



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



THE CORNERSTONE

JULY 2019



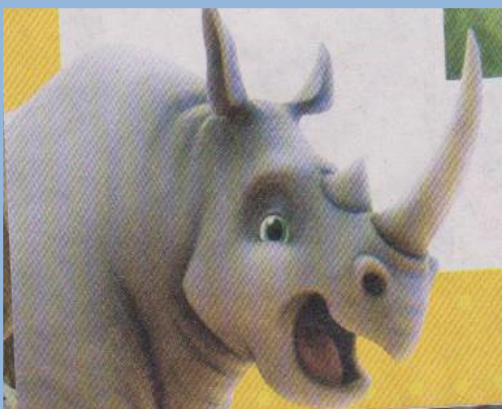
VBS!

It's that time!! We plan to have several workdays to prepare for the final count down to VBS. As soon as the Ark trip is over....our final workdays will begin. We will hit VBS hard starting on **July 3rd**.



Our individual stations leaders will be working on decorating their rooms, some of them may need some help. There is also lots of work to be done getting the stage décor in place. if you are interested in helping, please contact KC at the Church office at 281-491-7773.

There are still some items that are needed for VBS. Please check the binder for the items you can supply. Thank you for your help.



On **July 13th** we will have a dry run. This will help us to work out any problems we may encounter, such as timing, or movement from one station to another. **If you would like to be a part of this dry run and you have kids, you will be a great help in helping us work out the kinks.**

Missions for the Month



Sinkovki, Ukraine



www.DM2USA.org

(405) 833-4432

DM Multiplied Inc.

PO Box 7758

Beaumont, TX 77726-7758

USA

DM2 UKRAINE

by Mark Musser

Yerevan, Armenia (since August 2018)

Although it will take some time to get to know the people here well enough to be able to present an intense five-day DM2 workshop, I have had two opportunities to present a shorter up-and-coming DM2 curriculum entitled "Christ our Substitute."

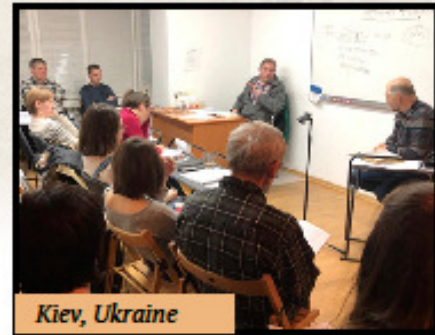
Since the beginning of the New Year, I have made two trips to Ukraine, resulting in four workshops in different locales and cities. All told, it was a great time of discipleship training, teaching, and fellowship that included 15 teachers, 13 of whom were Ukrainians.

At Spiritual Regeneration Church in Kiev, we taught Romans 1-8. Also, in Kiev we led DM2's Colossians 1:1-3:4, which we will finish at a later date. In Sinkovki, which is about 30 minutes east of Kiev and 20 minutes west of Baryshivka, we presented "Christ our Substitute." In Lviv we taught Proverbs 1-9.

Such DM2 activities do not include the weekly women's study led by Luda Ugrimova, a missionary with Campus Crusade. After the WOW curriculum, these ladies plan to move on to Proverbs 10-16, having already gone through Proverbs 1-9.

More DM2 plans are being made for late May and then again next fall. We have been invited to do a DM2 Galatians in Nikolaev, and it looks like a door is opening in Chernigiv, which is in northeast Ukraine. We are hoping to do more workshops in other former Soviet countries as well.

Please continue to pray that God would raise up more disciple-makers, particularly in Ukraine, as ministry opportunities continue to spiral out of what we can manage right now. Pray as well for more open doors here locally in Yerevan, Armenia. And don't forget to pray for the volatile situation along the eastern border of Ukraine, all the way from the Middle East in the south to the Baltics in the north.



Kiev, Ukraine



Kiev, Colossians

More on Reverse

Continued on page 5

**Andy Woods—Pastor**

Twenty-Four Church and Israel Distinctions (Part 12)

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. Finally, 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 this installment, we will examine *one* further distinction.

