



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



# THE CORNERSTONE

FEBRUARY 2019



On Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, our guest speaker for both the adult Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45AM) and the main service (11:30AM-12:30PM) will be Dr. Thomas Ice.

His topic will be  
"The End Times Program as revealed in the Book of Deuteronomy" (parts 1-2).

Dr. Ice is the Executive Director of The Pre-Trib. Research Center ([www.pre-trib.org](http://www.pre-trib.org)) located at the Calvary University campus where Dr. Ice currently serves as a full-time Professor of Theology. The Center has its annual meetings in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. He co-founded The Center in 1994 along with Dr. Tim LaHaye to research, teach, and defend the pretribulation rapture and related Bible prophecy doctrines. Dr. Ice has authored and co-authored over 30 books, written hundreds of articles, and is a frequent conference speaker. He has also served as a pastor for 17 years. Dr. Ice has a B.A. from Howard Payne University, a Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary, a Ph.D. from Tyndale Theological Seminary, and has done post-doctoral work at the University of Wales in the United Kingdom.



## Missions for the Month

### THE SAMUEL CENTER GUATEMALA

#### *Christmas With the Blessing Of Christ Jesus*



*Greetings in the name of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Wishing that the peace of Christ reign in your lives, alongside your family, grandchildren and those around you.*

*Thanks to God we completed the activities with the children. On Tuesday, December 11 we held the CHRISTMAS PARTY. This day the activity was in the morning followed by a delicious lunch.*

*We carried out the spiritual activity, with special parts prepared by the children. The atmosphere was very elegant, as the children came very well dressed, just as God has blessed them, the tree with the Christmas decorations, as well as the tables. There was also a reflection on the Christmas story. We are therefore very grateful to our God, as well as to our donors. May God bless each one.*

*At the end of the activity the gifts were distributed, which the children with much joy expressed. Thank you again dear brothers and sisters. If it is the will of God we look forward to the new year with joy.*





Andy Woods—Pastor

## Twenty-Four Church and Israel Distinctions (Part 7)

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, as has been developed in the last few installments, 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. In this installment, we examine yet another distinction.

### Distinction Number 8: A Nation vs. A Spiritual Body

Israel is a political nation. As you study the Old Testament, you quickly discover that she has very easily defined borders, just like any other nation on earth. God, in Genesis 15:18, defines Israel's borders from modern-day Egypt to modern-day Iraq, when He says, "On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.'" Those are not her identical borders today, nor have they ever been her exact historical borders, but one day in the future Millennial Kingdom, they will be. Not only does she have borders, but she also has a capital. When the nation of Israel was divided up, following the reign of Solomon (1 Kgs. 11), into the northern kingdom, consisting of the ten northern tribes, and the southern kingdom, consisting of the remaining two southern tribes, the capital of the north became Samaria and the capital of the south became Jerusalem. Also, as you go through the Old Testament, you will see not only borders and capitals, but you will also see kings, because these two split sections of the nation were governed by various kings. Most of them were not that good. The northern kingdom had 19 kings and not even one of them was designated as good. The southern kingdom had 20 kings with only 8 of them being good. All of this information is recorded in the Books of First and Second Kings. Why did Israel have borders, capitals, and kings? Such earthly entities were a necessity since Israel was created as a nation.

Let us now compare all of this to the Church. Does the Church have borders, capitals, or kings? Not at all. In fact, Paul explains that the Church is "not a nation" in Romans 10:19 when he says, "But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, 'I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION, BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU.'" Here, Paul notes that the Church, the very entity that is presently provoking national Israel to jealousy, is not a nation. Why is the Church not considered a nation? The Church consists of people, as Paul explains in Galatians 3:28, that are "neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." The Church consists of all people, regardless of national identity or ethnicity, who have trusted in the very Messiah that was rejected by the leadership of first-century, national Israel. Consequently, we, as the Church, are a body, or a spiritual man, comprised from *all* of the nations. We are not defined by an ethnic or physical race, nation, capital, tribes, kings, and borders. In fact, what God has done in the present Church Age is that He has made both groups, believing Jews and Gentiles, into *one* new spiritual person (Eph. 2:14-16).

Furthermore, rather than being described as just another earthly nation, if the Church is called anything in the New Testament, it is called a pilgrim in this present world. In First Peter 2:11, describing the Church, Peter says, "Beloved, I urge you as *aliens and strangers* to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war

against the soul.” Here, Peter describes New Testament believers as mere “aliens and strangers” who are merely sojourning here on earth because this world is not our home. By contrast, Israel is never described that way. Israel, by contrast, is right at home in the world. Why is that? Because she is a nation just like the United States of America, Canada, Argentina, Japan, Venezuela, Brazil, or any other nation in world history. In fact, when the United Nations meets, right there at the table is the nation of Israel alongside all the other nations of the world, because she has a place in this world as given by God as a political entity and a political nation. Not so with the Church. The Church is a non-nation.

