



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



THE CORNERSTONE

October 2019

Notes from the Sugar Land Bible Library

Submitted by Marilyn Graper



We have been blessed by many contributions of materials from people in our church and we want to make you aware of some of them. We now have 44 DVD's from *Worldview Weekend Productions* that feature well known Christian speakers on topics such as: "Six worldviews that rule the world by David Noebel"; "The Incredible Faith of Atheism by Dr. Frank Harber"; "Countering the Lies about Jesus Christ and God by Dr. Edwin Lutzer".

We also have been given over 60 DVD's from the John Ankerberg's Show (Ankerberg Theological Institute) on subjects such as the Nativity, The Passion of Christ, Seduction of Cults, War on Terrorism, Biblical Geology,

"Is God on America's side?" "Our nation at the crossroads"
"Jesus Christ: Liar, Lunatic, Legend or God." Many have study guides and can be used for personal or group study.

Other materials were also added from the Youth's trip to the Ark & from the Creation Museum. They include DVD's and Books that help answer questions about Dinosaur's, Dragons, and what kinds of animals were on the Ark, etc. These are meant for children and adults alike.

So many of you have also donated books and DVD's. Thank You, Thank You! They help to make our Library a valuable source of information for the whole family.

Why not come into the Library and check out all these new additions. You can also visit our church website. (SLBC.org – Resources: Library Catalog) to explore the contents of our Library.



Missions for the Month



The following is taken from the June 2019 newsletter and an August 17 letter from Jim and Phyllis Myers.

We are so thankful for the prayers, support and encouragement that come from our association with Sugar Land Bible Church.

Our focus is on training nationals for the work of the ministry. Our primary work is with the Word of God Bible College and Word of God Church in Kiev, Ukraine. We are involved in evangelism, church planting, and teaching Bible and theology so that they are able to do so without a continuing reliance on foreign missionaries. Our Bible college graduates have planted several churches throughout Ukraine and have also gone into ministry in other places as well. We also have missionaries from Ukraine that we have trained who are now serving the Lord in Turkey and Russia.

We put on Bible conferences in other churches and teach in other Bible schools as well. For many years we have been putting on Bible conferences in the African countries of Zambia and Malawi, and in Brazil.

This is our 27th year of ministry in the former Soviet Union, and, God willing, we intend to keep on keeping on.

The past four months have been packed with so many opportunities to teach the Word of God. In February I filled the pulpit every week at a local church in Kiev while also teaching at Word of God Church. In addition to this I worked with Mark Musser in two other churches to put on DM2 workshops in Romans and Colossians. Altogether this amounted to more than 30 hours of teaching. But this would pale in comparison with the next three months.



Jim teaching a conference on Romans in Kiev



Ministry in Brazil

In March I made my annual journey to Brazil, putting on conferences over a span of three weeks in four different cities, often teaching 4-6 hours a day.

**Andy Woods—Pastor**

Twenty-four Church and Israel Distinctions (15)

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. Moreover, while Israel is a political nation, the Church is a spiritual organism. Also, while Israel fought physical battles, the Church fights spiritual battles. Furthermore, although Israel is characterized by time texts and calendars, the Church has no similar timing characteristics. In addition, while Israel had a priesthood, the Church is a priesthood. Moreover, although Israel had a physical structure called the temple, today the temple of God consists of not only the believer's individual body but also the corporate gathering of God's people. Also, not only will Israel and the Church be resurrected at different times, but they will also be judged at different times and places as well. Moreover, Israel and the Church are different in the sense that both will comprise different features of the New Jerusalem, and initial membership is granted on a different basis. Membership to Israel is granted based on physical ethnicity while membership to the universal Church takes place only through regeneration or the new birth that is the result of salvation through faith alone in Christ alone. In addition, Israel and the Church are different in the sense that each is governed by a different source of Scriptural authority. While Israel receives her primary cues from the Mosaic Law, New Testament revelation in general and the epistolary material are directly binding upon the Church. Moreover, Israel and the Church enjoy different relationships with the same Holy Spirit. Finally, Israel and the Church have completely different farewell addresses. In this installment, we will examine *two* further distinctions.

