



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

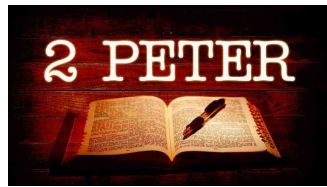


THE CORNERSTONE

February 2020



New Wednesday Bible Study



Beginning January 8, 2020, Pastor Andy Woods will be teaching Wednesday night Bible study at Sugar Land Bible Church for the **Winter quarter** covering an exposition of the important epistle of Second Peter. These sessions will be videotaped and archived for the benefit of our local church members and attendees as well as for the benefit of our online viewers. Second Peter is highly relevant to today since it deals with coping with the ever-burgeoning amount of false teaching that we find coming into the body of Christ today. **Second Peter 1** calls the Christian to pursue maturity as the best antidote against the pernicious influence of false teaching. **Second Peter 2** identifies the basic characteristics of false teachers. **Second Peter 3** focuses upon the specific false teaching that the false teachers will introduce. The basic format of this class will include prayer from 6:45 to 7 PM, teaching from 7 to 8 PM, and then questions and answers from 8 to 8:15 PM. We understand that some will have to leave at 8 pm sharp to collect their children and so they may not be able to stick around for the question and answer session. 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 this opportunity. We are looking forward to what God will do through these sessions of study in "His Word."

Missions for the Month

Tim & Debbie Blycker Update



Bible in MY Language.

Imagine having the New Testament translated into your language just a few decades ago, but not having the Old Testament translated yet. And then someone from Walk Thru the Bible trains your church

leaders to tell 40 key stories from the Old Testament so they can tell them *in their language*. That is what happened in the jungle this summer in Venezuela and Colombia in Cubeo, Puinave and Curipaco; and also in southern Mexico this month in Chinanteco. One of the highlights of the Mexico trip was Tim being able to train his brother Ben who is a missionary in Mexico. Thank you for your support as we teach the Scriptures in this creative and innovative way of Walk Thru the Bible.



Cuba Report November 2019

Tim was in Cuba for a week, Nov. 1–8, teaching Walk Thru. Here are a couple of photos.



Cuba Report December 2019

Dr. Alejandro Oviedo is the Director of Walk Thru the Bible of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. We team-taught 4 Old Testament seminars and he taught a marriage course. Several people came to Christ, several attended a church for the first time in their lives. Many people understood the OT as they never had before! A total of 219 people were reached.

Our host church in Mulgoba was averaging 30 people in the pastor's apartment. With funds from selling their apartment and donations from the states, they were able to

**Andy Woods—Pastor**

Twenty-Four Church and Israel Distinctions (Part 19)

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. Also, Israel and the Church have completely different farewell addresses. In addition, the Church and Israel are designated differently. Also, while information concerning Israel is found in both the Old and New Testaments, information about the Church is found only in the New Testament. Moreover, Israel and the Church are different in that while they have the same worldwide missionary calling, they were given two very different strategies for reaching a lost and dying world with the gospel. Finally, another key difference between Israel and the Church is that while both are blessed by God, Israel's blessings are primarily earthly and material while the Church's blessings are heavenly and spiritual. In this installment, we will examine *one* final distinction.

Distinction Number 24: The Composition

Believing vs. Unbelieving Israel

Israel consists of believers *and* unbelievers. To be a member of Israel you had to be a physical descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. If a person is not in the physical lineage of these three patriarchs, then they are not a Hebrew.

However, within Israel, or the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, it was possible to be either a believing Jew or an unbelieving Jew. The nation of Israel consisted of believing Jews who believed in Jesus and there were also unbelieving Jews who did not believe in Him. This is why John the Baptist said in Matthew 3:9, "do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham." In other words, God is unimpressed with those trusting exclusively in their Jewish ancestry. God is not going to fulfill His covenants with a group of people simply because they are Jewish. They must be a believing Jew! Paul, in Romans 2:28-29 similarly explains, "28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God." Also, Romans 9:6 reads, "But it is not as though the Word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are de-

scended from Israel.” In other words, what really impresses God is not just a Jew for the sake of being a Jew, but rather a believing Jew. God is going to fulfill His end time program with, not just the Jews, but with the believing Jews.

