



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 33 YEARS"



THE CORNERSTONE

October 2015

"For thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Once more (it *is* a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the Lord of hosts. Haggai 2:6-7

SLBC Ice Cream Social

When: October 10th
@ 3-5PM



Please sign up by the bulletin boards if you are planning to come...

2015 SLBC Family Campout Brazos Bend State Park

Friday Oct.23. pm til Sunday Oct 25 am

Bring your Own Tent or Sleep in a park shelter.

Meals:

Friday: Make your own arrangements

Saturday: Lunch will be provided *(Please bring condiments, cookies, fruits, snacks, etc.)*

For What to bring: Please See Flyer in the Foyer. Additional items on list will be greatly appreciated.

For more information: Please see Hans Meinardus or Bob Hannan



Missionaries of the Month

Samuel Student Center
Patzicía, Guatemala
September 2015

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free,
and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.. Galatians 5:1

Dear brothers, sisters and friends,

As always, it's our pleasure to share with each one of you what God has done through you and us in the life of the 70 children who attend our program at the Samuel Student Center. As we look back at the last six months we thank our God for many spiritual and material blessings.



The children are very grateful for the beautiful sweaters God provided for them through you.

We thank our dear brother Robert Henriquez, a great friend of our children, for donating a Yamaha keyboard for our music program



Some of the children received a Bible on our special day of the Bible.





Andy Woods—Pastor noted the problems associated with **mid-tribulationism**. In the last few articles we began to scrutinize the arguments claiming to favor **post-tribulationism**. In this article, we will complete our analysis of **post-tribulationism**.

The Rapture (Part 31)

My previous articles commenced a series on the rapture of the church. We began with the question, "What is the Rapture?" This question can best be answered by noting ten truths about the rapture from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. We then moved to a second main question, namely, when will the rapture take place relative to the coming seven-year Tribulation period? We offered the contention that believers can develop certainty that they will be raptured before the Tribulation period occurs for at least seven reasons. After dealing with these two questions, we began to explore some of the weaknesses associated with the other competing views that seek to answer the question, "When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Coming Tribulation Period?" At least five differing perspectives exist. We noted at the onset that it is important to understand that all of the non-pretribulation positions have a difficult time handling the seven arguments favoring **pre-tribulationism** previously discussed in this series. We have already

POST-TRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE

Post-tribulation rapture theory contends that the rapture will take place at the end of the coming Tribulation period. This view typically sees no distinction between the rapture and the Second Advent and thus seeks to harmonize all references to Christ's return as taking place at the end of the future Tribulation period. Those adhering to the **post-tribulation** rapture typically rely on at least one of *four* arguments to support their position. In past articles, we noted that **post-tribulationism** errs in superficially connecting Paul's depiction of the rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-58) with either the events of Matthew 24:30-31 or Revelation 20:4-6. Moreover, we noted that contrary to the assertion of **post-tribulationism**, although believers will be exempted from some of the judgments during the Tribulation period, they will still be subjected to many other judgments during this time period. Thus, **post-tribulationism** errs in failing to understand that the divine promise of Revelation 3:10 conveys a complete escape not only from coming Tribulation judgments but also from the very time of those judgments. We further observed that **post-tribulationism's** argument from antiquity errs in appealing to historical sources outside the Bible, failing to acknowledge that imminency was embraced by many Church Fathers, and failing to understand the notion of progressive illumination of prophetic truth.

Having responded to the *four* major arguments advanced by post-tribulationists, we then began to consider *five* major problems with post-tribulationism. An examination and exploration of the cumulated problems with this view should make unbiased interpreters highly reticent to adopt this perspective. These *five* problems include *the mortal population of the millennial kingdom*, *the Hebrew wedding sequence*, *the pointlessness of the preparation of the believers' heavenly dwellings* (John 14:2-3), *the lack of time for the Bema Seat Judgment*, and *the pointlessness of the church being caught up only to immediately return to the earth*. In the last article, we examined the *third* of these five problems, which pertains to the pointlessness of the preparation of the believers' heavenly dwellings (John 14:2-3). In this article we will briefly examine the *fourth* and *fifth* problems with **post-tribulationism**. These relate to *the lack of sufficient time for the Bema Seat Judgment* as well as *the pointlessness of the church being caught up only to immediately return to the earth*.

