

# JESUS HAD SHORT HAIR!

(Scriptures taken from the New Century Version)

During the 1960's, groups started coming out of the woodwork called hippies, Jesus freaks, religious cults. This hippie movement wore long hair. They claimed that it was alright to wear long hair because Jesus did. Many Christian ministers claim the same belief and say that there are paintings of Jesus with long hair.

## I. GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT OUR APPAREL, HAIR STYLES, ETC.

*Then the woman approached him, dressed like a prostitute and planning to trick him. -- Proverbs 7:10*

Christians are more interested in judging others by the clothes that they wear. This passage tells us to look on the inside and not on the outward appearances. God is interested in the clothing also. The bible teaches us concerning the outside as well as the inside.

Paul tells Timothy to exhort women to wear "modest apparel".

*Also - women should wear proper clothes that show respect and self-control, not using braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes. -- 1 Timothy 2:9*

God exhorts the Jewish men and ladies concerning their clothing.

*A woman must not wear men's clothes, and a man must not wear women's clothes. The LORD your God hates anyone who does that. -- Deuteronomy 22:5*

God shows an interest in the outward as He discusses women's hair styles, jewelry, and clothing.

*It is not fancy hair, gold jewelry, or fine clothes that should make you beautiful. -- 1 Peter 3:3*

God discusses the hair styles of men, and in verse 15 He speaks about the length of the ladies' hair.

*Even nature itself teaches you that wearing long hair is shameful for a man. -- 1 Corinthians 11:14  
But long hair is a woman's glory. Long hair is given to her as a covering. -- 1 Corinthians 11:15*

The most casual observer of Scripture finds that God does manifest an interest in the outward. He is interested in the way His people wear their hair, clothing, jewelry, etc. The argument that God is interested only in the inside makes a very spiritual-sounding cliché, but it is simply not based on the Word of God.

Hair was very important to our Lord. He reminds us in Matthew 10:30 and in Luke 12:7 that the "very hairs of your head are all numbered." signifying the importance to Him of every aspect of our life and appearance.

## II. THE REVOLUTIONARIES ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN THE OUTSIDE.

Young kids identify short hair with authority, discipline, unhappiness, boredom, hatred of right, and long hair with letting go.

Most revolutionaries were meant to be against the Christian religion. It was designed to destroy the moral standards and beliefs. It has caused our young kids to rebel, take drugs, using flower power (marijuana and heroin).

Hippies started using symbols such as the peace symbol, which goes back 2,000 years, and tradition says the first one was designed by Nero in 67 A.D. for the crucifixion of the Apostle Peter. The peace symbol was reportedly found stamped on the closed doors of Russian churches and branded on dead bodies of Jewish martyrs. It is a symbol of the broken cross. It is the emblem of anti-Christ. It is a very well-known symbol which was called the witch's foot in the Middle Ages and it was a common symbol of the devil, with the cross reversed and broken.

### **III. THE BIBLE PLAINLY TEACHES THAT IT IS A "SHAME" FOR A MAN TO WEAR LONG HAIR.**

*Even nature itself teaches you that wearing long hair is shameful for a man. -- 1 Corinthians 11:14*

The Greek word for "shame" in this verse is translated elsewhere in the New Testament as "dishonor," "vile," "disgrace."

You will notice that these "vile affections" have to do with homosexuality. It is very interesting that as the trend toward long hair increases, the acceptance of homosexuality increases. This is not to say that long hair and homosexuality always go together, but it is to note the fact that both are on the rise in our generation. Several of the major denominations have now accepted homosexuals. In some cities there are churches for homosexuals pastored by avowed homosexuals. At least one major denomination has ordained a homosexual preacher and others are considering following suit.

### **IV. THE BIBLE SAYS NOTHING ABOUT JESUS HAVING LONG HAIR**

Conventional hair was short in the during the Roman Empire. People that wore long hair was women and also the Nazarites.

A Nazarite was a person consecrated to God with a vow to keep from strong drink; keep from eating grapes, moist or dried; no razor is to touch their head; they could not touch a dead body.

