

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

December 2023



Feature Article

Evidence for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church, by Ken Lawson5

Articles

Traditions: Don't Get Carried Away, by Don Hosfeld.....13

Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled, by Kevin Sadler.....19

Departments

Paul and the New Birth4

Where BBS Has Traveled in 202311

Question Box12

Man to Man.....17

News and Announcements30

This month's cover features Point Judith Lighthouse located in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island.

The Purpose of the Berean Bible Society is to help you understand, enjoy, and apply the Bible. The Mission of BBS is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming the whole counsel of God according to the revelation of the Mystery. Our Goals are to evangelize the lost, to educate the saved in "rightly dividing the Word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15), to energize the transformation of the Christian life, and to encourage the local church.

The Berean Searchlight is the official organ of the Berean Bible Society, and is sent free of charge to any who request it.

President: Kevin Sadler | Editor: Don Hosfeld | Layout/Design: Jessica Sadler

Reader's Rights and Responsibilities: BBS respects a reader's right to hold views that differ from those of our writers. If a reader has a serious concern with a specific article, it is his or her responsibility to act in a manner that endeavors to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. This can best be accomplished by contacting the editor, who will then forward your concerns to the author of the article in question. We promise to address all concerns in a timely manner.



You can reach us at:

BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY
N112 W17761 Mequon Road
Germantown, WI 53022

Main Office: 262.255.4750 | Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, CT

Website: bereanbiblesociety.org

E-mail: berean@bereanbiblesociety.org

The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), December 2023. Vol. 84, Number 9.

The Berean Searchlight is published monthly (except July) at no subscription price, by Berean Bible Society, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., Germantown, WI 53022-0756. Periodical postage paid at Germantown, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Berean Searchlight, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., Germantown, WI 53022 and additional mailing offices.

From the Editor to You



Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this Editorial, the world has recently witnessed a devastating assault on Israel, resulting in the tragic loss of many lives. The horrific scenes were made worse by the demonstrations worldwide that followed, calling for the eradication of the Jewish people, but we know that will never happen.

For those with ears to hear and eyes to see, it is evident that the hate being expressed toward Jews will not be quenched by any change in policy or by abdicating land. The reality is that until Christ comes as their King, Israel will always face a severe threat, which is why Christ wept for the future of Jerusalem (cf. Luke 19:41-44).

However, I am thankful that if I write about these events, I can do so for the same month we will observe the birth of Israel's King and the Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ. For in the birth of Christ, God demonstrated His unmatched love for the world and His complete and total faithfulness to His promises. In Christ's birth, we can have hope in difficult times; God has not abandoned this world but sent His Son "...that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:17).

Christmas is special for many reasons. Families, as busy as we are, try to come together. I think that aspect of Christmas is well-fitting because coming together is at the heart of Christmas, but even then, it's still easy to lose sight of what Christmas is really about and how the birth of one Child forever changed the world.

Christmas is not about getting more religion. Religion always tries to bring man to God, but God saw the hopelessness of that and instead brought Himself down to man. Just as there was a great gulf between the rich man and Lazarus that man could not cross (cf. Luke 16:26), mankind was just as powerless to cross the great divide between himself and God. Only God could bring us back together. May your hearts be filled with the joy of *knowing* that Jesus is Emmanuel—*God with us* and that God, "not willing that any should perish," sent forth His son, Who died in our place so that we who believe the gospel could receive forgiveness of sins. Let us remember this profound message as we navigate life's challenges with faith, knowing that through Christ's presence among us, hope will never be extinguished. I pray that you have a blessed Christmas.

By His Grace,

Pastor Don Hosfeld

Paul and the New Birth



“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day....” 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

The Pauline revelation leads us into glorious truths respecting both our position and experience as believers. Indeed, the new birth itself, as it takes place in the believer today, is directly related to the divine baptism by which Christ and the believer are made one.

How was Christ made one with mankind? He was baptized into the human race. He did not merely come to dwell with men. He became man. How? By being born into the race. Was this by natural birth? No, by supernatural birth. He was begotten of the Holy Spirit. But His baptism into the human race did not end with His birth and life on earth. So fully did He become one with man, that He even died man’s death on the accursed tree. He was baptized into death (Luke 12:50) and, as we now know, into our death.

And it is there, at the Cross, that we become one with Him. The moment one looks in faith to Calvary, acknowledging “He is no sinner; I am the sinner. Christ is dying my death,” in that moment he becomes one with Christ, baptized into the crucified, risen Lord Himself (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:26,27) not only positionally, in the reckonings of God, but exponentially, by the Spirit. And thus, a new life is begotten.

By natural birth? No, by supernatural birth. Some hold that the Epistles of Paul do not teach the new birth, but this is an error. His familiar word *teknon*, generally translated simply as “child” in our English Bibles, means literally “born one.” And he uses this word with regard to our spiritual relationship with God.

Furthermore, the Apostle teaches the very truth of the new birth in Titus 3:5, where he says:

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”
—Pastor Cornelius R. Stam



EVIDENCE

PASTOR KEN **LAWSON**
BBS Board Member

Evidence for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church

The appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ for His own Church is one of the most attested to revelations in all of Paul's writings. Paul intended for this to be a purifying expectation and a comfort to those who are suffering. However, in recent years this blessed hope has been attacked from all sides as either a misunderstanding emanating from the dispensationalists or as a misguided illusion that has gained an audience among those who refuse to consider church history and tradition.

It has been well said that the pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church to heaven was the last truth recovered from the Bible by teachers who championed dispensational truth, and now, after a period of popularity, it is becoming the first recovered truth that is losing support among believers. Whether it is currently popular or supported by church history is immaterial in the end. The issue is this: Is it correct according to the Scriptures rightly divided? In

this short article we will review in a concise form some of the most convincing Scriptural reasons why we believe that the Rapture of the Church will happen before the coming Tribulation.

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH IS A DISTINCTIVE PAULINE TRUTH

We do not read of the Rapture of the Church outside of Paul's epistles. Paul taught by revelation that the Church, the Body of Christ, is a mystery (or secret) unknown to men of previous ages (Eph. 3:1-6; Col. 1:25-27). The Rapture is the blessed hope of this Church and the final act of God for our dispensation. Therefore, it cannot be a part of Israel's program of prophecy outlined by the Old Testament prophets. Since those prophets foretold of the Tribulation (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21), the Body of Christ cannot be there without violating its distinctive character as a new creation separate and distinct from Israel (Eph. 2:14-17). Anyone who puts

the Church through any part of the Tribulation must deal with the incongruity of a secret church participating in a prophesied era. Some pre-tribulationists have unwittingly weakened their position by claiming the Rapture was revealed by Christ in the Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24-25), which is most assuredly an integral part of Israel's prophetic program. Mid-Acts dispensationalism greatly strengthens the pre-Tribulation position. Where you begin the Church determines where you

- There are different gospels proclaimed. **Grace** (Acts 20:24; Rom. 3:24) and **Kingdom** (Matt. 24:14). If the Church were in the Tribulation, we could not obey Paul's command to fight against evil principalities and powers in heavenly places since they will have been cast down to earth (Rev. 12:7-9; Eph.6:12).
- There are different programs involved. Under grace, God is working a program of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-21). He is withholding judgment to administer His grace (Rom. 5:20-21). Compare Psalm 2 with Acts 7.



end it! It began with God's revelation to Paul after Israel's fall in unbelief and will end before God resumes His dealings with them as a nation.

