dove out of the Ark before the water had abated, on the first day of the month among the Hebrews, which answers to the 1st of April; and to perpetuate the memory of this deliverance it was thought proper, whoever forgot so remarkable a circumstance, to punish them by sending them upon some sleeveless errand similar to that ineffectual message upon which the bird was sent by the Patriarch. ("Humorous Jewish Origin of the Custom of Making Fools on the First of April 1895) Another theory posits, "The custom appears to be of great antiquity, and to have been derived by the Romans from some of the Eastern nations." Yet another theory suggests that it has its origins in the Roman festival of Hilaria or the transition from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, with the first recorded reference to a prank on April 1st, 1561.

The Bible reminds us that *"The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."* (Psalm 14:1) In Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of this verse, it says, "Bilious and bloated, they gas, 'God is gone.'" The result of their ignorance is that their words are like poison gas, fouling the air; they poison rivers and skies; thistles become their cash crop. The Apostle Paul said, *"We are fools for Christ's sake"* over against the Corinthian's claim of wisdom. (1 Corinthians 4:10)

What does it mean to be a fool for Christ? Evidently, Paul's behavior led to him being accused of being "mad" (insane) by Festus (Acts 26:24), and a fool for his ongoing admonitions to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 12:11). Being a fool for Christ doesn't mean being ignorant for that would be contrary to God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15). What it does seem to imply is that Paul was not worried about his reputation in his pursuit of serving Christ. Perhaps no one stood out in a crowd like Paul did because of his zeal for Christ. Paul followed the teaching of Christ to die to self-daily (Luke 9:23, 1 Corinthians 15:31). He faced death every day but he would not compromise his testimony or witness for Christ. After all, *"To live is Christ, and to die is gain."* (Philippians 1:21)

To be a fool for Christ is to die to self and our concern about what people will think of us; to pursue Christ. It means to proclaim the Gospel whether anyone receives it or not, even if we get persecuted for our witness. Being a fool for Christ is not just for April 1st, it is a daily exercise of the will for the glory of God.

DID YOU KNOW...

What can we learn from the tribe of Judah?

Jacob blessed each of his twelve sons just before he died. The twelve sons were the ancestors of the twelve tribes of Israel, and the blessing contained prophetic information about the future of each tribe. Regarding the tribe of Judah, Jacob prophesied, "Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk" (Genesis 49:8–12).

Each part of Jacob's prophecy for the tribe of Judah reveals something about the people of that tribe, their history, and the spiritual application we can draw from it. In verse 8, Jacob prophesies that Judah's brothers would praise him. Judah's mother named him, and his name signifies praise because her heart was filled with praises to God for him. The strength and power of the tribe is also foretold in verse 8. Verse 9 uses the imagery of both a lion and the lion's cub to portray the tribe of Judah. Judah was compared to a young lion for his strength, courage, and vitality and to a mature lion in because the line of Judah produced people of national importance and kingship, including David and Solomon.

The scepter not departing from Judah "until Shiloh come" is a Messianic prophecy. The name "Shiloh" refers to the Messiah. Commentators differ on the exact meaning of this somewhat obscure passage, but all agree that "him shall the gathering of the people be" can be none other than Christ. The rest of the passage, verses 11–12, refers to the great abundance of riches that would belong to the tribe of Judah. They would be so wealthy and blessed that they would be able to tie a donkey to the choicest grapevine and allow him to eat his fill, which shows the abundance that would belong to Judah.

The second application of verses 11–12, and the one that pertains to Christians today, is the abundance of spiritual riches available to us in Christ, the great quantity of spiritual blessings flowing from the love of God, which come to us through Christ, which are comparable to wine and milk. The riches include His word and His statutes and Christ Himself, the Bread of Life. These may also be applied to Christ and to His human nature, which was like a garment dipped in blood through His sufferings and death. Isaiah 63:1–3 contains this same imagery. It can also refer to His church and His people whose garments are washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:13–14). Thank God for the blessings of Christ that we have received from the tribe of Judah. – Pastor James

