

THE CORNERSTONE

January 2017

Sunday School Winter Session



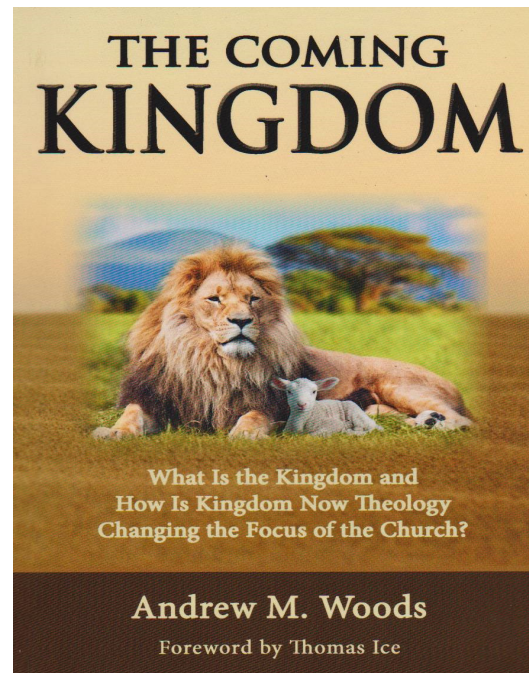
Starting Sunday, January 8th, we will begin a Sunday School series called *"Parables of the Kingdom"* based on information in a book by M. R. DeHaan (*Coming Events in Prophecy*). This series will be a detailed study of the Matthew 13 parables:

- The Parable of the 4 Soils
- The Parable of the Wheat & Tares
- The Parable of the Mustard Seed
- The Parable of the Yeast
- The Parable of the Hidden Treasure
- The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price
- The Parable of the Dragnet
- The Parable of the Householder

(More about this class on Page 5)

Wednesday Evening Session

Beginning in January 2017 Pastor Andy Woods will be teaching Wednesday night Bible study at Sugar Land Bible Church for the Winter quarter. The focus of this class will be on "The Kingdom", which is the theme of the entire Bible. The Material for this teaching will be the Bible but also biblical material as organized in Pastor Andy's recently published book entitled "The Coming Kingdom".



(More on this class on page 4)

Missions for the Month



The Impact of KHCB's Spanish Ministry

by Dolly Martin Monroe

In June of 1993, Perfecta called KHCB to give testimony of her decision to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. A friend had invited Perfecta to listen to KHCB's Spanish ministry called "Radio Amistad" (Radio Friendship). Perfecta had been in the US a short time, knew no English, and was extremely lonely. She began listening to the music and Bible teaching in Spanish on AM 1400 and said, "I felt that I was the worst sinner in the world!" Then one day she heard Pastor Ricardo Robinson say, "No one is too much of a sinner to accept the Lord Jesus Christ." He invited listeners to trust in Christ for salvation and she did. Perfecta said, "I immediately felt a change." She is from Mexico and had been heavily involved in the occult, but the Lord freed her from that spiritual bondage the moment she put her faith in Him.

I had the opportunity to visit Perfecta several times to personally disciple her in her new found faith. She continued listening to the station and began growing in the Lord. Several months later she, a new creature in Christ with a strong desire to share the Lord Jesus Christ with her family and friends, returned to Mexico.

We did not hear from Perfecta again until July of this year when she called from Puebla, Mexico, to tell us what had God has done in her life and her family during the last 23 years. When she returned to Mexico, she went through many struggles with her family, all of which were unsaved and who persecuted her for abandoning their Catholic upbringing. Her father in particular made her life very difficult with continual verbal abuse. She said, "I almost renounced my faith in Jesus Christ, but I did not want to give Satan a reason to rejoice, so I held on to the Lord with all my might."

Eventually, a few members of Perfecta's family began to believe, starting with her mom and then a couple of her brothers. She continued to share with them and to attend a local evangelical church. After many, many years her father also believed in the Lord. The one who put up the most resistance, however, was her youngest brother. He announced that he hated her because of her faith and left home because of Perfecta. No one heard from him or saw him for the next 4 years until suddenly he returned home. He slowly warmed up to Perfecta and the other family members. Eleven of the 12 members of her family had put their faith in the Lord thanks to Perfecta's faithful witness. Finally early this year, her brother gave his life to the Lord as well. Perfecta is married to a godly man, they have 3 children, and they are active in their local church.

Praise the Lord for what he has done in Perfecta's family as a result of KHCB's Spanish outreach. Last April, on the same day as the Ladies' Fellowship Luncheon, Radio Amistad celebrated its 25th anniversary with a rally and concert. The Good News was shared in many different ways during this joyous celebration, and 35 adults as well as 75 children responded to the Gospel. All of these received follow up by KHCB as well as by local Hispanic churches who partnered with KHCB for this special event.