Paul tells us that the Church has been delivered from the wrath to come (1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9; Rom. 5:9). The wrath of God covers the beginning, middle, and end of the Tribulation, as well as the Second Coming of Christ (Rev. 1:10; 6:16-17; 19:11-21; 2 Thes. 1:7-10; Isa. 63:1-6).

The dispensation of grace ends before the Tribulation begins. It is impossible to execute a program of grace and a program of judgment at the same time. They are mutually exclusive.

DANIEL'S SEVENTIETH WEEK PERTAINS TO ISRAEL, NOT THE BODY OF CHRIST

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof

shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate” (Dan. 9:24-27).

“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it” (Jer. 30:7).

This should be a weighty argument for dispensationalists who make a stark distinction between Israel and the Church. The great object of Satanic attack during the last half of the Tribulation is the remnant of Israel, not the Body of Christ (Rev. 12:9-12). The two witnesses and the 144,000 will be the chief actors for God during this time. These are all Jewish (Rev. 7:1-8; 11:3-12).

Finally, it is the remnant of Israel who will be waiting for Christ’s return after the Tribulation, not the Church (Mal. 3:16-18; Ezek. 20:33-38; 37:11-28; Zech. 13:8-9; 12:10-14). The Gentiles who are saved during the Tribulation come to a knowledge of Christ through Israel’s testimony, not the Body of Christ.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Paul spoke as though the Rapture was imminent: That is, as far as we know, it could happen at any time. Paul himself expected to be raptured but knew

the Tribulation had not begun (1 Thes. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:51).

Members of the Body of Christ are never warned or prepared to go through the Tribulation. This omission is especially telling considering that Christ, in His ministry to the Jews, both warns and prepares them to go through it (see Matthew chapters 10, 24, 25; Mark 13; Luke 21).

None of the Second Coming passages mention the Rapture of believers being caught up in

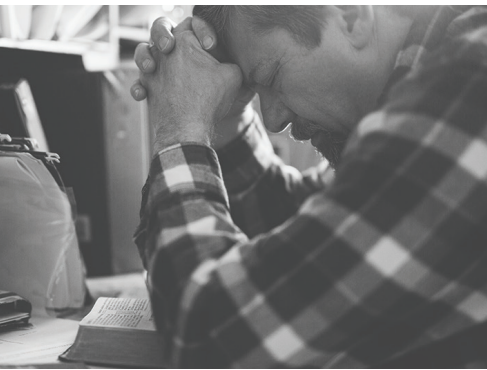


the clouds of the air. We can check out the Old Testament and see many prophecies of Christ’s Second Coming to Israel and the nations to bring in the Davidic Kingdom on earth, but none of them refer to the revelation of 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18. This is also true of the Gospels, the Circumcision Epistles, and the Book of Revelation.

The *last days* of Israel’s prophetic program and the *last days* of the Body of Christ do not match: Jesus warned the Jews of His day to look for signs that would herald His coming (Luke 21:20-27). “And when these things begin to come

to pass, *then look up*, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28). They were not to begin looking for the coming of the Lord until these signs begin to appear. In contrast, Paul gives no signs, only spiritual and moral trends that could be descriptive of any place in church history (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; 4:3-4). As Pastor J.C. O’Hair used to say, “We are not looking for the signs of the times because this is not the time for the signs.”

The relation of church and government: Members of the Body of Christ are told to be subject to governmental authorities and to pray for them (Rom. 13:1-7;



Titus 3:1; 1 Tim. 2:1-4). This will be out of place in the Tribulation as the government will be under the control of Satan and the Beast (Rev. 13:4).

The necessity of an interval: After the Rapture, the Judgment Seat of Christ must take place before believers enter the Kingdom (Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 4:5). This “meeting in the air” is not to determine salvation or damnation but reward or loss

of reward for the believers. The interval of at least seven years between the Rapture and the Second Coming seems adequate to accommodate the many millions of saints for the “Bema Seat.” This would require a pre-Tribulation Rapture.

The argument of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: The Thessalonians were well schooled in God’s prophetic program (1 Thes. 5:1-3). If they believed, or if it was Paul’s intent to teach, that the living members of the Body of Christ would go through the tribulation before being “caught up,” they should have rejoiced for their “dead in Christ” rather than mourned. After all, they were with the Lord and had missed the persecution of the Man of Sin and the wrath of Satan. Instead, they were confused about the details of the Rapture (not the day of the Lord) and received instruction to comfort one another that they would all participate in the Rapture together and so miss this terrible time of trouble.

The argument of 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3: “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”

This passage presents three prophetic phrases:

- The times and seasons (Acts 1:7).

“The dispensation of **grace ends** before the Tribulation begins. It is impossible to execute a program of grace and a program of judgment at the same time. They are mutually exclusive.”



- The Day of the Lord (Zeph. 1:14-18).
- A thief in the night (Matt. 24:43; Rev. 3:3).

These three have to do exclusively with Israel’s prophetic program, not the Mystery of the Body of Christ or the dispensation of grace. These are set off from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 by the word “But” (v. 1), which shows the dis-relationship between these three and the Rapture. Paul taught by contrast.

According to the passage, the announcement of “Peace and safety” happens before the day of the Lord. If the day of the Lord refers only to the Second Coming of Christ after the Tribulation (as post-tribulationists say it does), then it will have them saying “Peace and safety” at the end of the Tribulation while in the midst of the Battle of Armageddon. Something is awry here!

Since the Tribulation gets worse in judgment (with the seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven vials of God’s wrath), no one will be able to say peace and safety then. Therefore, the Rapture must come before the Tribulation.

The argument of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7: Paul pleaded with the believers not to be “shaken” or “troubled” by false reports that they were in “the day of the

Lord.” Such pleading he made in virtue of “the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him” (v. 1). Again, Paul’s purpose was one of comfort and encouragement. They would not be subject to the day of God’s wrath because of the expectation of Christ’s coming. At this point, most post-tribulationists again make a sharp distinction between the Tribulation and the Day of the Lord. The Tribulation (they say) is the wrath of men, the wrath of the Antichrist, and the wrath of Satan, while the Day of the Lord comes afterward and is the wrath of God.

The trouble with the Thessalonians was that while they were bravely enduring persecutions and tribulations (2 Thes. 1:4), the enemy had confused them with these false reports that they had actually entered the time of the Lord’s vengeance upon the world. Now if the distinction between the time of Tribulation and the Day of the Lord was as stark as post-tribulationists insist that it is, there would have been no better opportunity to clarify the issue than right here.

Here are the facts:

- The Thessalonian Christians knew they were being persecuted by the unbelievers.

- They thought this could be the Day of the Lord.
- This was contrary to what Paul had taught them previously.
- Paul had not changed his teaching on this.
- He made no attempt to correct the error by instructing them that they could not be in the Day of the Lord's wrath since they were being persecuted by men (the wrath of men).
- Instead, he referred them to his original teaching while among them.


