



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 37 YEARS
1982- 2019



THE CORNERSTONE

MARCH 2019

Ladies' Spring Friendship Luncheon

April 6, 2019

Location: Sugar Land Bible Church
401 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Phone number: 281-491-7773

Time: 11:00 am—2:00 pm

Speaker: Judy Cunningham

Topic: Walking By Faith

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6

Cost of Meal: \$15.00 for SLBC members and
regular attendees, **all guests are free!**

Sign-up Sheets are on table in
Foyer



Capturing Poland for Christ

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” II Cor. 4:7 (NIV)

Piotr Wiazowski Writes:

We, as Narew Baptist Church, have received refugee from Ukraine, a man named Oleg Horobej, two years ago. Gradually he brought his wife Oksjana and son Vitalik from Ukraine and now they live at our church house. Oleg comes from region of Donieck where the clashes with Russian army was the most heavy. As the war is raging in his part of homeland, he found peace and job in Narew. We like this family a lot as they are devoted Christians. All of them work in factory in Narew and support family in Ukraine sending money there. Oleg is my substitute at the pulpit preaching to our congregation when I am out preaching revival.

Oleg is also God’s gift to me. In my father’s office I found letters from Russia written in 80’and 90’. Those are “Thank you letters” from grateful Russians who express their thanks for Bibles and Christian literature received from my dad Dymitri. All of those letters are hand written in Russian and I am unable to read them. Every Sunday after the church Oleg reads 5-6 letters to me. Sometimes I see tears in his eyes, sometimes he sees them on my face. Letters are addressed from all over Russia - today’s separate countries: Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Baltic States and far Siberia. Many says about human poverty, hardships, extremely high food prices. In some letters I sense fear and restrains not to say too much about the state, some tell more boldly about the real life, but the thirst for Word of God breaths from every letter. In my future newsletters I do plan to write a column presenting those letters. And there are a lot of them- at least 3500 pieces.

I discover something deeper about my dad, he never displayed this to us. His devotion to the task, his courage - as it was illegal to do what he has done. Trafficking the Bibles and Christian literature was against the communist law.

Now I understand more about his partners with whom he did it. I knew he had network of faithful friends, but dad never told us about them. I found letters addressed to Grzegorz Ostaszewicz from town of Augustow near our hometown. Now I realize he was one of my dad’s partner in this mission, have never heard about him before.

I am glad my dad is still alive even the communication with him is getting more and more limited. I remember when I was a teenager, my dad never had time for me, never partici-



Andy Woods—Pastor

Twenty-Four Church and Israel Distinctions (Part 8)

One of the most rudimentary distinctions that the child of God needs to learn to rightly divide God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15) is the basic distinction between Israel and the Church. A common mistake in Bible interpretation is to take God's promises that are aimed at national Israel and instead to indiscriminately apply them to the Church and consequently the Church Age believer. There are, at a bare minimum, at least *twenty-four* differences between the Church and Israel. The purpose of this series is to highlight these basic differences. In prior installments, we saw the following distinctions: while Israel is the wife of Jehovah, the Church is the bride of Christ. Moreover, Israel birthed Christ whereas Christ birthed the Church. In addition, Christ will return for the Church in the Rapture while Christ will return for Israel at the end of the Tribulation period. Furthermore, while Jesus is the King of Israel, He is the groom and head of the Church. While eighty percent of the Bible relates to Israel, a mere twenty percent of it relates to the Church. Also, while Israel was a party to the Biblical covenants, the Church is a mere third-party beneficiary to them. In addition, another very significant difference between Israel and the Church is that the two entities have different birthdays. While Israel started in Genesis 12, the Church began in Acts 2. Finally, while Israel is a political nation, the Church is a spiritual organism. In this installment, we examine *two* further distinctions.