Distinction Number 17: The Governing Principle

What principle governs the nation of Israel? The answer to this question is the Mosaic Law. Psalm 147:19-20 says, "¹⁹He declares His words to Jacob, His statutes and His ordinances to Israel. ²⁰He has not dealt thus with any nation; and as for His ordinances, they have not known them. Praise the LORD!" When dealing with the nation of Israel and where she derives her basis of authority and body of material which governs her, you must look to the Mosaic Law as given to the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai. The Mosaic Law has built within it blessings and curses; blessings for obedience (Lev. 26:1-13; Deut. 28:1-14) and curses for disobedience (Lev. 26:14-46; Deut. 28:15-68). To be completely honest with you, understanding the magnitude of these blessings and curses is one of the reasons why I am glad that we are not Israel, because these curses are very severe. These curses, especially those described in Deuteronomy 28:49-50, explain why Israel went into either captivity or dispersion at the hands of the Assyrians, the Babylonians, and the Romans. Why cannot the Church be similarly dispersed? The answer relates to the fact that the Church is not a singular nation but rather is already scattered all over the world. Jesus said in Matthew 28:18-20, "¹⁸And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples, of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

By contrast, what is the base of authority for the Church? It is primarily the New Testament, which is the section of divine Scripture written after the Church had already started. Even though the Gospels record the life of Christ as He was functioning under the Law (Gal. 4:4), there are still truths in these books for us to

glean from because the Gospels, in terms of date of writing, were all written after the Church Age had already started. Therefore, yes, the Gospels and the book of Acts govern us as the Church, but only if those same governing principles are *also* found in the epistles. However, our *primary* source of binding authority as the Church comes from the epistolary literature. The epistles include the thirteen Pauline letters, the eight general letters, and the seven letters to the seven Churches found in Revelation 2–3. From this epistolary material, we derive the instructions that are today directly binding upon the Church. Not so with the nation of Israel. Her binding instructions come primarily from the Mosaic Law as given at Sinai. Why does recognizing such a distinction practically matter?

TITHING

As is unfortunately common today, a pastor stands up and says to his flock, “bring the whole tithe into the storehouse and see if God will not pour out so great a blessing upon you that you will not have enough room to contain it.” Such sermons are common at Churches and on Christian media. Why? Simply put, it is a great fundraising tool. The problem, however, is that the injunction quoted above comes from Malachi 3:8-11, which says, “⁸Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! ¹⁰Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. ¹¹Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes,’ says the LORD of hosts.” Because they are quoted from the Book of Malachi (450–400 B.C.), these verses were not given to the Church. Rather, they were given to the nation of Israel while she was operating under the Mosaic Law. Therefore, when someone is preaching to a congregation or to a television or radio audience to “bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,” they are cherry-picking a passage from the Mosaic Law that was given only to the nation of Israel.

The basic problem with all of this is that if you go under the Old Testament Mosaic Law in any way, shape, or form, you are automatically putting yourself under the *whole* Law. James 2:10 says if we stumble over one part of the Law, then we stumble over the whole thing: “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.” Additionally, to be consistent, you would not bring one tithe to the storehouse. Rather, you would bring *three* tithes to the storehouse. What we must understand is the nation of Israel did not just have one tithe. In fact, they had three. One was for the Levites (Num. 18: 21, 24). A second tithe was for the Feasts (Deut. 14:22-27). A third tithe was for the poor (Deut. 14:28-29). There were two annual tithes and one was taken every third year. In other words, the Hebrews were not just giving ten percent of their income to the Lord. Rather, they were giving twenty-three and a third percent of it to the Lord. Why? Israel was a functioning nation that had to subsidize both an army and a priesthood.

Conversely, the Church’s instructions for giving are found in the epistles. We do not derive them from the book of Malachi. Although we can learn important principles of God for giving by studying Malachi, as a Christian pastor I cannot come to you and say “thus saith the Lord, you have to tithe to get blessings from the Lord because Malachi says so.” That would be taking the Church and putting her under the Mosaic Law. Rather, in the Church Age, if you want to know how to give and in what manner you should give then simply study Second Corinthians 8–9. These chapters contain a series of adverbs. Adverbs modify verbs and usually end with the letters “ly.” For instance, in the sentence “Joe ran quickly,” the verb is “ran” and the adverb tells you how Joe ran, he ran “quickly.” Thus, in Second Corinthians 8–9, Paul details for us the way we should give. Paul says to give secretly, give sacrificially, give proportionally, give cheerfully and not under compulsion. Many today ask, “Can you give me a specific percentage to give?” The problem is the New Testament Church is not given a specific percentage because the New Testament Church is not a country like Israel who had a yearly tax system. The Church is not a nation (Rom. 10:19). Consequently, we do not have a physical army to support. Neither do we have borders or a capital.