Distinction Number 20: The Designation

What is the nation of Israel called? She is called God's firstborn son. Moses writes in Exodus 4:22, "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, "Israel is My son, My firstborn."'" Have you ever wondered why God, in the tenth Egyptian plague (Exod. 11:1–12:36), killed all of the firstborn all over Egypt? It is related to Exodus 4:22. Do you remember what God said in the Abrahamic covenant to Israel in Genesis 12:3? "And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." Because Egypt mistreated God's first-born son Israel, God in turn brought judgment upon the firstborn of the Egyptians in the tenth plague. Thus, the tenth plague is an outworking of Exodus 4:22, where the nation of Israel is designated as God's first-born son, and Genesis 12:3, which promises concerning Israel, "the one who curses you I will curse."

Since we are on the topic, have you ever wondered why God drowned the pursuing Egyptians in the Red Sea? God could have killed those Egyptians in any way He wanted. For example, He could have sent a hurricane, a lightning bolt, an earthquake, a tsunami, or He could have opened the ground like He did against the rebels in Numbers 16. However, He parted the Red Sea and the Egyptians foolishly went through the parted waters and God drowned them. Why did He drown them? The answer goes back to Exodus 1:22

where the Egyptians were drowning the Hebrew babies in the Nile. Thus, God opted to also drown the Egyptians. Again, such a judgment was an outworking of Genesis 12:3, “the one who curses you I will curse.”

Therefore, the nation of Israel is called God’s firstborn son. Apparently, in the rest of the Bible, God took this designation quite seriously. The Church, on the other hand, is *never* designated as God’s firstborn. Rather, our designation is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-33). My main point here is that the Church is designated as something completely and totally different than the nation of Israel.

Distinction Number 21: Revelation in the Old Testament

Is the nation of Israel revealed in the Old Testament? Of course, it is! Beginning in Genesis 12 and moving forward, the Old Testament is all about Israel. The nation of Israel continues to be spoken of in the New Testament. In Romans 9–11, Paul deals specifically with the nation of Israel. Here, Paul does not come along and re-teach everything in the Old Testament concerning Israel. The New Testament is not redundant. It is not going to restate everything that has already been spelled out in the Old Testament, but it will sum up key points. In other words, the nation of Israel is a two-testament people group. They are dominant in the Old Testament and they are spoken of quite frequently in the New Testament as well.

Compare that to the Church. Is the Church found in the New Testament? Yes, it is. Is the Church found anywhere in the Old Testament? No, it is not. There is not a single word about the Church in the Old Testament. You can read the Old Testament repeatedly and you will *not* find any reference to the Church as a new body consisting of Jews and Gentiles in one new spiritual man. You will not find the Church Age concept anywhere in the Old Testament. Furthermore, the concept of the Church is hardly even mentioned in the Gospels. Christ was functioning during His ministry under the Old Testament Mosaic Law (Gal. 4:4). Israel, the offer of the kingdom, and her turning down of that offer is still center stage. It is not until Matthew 16:18, where Jesus says, “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it” that we receive any initial hint concerning the Church. At this point, perhaps Christ’s disciples were asking, “Church, what Church?” First off, notice the verb tense of this word “build.” This verb is in the future tense, meaning the Church was not something contemporaneous with the earthly life of Christ. It was not functioning during Christ’s earthly ministry but rather was something totally future.

Said another way, the Church is a New Testament doctrine only and it is barely spoken of in the Gospels. Not so the nation of Israel. Israel is not a one-testament people group as is the Church. What exactly is the Church? The Church is a mystery. Ephesians 3:3-6, of the Church, says, “³ that by revelation there was made known to me the *mystery*, as I wrote before in brief. ⁴ By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the *mystery* of Christ, ⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶ to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (italics added).