Distinction Number 9: Fighting Wars

Israel went out and fought political wars with the Philistines, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Amalekites, Jebusites, etc. As you read the Old Testament you will see that there is actual physical conflict going on. There are wars, armor, casualty counts, captives, and real people dying. There is no such similar New Testament description of the church. While we support and honor those that defend their country in a patriotic sense, the reality is that this is not a prerogative of the Church. Rather, such warfare relates to the institution of human government.

What kind of wars does the Church fight? Paul writes in Ephesians 6:12, "For our struggle *is not against flesh and blood* but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" (italics added). In other words, the church isn't instructed to armor up to fight against the nations of this world. Rather, we are instructed in Ephesians 6:11 to "Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." Thus, our whole conflict is spiritual while Israel's whole conflict was political and physical.

Here is why this distinction matters. You have got situations in Church history where the Church sees itself as the political vehicle of God to go over to the Middle East, through the Crusaders, and liberate Jerusalem from the Muslims. As they went, they were citing passages from the Old Testament as a basis for their military actions. The reality of the situation is that while God told Israel to do perform such military activities in Old Testament times, there are no similar instructions for the Church. Why? Because the Church is not involved in physical, political warfare. Rather, her calling is to be involved in spiritual warfare.

Distinction Number 10: Timing Statements

Here is an area of study that really convinced John Nelson Darby that Israel and the Church represent separate programs. Darby was baptizing about a hundred people per week and was having a great impact in his parish in Dublin, Ireland. However, the Lord wanted him to have even a greater impact. How did the Lord accomplish this? The Lord allowed Darby's leg to get broken causing

Darby to be put in a place of convalescence where he was not busy doing ministry any more. The only thing that Darby could do is to study the Word of God, and it was in this place of convalescence that the Holy Spirit illuminated to him the Israel-church distinction that we have been seeking to explain in this series of studies. It is from this Israel-church distinction that allowed Darby to convey the doctrine of the pre-tribulational Rapture of the Church. This doctrine has been trans-generationally taught since the time of Darby. Although the Lord could have continued to use Darby in his generation to do great things in ministry, the Lord clearly wanted him to do something even greater in his life and it took a broken leg to accomplish this. This is quite a different way of looking at trials. It is easy for us to think that being sidelined, sick, and consequently being taken out of the game so to speak is a great setback. However, without the sovereignty of God in Darby's life via his broken leg his transgenerational impact could not have happened.

During this time of convalescence and Bible study, one of the things that Darby started to see in the Scripture is what is called in Latin *a quo* and *ad quem* statements. These terms are simply Latin words that mean beginning and end. What Darby started to see in the Scripture was the fact that the nation of Israel frequently had a number depicting a beginning and ending point. For example, in Genesis, chapter 15 and verses 13-16, God said Israel is going to go into Egyptian bondage for four hundred years. "God said to Abram, 'Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed *four hundred years*. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. Then in the *fourth generation* they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete'" (italics added).

Also, in Jeremiah 25:11 and in Jeremiah 29:10, God similarly said the nation of Israel was going to go into the Babylonian captivity for seventy years. Jeremiah 25:11 says, "This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon *seventy years*." Jeremiah 29:10 similarly says, "For thus says the LORD, 'When *seventy years* have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place'" (italics added).

Furthermore, Ezekiel 4:5-7 says, "For I have assigned you a number of days corresponding to the years of their iniquity, *three hundred and ninety days*; thus, you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, but on your right side and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah; I have assigned it to you for *forty days, a day for each year*. Then you shall set your face toward the siege of Jerusalem with your arm bared and prophesy against it" (italics added). In other words, Ezekiel, was to lie on his side for 390 days and then to turn over and lie on his other side for 40 more days. The 390 days corresponds with 390 years of Israel's disobedience and the 40 days corresponds with the forty years of the southern kingdom's disobedience. Thus, what we see in Ezekiel's prophecies are actual years corresponding to actual events. Furthermore, God also gave Israel a 490-year stopwatch called the Seventy Weeks of Daniel (Dan. 9:24-27). In addition, the nation of Israel is given a calendar for spring feasts and for fall feasts (Lev. 23).