*"Tell the Israelites: 'If men or women want to promise to belong to the LORD in a special way, they will be called Nazarites. During this time, they must not drink wine or beer, or vinegar made from wine or beer. They must not even drink grape juice or eat grapes or raisins. While they are Nazarites, they must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, even the seeds or the skin. -- Numbers 6:2-4*

The paintings of Christ are simply artists' conception and have no Scriptural authorization. At least one historian of His day described Him as being a tall man with chestnut-colored hair, parted in the middle, with short hair which turned up at the end. In the book, THE MODERN STUDENT'S LIFE OF CHRIST by Irving Vollmer, published by Fleming H. Revell, the author says,

"Archeologists object to the conventional pictures of Christ because they are not true to history".

A German painter, L. Fahrenkrog, says,

"Christ certainly never wore a beard, and His hair was beyond a doubt closely cut".

For this we have historical proof. The oldest representations going back to

the first Christian centuries and found chiefly in the catacombs of Rome all pictured Him without a beard. All the pictures of Christ down to the beginning of the first century and even later are of this kind. Students of the first century and Roman history are aware of the fact that the time of Christ was characterized by short hair for men. This author has seen many coins and statues which bear the likenesses of emperors who reigned during and after the time of Christ. Such likenesses reveal that the Ceasars and other rulers and emperors had short hair, and of course, the subjects followed the example set by the emperor. The plain simple truth is that during the life of Christ, short hair was the acceptable style. That Jesus wore the conventional style of His day is proved by the fact that Judas had to kiss Him to point Him out to the soldiers. Had Jesus been somewhat different, as a long-haired freak, Judas could have simply told the soldiers that Jesus was the One with the long hair. This, of course, is not true, as Judas had to place a kiss on Him in order to identify Him.

#### V. JESUS WAS NOT A NAZARITE

Since it is generally believed that a Nazareth, there are many who mistakenly identify Him as a Nazarite. There is no such Scriptural evidence. Jesus was a "Nazarene" because He was from Nazareth, but He was not a "Nazarite," and He did not take the Nazarite vow. A Nazarite could not eat grapes or drink grape juice or eat anything made of the vine.

*So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. {5} Joseph registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was now pregnant. {6} While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have the baby, {7} and she gave birth to her first son. Because there were no rooms left in the inn, she wrapped the baby with pieces of cloth and laid him in a box where animals are fed. -- Luke 2:4-7 (NCV)*

*One Sabbath day, as Jesus was walking through some fields of grain, his followers began to pick some grain to eat. -- Mark 2:23 (NCV)*

*"To a town called Nazareth, and lived there. And so what God had said through the prophets came true: "He will be called a Nazarene." -- Matthew 2:23 (NCV)*

*"Tell the Israelites: 'If men or women want to promise to belong to the LORD in a special way, they will be called Nazarites. During this time, they must not drink wine or beer, or vinegar made from wine or beer. They must not even drink grape juice or eat grapes or raisins. While they are Nazarites, they must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, even the seeds or the skin. -- Numbers 6:2-4*

Jesus could not have been a Nazarite. Observe the last Passover in,

*When the time came, Jesus and the apostles were sitting at the table. He said to them, "I wanted very much to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer. I will not eat another Passover meal until it is given its true meaning in the kingdom of God." Then Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this cup and share it among yourselves. I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until God's kingdom comes." -- Luke 22:14-18*

The Passover was characterized by the fruit of the vine, and as a Nazarite our Lord would not have been allowed to partake of the Passover.

He also partook of the fruit of the vine when He instituted the Lord's Supper, *Then Jesus took some bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the apostles, saying, "This is my body, which I am giving for you. Do this to remember me." -- Luke 22:19*

In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup and said, "This cup is the new agreement that God makes with his people. This new agreement begins with my blood which is poured out for you. -- Luke 22:20

Likewise a Nazarite could not touch a dead body.

During their special time of belonging to the LORD, Nazarites must not go near a dead body. -- Numbers 6:6

When our Lord raised the daughter of Jairus in,  
Taking hold of the girl's hand, he said to her, "Talitha , koum!" (This means, "Young girl, I tell you to stand up!") -- Mark 5:41

Then He also touched the bier which contained a dead man's body in Luke,  
When he came near the town gate, he saw a funeral. A mother, who was a widow, had lost her only son. A large crowd from the town was with the mother while her son was being carried out. When the Lord saw her, he felt very sorry for her and said, "Don't cry." He went up and touched the coffin, and the people who were carrying it stopped. Jesus said, "Young man, I tell you, get up!" And the son sat up and began to talk. Then Jesus gave him back to his mother. -- Luke 7:12-15

Since the Nazarite could not touch the fruit of the vine or touch a dead body, and since our Lord did both, we must arrive at the definite conclusion that He was not a Nazarite.