That begs another question, namely, what, then is a mystery? A mystery is a truth never revealed thus far. This is the New Testament concept of “mystery.” Elsewhere, Paul defines a mystery as “that which has been hidden from past ages and generations but now has been manifested” (Col. 1:26). Part of the confusion here is that people define this word “mystery” with an English definition. The English definition of a mystery is something that must be searched out with great diligence. For example, if you are reading a mystery novel, you will likely not even know who the bad guy is until the last chapter. If you are watching a mystery movie, you will likely not know who the bad guy is until the last five minutes.

That, however, is not how the Greeks used the word mystery. The New Testament was written in Greek, and the word *musterion*, translated as “mystery” in the English Bible, refers to something previously hidden but



Ministry in Zambia

After returning to Ukraine I had just a few days to rest before going to western Ukraine for a two week course at a Bible college. I returned to Kiev for a wonderful celebration of our Lord's resurrection, then left a few days later to go to Southern Africa. We had conferences in three different cities in Zambia and then went to Malawi for another week of teaching there. I travelled with three Zambian pastors I have been training for several years. It is a great joy to see how these men have matured in the faith and who are now able to help with the teaching. While in Africa I had an allergic reaction to something and developed a rash that covered my entire body. Along with that I got

some kind of infection that required a course in antibiotics to get rid of once I returned to Ukraine.

But I thank God that He enabled me to complete the teaching in spite of the maladies.



Ordination of Oleg Lozinski, pastor of Word of God Church



2019 graduating class, Word of God Bible College in Kiev

.Upon my return I taught a two-week module at Word of God Bible College. In the middle of that we had an ordination service for Oleg Lozinski. Oleg, who has been with us for 15 years, serves as director of the Bible College and as pastor of Word of God Church. It is so gratifying to see people, such as Oleg, that we have trained, actively involved in ministry.



Andrei and Lena Kasmovich, new members of Word of God Church. Andrei will minister as a Bible teacher and interpreter, Lena as music director

Then on the last day of May we had a graduation ceremony at Word of God College. We graduated six students this year, and already several of them are slated to begin ministries in their home churches.

“WHO’s Who at SLBC”

by Ashlynn Morris

Mrs. Pat Chandler



For this month’s article, I decided to feature the very person who publishes these articles, Mrs. Pat Chandler, the Editor in chief of the SLBC Cornerstone. You may have seen her on stage singing with the worship team, teaching the kids at SLBC’s Wednesday Night Kids Club, or ministering to women at one of SLBC’s Ladies Bible Studies. Mrs. Chandler is very generous, and is one of the most thoughtful people I’ve met at SLBC.

Mrs. Chandler and her husband, Earl, have been attending SLBC since 1999. Together they have 3 children and 10 grandchildren. One of Mrs. Chandler’s favorite Bible verses is Deuteronomy 5:29, “Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!”

“I have many favorite verses” she said, “but this one I really love because it showed me the Heart of God”. I asked her what her favorite attribute of God was, and she gave a beautiful answer. “ God is Holy, God is Faithful, God is Love, and I know that God is a God of Justice and Righteousness, and so much more. God can be trusted to do what He says He will do. What is right and Just and In His time. I love to watch God working in the things that I attempt,” she said,” and seeing what comes of it”



Mrs. Chandler’s favorite songs include “His Name is Jesus” and “Great is Thy Faithfulness”. She enjoys working outdoors, and watching God’s creation around her. Mrs. Pat loves intriguing mystery books and modern day technology. “I love how God wants us to use our gifts and talents to serve Him and He gives us the insight and the ability to do what He wants us to do. Of myself, I can do nothing.”

Known for her kindness and thoughtfulness, Mrs. Chandler has always been a faithful volunteer at SLBC. She is a wonderful friend, and would be more than happy to meet you if you haven’t already.



Phyllis teaching women's conference



Street evangelism using reproductions of paintings that have Bible themes.



