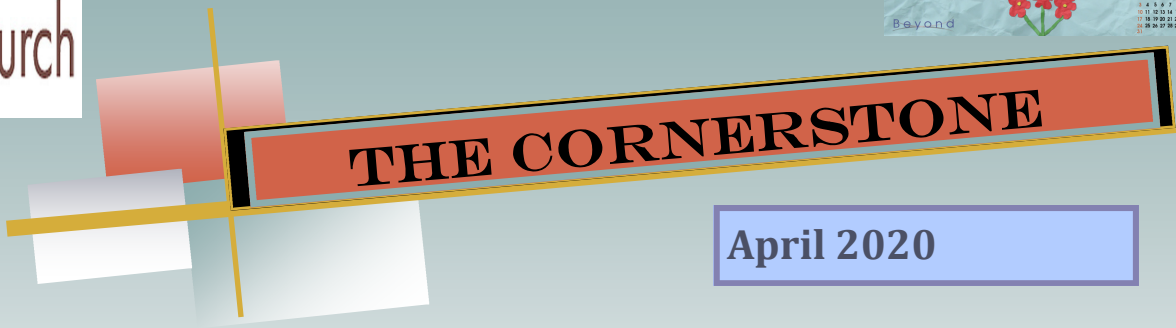




SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 38 YEARS
1982- 2020



April 2020



Sugar Land Bible Church



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Parents/Grandparents,

If your children are anything like mine, they are disappointed about not having church services. Considering this fact, we as a ministry have made some of the Sunday school and Kids Club resources available to you on the slbc.org website under children's ministry. On the children's ministry home page, you will find the resources to keep the bible lessons going for your children as well as many other great resources like music videos, science experiments, bible memory, color pages, and activities.

Please feel free to share this with others in your family or group, and do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do for you!

KC Cunningham

Children's Director/Bookkeeper

Sugar Land Bible Church

Missions for the Month

Debbie and Patrick O'Connor

(This update taken from the February 2020 Newsletter)

Dear friends in Sugar Land:

The highlight of this month's 11 day trip within Honduras was to be in the western mountain town Copan Ruinas. You may recall that when Debbie and I and the girls lived in Honduras we had spent four years in this specific town. At the time there were zero churches in the Chortí Indian mountain communities. Our hearts longed for success for new churches in the Chortí communities. But that was not realized while we lived there. The Lord did give success for a new Baptist Church in Copan Ruinas and also for daughter churches and granddaughter churches for that church, while we were there. But now - after roughly 20 years - there has been great great success within the mountain communities accomplished by the Lord and through in-country pastors. We are really humbled by God's grace and it fills us with glee for His great light in those mountain communities, surrounding Copan Ruinas. As a side note, back in 1999 there were only six evangelical churches in that small town when we lived there. Now there are 33 evangelical churches in that town of Copan Ruinas and that every Chortí Village has an evangelical Church within it. I visited two of them. We thank the Lord.

I also spent three days in the Mosquito Coast. I think now we are too old to move there. But that certainly would have been our dream to do that years ago. Time in Puerto Lempira of the eastern sea-board of Honduras allow me to visit and encourage new missionaries who just moved there. While in Honduras, I also did a circuit trip to other areas - - calling on and visiting Honduran leaders. In God's grace, they are working strong in the Lord and the power of His might, for which we thank the Lord.

Take a look ~->

<https://youtu.be/TZQEF7zTZeY>

Watch "Patrick in Puerto Lempira Honduras 25 second Video on YOU TUBE

Debbie stayed at our home base north of Seattle during this trip for Patrick, but continues with step by step hope & trust in the Lord during cancer journey.

Love you all!

