

The BBI BULLETIN

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Berean Bible Institute, Inc.
PO Box 40
Germantown, WI 53022



Phone: (262) 255-4094
Fax: (262) 255-4195
E-mail: <berean@execpc.com>

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

“Did this terrible thing that happened in New York shake your faith in God? I mean, do you have trouble believing that there is a God if He would let this kind of evil take place?” This was the question posed to me by a local businessman whose shop I occasionally visit. In the past this man purposely shied away from discussing spiritual things when we talked. But now he was asking questions because his perceived comfort zone had been shattered by the attack on the Pentagon and the destruction of the World Trade Center Towers in New York City by Islamic terrorists. These vile acts that resulted in the death of over 6,000 men and women caused this man, like multitudes of other Americans, to begin praying and thinking about spiritual things. I was able to talk to him about why God allows evil to exist in the world, and then shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with Him for half an hour before another customer came in, causing him to terminate our conversation. I pray that I, or another believer, will have further opportunity to share the “Truth” that sets men free with this man.

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RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

by Dr. W. Edward Bedore

LESSON 4 - The Age of the Patriarchs

GOD'S MERCY

In the unfolding plan of redemption, God has always left a door open by which man could approach Him. Man, in his fallen condition, can never find favor with God on his own terms. The only hope is to look beyond man's helplessness and to trust in God's promise of deliverance through an act of His grace.

A Sacrifice

Because God is holy and righteous in His very nature, it is impossible for sinful man to come directly to God. It is for this reason that in the Bible we find men offering blood (animal) sacrifices before God. These sacrifices could never take away man's sin, but were offered on a continuing basis by which sin was “temporarily covered.”

The first sacrifice is found in Genesis 3:21 where we read that “unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skin, and clothed them.” Here we find God providing a “satisfactory” covering of animal skins to replace Adam and Eve's futile attempt to cover their shame with leaves (see Gen. 3:6-8). Only by the death of the animal could its skin be used for clothes. This was symbolic of the sacrifice that would one day be offered once for all mankind by Jesus Christ on the cross. The aprons of leaves are symbolic of man's futile efforts to become righteous by his own efforts.

It is significant that this sacrifice was offered immediately after God pronounced judgment upon Adam for his sin. It is also significant that the first promise of redemption was given in the same context, even before judgment was pronounced upon mankind.

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Mail Received At Box 40

FROM WISCONSIN:

"Just a note to say hello and glad to hear that the school is growing. We're thankful for you and all of the saints in Germantown!"

FROM FLORIDA:

"Just a small gift toward the work you are doing at the School to train young men and women the 'Gospel of the Grace of God.' Thank you for the newsletters."

FROM CALIFORNIA:

"A friend gave me a copy of your newsletter. I would like to be on your mailing list. I enjoyed reading it very much. We need more 'Grace' pastors who will stand for and preach the mystery given to Paul."

FROM PENNSYLVANIA:

"We thank you for the opportunity to share in the work for our wonderful Lord. We pray that the work will grow so many more men and women will be equipped to serve our Lord in preaching God's Word according to the revelation of the Mystery."

FROM COLORADO:

"Keep up the good work at BBI and may our Lord bless and encourage you as you labor for Him in equipping young people to bring the Gospel to a lost and dying world."

FROM GEORGIA:

"Enclosed please find a check to help with your work in proclaiming the Gospel of Grace message. I hope the School continues to prosper in the days to come."

*Only one life; 'twill soon be past.
Only what's done for
Christ will last.*

THE BULLETIN BOARD

News & Announcements

Spring Semester at **Berean Bible Institute** begins January 28th, 2002. If you would like an application or a Handbook and Course Catalog, please contact **BBI**.

*We would like to thank all of our supporters who share in this ministry with their prayers and financial support. **BBI** is continuing in the work of the Lord because of you.*

REMINDER!

BBI Has A Website!!!

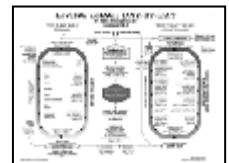
You can find our Handbook & Course Catalog, the latest copy of the *BBI Bulletin*, our Doctrinal Statement, and much more!!! All of this is at:

www.bereanbibleinstitute.org

BBI has 2 new charts available entitled: "The Two-fold Application of God's Grace in the Believer's Life" and "Living Grace Day-by-Day." These charts deal with the practical aspect of living by grace. Both charts are 8 1/2 x 11 inches and are in full color.