Trey, Elizabeth and Remington

How we praise God for giving us such a wonderful ministry as well as the health and stamina to do it. We know that this is all a matter of grace. We are also thankful for all of you who pray for us. We are confident that through your faithful prayers we have been sustained. Your faithful support is so much appreciated. Thank you.

By grace alone,

Jim and Phyllis



Scripture of the Month

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a *word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. **Ephesians 4:29-32**

now revealed. That is why you cannot find the Church anywhere in the Old Testament and just a few veiled hints of it in the Gospels. That is what the word “mystery” means. According to Vines Bible Dictionary, “in the New Testament *mysterion* denotes not the mysterious, as with the English word, but that which is outside the range of being naturally knowable and can only be made known by divine revelation in a manner and time appointed by God.” Paul specifically calls the Church a mystery in Ephesians 3:8-9: “⁸To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light what is the administration of the *mystery* which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things” (italics added). Paul then specifies what the mystery is exactly. He writes in Ephesians 3:6, “to be specific that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” In other words, the mystery is a new spiritual man consisting of believing Jews and believing Gentiles on equal footing as “fellow heirs. . . members. . . and partakers.” This is the mystery. It is a time period when the Jewish race and Hebrew nation is not elevated and preeminent over the Gentiles in the outworking of God’s purposes.

Keep in mind that the Jews had been functioning the old way for 1,500 years, and when God changed the rules in Acts 2, it took them a while to catch up to exactly what God was now doing. Remember, Peter saw the vision of the sheet in Acts 10. What was in the sheet? Within it were animals that a Jew is not permitted to eat according to the Mosaic Law. Then God said to Peter in Acts 11:7, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” Peter then responded with one of the greatest oxymorons found in the whole Bible. In Acts 11:8, he said, “By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.” If He is really your Lord, then why are you telling Him “no”? This represents a self-contradicting idea. It is like saying “jumbo shrimp,” “reasonable attorney’s fees,” or “civil war.” These are two notions that just do not go together.

Why would Peter tell the Lord “no?” God changed the rules and Peter had not caught on yet because Peter was still functioning the old way as the nation of Israel had been for the last 1,500 years under the Mosaic Law. When Paul set out on his first missionary journey (Acts 13–14) and the Gentiles started getting saved in mass (Acts 13:48), what does the Jewish leadership of the Church then do? They wanted to make Jewish proselytes out of these new Gentile-Christian converts by making them submit to the ritual of circumcision and by placing them under the Law of Moses. The Jewish-Christian leadership then had to have a meeting in Acts 15 to discern the will of the Lord, which was that the rules had changed. When did the rules change? They changed back in Acts 2, but the Church’s leadership had not caught on yet. After discerning the will of the Lord, the apostles then concluded that to be a member of the Church you do not have to become a Jew. If that decision had gone the other way, the Church would have kept functioning like Israel had been functioning since the time of Moses for the last 1,500 years.

As you might recall, to grow in a knowledge of Yahweh in Old Testament times, one had to convert to Judaism. Such Gentiles were called proselytes (Matt. 23:15). Who was the most famous proselyte in the Old Testament? Ruth! She was not a Hebrew, but rather she was from the land of Moab, which is on the other side of the Jordan, and an adjacent nation. Through the story of Ruth and her contact with Naomi she became a believer in the God of Israel. Consequently, what did she have to do in order to grow in the knowledge of her newfound faith? Ruth, the Moabitess, said to Naomi, her Hebrew mother-in-law, “Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God” (Ruth 1:16). In other words, Ruth became a proselyte and came under the Mosaic Law. What the Jewish Christian leaders were trying to figure out in Acts 15 was this: do we make all these Gentiles who just got saved, proselytes? Do we continue to function as Israel functioned going all the way back to the time of Moses and the Law? The answer was no because they discerned that the rules had changed back in Acts 2 (Acts 15:11).