This is why Jesus to the Church of Smyrna in Revelation 2:9 said, “I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.” Therefore, if you are a Jew in unbelief then you are in Satan’s synagogue because God is not impressed with a Jew just because they are Jewish. What He’s impressed with is the *believing* Jews. That is why Christ was so distressed when He went to His hometown and nobody believed in Him (Mark 6:1-6). I mean, if Christ was impressed with people just because they were Jewish, He would have said, “you all are okay, you are Jewish, and that’s enough.” However, the story of the Bible is you must be a *believing* Jew in order to be reconciled to God (Gen. 15:6). No one gets to heaven just because they are Jewish. When the kingdom comes, and God fulfills His covenants to Israel it is not going to be with a bunch of people just because they are Jewish. Rather, it is because they will be Jews in faith.

The Purpose of the Tribulation

When we understand this then we will understand what the future Tribulation period is for. Why is God sending the nation of Israel through the Tribulation period? His purpose in doing so is to purge off unbelieving Israel from believing Israel. Zechariah 13:8-9, of the Tribulation says, “‘It will come about in all the land,’ declares the Lord, ‘That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; but the third will be left in it.’⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’”⁹ What is God doing in the Tribulation period and why is Israel going into it? For what purpose? Its primary purpose is to purge off unbelieving Israel from believing Israel. Sadly, what we observe, according to this prophecy, is that two-thirds of Israel will be purged off in the Tribulation. Said another way, two-thirds of Israel will be killed in the Tribulation period and God, through that process, will preserve a third of Israel in faith who say “the Lord is my God,” and through this believing remnant consisting of a third of the nation, He will fulfill His covenants.

Ezekiel 20:33-44 also speaks of this separation between unbelieving and believing Israel at the end of the Tribulation period. Believing Israel will go into the kingdom passing under the Shepherd’s rod while unbelieving Israel will be purged off the earth and cast into Hades: “‘³³As I live,’ declares the Lord GOD, ‘surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. ³⁴I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; ³⁵and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. ³⁶As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you,’ declares the Lord GOD. ³⁷‘I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; ³⁸and I will purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus, you will know that I am the LORD. ³⁹As for you, O house of Israel,’ thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Go, serve everyone his idols; but later you will surely listen to Me, and My holy name you will profane no longer with your gifts and with your idols. ⁴⁰For on My holy mountain, on the high mountain of Israel,’ declares the Lord GOD, ‘there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land; there I will accept them and there I will seek your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your holy things. ⁴¹As a soothing aroma I will accept you when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered; and I will prove Myself holy among you in the sight of the nations. ⁴²And you will know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the land which I swore to give to your forefathers. ⁴³There you will remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for all the evil things that you have done. ⁴⁴Then you will know that I am the LORD when I have dealt with you for My name’s sake, not according to your evil ways or according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel,’ declares the Lord GOD.”

The Church Consists of Only Believers

Although you can be within Israel, either believing Israel or unbelieving Israel, is this true concerning the Church? Can you be an unbelieving member of Christ’s universal Church? No, you cannot. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ from the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) until the Rapture, then you are a part of His universal Church. Conversely, if you are not a believer in Jesus Christ then you are not a member of His Church. I am not talking here about local gatherings. Rather, I am speaking of His worldwide universal Church.

First Corinthians 12:13 says, “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” Notice that while Zechariah 13:8-9 indicated that one-third

purchase a house 3 months ago. Now they are averaging 60 people.