Samson was a Nazarite and so was Samuel according to the scriptures:

Because you will become pregnant and have a son. You must never cut his hair, because he will be a Nazirite, given to God from birth. He will begin to save Israel from the power of the Philistines." -- Judges 13:5 (NCV)

She made a promise, saying, "LORD All-Powerful, see how sad I am. Remember me and don't forget me. If you will give me a son, I will give him back to you all his life, and no one will ever cut his hair with a razor." {12} While Hannah kept praying, Eli watched her mouth. {13} She was praying in her heart so her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk {14} and said to her, "Stop getting drunk! Throw away your wine!" {15} Hannah answered, "No, sir, I have not drunk any wine or beer. I am a deeply troubled woman, and I was telling the LORD about all my problems. {16} Don't think I am an evil woman. I have been praying because I have many troubles and am very sad." {17} Eli answered, "Go! I wish you well. May the God of Israel give you what you asked of him." {18} Hannah said, "May I always please you." When she left and ate something, she was not sad anymore. {19} Early the next morning Elkanah's family got up and worshiped the LORD. Then they went back home to Ramah. Elkanah had sexual relations with his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. {20} So Hannah became pregnant, and in time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "His name is Samuel because I asked the LORD for him." {21} Every year Elkanah went with his whole family to Shiloh to offer sacrifices and to keep the promise he had made to God. {22} But one time Hannah did not go with him. She told him, "When the boy is old enough to eat solid food, I will take him to Shiloh. Then I will give him to the LORD, and he will always live there." {23} Elkanah, Hannah's husband, said to her, "Do what you think is best. You may stay home until the boy is old enough to eat. May the LORD do what you have said." So Hannah stayed at home to nurse her son until he was old enough to eat. {24} When Samuel was old enough to eat, Hannah took him to the

house of the LORD at Shiloh, along with a three-year-old bull, one-half bushel of flour, and a leather bag filled with wine. {25} After they had killed the bull for the sacrifice, Hannah brought Samuel to Eli. {26} She said to Eli, "As surely as you live, sir, I am the same woman who stood near you praying to the LORD. {27} I prayed for this child, and the LORD answered my prayer and gave him to me. {28} Now I give him back to the LORD. He will belong to the LORD all his life." And he worshiped the LORD there. --1 Samuel 1:11-28 (NCV)

#### **VI. IF JESUS HAD BEEN A NAZARITE, HE STILL WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE HAD LONG HAIR.**

The Nazarite vow was taken for only a short period of time. The bible says it was just for "days."

*"During the time they have promised to belong to the LORD, they must not cut their hair. They must be holy until this special time is over. They must let their hair grow long. -- Numbers 6:5*

*During their special time of belonging to the LORD, Nazarites must not go near a dead body. -- Numbers 6:6*

After these "days" were over the Nazarite was to shave his head.

*"The Nazarites must go to the entrance of the Meeting Tent and shave off their hair that they grew for their promise. The hair will be put in the fire that is under the sacrifice of the fellowship offering. -- Numbers 6:18*

So it is obvious that the Nazarite was as likely to be bald-headed as he was to have long hair. Of course, this argument is needless as our Lord was not a Nazarite.

#### **VII. ABSALOM WAS BOTH REBELLIOUS AND LONG-HAIRED.**

The only long-haired person other than a Nazarite mentioned in the Bible was Absalom, a son of David. It was he who rebelled against his father. It was he who started a revolution. It is worth noting that even in Bible days rebellion, revolution, disobedience to parents and long hair were associated.

Now what should the Christian's attitude be concerning male hair styles? First, we men should follow the admonition of the Scripture and have short hair. It should be short enough so as to be obviously contradictory to the revolutionary symbol. Many Christians allow their hair to become longer in an effort not to be identified as fundamental believers. Why shouldn't a Christian be just as proud of his identity with the Word of God as the hippie is to identify himself with revolution? Men, let us wear our short hair with pride as a symbol of our belief in the Bible and its Christ.

Parents, start your son with haircuts and short hair when he is a baby. With discipline and, if needs be, punishment, see to it that as he grows up he uses his hair as a symbol of patriotism and Christianity, thereby following the admonition of the Scripture that says in Romans,

*Do not change yourselves to be like the people of this world, but be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect. -- Romans 12:2*