All this to say, what you have in the age of the Church is a new spiritual man where the Jews are no longer in a place of preeminence over the Gentiles. The primary servants for God in the prior age was the Hebrew nation. All the spiritual blessings to the rest of the world spilled over from the Hebrew nation (Gen. 12:3; Isa. 42:6; 49:6). But that is *not* how it works in the present Church Age. Today, as has been happening for the last 2,000 years, the primary servant of God is the Church consisting of some Jews but mostly Gentiles formed in

a new spiritual man. This new spiritual man is not a nation (Rom. 10:19), but rather represents the spiritual body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). This is the mystery. This is the new disclosure. It started in Acts 2, but the apostles did not figure out what was going on until later. Consequently, God raised up Paul, not to start the new man, but rather to explain it. There is a lot of confusion here where many people think the Church started with Paul. Paul did not start the Church. Man never starts a new work of God. God started the Church in Acts 2, but God later raised up Paul to explain what He had already started.

What I am trying to get at is simply this: the nation of Israel is a two-testament, both Old Testament and New Testament, people group. The Church is not. You are only going to find the Church in the pages of the New Testament. There is not even much information revealed about it in the Gospels. The Church is revealed primarily in the Book of Acts and in the epistles. Are you starting to see how vastly different Israel is as compared to the Church? The Church has a totally different designation. Israel is called God's firstborn son and the Church is never called that. Also, the Church is revealed in the New Testament only while the nation of Israel is disclosed in both testaments.

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 Israel fought physical battles, the Church fights spiritual battles. Moreover, although Israel is characterized by time texts and calendars, the Church has no similar characteristics. In addition, while Israel had a priesthood, the Church is a priesthood. Furthermore, although Israel had a physical structure called the temple, today the temple of God consists of not only the believer's individual body but also the corporate gathering of God's people. In addition, not only will Israel and the Church be resurrected at different times, but they will also be judged at different times and places as well. Moreover, Israel and the Church are different in the sense that both will comprise different features of the New Jerusalem, and initial membership is granted on a different basis. Membership to Israel is granted based on physical ethnicity while membership to the universal Church takes place only through regeneration or the new birth that is the result of salvation through faith alone in Christ alone. Furthermore, Israel and the Church are different in the sense that each is governed by a different source of Scriptural authority. While Israel receives her primary cues from the Mosaic Law, New Testament revelation in general and the epistolary material are directly binding upon the Church. Also, Israel and the Church enjoy different relationships with the same Holy Spirit. Moreover, Israel and the Church have completely different farewell addresses. In addition, the Church and Israel are designated differently. Finally, while information concerning Israel is found in both the Old and New Testaments, information about the Church is found only in the New Testament. These major distinctions constitute the first *twenty-one* of the *twenty-four* differences between Israel and the Church that will be highlighted in this series.

(To Be Continued...)



Baptism Classes Announced!

Dear SLBC Church Family,

We have scheduled 2 Baptism Classes (**attendance at only one is required**). Please see the dates below:

- **Sunday, October 6, 2019**
- **Sunday, October 13, 2019**

These classes will be held during the normal Sunday School hour (**9:45AM – 10:45AM**), in the **Conference Room #107**, across from the Church Library (*unless otherwise noted*). Information on the subsequent Baptismal Service will be forthcoming, so stay tuned for that.

If you or a family member desire to be baptized, please respond to this email as soon as possible **with the full name of the Candidate for Baptism as it should appear on the Baptismal Certificate**. ***IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED AND SUBMITTED YOUR INFORMATION, THERE IS NO NEED TO REPLY AGAIN.***

Also, please take time to carefully review the information in the attached link "A Baptism Guide for Adults, Parents, and Children" with each candidate for baptism, BEFORE the class meets.

SLBC POLICY REQUIRES THAT ALL CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM ATTEND "ONE" SCHEDULED BAPTISM CLASS PRIOR TO BEING BAPTIZED.

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