As the Spanish ministry finishes its 26th year, please pray that God will continue to reach Hispanics who have never heard the Good News. KHCB broadcasts God's Word without commercials on 40 outlets (8 of these in Spanish), supports a live stream, and supports a mobile app. Both air 24 hours a day. Thanks for your financial support of this ministry. You are sharing in the harvest of souls that are coming to faith in Christ through KHCB Radio Amistad.



Andy Woods—Pastor

DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS, PART 3

In this series of articles, we are exploring a very important Bible prophecy called Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks, which is found in Daniel 9:24-27. In the first installment, we explained the background of the giving of this prophecy. With this background information in mind, we then began to turn our attention to a textual analysis of Daniel 9:24-27. As we study this prophecy, we began to break the prophecy down into ten manageable facts. If the reader can track with me through the presentation of these ten facts, concepts, or ideas, he will develop a very clear understanding of the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. In turn, he will be rewarded by the Holy Spirit in terms of having not only greater confidence that the Bible is indeed God's Word, but he will also obtain a blueprint or timeline through which he can understand how all end time events predicted in the Bible will ultimately come to pass. Every new fact that I introduce will build on the prior facts. Fact number 1 being the most important because fact 2 will build on fact 1, as will each successive fact in this presentation. Thus, fact 3 will build on facts 1 and 2, and so forth right through my list of ten.

In our second installment, we noted our first fact, which is the idea that the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks concerns the nation of Israel in general and the City of Jerusalem in particular. As we noted, this prophecy has nothing to do with the present age of the Church. In fact, the Church was a mystery, or an unknown spiritual reality (Eph. 3:3-6), at the time the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks was given. We are now prepared to move on to our second fact.

Fact # 2: The Prophecy Covers a Time Period of 490 Years

Fact number 2 is that the prophecy covers a total time period of 490 years. Notice again Daniel 9:24. Right at the beginning of the verse it says, "*Seventy weeks* have been decreed for your people and your holy city" (italics added). We might ask the question, what does this word "week" mean? Some Bible versions say "seventy weeks" (NASB, NKJV) and other versions say "seventy sevens" (NIV). The Hebrew word translated "week" or "seven" is simply the word *shabua*, which means a unit of seven. It is like saying a heptad, which is a unit of seven. The Hebrews divided many items into units of seven (Lev. 25:3-4, 8-9). A *shabua* or unit of seven is somewhat similar to how we use the word "dozen." When we use the word "dozen" we are talking about a unit of twelve. When the Hebrews used the word "week" or "seven" (*shabua*), they were talking specifically of a unit of seven. Now we have to ask ourselves does this unit of seven represent seven months, seven days, or seven years? The word *shabua* can be used in all three senses. Only an examination of the immediate context will definitively answer this question.

I am convinced that when Daniel 9:24 uses this expression "seven" it is speaking of a seven-year increment. At the beginning of this important chapter, Daniel 9:1-2 mentions the word "year" or "years" four times. Thus, Daniel had been thinking in terms of years as he was studying the prophet Jeremiah toward the end of the Babylonian Captivity. *Shabua* or "week" or "seven" must refer to a period of seven years because if it is interpreted as a period of seven days or seven months there is simply not enough time for all of the prophecies mentioned in Daniel 9:24-27 to transpire, as we will see when we get into the details of this prophecy. *Shabua* must therefore refer to a duration of years rather than simply days or months.

Had Daniel wanted to communicate a period of days he could have simply said so. For example, in the very next chapter, Daniel 10:13 says, "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for *twenty-one days*" (italics added). You see, Daniel knows how to use the word "days." However, he doesn't use the word "days" in Daniel 9:24. Instead, he simply uses this expression *shabua* or a unit of seven, speaking of a seven-year period of time.

Is it lexically possible for *shabua* to refer to a seven-year period of time? In Genesis 29:27 we discover is that that Hebrew word "seven" is indeed used for a seven-year period of time. Here, this word is being used to describe the length of time that Jacob served Laban for Rachel's hand. Genesis 29:27 says, "complete the

week of this one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you shall serve with me for another *seven years*." Most commentators understand "the week" mentioned here as a seven-year period of time. In other words, Laban is communicating to Jacob that he must complete the customary seven-year period of time to gain Rachael as his wife. The exact same Hebrew word *shabua* that is used in Daniel 9:24 translated "seven" or "week" is also used in Genesis 29:27 where it definitely refers to a seven-year period of time. The word *shabua* can refer to a seven-year period of time. Thus, when Daniel 9:24 refers to seventy "weeks," or seventy "sevens," it is speaking of a seven-year increment of time.