Before the Day of the Lord, there must be:

1. *A falling away* (KJV): Greek *hee apostasia*, literally “the departure.” Not just from Bible doctrine but the departure of the Church to heaven via the Rapture (2 Thes. 2:1; 1 Thes. 4:15-18).
2. *Man of Sin revealed*: This revelation will occur when “the prince that shall come” shall make a covenant with Israel for one week of years (Dan. 9:26-27). Since the wise will be able to identify the Antichrist at the beginning of Daniel’s Seventieth Week, it necessitates a pre-Tribulation Rapture.
3. *The removal of the Restrainer*: The expression “what withholdeth” is neuter, but its masculine equivalent is in verse 7, “until *he* be taken out

of the way.” This is undoubtedly the Holy Spirit in the Church at the Rapture.

We have seen that the pre-Tribulation Rapture of the church is well supported by Paul’s teaching in a variety of different ways. This truth is more than just academic or one in which we have been armed to win arguments. It should also make an impact on our faith and life as Christians. If it is really true that Christ could appear for us at any moment, how does that affect your attitude toward the work of Christ in your particular ministry? Does that give you a desire to be about the Master’s business seeing that the time could be short? Do you hold to the teaching of the pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church? Wonderful! Now does that truth hold you?



“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:15-17). 

Take a break from your morning coffee and try to find our error in the November *Searchlight*. Drop us an email once you spot it.



Where Berean Bible Society has traveled in 2023

MARCH—SUN CITY WEST, ARIZONA

JULY—OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN

MARCH—BANNING, CALIFORNIA

JULY—SALEM, MISSOURI

MAY—ASHTABULA, OHIO

AUGUST—NEWAYGO, MICHIGAN

MAY—WHEATON, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER—LANCASTER, WISCONSIN

JUNE—TIPP CITY, OHIO

OCTOBER—NEWAYGO, MICHIGAN



Why not invite us to visit your area of the country?



Question Box

“What is the ‘third woe’ in the Book of Revelation?”

“The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly” (Rev. 11:14).


In Revelation 8, after the fourth angel sounded his trumpet, the Apostle John saw and heard the angel flying through the midst of the sky, “saying with a loud voice, *Woe, woe, woe*, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!” (8:13). These last three trumpets introduce three great woes of judgment, one woe for each remaining trumpet blast (9:12; 11:14). While the first four trumpets will be horrendous, the last three will be even worse.

The fifth trumpet, *the first woe*, is a plague of monstrous locusts that mercilessly torture, but does not kill, mankind for five months. These demonic creatures will sting people and inflict the same kind of agonizing pain that comes from a scorpion sting (9:1-11).

The sixth trumpet, *the second woe*, is a plague of demonic horsemen riding monstrous horses, 200 million strong. For thirteen months, these horsemen will kill and ultimately slay 1/3 of the world’s population by fire, smoke, and brimstone (9:12-19).

The seventh trumpet (11:15), *the third woe*, is the trumpet which sounds for the beginning of the seven last plagues. Thus, the third woe entails *all* the dreadful bowl judgments (15:1-8) that will be poured out during the Great Tribulation (16:1-21). They will be the most severe judgments the world has ever seen, and “in them is filled up the wrath of God” (15:1).

—Pastor Kevin Sadler



“For God hath NOT appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 5:9



TRADITIONS:

Don't Get Carried Away

PASTOR DON HOSFELD
Berean Searchlight Editor

Seldom are traditions a topic of conversation as often as they are around the holidays, especially Christmas. I've read that more people celebrate Christmas worldwide than any other holiday except New Year's. Out of roughly one hundred ninety countries worldwide, over one hundred sixty celebrate Christmas.

For a Christian, that may sound encouraging; however, like many other holidays that have their roots in Christianity but have become something else entirely, Christmas has become much more of a secular event than an acknowledgment of the birth of Christ. Sadly, Christmas has become more about Christmas dinner than Christ. Family tradition has replaced biblical meaning.

Theologian J.I. Packer wrote, "All Christians are at once beneficiaries and victims of tradition—beneficiaries, who receive nurturing truth and wisdom from God's faithfulness in past generations; victims, who now take for granted things that need to be questioned, thus treating as divine absolute patterns of belief and behavior that should be seen as human, provisional, and relative. We are all beneficiaries of good, wise, and sound tradition and victims of poor, unwise, and unsound traditions."

Traditions can be something good and meaningful and bind us to something important, but they can also be dangerous and destructive and become a replacement for what's most important. The Apostle Paul both praised tradition and warned us not to be carried away from Christ because of them.

CARRIED AWAY IN TRADITIONS

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the *tradition of men*, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (Col. 2:8).

I think it's fair to say that when Scripture tells us to "Beware," we would do well to listen intently. I can't help but imagine if I were standing next to a police officer and he said, "I wouldn't do that if I were you," I'm pretty sure I would heed that advice. How much more should believers heed the warnings directed to us from the Word of God?

The word "spoil" in our passage literally means to carry one off as a captive. Paul is warning us not to be carried off into the godless wisdom and empty lies of man and this world, which will inevitably take us further from the Word of God and the truth that is in Christ.

With good reason does Paul (God) warn mankind about traditions, for man has always had a propensity to allow the traditions of men to lead us somewhere other than where God has intended. One such example of this comes from Israel and the Law.

At the heart of Judaism is the Mosaic Law. However, it's not quite that simple. The first five books of the Bible (the Torah or Pentateuch), along with the latter books of the Prophets and the Writings—24 books in all—is the Hebrew Bible, known collectively as the Tanakh or the Written Torah. But did you know that the vast majority within Judaism believe that the Written Torah is insufficient? They believe there is another Law, the *Oral* Torah, which was handed down through oral *tradition* and is equal to the Written Word.



According to Rabbinic tradition, the written law is sometimes contradictory and lacks clarity and definition, and the *only* way to understand and apply it is with the Oral Torah. They say God gave Moses other laws, sayings, and verbal explanations of the Written Law but instructed him not to record these teachings but to deliver them to the people by word of mouth.

According to them, all of this additional yet authoritative information remained unwritten from the time of Moses until around AD 200 when, out of concern that it might be lost forever because of having been scattered, it was decided to write them down. The result was two books that combined are referred to as the Talmud. However, it's important to note that this Oral Torah or the Talmud doesn't *only* contain what was supposedly passed down by word of mouth; it also includes "interpretations and conclusions which the scribes *deduced* from the written Torah."¹ In other words, it is a "legal *commentary* on the Torah, explaining how its commandments are to be carried out."²

Sound troubling? It should. In essence, the belief is that the Word of God was inadequate from the beginning and that an equal amount of faith should be placed in man's ability to deduce and perfectly pass down information through oral traditions. Anyone who has played the game of telephone surely knows that it would take a miracle for that to happen. No wonder we see Jesus at odds with the Pharisees over the "tradition of the elders."