4. *The Lack of Time for the Bema Seat Judgment*. Second Corinthians 5:8 speaks of the church in heaven. Then, 2 Corinthians 5:10 describes the Bema Seat Judgment. Thus, the Bema Seat Judgment will take place when the church is with Christ in heaven. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:17, the event which will bring the church into heaven will be the rapture of the church. Pentecost explains:

It is scarcely necessary to point out that this examination must take place in the sphere of the heavenlies. It is said in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 that "we shall be caught up... in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air." Since the bema follows the translation, the "air" must be the scene of it. This is further supported by 2 Corinthians 5:1-8, where Paul is describing events that take place when the believer is "absent from the body, and... present with the Lord." Thus, this event must take place in the Lord's presence in the sphere of the "heavenlies."

Notice that Revelation 19:7-8 portrays the church returning with Christ at the end of the seven year Tribulation period already rewarded. These verses say, "...For the marriage of the Lamb has come and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints)." Notice that the bride, who represents the church (Eph. 5:23), is pictured returning with Christ at the end of the Tribulation period already rewarded, as represented by the clean linen.

Let's put all of this together. Because the church will experience the Bema Seat Judgment in heaven, this judgment must take place after the rapture which is the event which will usher the church into heaven. Moreover, the church must experience this judgment before the bodily return of Christ at the end of the seven-year Tribulation period because the church is pictured as returning with Christ already rewarded. In sum, during the seven-year period while the church is in heaven in between the rapture and the bodily return of Christ, the Bema Seat Judgment will take place. Living with the knowledge that at any moment the Christian can be removed from the earth via the rapture and subsequently ushered into the presence of Christ to be rewarded for how his life was spent since spiritual birth is indeed a powerful incentive for holy living in the present!



Furthermore, Ephesians 5:25, 27 states, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her...to *present* her to Himself as a radiant church..." (italics added). When will the church be officially presented to Christ? This event will take place in heaven when the church has been reunited with Christ following the rapture. Scripture refers to this event as the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9).

Why is this name used? When a Jewish couple was united in marriage, a celebration involving feasting usually followed the wedding ceremony. Similarly, when Christ's bride the church is officially presented to Christ the groom, a wonderful heavenly celebration involving feasting will take place. This is why the designation the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is used to describe this event.

Revelation 19:7 portrays Christ's bride the church returning with Christ to the earth at the end of the Tribulation period immediately after the transpiring of the "Marriage of the Lamb." This verse says, "Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready." Thus, the Marriage of the Lamb, like the Bema Seat Judgment, will occur while the church is in heaven for seven years between the rapture and the bodily appearing of Christ.

The eschatological realities of the Bema Seat Judgment and the Marriage of the Lamb make post-tribulationism unlikely for the simple reason that this view does not allow sufficient time for these heavenly events to transpire. After being removed from the earth through the rapture, the church will experience a period of time with Christ in heaven before returning with Him to the earth at the end of the Tribulation period. Two events involving the church will occur in heaven following the rapture but before the bodily return of Christ called the Bema Seat Judgment and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

A post-tribulation rapture does not allow enough time for these two events to take place. For example, if the rapture takes place before the Tribulation period begins, then at least seven years between the rapture and the bodily appearing are allotted for the church to experience the Bema Seat Judgment and the Marriage of the Lamb. If the rapture takes place halfway through the Tribulation period, then only three-and-one-half years between the rapture and the bodily appearing are allowed for the church to experience the Bema Seat Judgment and the Marriage of the Lamb. If the rapture takes place at the end of the Tribulation period, then only a miniscule amount of time between the rapture and the bodily appearing is allowed for the church to experience the Bema Seat Judgment and the Marriage of the Lamb. Some have jokingly remarked that under such circumstances, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb would become nothing more than a microwave dinner or a sack lunch!

5. *The Pointlessness of the Church Being Caught Up Only to Immediately Return to the Earth.* As mentioned above, Jesus will return with His previously raptured church at the end of the Tribulation period (Rev. 19:7-8; Eph. 5:23). If the rapture takes place at the end of the Tribulation period as the post-tribulation view teaches, then the church will return with Christ immediately after being raptured. In other words, the church will experience a bizarre "elevator ride" of sorts. After being caught up in the air to meet Christ, the church will immediately and instantaneously return with Him to the earth. If this is so, then what would be the point of God rapturing the church to heaven in the first place? It makes far greater sense for the church to be removed from the earth at a much earlier point in time. In the ensuing interval that follows the rapture, the church will fulfill its heavenly destiny. After spending an extended period of time with Christ in heaven, the church will then return with Him at the end of the Tribulation period to rule and reign upon the earth (2 Tim. 2:11-13; Rev. 5:10). Such a scenario seems far more credible than having the church to be caught up only to immediately return to the earth as post-tribulationism contends.