We met with the leadership of 300 churches across Cuba. They said that they have been praying for a ministry like Walk Thru the Bible for *YEARS!*

Our hope is to return in the spring of 2020 to train pastors and leaders in three provinces of the island, West, Center and East. We are grateful for the church in NY who sponsored this endeavor.

If you would like to read & see photos of some of the exciting ministries Tim has participated in with Walk Thru the Bible in Central America and the Caribbean & Mexico click on this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12jGDMdkKecmR8MffFmK2Rbfqgl2LwqUj/view?usp=gmail>

the building in Sierra was built without government permission and I asked if they were all praying that the authorities would not destroy it. They replied, "Oh no, we're praying about expanding it by 6 meters!"



Prayer Requests

Pray for the follow-up of those Tim trained in Walk Thru the Bible in Columbia and Venezuela in July.

Pray for the follow-up of the two groups trained in Mexico in November.

Pray for the follow-up of those trained in the churches in Cuba.

Pray for our church Casa de Gracia (House of Grace) to grow, and that God would use us as we reach Hispanics for Christ.

Thank you for your prayers and support so that we can make disciples among Spanish speakers around the world. Without your giving, we could not do our ministry!

With much love and grateful hearts,

Tim and Debbie



**Tim & Debbie
Blycker**

*Making Disciples Globally
In Español.*

RIDE THE RAILS THIS YEAR AT VBS!





ROCKY RAILWAY
JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH



Sugar Land
BIBLE CHURCH

ALL ABOARD THE SLBC EXPRESS!



BOARDING PASS

★ ADMIT ONE ★

JUNE
8-12
2020

TRACK NO.	CLASS	SEAT
401 MATLAGE	FIRST	IL11

ADDITIONAL SEAT INFORMATION 

DESTINATION: **401 MATLAGE WAY** STATION: **SLBC DEPOT** DEPARTURE: **JUNE 8-12** ARRIVAL TIME: **9:00 AM**

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	2020		
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

VISIT WWW.SLBC.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS!

VBS

SLBC will hold this years VBS in June 8-12

Our Theme: Rocky Railway

Work Days: To be announced!

Keep an eye out for Volunteer work to be done and for donations Needed!

Parent led!



**Bible Study for Boys
Grade 6-12**

Brooks Sellers will be leading a devotional in Proverbs from the Warren W. Wiersbe's "Be" Series, for the Youth Boys.

They will begin meeting every 2nd and 4th Sunday afternoon at 5:30 pm beginning January 26, 2020, in the Youth Fellowship Room,



SLBC Men's Bible Study 15 Years and Going Strong

Every Tuesday at 8:00 PM the men of Sugar Land Bible Church come together to study God's word. The study group started by going through The Navigators' Design for Discipleship program, a seven-part study that prepares Christian men to lead and mentor others in the faith. The final part of the program is learning how to use The Navigators' Bible study methodology by going through the book of 1 Thessalonians. Since then the study has focused on using the methodology to study various Bible books. We are currently studying Romans and have made our way through the following books:

1 and 2 Thessalonians	Joel
Mark	Malachi
1 and 2 Peter	1, 2 and 3 John
Daniel	Hebrews
Revelation	Philippians
Ecclesiastes	Colossians

The study method is comprised of a whole book survey that allows us to set the context for the book in order to better understand what God is communicating to us through the author. Next, a verse-by-verse study is undertaken. During this part of the study we personally identify and then discuss with the group our observations, helpful cross-references, our questions-and-answers, and applications. Finally, we do a summarization of the book after we complete our verse-by-verse study which allows us to answer any questions and cover any observations that may come up after reading through the book one more time. The discussion is open, and everyone is encouraged to participate so that we learn from one-another.