They sell as a set for \$5.00, which includes postage and handling. To order, simply write:

Berean Bible Institute, PO Box 40,
Germantown, WI 53022 or
phone: (262) 255-4094.



(Rightly Dividing continued from page 1)

Having cursed the serpent who tempted Eve, the Lord God said; *"And I will put enmity between thy seed and her seed; He shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise His heel"*(Gen. 3:15). Looking back, we know that this referred to the virgin born Lord Jesus Christ who has defeated sin, death, and Satan on the cross. In Christ is provided the forgiveness of sins and justification by which the believer is clothed with the righteousness of Christ Jesus. *"In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of His grace"*(Eph. 1:7); *"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him"*(II Cor. 5:21). Looking forward, Adam and Eve did not have the full perspective that we now have after the fact, but they understood that God would provide a Redeemer through the seed of the woman. A Redeemer who would restore that which was lost through sin.

A Mediator

A mediator is a go-between in the negotiations between two parties. The Old Testament office of a priest was that of a mediator. The priest would offer sacrifices on behalf of himself and the people of Israel. However, before Moses and the giving of the Law to the Children of Israel, it was the patriarch or the head of the family, clan, or tribe that we find offering the sacrifices.

The Patriarchs

The first sacrifice as a temporary covering for sin was provided by the Lord God Himself in the garden. An a final once for all, sacrifice for sin was provided by His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, at the cross. But, in between these two events it was sinful men who offered the sacrifices, which were a type, or prefigure, of Him who was to come.

The first example that we find is in Genesis 4:1-8. Cain's sacrifice of the fruit of the ground was unacceptable to the Lord God, for it was not a blood offering. Only by the shedding of blood can there be remission of sins, for the life is in the blood (see Lev. 17:11-14; Deut. 12:23; Heb. 9:22). In contrast to Cain's act of rebellion in bringing a sacrifice of the fruit of the ground, his brother Abel, as an act of faith, brought an animal sacrifice, a blood offering which was acceptable to the Lord God. In response to God's acceptance of Abel's sacrifice, Cain rose up in anger and killed his brother. This was an act of hatred toward God. Since Cain could not directly attack God Himself, he attacked the one who had found favor in God's sight.

A Standard Set

In the foregoing account of Cain and Abel, we find three principles established which are continuous themes throughout the Bible. These principles are more fully developed and their meaning revealed as God's plan of redemption is progressively unfolded.

First, we see that a blood sacrifice is required for the remission of sins in order for man to be acceptable to God. Second, we are to understand that the sacrifice was to be offered as an act of faith. The writer of Hebrews bore testimony to these things when he wrote: *"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous"*(Heb. 11:4). It was by faith, believing God, that Abel was accounted as righteous in God's sight. The same is said of believing Abraham, *"and he believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness"*(Gen. 15:6). The Apostle Paul used the example of Abraham to point out that salvation and the subsequent imputing of righteousness has always been through faith. Today the only works or sacrifices required being what has been already provided by the Lord Jesus Christ through His death on the cross for our sins (see Rom. 3:21-4:5; 6:23; I Cor. 15:3-4; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:3-7).

Third, we should take notice that the world system, that Cain symbolizes, is hostile toward God and will attack those who have come to Him through faith. The Lord Jesus Christ confirmed this fact during His earthly ministry as He spoke to His closest disciples the night before His death on the cross. *"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you"*(John 15:18-19). In like manner we are told in II Timothy 3:12 that *"all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."* The believer should not be surprised then when they encounter opposition to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And we should look with discernment at any movement, group, religion, teacher, doctrine, etc., etc., that claims to be of God but is, on a continuing basis, **popular on a large scale with the public in general.** The Bible does not give us any evidence that should cause us to think that God, or the truth, will ever be popular with the world. In fact, just the opposite is what we are told to expect.