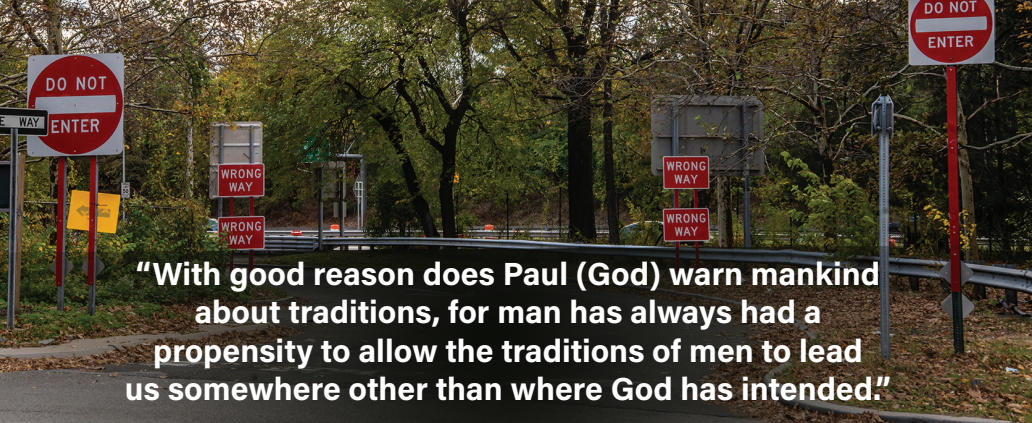
"Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the *tradition of the elders*? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But He answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your *tradition*?" (Matt. 15:1-3).

Much has been made about the differences between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and if you have ever wondered if either "won" the debate between the two and became the dominant group, the answer is found in the widespread acceptance of the Oral Law. Besides their other differences, Sadducees did not believe in the Oral Law, which is why the "tradition of the elders" only comes up when Jesus is speaking to Pharisees.

However, Judaism is not alone in believing that *only* a select few can fully know and understand God's Word. The idea that only *some* have the necessary knowledge and, thus, the right to determine for all what God *really* means is quite common. Belief in a "priestly" class exists within many "mainstream" religions, even so-called Christian groups.

The claim that only some within Judaism or Christianity received the necessary information to discern God's written Word is entirely false and not supported in Scripture. When God commanded the Israelites to follow the "Law" (*Hebrew Torah*), He didn't say "Torahs" but used the singular "Torah" (cf. Deut. 30:10; 31:9-11; Josh. 1:8). When Joshua renewed the covenant after crossing into the promised land, we're told, "he *read all the words of the law*, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is *written in the book of the law*. There was *not a word of all that Moses commanded*, which Joshua *read* not before all the congregation of Israel..." (Josh. 8:34-35).

When Paul wrote his epistles, he didn't write to only a limited group of educated and chosen individuals—priests. He wrote to "all that be in Rome" (Rom. 1:7), and to the entire "church of God which is at Corinth," all that are "sanctified in Christ Jesus" (1 Cor. 1:2). Scripture is our final authority, and we should reject any claim that the words of men are needed to complete the Word of God. God Himself has declared that "*Scripture is given by inspiration of God*, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be *perfect, thoroughly furnished...*" (2 Tim. 3:16,17).



“With good reason does Paul (God) warn mankind about traditions, for man has always had a propensity to allow the traditions of men to lead us somewhere other than where God has intended.”

GOOD DIRECTIONS

But it would be a mistake to think all traditions are bad. In fact, we are told to follow traditions in 2 Thessalonians 2:15, “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the *traditions* which ye have been taught, *whether by word, or our epistle.*”

Instructions given by prophetic utterances or writings are “traditions.” This is why Paul says to hold to the traditions *he taught*, whether by “word” or “epistle.” The word “tradition” simply means *that which is delivered*, which is why the King James also translates the Greek word as “ordinance.”

“Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the *ordinances*, as I delivered them to you” (1 Cor. 11:2).

Far from simply encouraging people to walk uprightly, Paul delivers ordinances or *traditions* to the saints in the form of commandments from the Lord (cf. 1 Thes. 4:1,2). He says to “stand fast” in these traditions.

Consider how the Psalmist uses the words “stand fast” to describe God’s works and commandments:

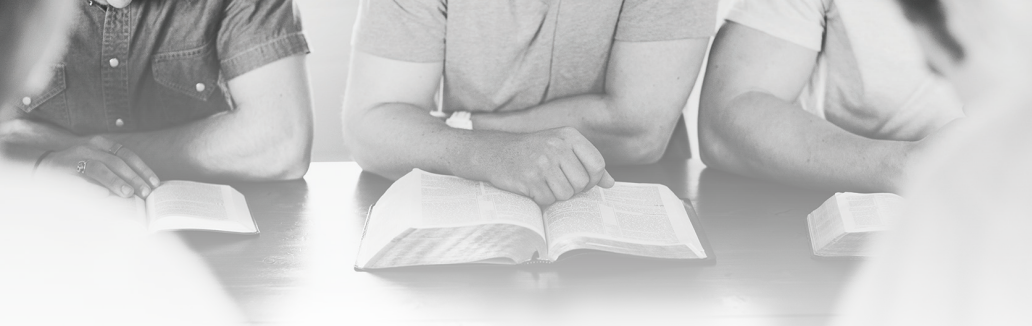
“The works of His hands...all His commandments are sure. They *stand fast* for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness” (Psa. 111:7,8).

Paul is making it clear that the Body of Christ is to “stand fast” or to be secure or unmovable from the traditions *he delivered* through his words or his writings. Paul could say this because he was an Apostle and a prophet (cf. 1 Cor. 13:2). He said, “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you *are* the commandments of the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:37).

Following traditions is something that most of us do; the question is, are we following the traditions of man or the traditions that God gave us through the Apostle Paul?

1. <https://jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/11750-oral-law>
2. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-oral-law-talmud-and-mishna>





MAN *to* MAN

MEN REPORTING FOR DUTY

(Excerpt from *Daily Transformation*)

After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, American men really stepped up to the plate. In great numbers and with a strong loyalty to their country, they voluntarily reported for military duty. Our victory in WWII came largely through the responsiveness of these brave men.

Matthew 14:35-36 touches on an extremely important timeless principle that we don't want to miss. When the Savior came into the land of Gennesaret, "And when the men of that place had knowledge of Him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto Him all that were diseased... [and each one was] made perfectly whole."

Please notice that it was the men who led the way here and not the women. Men have been sold a false bill of goods from Satan to believe that being spiritually minded is something unmanly. On the contrary, it is manly, as well as biblical, for men to take the spiritual leadership in their home and church. Men should be ashamed when they shy away from prayer, Bible study, church attendance, and general spiritual leadership. In fact, God makes the point over and over in Scripture that men should be the driving spiritual force leading their families toward a closer walk with the Lord. Joshua stood before the spiritually anemic men of Israel and told them, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Josh. 24:15). Gideon asked, "Where be all His miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?" (Judg. 6:13).

The Psalmist wrote, "Give ear, O my people...I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us...which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them... That they might set their hope in God" (Psa. 78:1-7). Paul wrote, "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

It is not an accident that Matthew 14:35 records the men taking the spiritual leadership in bringing many to the Lord Jesus Christ. God places this in His Word to encourage men to be spiritually-minded, involved, proactive, and to provide consistent spiritual leadership in their homes and church. We are in a serious warfare with Satan. Godly men are desperately needed. Don't be AWOL. Step up to the plate.

—Pastor John Fredericksen

The Light of Christmas

We bring in the Christmas season with beautiful Christmas lights.
They shine forth across our cities throughout the season's nights.

Many look forward to celebrating this wonderful time of the year
By decorating their homes with lights to spread some Christmas cheer.