In sum, in this series, having previously answered the question, "What is the Rapture?" we noted at least *seven* reasons that affirm the pre-tribulation rapture view. We then began interacting with the other positions on the timing of the rapture. In prior articles, we have answered **post-tribulationism's** *four* major arguments. In this article, we began examining the *fourth* and *fifth* of *five* weaknesses associated with the post-tribulation rapture position. That is, post-tribulationism, which has a tendency to merge the rapture and the Second Advent, has difficulty allowing for an appropriate amount of time for the transpiring of the Bema Seat Judgment that Christ and also seems somewhat awkward given the pointlessness of the church being caught up only to immediately return to the earth.

(To Be Continued...)

J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things to Come: A Study in Biblical Eschatology* (Findlay, OH: Dunham, 1958; reprint, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1964), 221.

Charles C. Ryrie, *What You Should Know About the Rapture, Current Christian Issues* (Chicago: Moody, 1981), 60-61.

Bulletin Board



Home Fellowship Groups

First Colony East—Adults Only: Host: Eric and Veronica Wasek—Meets 2nd & 4th Fridays at 7 pm—2801 Hidden Knoll Court—281-980-3742— A study in Philippians—.Leader: Earl Chandler

First Colony West—Children Welcome: Hosts: Keith and Judy Kurrus- 2803 Pineleaf Drive—281-242-3031 Co-Hosts: Brooks and Elizabeth Sellers—281-313-0527 : Meets 2nd & 4th Fridays at 6:30

New— Young Couples Fellowship—Held at SLBC—7 pm. Coordinator: Andrea Merkin, 1-210-367-6452; Meets 2nd & 4th Friday They meet in the fellowship room.

Men's Weekly Bible Study— Tuesday, 8:00 pm David Sandlin—Teacher

Wednesday Night Children's Activities:



Dinner

Games



Memory & Bible Study



Science Projects

Music



WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday evening at 7PM.

Subject: **Proverbs 16** – Resting or Trusting in God's Sovereignty.

Teacher: **Earl Chandler**. Room: Fellowship Room.

Though man is strongly encouraged in **Proverbs** to acquire wisdom, he is not released from dependence on the Lord. We will see in this verse by verse teaching (13 weeks) the contrast of human limitations with the sovereignty of God. Man can plan, dream, and hope, but the final outcome is from the Lord. In all our plans, and motives, our trust needs to be in God. **Prov.3:5-6**.

Scripture for the Month: Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come to the LORD *And* bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, With yearling calves? Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn *for* my rebellious acts, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?





Missions-Continued from Page 2

Every Fall the children look forward to receiving a pair of shoes for the winter.



We celebrated the National Independence Day of Guatemala with a special evening at the Samuel Student Center



And this is how we arrived at the month of September, thanking God for his faithfulness, as well as our supporters for their prayers and gifts for the children in our community in Patzicia, Guatemala, may the Lord bless each one of you richly,

Atentamente:

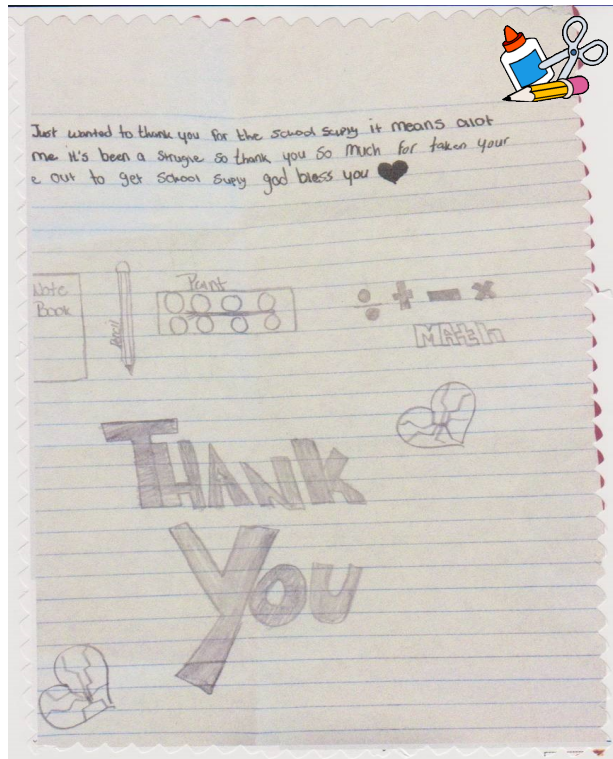
Enrique Ajquejay

Administrador

Centro Estudiantil "Samuel"



The Cornerstone Newsletter deadline for News articles is the 19th of each month. You can e-mail Patricia Chandler at: earlbudc@att.net or send information to Carol Henry at Carol@SLBC.org



School Supplies—Thank You

A Copy of a Thank You Note from one of the recipients of the School Supply Drive. There were many others but I thought you might enjoy seeing this one.

The East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry in conjunction with other Charities in the Fort Bend County area handed out school supplies on August 15th at the University of Houston, Sugar Land.

Thanks to all those who willing gave to help the needy children of our area. Your help made it possible for these children to begin the School year with joy.

Adult Sunday School

On Going Class: **From God's Creation to God's Nation**—Taught by Richard Robinson in Room 110/108

New Class: **THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM AND THE NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH**—Taught by Bob Graper in the Fellowship Hall

Since we will spend most of our existence in the Millennial Kingdom and in the New Heaven & New Earth, wouldn't you like to know what God has revealed about these times and locations? That is what this series is all about. It is based primarily on Revelation chapters 19 through 21, although many other scriptures will be used.

Fall Bible Studies

Ladies Bibles Classes

Tuesday Mornings: Debbie Fetter will be teaching a ladies Bible class on the book of Philipians. Time: 9:30 – 11:20 am in room 110/108. Please use the main office door for building entry and exit. (Child Care for AM)

Tuesday Evenings: Betty Cooke will be teaching from the book of Esther. Time: 7:00—8:30 pm in room 110/108.

Child care will not be available for PM.

Answering Islam Conference

Sugar Land Bible Church will hosting a seminar with Shahram Hadian, Christian pastor and former Muslim on **Saturday and Sunday, November 7th and 8th.**

The Schedule and topics to be presented include:

Saturday:

- **The True Face of Islam (Hadian) 1:00-2 :30 p.m.**
- **What does Bible Prophecy say about Islam? - Part 1 (Woods) 2:45–3:45 p.m.**
- **The Influence of Islam in American Politics (Hadian) 4:00-5:00 p,m.**
- **Dinner Break 5:00-7:00 p.m.**
- **Answering Islam (Hadian) 7:00-8:00 p.m.**
- **Questions & Answers 8:15-8:45 p.m.**

Sunday

- **What Does Bible Prophecy Say About Islam?- Part 2 (Woods) 9:45-10:45 a.m.**
- **Exposing Chrislam (Hadian) 11:00– 12:30 p.m.**



Hello from the Library,

There continues to be a growing number of you who are contributing materials to our Library and we are grateful. We hope all of you will come into the Library and checkout whatever may interest you. Please make sure you check your items out by following the directions of the wall to your left as you enter the Library. Also, I would ask that you return the materials in a timely fashion. If you need the material longer than a couple of weeks, please let Marilyn Graper know and she will make an exception. We do not have an attendant in the Library but records are kept for all materials. Some of the new items we have are listed below. I encourage you to check them out.

My Hope America (DVD) – Dr. Billy Graham

Sue Thomas FB-Eye – Seasons 1 & 2 (DVD)

Evidence For the Rapture – A Biblical Case for Pre-Tribulationism – John Hart (with contribution by Andy Woods)

21 Tough Questions About Grace- Grant Hawley, Editor (with contribution by Andy Woods) (3 copies)

Adventures in Odyssey – Escape From The Forbidden Matrix (DVD)

Veggie Tales – Tom Sawyer & Huckleberry Larry's Big River Rescue

Veggie Tales - Robin Good & His Not So Merry Men (DVD)

The Torchlighters Heroes of the Faith – (DVD) set from Martyrs of Faith (school age children)



Please see our updated catalog on the website for many other new additions.