All this to say, Israel has numbers and calendars. As Darby was comparing these numerical statements to the biblical material covering the New Testament Church, he observed that there were no similar calendar and numbers in the New Testament related to the Church. Why is it that Israel had all these numbers, dates, and calendars, and yet when we go into the New Testament and read what God says about the Church there is not one similar date or even a calendar given?

Therefore, we see *a quo* and *ad quem* statements related to Israel but not even one such statement related to the Church. As a result, Darby began to conclude that Israel and the Church must represent completely different organisms, and if they are indeed different, then Christ is coming back at a different time for the Church than He is for Israel. Thus, from this Israel-church distinction Darby naturally became a proponent of the pre-tribulational Rapture, when God will remove the Church from the earth prior to dealing with Israel during the seven-year Tribulation.

pated in my activities, hobbies, never kicked the ball with me and my colleagues, never went on holidays with us as a family.

When I was in Dallas Seminary as DTS student and visited my friends and supporters: the Underwood's family, I saw George throwing ball with his teenage son Baxter right on the street in front of their house. The thought came throughout my mind : "my dad never did it with me", and I was 30+ years old. Today I am 60, and digging through my dad's documentary correspondence I realize that he left the inheritance to me. I did not know then that I can build my life and faith upon. I want to carry the picture of my dad in my heart who was faithful, courageous and persevering in distributing the written Gospel to people and countries where there was such a hunger for the Word of God.

When his parents passed away (they lived in the country) my dad dismantled their small wooden house and brought it in parts to his home. Then he added to our family house, turning into his mission office.

My dad at age 70.



-my dad Dymitri

My dad was not outspoken man. Yet I discover that those above Bible words were also his unspoken instructions to me. In one of the letters from Russia, written to my dad, I realize he was proud - almost bragging that I studied theology in Texas. Yet he never express it to me personally. And now I realize that God is sending me to share the Gospel verbally to former Russia Republic- now independent countries -where my dad could not go, but was reaching them with written Word of God.

Grazyna's mom broke her leg before Christmas and spend Christmas at the hospital. Now she is living with us and mostly my wife cares for her. Please pray for her recovery. Her name is Maria (age 85). Carolina , younger daughter, and her boyfriend Piotrek are helping me with the transportation, visits and food distribution. My dad , due to growing dementia, required to be placed at the house for aging people, so we brought him from his home to our city of Bialystok. His pension is not enough to cover the costs so \$ 200,- monthly is now on our shoulders. This is our prayer request we bring before the throne of our Lord. Dad did a lot for the Lord in the past here in Poland and Russia and was such an inspiration to my ministry and always loved to help others. It's hard to watch him : once strong and helpful , now require care from others in daily life.

Late February I will be traveling to Lithuania to met pastors and plan missions events in their cities and towns. Please pray for safe travel and pastors there. (February 23-25) Please pray about it.

In His Name,

Piotr Wiazowski

“WHO’s Who at SLBC”

by Ashlynn Morris



Pastor Jim McGowan

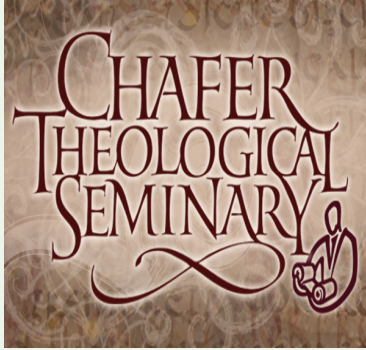


Pastor Jim McGowan is the associate pastor at SLBC. He and his wife have been coming to SLBC for 17 years! He is known for his cheerful disposition and is always outside after church saying hello to everyone. Pastor McGowan’s favorite verse is **2 Timothy 2:1–2**, *“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”* He especially appreciates this verse because he is a teacher. When asked what his favorite attribute of God was, he simply answered, “All of them.”