We string lights on Christmas trees, on wreaths hanging here and there.
Lights adorn many, many decorations. We see pretty lights everywhere.

Jesus is the real light of Christmas. He is the light of the world today.
He died on the cross for our sins. He is the truth, the light, the way.

—Margaret Cagle

SPOTLIGHT *on Grace Churches*

ST. LOUIS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

6234 Victoria Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

Pastor Rick Owsley

SERVICE TIMES:

Mid-week Bible Study: Wednesday 6:30 pm

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Website: stlbf.org | Phone: 314.781.0472



Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER
Berean Bible Society President

“Ole and Lena were sitting down to their usual morning cup of coffee, listening to the weather report coming over the radio. ‘There will be 3 to 5 inches of snow today, and a snow emergency has been declared,’ the weather report said. ‘You must park your cars on the odd numbered side of the streets.’ Ole says, ‘...Okay,’ and gets up from his coffee.

“The next day they’re sitting down with their morning cups of coffee and the weather forecast declares, ‘There will be 2 to 4 inches of snow today, and a snow emergency has been declared. You must park your cars on the even numbered side of the streets.’ Again, Ole says, ‘... Okay,’ and gets up from his coffee.

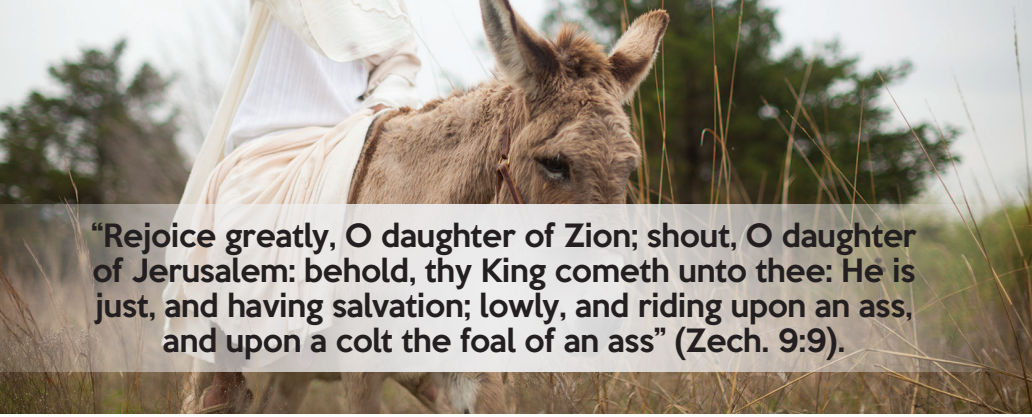
“Two days later, again they’re sitting down with their cups of coffee and the weather forecast says, ‘There will be 6 to 9 inches of snow today, and a snow emergency has been declared. You must park your cars on the...’ Just then the power goes out and Ole doesn’t get the rest of the instructions.

“He turns to Lena and says ‘... What am I going to do now, Lena?’ Lena replies, ‘Aw, Ole, why don’t you just leave the car in the garage today?’”¹

Weather forecasts are not always accurate, but often we act in light of what we are told is coming. God’s promises and prophecies, however, are always accurate. And the fulfillment of God’s prophecies reminds us that everything the Bible says is true and comes to pass. As we rightly divide the Word of truth and understand the promises that have been made directly to the Church, the Body of Christ, we should act in light of the promises made to us, because they will all be fulfilled exactly as God has said.

ALL THINGS MUST BE FULFILLED

“And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me” (Luke 24:44).



“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass” (Zech. 9:9).

At this time of year, we remember the prophecies fulfilled by our Lord at His birth, such as that He would be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14 cf. Matt. 1:22-23) and born in Bethlehem of Judea (Mic. 5:2 cf. Matt. 2:4-6).

The many fulfilled prophecies, such as those that find their fulfillment in the Person and life of Jesus Christ, are among the authenticating proofs of the inspiration of the Bible. In Scripture, we find an array of prophecies that extend over hundreds and even thousands of years by many different writers, and they find their complete fulfillment in one Person, Jesus of Nazareth.

Following our Lord’s resurrection, the Lord reminded His disciples that, before the Cross, He had taught them that He would fulfill everything written about the Messiah in the Old Testament. Christ stated plainly in Luke 24:44 that the Old Testament contains prophecies referring to Himself. In these prophecies and their fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ, we find evidence of the truth that Christ is the Messiah and all that He claimed to be.

The threefold division of the Old Testament that the Lord mentions—“the law of Moses...the

prophets, and...the psalms”—is meant to encompass and take in the entire Old Testament. There is no part of Old Testament Scripture that does not bear witness to the Messiah, and thus to the Lord Jesus Christ. All Scripture points to Him.

As Peter told Cornelius and his household, “To Him give all the prophets witness...” (Acts 10:43). In John 5:39, the Lord told the Jews in Jerusalem, “Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.”

In Luke 24:44, the Lord told His apostles that “all things,” or all prophecies concerning the Person and work of the Messiah, “must be fulfilled.” Notice that our Lord didn’t say that these prophecies *will* “be fulfilled,” but that they *must* be fulfilled.” God is *always* faithful to His Word, and because God’s Word prophesied it, therefore, it *must* be fulfilled!

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass” (Zech. 9:9).

Let us walk through some of the Messianic prophecies contained just in the Book of Zechariah. Here in Zechariah 9, we find a prophecy regarding the Lord's triumphal entry. This prophecy was fulfilled when the Lord arrived in Jerusalem for the Passover at which He was crucified. This perfectly fulfilled prophecy is an event that is recorded in all four Gospel records.

In Matthew 21, the Lord, in His omniscience, sent two of His disciples to Bethpage to find two donkeys: "Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto Me" (v. 2).

Christ instructed the two disciples that as they entered the village, they would find a tethered female donkey and her colt. The disciples found the two donkeys as the Lord said and explained to those standing nearby (Mark 11:5) as the Lord instructed them: "The Lord hath need of them" (Matt. 21:3). Matthew 21:4-5 then plainly declares the fulfillment of prophecy:

"All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass."

As Mark 11:7 tells us, "And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and He sat upon him." No man had ever sat and ridden on this colt (Mark 11:2), so the mother was brought along (Matt. 21:7) and walked beside to calm her foal as the Lord rode upon the colt into


Jerusalem. Thus, as Zechariah prophesied, the King sat upon a donkey, specifically on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Donkeys were used for humble, common tasks in times of peace, while horses were ridden for war-time combat. So, the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6) humbly rode, not just on a donkey, but on the foal of a donkey as He entered Jerusalem, coming to be "obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:8). At Christ's second coming, however, He will ride upon a white horse to wage war against Israel's enemies (Rev. 19:11).

Zechariah's prophecy invited Zion and Jerusalem to "rejoice greatly...shout" at the coming of the salvation promised in the Person of her King. A king's coming sometimes instilled fear, but the Messiah's coming would inspire joy. And that is what the people did as the Lord Jesus rode into Jerusalem: "And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest" (Matt. 21:9).

This prophecy in Zechariah 9 also accurately describes four truths about Jesus Christ: (1) He is Israel's "King" (Luke 1:32-33); (2) He is "just" (Acts 3:14); (3) He has and brings "salvation" (Luke 19:9-10); and (4) He is "lowly," or humble (Matt. 11:29).