Please plan to join the group if you are looking for a great time of fellowship with other Christian men, wanting to expand your knowledge of God's word and maturing as a follower of Jesus Christ.

of Israel will believe, here Paul indicates that all the Universal Church is in faith. If a person is not a believer in Jesus Christ, then they are not a part of His Universal Church. If they are not “in Christ” by way of faith, then they are not a part of the Church. That reality is totally different than Israel. While Israel could have believing and unbelieving constituents, the universal Church is only composed of believers. What, then is the main distinction within the Church? The main distinction within the Church is not believer versus unbeliever as is the case with Israel. Rather, it relates to differing levels of maturity. This is why Paul said in First Corinthians 3:1, “And I, brethren [speaking to believers] could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants *in Christ*.² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,³ for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?”

What is Paul doing here with the Church? He is not proposing a distinction between a believing Church and an unbelieving Church the way God deals with Israel. He instead is dealing with the distinctions between babes in Christ, carnal Christians, and spiritual Christians *within* the Church. Yet, *all* are believers. While Paul divides humanity into two groups, unbelievers and believers, within the ranks of the believers there are three groups: the spiritual, or those growing in Christ, the infant, or new Christian, and the carnal Christians, or believers that should have grown up a long time ago but have remained in a state of carnality whereby they are constantly living for the sin nature (Heb. 5:11-14).

Thus, within the Church world there is no distinction between believers and unbelievers. Such a distinction relates only to the nation of Israel. On the other hand, the main distinction within the Church relates to different levels of growth and different levels of maturity. When you understand this, you will understand why the Church cannot be in the Tribulation. The Tribulation period is designed to separate believing Israel from unbelieving Israel. Zechariah’s prophecy indicated that the two-thirds will be cut off and then the remaining believing one-third will be used by God to advance His kingdom program upon the earth. Such a program is inapplicable to the Church because within the Church there are not any unbelievers. As J. Vernon McGee once quipped, “You’re either a saint or you are an aint.” What you believe about the rapture, the end times, and whether the Church will go into the Tribulation period is all related to your understanding of the nature of the Church. The more you understand the nature of the Church, the more you will understand why the Church cannot be in the Tribulation period.

Conclusion

What have we learned 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. Also, while information concerning Israel is found in both the Old and New Testaments, information about the Church is found only in the New Testament. Moreover, Israel and the Church are different in that while they have the same worldwide missionary calling, they were given two very different strategies for reaching a lost and dying world with the gospel. Also, another key difference between Israel and the Church is that while both are blessed by God, Israel’s blessings are primarily earthly and material while the Church’s blessings are heavenly and spiritual. Finally, while Israel consists of believers and unbelievers, the Church consists of believers only. These major distinctions constitute the *twenty-four* differences between Israel and the Church that have been highlighted in this series.

These differences are capsulized in the following chart:

	ISRAEL	CHURCH
Marriage	Wife	Bride
Christ	Birther Christ	Birther by Christ
Return	2nd Advent	Rapture
Leader	King	Head, Groom
Beginning	Genesis 12	Acts 2
Scripture	Four-Fifths	One-Fifth
Covenants	Parties	Beneficiaries
Nation	Political	Spiritual
Wars	Political	Spiritual
Timing	<i>a quo / ad quem</i>	No Time Indicators
Priesthood	Have a Priesthood	Are a Priesthood
Temple	Physical	Body
Resurrection	1st Resurrection	Rapture
Place of	Earthly:	Heavenly:
Judgment	Ezekiel 20:33-44	Bema Seat Judgment
New Jerusalem	Gates	Foundation Stones
Entrance	Physical Birth	Spiritual Birth
Governing Principles	Law	New Testament
Relation to Holy Spirit	Selective, Temporary, Subsequent	Universal, Permanent, At the Moment of Salvation
Farewell Address	Olivet Discourse	Upper Room Discourse
Designation	First Born son	Bride of Christ
Revealed in Old Testament	Yes	No
Evangelism	Come and See	Go and Proclaim
Blessings	Earthly	Heavenly
Composition	Believers and unbelievers	Believers Only



Scripture of the Month

2 Peter 1:3

Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.