By the way, if you want to bring your tithe to the storehouse, that does not mean the local Church. The storehouse was the Jewish temple in the Middle East. Bringing the whole Tithe to that locale would be an impos-

Potosi, Bolivia

Potosi, one of the highest cities in the world, known historically for its silver mines, is where the vision for DM2 first began. Back in 2007, Bret and one of the elders of Harlingen Bible Church did a “survey” trip to this area to check on the possibility of starting a work there. Although this trip marked the beginning of DM2’s work in Bolivia, God did not open the door in Potosi.

So, you can imagine our joy when we received news that some DM2- trained Bolivian believers recently made the difficult journey to Potosi to present a Romans workshop! The following is their report:

“The course went well, and God answered prayer in bringing many from the city of Potosi and the surrounding countryside. In total we had 85 students. The students were excited about what they learned; you could tell because the singing got better and better as the course progressed. The last two nights various young people did the sing-around-the-campfire thing till 1:00 in the morning, which they do when they are really excited about an event.”

Truly, our all-knowing, all-wise God is the one who opens and closes doors, and in His timing, works out all details for His purposes

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9

Calendar

May 21-June 2, Myanmar, two Romans workshops,
one in Burmese and one in Zomi

June 10 – July 5 Four Youth Workshops
(Georgia, Texas, Colorado, California)

July 6-14, Bolivia, Ephesians

July 31 – August 4, Dallas, Women in the Word, Romans 5-8

August 10-20, Zambia, Women of the Word

Prayer

Pray in a special way for the youth workshops this summer. Pray for the youth who attend and those who teach. Pray that God would raise up many disciple-makers who will form the church, the pillar and support of the truth, in the next generation. Pray, too, as we seek to finish the Ephesians curriculum and have it translated and printed before the Bolivia workshop in July.

“WHO’s Who at SLBC”

by Ashlynn Morris



I know many of you have read my article about the Christmas play that happened last year. I mentioned the director of the play, Janet Wrenn, but I wasn't able to interview her like I have interviewed everyone else. I was delighted to interview her for this article so you could get to know her a little better.

At SLBC, we have a lot of people behind the scenes, helping keep the church running. Janet Wrenn recently became SLBC's Morning Administrative Assistant. She has been an enormous help to everyone who works in the office.

Janet and her husband Michael have one daughter, Elissa. She and her family have been coming to SLBC since the Christmas of 2014. “We were not regular attenders or members of a church at that time, as we had recently left another church and were still searching for a new church home. God led us to SLBC that night and we've never left!”

Mrs. Wrenn's favorite Bible verse is 2 Corinthians 12:9, “And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.” When asked why she loved this verse, she gave such an awe-inspiring answer. “I love this verse because we do not know what God has in store for us, other than His love. His grace is always enough in all situations so that we may learn to turn to Him first and not rely upon ourselves for strength. We are not the ones with the power, He is. He should always be our guide, our rock, our foundation, our joy and our life force. He allows ailments, situations to occur, issues in our lives so that we may be strengthened through Him and know that it is not by our power, but only by His that we endure and overcome. So, when we are at our weakest, our most vulnerable, is when we should feel secure knowing God's in control of all things, and He has us in the palm of His hand. It's hard to do in our sin nature fleshly bodies, but I've learned over the years that even in bad situations there's a calm in my heart that God put there when I placed my trust in Jesus, because He will never fail us. He will never leave us. The situation may not always work out how we want but it is always His will and that is best.”