Our Lord riding upon a donkey into Jerusalem was in perfect fulfillment of prophecy, and His entrance into Jerusalem in this manner demonstrated to all Israel that He was this King and long-awaited Messiah.



“...So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter...” (Zech. 11:12-13).

THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER

“And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD” (Zech. 11:12-13).

Here we find a fascinating prophecy regarding Judas Iscariot and Jesus Christ. In this chapter, the Lord God instructed Zechariah to “Feed the flock of the slaughter” (11:4) and portray the role of a shepherd. In doing so, he became a type of the Messiah (Ezek. 34:23; 37:24). The flock of Israel was destined for slaughter because of their wicked rulers (Zech. 11:4-5). Nonetheless, Zechariah was to do his best to help them (11:7).

However, when the people end up rejecting this good shepherd, he leaves them to their fate. Zechariah then told them “If ye think good, give me my price” (11:12), or give me my wages, pay me what is due, “and if not, forbear,” or don’t pay me and keep what you owe me.

In response, the people “weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver” (11:12). Under

the law (Ex. 21:32), thirty shekels of silver was the compensation for a slave that had been killed. Thus, the people made Zechariah understand clearly that they did not estimate his service to them or to Israel at any higher price than the lost labor of a dead, household slave. This symbolically foreshadowed how Israel would value Christ, the Good Shepherd, and His ministry to them.

The Lord then told Zechariah to “Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them.” The money offered was an insult. It was the lowest they could pay. The thirty pieces of silver being called “a goodly,” or handsome, princely “price” is meant as an ironic, sarcastic statement. It means, “Oh, that magnificent sum at which they value me!”

Of course, this is a vivid picture of Judas Iscariot betraying our Lord for the *exact same* amount of thirty pieces of silver, and this prophecy was fulfilled in his act of treachery. Matthew 26:14-15 reads,

“Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver Him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.”

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel, was sold and betrayed for thirty pieces of silver. The unbelieving Jewish leaders of Christ's day offered this very amount to Judas, and in so doing were saying that the death of Jesus of Nazareth was worth no more to them than that of a common slave.

Judas's act of betrayal also fulfilled another Messianic prophecy in Psalm 41:9: "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." King David experienced the treachery of a trusted friend betraying him, likely referring to the betrayal of a trusted advisor named Ahithophel, who aided David's son, Absalom, in his rebellion to overthrow David (2 Sam. 15:12,31).

The Holy Spirit, however Who inspired these words of David, looked ahead in time to Christ and Judas, and the words received further fulfillment. Later, the Seed of David, Jesus Christ, also suffered this same kind of painful betrayal. Judas "lifted up his heel against" the Lord when he betrayed Him, which pictures "a vicious horse, which kicks his own master."² In John 13:18, our Lord revealed that Psalm 41:9 was indeed a prophecy of Judas: "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with Me hath lifted up his heel against Me."

In response to this insulting sum of money being given to Zechariah, the Lord told him to "Cast it unto the potter" (Zech. 11:13). He was to cast it to the potter in

disgust, as an insulting thing to be rejected. The command by the Lord to throw it to the potter is given greater prophetic meaning by Zechariah's action in the last part of verse 13 when he threw the pieces of silver "to the potter in the house of the LORD." He was to cast the thirty pieces of silver to the humble potter who was working *in the temple*.

We find the fulfillment of this prophecy when Judas tried to return the money to the chief priests and elders. He brought it to them,

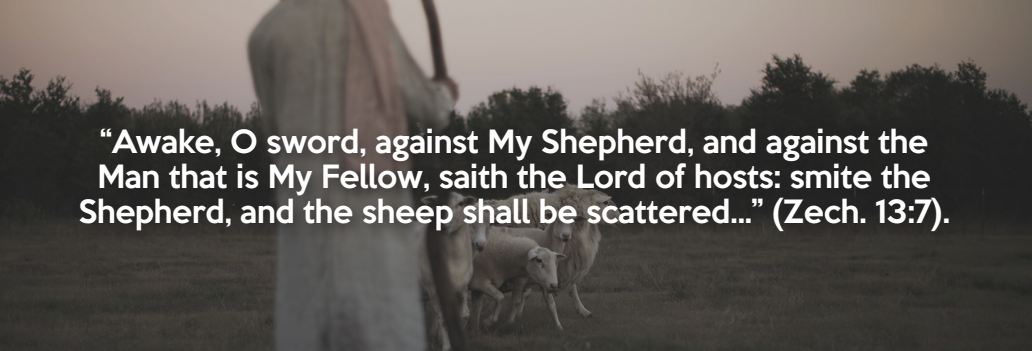
"Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself" (Matt. 27:4-5).

The thirty pieces of silver that the chief priests paid Judas Iscariot for delivering Christ to them were cast down onto the floor of the temple, the house of the Lord, just like the prophecy in Zechariah! And then Matthew 27:6-7 tells us,

"And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them *the potter's field, to bury strangers in.*"

The law prohibited the priests from putting blood-money into the temple treasury. Thus, the chief priests gave the money paid to betray Christ, which had been cast down in the temple, to a *potter* as the purchase price of a field.

These Jewish leaders used the money to buy this potter's field as a place where unclean



“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the Man that is My Fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered...” (Zech. 13:7).

Gentile strangers could be buried in Jerusalem. In so doing, they unknowingly fulfilled a Messianic prophecy written hundreds of years before.

SMITING THE SHEPHERD AND SCATTERING THE SHEEP

“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the Man that is My Fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered...” (Zech. 13:7).

God’s command to the “sword” to awake against “My Shepherd” speaks of the Shepherd’s death. A sword is an instrument of violent death, and this prophecy predicts the violent death of God’s Son, the Good and Great Shepherd (John 10:11; Heb. 13:20). We know that violent death to be the Cross.

It’s important to notice though how the Shepherd is called “the Man that is My Fellow.” This is a powerful and clear declaration of both the humanity and deity of Jesus Christ. Calling the Shepherd “My Fellow” shows that the Messiah is coequal with “the LORD of hosts” and, as such, is God.

The prophecy further declares, “...smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.” On the Mount of Olives, before He was arrested that night in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Lord

Jesus quoted this part of the verse, claiming for Himself the role of the Shepherd in this prophecy. In so doing, He affirmed the prophetic fact that His death would result in the scattering of His sheep, or His disciples.

“All ye shall be offended because of Me this night: for it is written, I will smite the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad” (Matt. 26:31).

By confirming and identifying with this prophecy, Christ predicted that the disciples would desert Him that very night. Fear would overwhelm them and they would scatter and forsake the Good Shepherd.

Later that night, Judas came into the Garden with a band of men bearing swords and staves. The Lord addressed that company of men, saying, “Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take Me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on Me. But all this was done, *that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook Him, and fled*” (Matt. 26:55-56).

PIERCED SIDE

“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplications: and

they shall look upon Me Whom they have pierced...” (Zech. 12:10).

Zechariah 12:1 begins this prophecy, “The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth....” So God, the Creator, is speaking, and God says in verse 10, “Me Whom they have pierced.” No one can pierce God unless God first takes on human flesh and, of course, this took place in the Person of Jesus Christ.