But, the prophecy goes on, and it does not simply say "seven," it adds "there are decreed *seventy sevens*" (italics added). So, the prophecy covers a time period of "seventy sevens" or seventy seven year increments of time. Seventy times seven would comprise a time period of 490 years. Therefore, this is where we conclude that the prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27 covers a time period of 490 years. As we saw in the first installment, there was a past 490-year cycle of discipline from which the nation of Israel was just emerging. Now, from the Seventy Weeks Prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27) we learn of a future 490-year cycle of discipline that Israel was yet to experience before the kingdom of God could come. Perhaps the simplest conceptual tool for comprehending this prophecy is to picture a stopwatch that has 490 years on it. The watch basically has three buttons: a start button, a pause button, and a stop button. This, in essence, is what God gave to Daniel through the angel Gabriel, that the prophecy not only concerns the Jewish people, but also covers a 490-year duration of time.

(To Be Continued...)

Continued from Page 1: [Wednesday Nights Class Winter Quarter](#)

Beginning in January 2017 Pastor Andy Woods will be teaching Wednesday night Bible study at Sugar Land Bible Church for the **Winter quarter**. The focus of this class will be on "*The Kingdom*," which is the theme of the entire Bible. The material for this teaching will be the Bible but also biblical material as organized in Pastor Andy's recently published book entitled "The Coming Kingdom." This book was given out as a free resource a few months ago to all SLBC members and regular attenders. More copies will be supplied to all who desire to come to this class. The format will proceed a little differently than what folks may be used to. This class will ask and answer three basic questions: what does the Bible say about the subject of the kingdom? What are the key passages that many utilize to argue that we are in the kingdom now? Why does it matter what one believes about the kingdom? The format will proceed a little differently than what folks may be used to. First, we will be doing our teaching in the sanctuary. Second, the sessions will be videotaped and archived for the benefit of our missionaries who sometimes need theological guidance in certain areas and also for the benefit of our growing online church. Third, the basic format will include prayer from 6:45 to 7 PM, teaching from 7 to 8 PM, and questions and answers from 8 to 8:15 PM. We understand that some will have to leave at 8 pm sharp to collect their children and so they may not be able to stick around for the question and answer session. We are excited to be offering this new class for the benefit of the saints at Sugar Land Bible Church. We hope and pray that many will take advantage of this new opportunity. We are looking forward to what God will do through these sessions of study in "His Word." [\(This class will meet in the Sanctuary\)](#)

In Him, Andy

Sunday School Winter Session



Pastor Andy will continue his class on Soteriology meeting in the Sanctuary.

We hope and pray that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to come and study with us, and we look forward to what God will do in our lives, as we finish these sessions of study in "His Word.". 😊

New Series—Parables of the Kingdom Teacher—Bob Graper

Some folks are surprised to learn that these parables apply to the church age, called the “mystery” of the Kingdom. These parables follow the Pharisees’ final rejection of Jesus in Chapter 12. At this point, Jesus’ message changes. He no longer preaches to offer the Kingdom to Israel; and, He begins to teach about the future church using parables. In fact, one of the purposes of the parables was to obscure the truth from the Jews. Matt. 13:11 – ***“Jesus answered them [the disciples], ‘To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.’”*** Even the disciples found the parables hard to understand—so what chance do we have?

Well, fortunately, the Lord explains two of the parables to the disciples. So, if we use consistent symbology from the Lord’s explanations, and from the rest of scripture, we will find that the parables can be understood. We will also see that some of liberal theology’s “well accepted” explanations of the “unexplained” parables fall far short. We will also address one of the serious errors present in today’s churches—“kingdom Now Theology’”. Come and find out what the Lord has to teach us about the Church Age.

Fellowship Groups



First Colony East—Adults only

Hosts: Eric & Veronica Wasek

2803 Hidden Knoll Court—281-980-3742

Meets: 2nd & 4th Fridays at 7:00 pm

Leader: Earl Chandler—Continuing in Philipians

First Colony West—Children Welcome

Hosts: Keith & Judy Kurrus

2803 Pineleaf Dr.— 281-242-3031

Meets: 1st & 3rd Fridays at 7:00 pm

We have concluded our survey of the Minor Prophets, and the group would like to embark on a study of the gospel of Luke next year. As with the study of the Minor Prophets, we plan to have the men in our group prepare and present the material. **These would be Bruce, Andrie, Greg, Earl, and Hans** using the sources available in our church library with the Bible Commentary on Luke by Warren Wiersbe.

Young Couples Fellowship—Children Welcome

Host: Meet at SLBC in Fellowship Room

Meets 1st & 3rd Fridays at 6:30 pm

Coordinator: Andrea Merkin, 830-426-0927

Scripture for the Month: Revelation 4: 11

“You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”



Ladies Bible Study

Beginning Tuesday, January 10th, 2017

The new study in Galatians

"Free Indeed"

Will be Taught by Betty Cooke

Mornings at 9:00 am

Evenings at 7:00 pm

Ladies' Tea



Saturday, January 21, 2017

Meets at 2:00 pm

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