Pastor McGowan and his wife, Sandra, have two daughters and two grandchildren. Mr. McGowan’s interests include anything that involves firearms, flying and cycling. He has made mission trips to Mexico, Guatemala, Bolivia, and Kenya. He owns a 2010 Harley-Davidson, Ultra Limited motorcycle and loves to ride his Cruzbike, which is a recumbent bike. Pastor Jim is also certified by the Texas Department of Public Safety as an LTC instructor, and a Secondary School teacher in the state of Texas.

Pastor Jim is a great leader at SLBC and is always friendly to everyone he meets. We are blessed to have him as a part of the SLBC staff.

UPCOMING EVENTS



March 11-13, 2019

The focus will be on Critical Issues in Old Testament Studies, including those related to Messianic prophecies!

The conference will be held at the:
West Houston Bible Church,

Andy Woods Min. YouTube Channel

Andy Woods Ministries' YouTube Channel seeks to show you Bible exposition and systematic theology courses, as well as interviews and discussions concerning the Bible. Please, enjoy the various videos and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. Don't forget to subscribe!



Scripture for the Month!

Psalm 36:6-7

Your mercy, O Lord, *is* in the heavens; Your faithfulness *reaches* to the clouds. Your righteousness *is* like the great mountains; Your judgments *are* a great deep; O Lord, You preserve man and beast. How precious *is* Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.

Do you want to know how practical all of this is? Many churches seek to impose a Christian calendar upon their congregations. They have got their whole calendar system worked out. However, at some point, you must ask, “why in the world are we doing that when God never gave the church a calendar?” Although a calendar at times can be a convenient organizing tool, the reality that is that the Church has such a different spiritual DNA than Israel, it simply is not given a calendar. Israel has a calendar while the Church does not have a calendar.

Let me take this one step further just to demonstrate the practicality of this distinction. Many believe that the Rapture must occur on *Rosh Hashanah*, which is the Jewish Feast of Trumpets. They say, “Paul talks about a trumpet associated with the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:52) and so let us connect that trumpet with Israel’s Feast of Trumpets on the Jewish calendar.” Sadly, there are many Christians who have used this as a basis to set a calendar date for the Rapture. They do so because they do not have a correct understanding that Israel and the Church in fact represent distinct divine programs. Thus, a faulty understanding of this distinction can negatively impact other areas of Theology, such as Eschatology.

Why would people take the Rapture, which is dateless event for the Church, and impose upon that event a calendar date which concerns Israel? The reason that they do so is that they lack a proper understanding of the Israel-Church distinction. There are churches today that are completely wrapped up in these Jewish feasts and they make it sound as if you do not celebrate these feasts then you are somehow outside the will of God. Although I want you to be aware of the Jewish feasts because you must understand these feasts in order to understand the Bible, it must be remembered that the feasts were never designed to be imposed directly on the Church. Why? The reason being is because Israel and the Church represent separate programs. How could you set a calendar date for the Rapture, which is a Church-Age event, when the church by nature lacks a calendar? Thus, properly comprehending the Israel-Church distinction, spares one from much Eschatological confusion rampant today in the body of Christ today.

What have we seen thus far in our series? Israel is different than the Church in the sense that Israel is the wife of Jehovah and the Church is the bride of Christ. Furthermore, Israel birthed Christ whereas Christ birthed the Church. In addition, Christ will return for the Church in the Rapture while Christ will return for Israel at the end of the Tribulation period. Moreover, while Jesus is the King of Israel, He is the groom and head of the Church. While eighty percent of the Bible relates to Israel, a mere twenty percent of it relates to the Church. Also, while Israel was a party to the Biblical covenants, the Church is a mere third-party beneficiary to them. In addition, while Israel began in Genesis 12, the Church began in Acts 2. Furthermore, while Israel is a political nation, the Church is a spiritual organism. Also, while the Israel fought physical battles, the Church fights spiritual battles. Finally, although Israel is characterized by time texts and calendars, the Church has no similar characteristic. These major distinctions constitute the first *ten* of the *twenty-four* differences between Israel and the Church that will be highlighted in this series.

(To Be Continued...)