Zechariah 12:10 is a prophecy of the glorious second coming of the Messiah, when Israel will look upon and see the One they had pierced when He was “crucified and slain” (Acts 2:23). The Apostle John referred to Zechariah 12:10 in his record of the Cross:

“But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water...For these things were done, that the Scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of Him shall not be broken. And again another Scripture saith, They shall look on Him Whom they pierced” (John 19:34,36-37).

More than 500 years after the prophecy of Zechariah, the Lord used a Roman soldier as the unsuspecting agent to fulfill this prophecy. When the soldier thrust his sword through Christ’s side as He hung on the cross to make sure

He was dead, he inadvertently fulfilled this prophecy in remarkable detail.

The Hebrew word translated as “pierced” in Zechariah 12:10 means “to thrust through with spear, javelin, sword, or any such weapon.”³ This accurately expresses the action of the Roman soldier in how he pierced our Lord’s side with a spear.

These are just a few examples of the prophecies fulfilled in the Person and life of Christ. As Josh McDowell points out, “The Old Testament, written over a 1,000-year period, contains several hundred references to the coming Messiah. All of these were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and they establish a solid confirmation of His credentials as the Messiah.”⁴ The miracle of fulfilled prophecy in Jesus Christ can rivet our attention and bring us to the place where we can clearly see and understand that the Bible is the Word of God and that we can trust it, and our Lord Jesus Christ, with all our hearts. 

1. Car and Train Jokes, https://www.best-funny-jokes.com/car-and-train-jokes-ole-and-lena-were_2531.

2. G. Rawlinson, *The Pulpit Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1976), p. 323.

3. Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, David Brown, *Commentary on the Whole Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1961), p. 1074.

4. Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict, Volume 1* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1979), p. 141.



“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Me Whom they have pierced...” (Zech. 12:10).

BBS

Letter

Excerpts



From YouTube:

“I truly enjoyed this study [*Transformed by Grace* #307 ‘Life Meets Death’]. God’s Word is so deep. I enjoyed your humor, too!”

From Colorado:

“Thank you so much for the *Berean Searchlight*. Have a fantastic day hidden with Christ in God.”

From Facebook:

“*Transformed by Grace* is one of the best Christian programs available today! Each teaching is so rich with Scriptures, rightly divided, to help with studying God’s Word, God’s way. I’m so grateful for this program and Pastor Sadler, who teaches it. Thank you!!”

From our Inbox:

“Thank you for all you do. Your website and magazine are such a blessing to our family.”

From Georgia:

“I am enjoying the flash drive with 250 sermons. My son found a radio/CD player that also plays the USB flash drive. It’s very easy to operate! The sermons are comforting and uplifting. I appreciate you making them available.”

From YouTube:

“Glory to God, thank you. The way you teach is very understandable, and rightly dividing the Word allows us to get deeper into it. God bless you.”

From Facebook:

“Looking forward to ordering this Bible [the Grace Study Bible] when it is ready for purchase!”

From YouTube:

“Great explanation of the difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming!”

From Myanmar:

“Thank you for consistently sending us your *Berean Searchlight* booklet. It helps us a lot in studying God’s Word, rightly divided. This teaching is very new here in Myanmar; your booklet has many different topics.”

From Florida:

“My first years as a Florida prisoner, I was fortunate to learn of your ministry, and you sent me literature. Now, over 28 years later, you continue to bless me with the Word of truth, rightly divided. Thank you very much for all you do and the *Berean Searchlight*.”

From Illinois:

“Thanks again for *Transformed by Grace*. May God continue to bless this ministry and all those whose efforts contribute to it.”

From Pennsylvania:

“I can’t explain how much I enjoy the booklet [*Searchlight*] that you send out to so many people. I am always so thankful when it comes. May the Lord continue to bless all of you and the minister.”

From Texas:

“I have been very blessed by your TV program. Thank you so much.”

From Georgia:

“Thank you for all you do to get the Word of God out rightly divided to a lost and dying world.”

From Pennsylvania:

“I really do enjoy your TV program on channel 262 [CTN Dish Network]. I am 92 years old, and I get your booklet [*Berean Searchlight*] and read it through right away. It is such a blessing to me. May God continue to bless the ministry.”

From Facebook:

“Wow, love the Grace of God! And the truth of His Holy Word! Anyone wanting to be encouraged daily should sign up to get these daily devotions [*Two Minutes and More Minutes with The Bible*] through email! You won't be disappointed! bereanbiblesociety.org.”

From Facebook:

“Thank you, Lord, for the Apostle Paul. Without him, we would not know God's plan of salvation for the church that is His body.”

From YouTube:

[Responding to *Transformed by Grace* #304 “Life Meets Death Part 5: Lazarus”] “A few years ago, my girlfriend died of cancer.... I begged God to keep her alive, and I knew He could, but she died. I love the Lord. This message brought me to tears.”

From South Carolina:

“I truly get a great blessing from *Transformed by Grace*. Thank you for truth made simple to understand.”

From Florida:

“I just wanted to say thank you for your continued faithfulness to the Word rightly divided and the grace message. We depend on BBS messages, books, and the *Searchlight* for our ‘spiritual food.’”

From Oklahoma:

“Thank you again for all you do to get the grace message out to the mixed-up world of Christendom. Coming from a Catholic upbringing... to being saved and joining a Southern Baptist church, where I was taught grace mixed up with do's and don'ts (Law/Grace), to now understanding complete liberty and rest in the finished work of the Cross and a God that loves me. I must admit that your sermons and articles stretch my grace every day, and I love it! Thank you, thank you!”

From YouTube:

[Responding to *What Does the Bible Say*: “Put on the Whole Armor of God”] “This is pure gold! Trust in Christ alone and the power of His might. Thanks, Pastor Ken!”

From Michigan

“I wanted to tell *Berean Bible Society* how much I appreciate seeing Pastor Sadler each night. Since my husband passed, the program has been such a comfort to me.”

From Tennessee:

“I discovered *Transformed by Grace* on CTN a few months ago and wanted to let you know how much I enjoy Pastor Kevin Sadler, his humor, and his teaching. I have learned so much from him. I would like to receive your *Berean Searchlight* and make a donation to your ministry.”

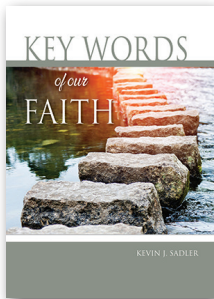
BE A BEREAN

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
—Acts 17:11

Foundational truths for

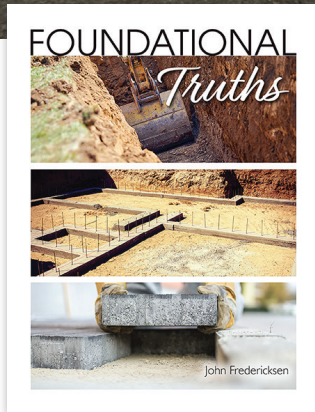
“According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon (1 Cor. 3:10).