Patrick & Debbie





Andy Woods—Pastor

Signs of the Times for 2020 (Part 2)

In our last installment, we observed that the Bible places much emphasis on the signs related to Christ's return (Matt. 24:33; Luke 21:28; Heb. 10:25, etc.). Observing these signs helps us ascertain that general time period of human history in which we find ourselves. We noted that if the signs of the Tribulation period are rapidly approaching, and the rapture of the Church precedes the Tribulation period, then rapture must be coming even faster. Thus, we began to ask ourselves, what are some of these signs that are now setting the stage for the coming Tribulation period? We selected the following *seven* signs as deserving of analysis to be covered in this series:

1. Signs related to Israel
2. Signs related to international politics
3. Signs related to economics
4. Signs related to technology
5. Signs related to spirituality
6. Signs related to society
7. Signs related to understanding Bible prophecy.

Therefore, this forthcoming series is dedicated to exploring the *seven* signs related to the soon return of Jesus Christ. As a result of this teaching, may we all grow in our understanding of the unique time period in which we now live.

1. Signs Related to Israel

There are several signs meriting discussion concerning the modern state of Israel. These include Israel's miraculous political rebirth in 1948, recapturing of Old Testament Jerusalem in 1967, ambition to rebuild her third temple, and desire to live in harmony with her hostile neighbors. In this installment, we will focus on *Israel's political rebirth*.

Daniel 9:27 represents the famous verse known as the Seventieth Week of Daniel. It describes the final seven years of human history prior to the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. This verse says "And he [the Antichrist] will make a firm covenant with the many [Israel] for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate." According to this verse, what then is the event that will start the seven-year Tribulation period? It will be a peace treaty between the Antichrist and unbelieving Israel. Isaiah 28:15, 18 calls this treaty Israel's "covenant with Sheol," or with death and Hell itself. This agreement will transpire after the Church has already been raptured to heaven (2 Thess. 2:6-7).

If all of this is true, a fundamental question must be asked. How can the Antichrist make a peace treaty with unbelieving Israel unless you first have an unbelieving Israel in national existence to make a treaty with? We no longer must wonder about the answer to this question. May 14, 1948 represents that miraculous date when God brought the nation of Israel back into her homeland after two-thousand years of worldwide dispersion. There, the nation of Israel exists, dwelling in unbelief, and awaiting her future agreement with the devil's beastly representative, the Antichrist.

Ezekiel 36:24-25 similarly predicts Israel's regathering in unbelief when it says: "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land **then** I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols." Notice the order here. *First*, God brings the nation back in unbelief and "*then*" He pours living water, or the Holy Spirit, upon her. I would say the first part of this prophecy, from my point of view, has already been fulfilled. Israel has already been regathered in unbelief and now we are only waiting for the Spirit to come upon her during the final events of the Tribulation period. Ezekiel 36:26-28 describes these Tribulation-related events when it says, "[26] Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. [28] You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so, you will be My people, and I will be your God."

Ezekiel 37, the famous valley of the dry bones passage, predicts this same reality. Ezekiel 37:7 says, "So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a **noise**, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone." No-

tice this word “noise.” Use of this word by the prophet communicates that when Israel is restored in unbelief it will be a process that will gain the attention of the entire world. How interesting it is to observe how this prediction has come to pass before our very eyes. What is the world community all upset about today? The answer is Israel. What issue does the world community routinely congregate over in a futile attempt to resolve? The answer again is Israel. This is the very “noisy” worldwide process accompanying Israel’s restoration that is predicted by Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 38:8-10 says, “[8] And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew, and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. [9] Then He said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.’ [10] So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.”

I heard of a church once pastored by an amillennialist (a theologian who does not believe in God’s future for national Israel) who taught that these verses merely predicted the birth of the Church on the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. Although many Jews were saved on the Day of Pentecost (around three thousand according to Acts 2:41), there were at least a million Jews in the land of Israel at that time that did *not* get saved. Thus, Ezekiel’s prophecy, with its emphasis on national conversion, cannot be merely speaking of the events on the Day of Pentecost. This entire issue is resolved upon reading the next verse (Ezek. 37:11), which says: “Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.’” Notice that this verse does not say that these bones represent the Church. Ezekiel here is unmistakably clear that the bones represent the nation of Israel!