I also asked her what her favorite attribute of God was, and her answer was equally encouraging. “I rely upon the simple and utmost fact that God can never lie. So, all He says and does is true, without fail. We can't always understand what He does, or why in the moment things are happening, but the Bible always reminds us God is good and loves us. We kind of take that word “Love” for granted and don't fully understand its depth. The fact that God wants a personal relationship with me, a sinner, a single person on a planet of billions of people blows my mind. That He loves me, even when I don't deserve it, a true Father, no matter what I have done, He just wants me to love and trust in Him to help me through my life, it's humbling.”

Janet is a writer, and is currently writing a book with her daughter. She enjoys writing for middle grade and Youth grade kids. Mrs. Wrenn is a Green Bay Packers fan, and loves cheese. She is not a very big fan of chocolate, but she fills it in with her love for coffee.

Mrs. Wrenn is an amazing person. She is very energetic, kind, encouraging, and patient. I have been under her guidance in VBS stage crew for over three years, and she has been an amazing teacher. She has been a huge blessing in my life and in the lives of others. She would love to meet you if you haven't already.



From Pastor Joseph Chama in Zambia

Women of the Word Conference

We plan to HAVE a conference women FOR WOMEN in Zambia.

- We are planning to have the conference for the Christian women in Zambia from 14^t August to 16 August 2019
- We plan to have over 200+ women from difference church denominations
- It is the first of its kind conference for Christian women to have a Bible based conference attracting over 52 church denominations in Zambia.
- The population of women is over 75% in our churches so it will greatly impact the church and the families
- It will equip our women with sound teaching so that they will in turn teach other women, folks and children It will build strong families

DM2 Impact on the Zambian Church

- DM2 Has greatly helped our churches with Bible based teaching and doctrine
- It has helped build strong relationships among families and churches
- Brought unity among church leaders and maturity

It is a school for church leaders and pastors who cannot afford to leave the family or pay the seminary fees. It has helped develop a better understanding of the Bible and develop quality leaders with knowledge of biblical teaching as God intended the Church to be

From Bret Nazworth – founder and president of DM2

Thank you SLBC sincerely for your gift toward the Zambia trip. God is truly amazing and has used you all to meet this very pressing and important need. The trip is in full swing now. I talked with Pastor Joseph Chama our field director in Zambia and they are prepping for our arrival. Pray with us for this to be a highly effective and life-changing event for all who attend. Thank you all in advance for your prayer coverage.



Scripture of the Month

Psalm 148:1-5

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights!
 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts!
 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light!
 Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens!
 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.

sibility today because no such Temple structure is currently in existence at the present time. Furthermore, do not show up to Church on Sunday. Rather, you need to come on Saturday (Exod. 20:8-11; 31:15-17), and do not forget to bring your animal offering. Remember, if you want to go under the Law, you have got to go under the *whole* thing. All of this well illustrates the foolishness of taking Malachi 3 and holding it over the Church in terms of a modern philosophy of giving.

PATRIOTISM

If you know anything about me then you know that every Fourth of July I preach a patriotic sermon. I love patriotic sermons. I love to listen to patriotic sermons. I love to preach patriotic sermons. But at some point, around the Fourth of July holiday pastors all over the evangelical world typically start quoting Second Chronicles 7:14, which on the surface seems like a very patriotic verse. It says, “and if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

When Ronald Reagan was sworn into office, Jerry Falwell administered the oath of office and the Bible that Reagan put his hand on during this ceremony was opened to Second Chronicles 7:14. Although I appreciated both Falwell and Reagan, the reality of the situation is, in my opinion, that this represented an abuse of the Bible. Why? Because people interpret “heal their land” in the verse as referring to the United States of America. The problem is this: as I go through the Old Testament, I do not find the United States of America mentioned directly anywhere. Although I love America, the fact remains that America is not Israel. God made these promises to no other nation but Israel.

What is Second Chronicles 7:14 really saying? It is an exhortation for the nation to go back to the obedience of the Mosaic Law, and, *if* that happens, *then* God is obligated to heal Israel’s land. What land? America? No, this verse is speaking specifically of the land of Israel, which had been put under a curse because of her national disobedience to the Mosaic Law. In other words, God wanted to remove Israel from the curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68, and instead place Israel back under the blessings of Deuteronomy 28:1-14. These blessings and curses are both physical and national in nature.