201



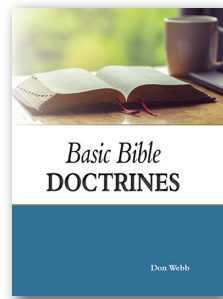
Key Words of Our Faith

Pastor Kevin Sadler
192 page paperback



Foundational Truths

Pastor John Fredericksen
144 page paperback



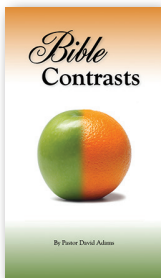
Basic Bible Doctrines

Pastor Don Webb
369 page paperback

Back to Basics Bundle

\$30 (savings of \$15)

NO SUBSTITUTIONS PLEASE



Bible Contrasts

Pastor David Adams
28 page booklet



Simple As Can Be

Pastor C. R. Stam
20 page booklet

the upcoming year!

Special Offers End December 31, 2023

262.255.4750 or bereanbiblesociety.org

Free shipping! (Wisconsin residents, please add 5.5% sales tax)

2024

Transformed by Grace is the TV program ministry of the *Berean Bible Society*. In this 30-minute program Pastor Kevin Sadler, President of BBS, gives clear and practical teaching from the Word of God, in light of the gospel of the grace of God for today, which was committed to the Apostle Paul.

This series, "Why You Can Trust the Bible" includes episodes 250-254, and 308-309:



7 DVD set:
Special Price:

\$14.00 (reg. \$17)

- 250 Why You Can Trust the Bible – Greece
- 251 Why You Can Trust the Bible – Israel (Part 1)
- 252 Why You Can Trust the Bible – Israel (Part 2)
- 253 Why You Can Trust the Bible – Jerusalem
- 254 Why You Can Trust the Bible – Coins and Manuscripts
- 308 Why You Can Trust the Bible – Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled
- 309 Why You Can Trust the Bible – Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled



News & Announcements



Do you have a Bible question that you'd like help with? Wondering if God can make a rock so big that He can't move it? Are you stuck on a difficult portion of the text? Our BBS homepage (www.bereanbiblesociety.org) has an "Ask A Question" link that you can click on to ask us about puzzling verses of Scripture or receive biblical counseling.

Read Your Bible Through in A Year: Have you considered reading your Bible through from cover to cover in 2024? If so, BBS can help! Just go to our website, and you'll find two different options. One follows the biblical order of the books and tells you how far to read each day to finish in one year. The other begins in Genesis and Matthew and tells you how far to read if you'd like to spend time each day in both the Old and New Testaments. These plans are also downloadable, so you can print them out and keep them in your Bible.

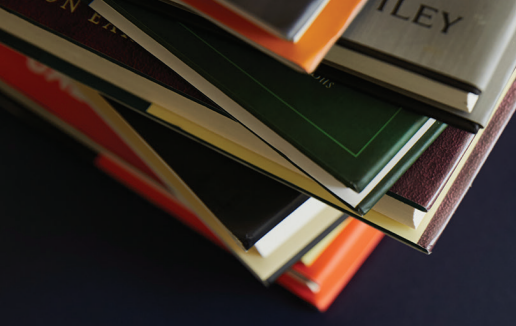
Grace Study Bible Progress: One of the more frequently asked questions we receive at BBS is, "When will the Grace Study Bible be complete?" Understandably, many are excited about this project, and while there's still quite a way to go before completion, we thank the Lord for the progress being made. However, we thought we would provide you with an update on the progress. Currently, forty-two books have been submitted and are in various stages of review. The review process includes multiple doctrinal and grammar reviews, as well as the need to check every reference cited by writers. Two books are pending the final layout, and five have completed the layout process. As you can see, the process is long and arduous, and we won't take any shortcuts. All who are involved are working to ensure that we do this wholly "to the glory of God." Please continue to pray for the work, and just maybe, you'll have a finished copy of the Grace Study Bible in 2025.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Northern Wisconsin Bible Conference, February 17-18, Lena, WI

West Valley Grace Fellowship Conference, March 22-24, Sun City West, AZ

BBS Regional Conference-Iowa, April 13, Guttenburg, IA



More Grace Materials

CHARLES F. BAKER

Bible Truth	\$8.00
Dispensational Relationships.....	12.00
Dispensational Synopsis of the New Testament.....	11.00
Dispensational Theology	30.00
God's Clock of the Ages.....	6.00
Real Baptism.....	8.00
Understanding Acts.....	16.00
Understanding the Body of Christ	12.00
Understanding Galatians.....	12.00
Understanding the Gospels	16.00

W. EDWARD BEDORE

A Biblical Life (booklet).....	\$5.00
The State and Place of the Dead	12.00
Unlocking the Scriptures	10.00

ROBERT BROCK

Christianity Is (booklet)	\$4.00
Revelation of the Mystery (booklet).....	4.00
Seven Churches in Revelation	4.00
Teachings of the Grace of God (8.5 x 11).....	8.00

HARRY BULTEMA

The Bible and Baptism	\$16.00
Brief Notes on 1 & 2 Corinthians	12.00
Daniel.....	20.00
Isaiah.....	24.00
Miracle of Inspiration	8.00
Names of Our Wonderful Lord.....	4.00

JANET N. DAVIS

Puzzle with Three Pieces (workbook).....	\$15.00
--	---------

KEN LAWSON

The Essential Book of Grace.....	\$9.00
----------------------------------	--------

FRED LEWIS

The Intermission of Grace.....	\$16.00
Understanding the Bible and End Times.....	14.00

J. C. O'HAIR

One Hundred Seventy Bible Lessons and Sermon Outlines.....	\$12.00
The Unsearchable Riches of Christ	15.00
The Christian Life (booklet)	6.00

DONALD WEBB

Basic Bible Doctrines.....	\$12.00
----------------------------	---------

ROLLIN WILSON

Thematic Preaching.....	\$11.00
So Run That You May Win	11.00

GRACE GOSPEL PUBLISHERS

First Things First (kids lessons and stories).....	\$11.00
Sound Words	5.00
Bible Memorization Packs	3.00

GROWING UP IN GRACE SUNDAY SCHOOL (BBS)

Bible Events Book 1	\$24.00
Bible Events Book 2	24.00
Bible Events Book 3	24.00
Bible Characters Book 1	24.00
Bible Characters Book 2.....	24.00
Bible Characters Book 3.....	24.00
Bible Doctrines Book 1.....	24.00
Bible Doctrines Book 2	24.00
Bible Doctrines Book 3.....	24.00
The Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.....	24.00

Free Shipping! *Wisconsin residents please add 5.5% sales tax*


BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY Germantown, WI 53022

Phone: 262.255.4750 | Website: boreanbiblesociety.org

This is only a partial price list. For a full price list please see our website or contact BBS.

THE BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT
N112 W17761 MEQUON ROAD
GERMANTOWN, WI 53022

PERIODICALS
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI
AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES



“Christmas began in
the heart of God.
It is complete only
when it reaches
the heart of man.
Why wait for a call
when you have a
command?” —Robert Hughes

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

— AND —
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Transformed By
Grace

Berean Bible Society
TV Ministry

Sunday 9:00 am CT: WJYS Chicago
Monday–Friday 6:00 pm ET:
Christian Television Network (CTN)

- DirecTV: Channel 376
- Dish Network: Channel 262
- Glory Star Satellite: Channel 117

BBS Network 24/7 streaming channel Roku and Apple TV
Also available on Facebook, YouTube, and the BBS website