These verses when taken in totality represent a process. *First*, the skeleton comes together. *Then*, the muscles, skin, and body develop upon the skeleton. *Then*, at a later point in time, the breath, representing the Holy Spirit, enters the body. What we have seen on the world stage through the rebirth of Israel is the skeleton and body reassembled. Now we are only waiting for the breath to enter the body, which is a metaphor for the regeneration of the entire nation. The politically alive but spiritually lifeless Israel, or unbelieving Israel, that we see today is the very Israel that will enter this peace treaty with the Antichrist, who will ultimately betray Israel thereby resulting in Israel’s eventual conversion. As Israel has been restored politically to her own land in our lifetime, how exciting it is to witness the stage being set before our very eyes for the fulfillment of this very prophecy!

There are many today who contend that Israel in the land today is prophetically insignificant. Yet, notice the words of the great prophecy scholar John F Walvoord, when he says, “Of the many peculiar phenomena which characterize the present generation few events can claim equal significance as far as biblical prophecy is concerned with the return of Israel to their land. It constitutes a preparation for the end of the age, the setting for the coming of the Lord for His Church and the fulfillment of Israel’s prophetic destiny” (Walvoord, *Israel in Prophecy*, p. 26).

Can I ask you a question? How many Jebusites do you know? We read in the Book of Genesis (Gen. 15:18-20) about the Jebusites, the Kennizites, the Girgashites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, etc... If all these groups were very real people, why do not they exist today? Sociologists tell us that when a nation is outside of its land for a few generations, its culture simply assimilates into its host culture. Consequently, it loses its unique ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious, and national identity. Yet, the nation of Israel remained outside of its land for two-thousand years in worldwide dispersion (known as the *diaspora*) and then eventually went right back into the exact same land that she was initially evicted from. She did so all while speaking the same language and with her identical and unique culture, religion, and ethnicity intact. Sometimes people query, “why does not God do miracles today?” The fact of the matter is that when you look at Israel in the Middle East, you are witnessing a modern-day miracle of God. Israel’s very national existence today is indeed preparatory for the end of the age.

It is interesting to note that Rome, a worldwide Latin-speaking power, removed Israel out of her land in A.D. 70. Today, Rome is gone. Latin is a dead language. Yet, Israel remains two-thousand years later and Hebrew is a live language. Her very modern national existence is indeed astonishing and miraculous. All of this to say that Israel’s political rebirth in 1948 constitutes a key sign demonstrating that we are rapidly approaching the events of the Tribulation period. We will explore more signs related to the nation of Israel in our next installment.

(To Be Continued...)



Ashlynn Morris

Who's Who at Sugar Land Bible Church

A Heart for Hospitality
By Ashlynn Morris

When there are babies on the way or brides to be, there are usually enjoyable get-togethers for the ladies to celebrate the special occasion. The parties and showers are planned by the wonderful Hospitality Committee. They plan, shop, cook and decorate for these amazing events. One of the volunteers for this ministry is Mrs. Jodie Reichardt.

Ms. Jodie is not only always willing to help, she does so with a warm smile and brings a joyful presence whenever she enters a room. Aside from being on the hospitality committee, you can usually find Ms. Jodie helping in the kitchen on fellowship Sundays or during any other special event. She is also part of the card ministry and a volunteer in the children's ministry.

Galatians 5:22-23 is her favorite passage, which says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." "God shows these characteristics to me so I look to this verse as encouragement to choose daily to show the same to others," I asked her what her favorite attribute of God was and she said omnipresence. "No matter your physical location, the situation you may find yourself in, or even the time of day; you are never alone. God is always with you to offer guidance, encouragement and a gentle touch."

Ms. Jodie is actually a dental hygienist by trade! She loves serving at church and volunteering in her community. She and her husband, who have been married for 29 years, have three children. Ms. Jodie and her family have been attending SLBC for over 20 years.

The next time you see Ms. Jodie, make sure to say hello and thank her for her wonderful service to our church. We are so thankful for all the wonderful ministries that take care of the church body.



Jodie Reichardt

Scripture of the Month



JOSHUA 1:8-9

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God *is* with you wherever you go."