The way people today commonly misuse Second Chronicles 7:14 regarding America is that they think that we as Americans need to get rid of some sort of national sin, such as abortion, pornography, or a high divorce rate. Once accomplished, only then will God heal America as we turn away from these national sins. Such an interpretation represents an abuse of this verse. People like Jonathan Cahn, who writes best-selling books, grabs these kinds of passages that govern the nation of Israel under the Mosaic Law and then indiscriminately applies them directly across the board to the United States of America. No nation has the right to do that because there is only one nation that has received the Mosaic Covenant from God Himself, and that nation is Israel.

In fact, no nation other than Israel has ever received a covenant from God. Jonathan Cahn often quotes the Mayflower Compact (A.D. 1620). He thinks that America has a covenant from God because of the Mayflower Compact. If you are at all familiar with the Mayflower Compact you already know that it was not God making a covenant with America, but rather it was early Americans making a covenant with God and with each other. With the nation of Israel and her divine covenants (Gen. 15:18; Rom. 9:4), it is a completely different scenario. God’s covenants with Israel represent the only time in history when God reached down and made a covenant with a nation. In those instances, Israel did not make a covenant with God. Recall again Psalm 147:19-20, which says God only gave His Law to the nation of Israel and He has not dealt thus with any other nation. Therefore, only the nation that God has a covenant with, which is not the United States or any other nation, can directly claim the benefits of Second Chronicles 7:14.

Having said all that, do I pray for a revival in the United States? Of course, I do. Although I pray for godly leadership and I pray for our nation to respect God, I do not pray with the mentality that America is in a covenantal relationship with God whereby God has obligated Himself to act on our behalf. Only the nation of Israel can categorically say, “if we do X then God must do Y.” God is not contractually bound in that manner with any other nation. Can God bless America? Yes! Has God blessed America? Yes! Will God continue to bless America? I sure hope so, but it is not because we met some sort of contractual or covenantal obligation. People are very confused about this, and this confusion relates back to this fundamental point of misunderstanding concerning what source of authority governs Israel and which authority source governs the Church.

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 characteristic. 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. Finally, 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 in particular are directly binding upon the Church. These major distinctions constitute the first *seventeen* of the *twenty-four* differences between Israel and the Church that will be highlighted in this series.

(To Be Continued...)

An Exciting Study in the Book of Hebrews

Coming in September 2019

Key Concept: Jesus Christ Is Better

((The Lord Jesus Christ Is God’s Final Word
and Man’s Only Savior!))

Tuesday Morning Class—9:00 am

Teacher: Patricia Chandler

Tuesday Evening Class—7:00 pm

Teacher: Betty Cooke

Child Care is Provided for
the

Morning class only.

New Sunday School Class "Angelology,"

Begins June 2019



Pastor Andy Woods is teaching a new class during the Sunday School hour at Sugar Land Bible Church. The focus of this class will be on "Angelology," which is otherwise known as the "Doctrine of the Angels." The material for this teaching will be taken from a class that Pastor Andy regularly taught at the College of Biblical Studies entitled "Angels, Church, and Prophecy." This class will focus on biblical Angelology, which is the study of what the Bible reveals concerning angels. What are Angels? What is their purpose? Why do they exist? How many Angels are there? What are their activities? When were they created? Do they age or die? Since Satan and the Demons were originally good Angels prior to their fall, the class will also cover Satanology and Demonology. In this regard, we will examine the power of our spiritual enemies in the heavenly places as well as the resources that God has given to the child of God for spiritual warfare. The class will also cover the difficult passage of Genesis 6:1-4 and why an angelic interpretation of the passage is the proper understanding. We will pursue these and many other similar questions in this important study. First, we will be doing our teaching in the sanctuary. Second, the sessions will be recorded and archived for the benefit of not only our online followers but also our missionaries, who sometimes need theological guidance in certain areas. Third, the basic format will include teaching from 9:45 to 10:40AM, which will be followed by questions and answers from 10:40 to 10:45 AM. The class will conclude sharply at 10:45AM to allow ample time to prepare for our morning worship service, which will begin at 11:00 AM sharp. 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 it. We are looking forward to what God will do through these sessions of study in "His Word."