You might ask, “is all of this merely rambling on about things that are not practical?” Allow me to explain how practical all of this is. The Roman Catholic Church, which sees itself as the new Israel and as the manifestation of the kingdom of God upon the earth, believes that all of Israel’s blessings have been transferred to them and consequently they presently function and act like a nation. The Roman Catholic Church has a capital, called Vatican City. In fact, the Roman Catholic Church is quite active in seeking to influence the politics of the present world. The Roman Catholic Church also has a kind of king, or Pope, who serves as a papal-type leader. All of this makes sense only if you understand that the Roman Catholic Church views itself as the new Israel. If they are indeed the new Israel, they must act like a nation. But you see, such a present-day regal activity is not the calling of the Church according to the New Testament. The Church, by contrast, transcends national borders and is a spiritual man. The Church represents a spiritual body worldwide that has gone into all nations. If the Church becomes confused on something this basic, then it changes our present purpose in the world.

Politics is not the primary task of the Church. Although the Church can play a political role in terms of temporarily restraining evil (2 Thess. 2:6-7) by supporting biblically-based political candidates, the fact of the matter is Jesus did not tell the Church to go into the world and subdue its political systems. Rather, the primary purpose of the Church is to go and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20). The Church is not about promoting collective salvation for nations, but rather preaching personal salvation to individuals. When the Church gets confused on this basic point, it begins to talk more and more about social causes, such as universal health care, the green agenda, wealth redistribution, social justice, and white privilege. However, these kinds of earthly things by the design of God were never intended to be the Church’s focus. After all, Paul clearly explained in Colossians 3:1-2, “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” Our ultimate citizenship is in heaven (Philip. 3:20). Rather, the Church’s focus should be to go and make disciples of all nations by way of first offering the way of salvation in the name of Jesus Christ by personal belief.

The problem with humanity is not that they do not have the right political system. Rather, the problem with humanity is personal sin, which separates us all from a Holy God. Human beings are headed towards a Christ-less eternity unless they first trust in the gospel’s message. That is the message of the Church. This simple message quickly gets lost amid an earthly agenda when the Church mistakenly sees itself as a nation rather than a spiritual body.

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. Finally, while Israel is a political nation, the Church is a spiritual organism. These major distinctions constitute the first *eight* of the *twenty-four* differences between Israel and the Church that will be highlighted in this series.

(To Be Continued...)



# Ladies' Spring Friendship Luncheon

**Ladies Please mark your calendars**

**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, and 6**

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

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

**Sign-up Sheets on table in Foyer**



**Video Archive—We archive all our Live-streamed services. To enjoy all your favorite teachings, just go to this link: [www.slbc.org/media/sermon-archives/](http://www.slbc.org/media/sermon-archives/)...and be sure to tell your friends too!**

## “WHO’s Who at SLBC”

by Ashlynn Morris



## The Children’s Ministry

The Children’s Ministry is another one of SLBC’s exciting ministries. The Children’s Ministry runs VBS, Wednesday Night Kid’s Club, and Christmas programs. The leader of this amazing ministry is Miss KC Cunningham, who is known for her sweet spirit and servant’s heart. Teaching kids of all ages is one of her favorite things to do. Miss KC is not only the Children’s Director, but also manages bookkeeping for SLBC. She and her family started coming to SLBC in 2012. “My favorite part of ministry is working with children. It can be hard and trying at times but the joy I receive in return far outweighs any difficulties I might encounter. Children are sponges and they have such a capacity and desire to learn. To watch each of them grow and mature in the Lord is such a blessing and a motivator for me. When it comes to God’s word, they are unshamed and will share with anyone that will listen. Honestly, I wish we were all like that.” KC’s favorite verse is Romans 8:37-39, because it reminds her of our victory in Christ.



Miss KC has been to China three times to teach English to school children. She also taught English online to Chinese families, kindergarten to college, for two years. She has a brown belt in Tae Kwon Do and loves playing cards and board games with her family and friends. She loves hands on projects, including cooking with her son, Ethan.

Miss KC is an awesome teacher and great friend. I’m sure she’d love to meet you.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

February 3, 2019– Communion Sunday and Fellowship Lunch

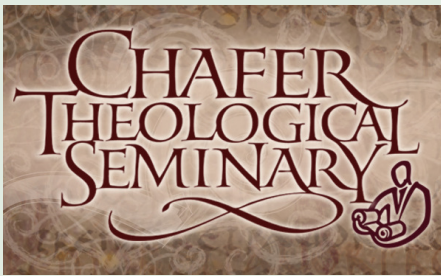
Dr. Thomas Ice—Special Guest Speaker

February 10, 2019—Mission's Committee Meeting—1:00 pm

February 17, 2019—Sugar Land Health Care Center—2:00 pm

March 11-13, 2019—Chafer Conference

## Chafer Conference



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,

## Scripture for the Month!



### Deuteronomy 29:29

*The secret things belong to the Lord  
our God, but those things which are  
revealed belong to us and to our children  
forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*



TEENAGERS



2ND & 3RD GRADERS



4TH-6TH GRADERS



PRESCHOOLERS



**THIS WAS HOW THE EMBRACING ACTIVITY OF CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTMAS PARTY TOOK PLACE. WE WANT TO THANK OUR GOD AND OUR SPONSORS FOR THE GREAT LOVE TO THESE LITTLE ONES. GOD BLESS YOU!**

**ATTENTIVELY: "SAMUEL"  
STUDENT CENTER, TEACHING  
STAFF AND ADMINISTRATOR  
ENRIQUE AJQUEJAY.**

*The Samuel Center—Guatemala  
centersamuel15@hotmail.com*