While the name of Jesus Christ is often used in what is commonly called the "Christian Religion" or "Christianity," the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is often ignored or openly rejected as the only Savior, and the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith alone

is scorned, mocked, ridiculed, and openly attacked from all sides. The most dangerous assault on the truth of the Gospel does not come from the atheistic humanists and agnostics, but from the self-righteous religionists who would pervert, or outright deny, the Gospel of grace with the insistence of adding man's works to the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Cain is a type of those who reject God's free gift and insist on purchasing eternal life with their own efforts. Let the believer beware lest he be taken in by "another Jesus" and "another gospel" which is the false Jesus and false gospel of man-centered religion (see II Cor. 11:3-4; 13-15; Gal. 1:6-9; Col. 2:8-10).

By Example

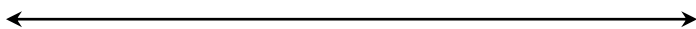
While we do not have detailed instructions given in the book of Genesis regarding the offering of sacrifices from the time of Adam until the giving of the Law of Moses to the nation of Israel at Mt. Sinai, we do find many examples as to what men of faith practiced during this time. Examples given are found in Genesis 4:1-5 (Abel), 8:20-21 (Noah), 12:7-8; 13:4,18; 22:1-14 (Abraham), 26:25 (Isaac), 31:54; 33:20; 35:1-7; 46:1 (Jacob). While it does not specifically state in every reference that a sacrifice was actually offered, the fact that they built an altar strongly infers that one was offered, for the purpose of an altar is to burn sacrifices.

In the book of Job, who probably lived during the time of Jacob, we find an example of a father, or patriarch, giving a burnt offering on behalf of his family (Job 1:1-5). He was also instructed to pray on behalf of three of his self-righteous friends, whom the Lord God had rebuked and instructed to sacrifice burnt offerings (Job 42:7-10).

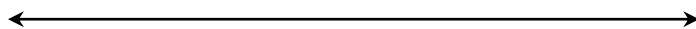
The Purpose

While the blood of an animal could never take away anyone's sins, as an act of mercy, God accepted these offerings of faith as a temporary covering of sin on the basis of His plan of redemption. In His foreknowledge, He knew that one day His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ would suffer and die on the cross as a once for all sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. The sacrifices of the Old Testament were a foreshadowing, or illustration, that would later serve to reveal the Lord Jesus Christ as God's Anointed. A Redeemer who would offer Himself as the True Sacrifice who would be the Way out of death and into Life (see John 14:6; Acts 13:38-39; 16:30-31; Rom. 1:16; 3:21-26; I Cor. 1:18-24; 15:3-4; II Cor. 5:21; Gal. 1:3-4; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13-14; etc., etc.).

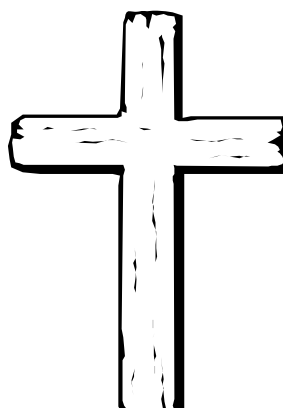
The dispensation of the Patriarchs would be phased out with the calling of the Children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. The descendants of Abraham, through his son Isaac and grandson Jacob (Israel), would become a new nation on the earth. The Law given to this favored and special nation through Moses was rich in symbolism and types of the coming Messiah. The offerings, sacrifices, tabernacle, and rituals of service and worship all pictured the Messiah Redeemer who would one day come on the scene. The Lord Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of both the simple sacrifices of the Patriarchal period and the more refined and structured rituals and sacrifices that were later carried out by the priests of the nation of Israel.



A Temporary Foreshadowing Offered Often



A Once for All Final Sacrifice for Sins Offered Only Once



scores the need that every member of the Body of Christ **The Reigns of Death and Sin** of Jesus (see Rom. 5:14,20-21). wrote to the Kingdom saints of the dispersion, he exhorted them to "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that

that have been Muhammadis promises of those planes and flew them into the World Trade Center Towers and **The Reign of Grace through the Righteousness of Christ (Rom. 5:21)**. as for what they believed. But alas, it was a misplaced faith in a false hope. Only through faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work of redemption can anyone receive

Courses Offered for the Spring 2002 Semester

The spring semester will begin on January 28th and will end May 23rd. For more information write: **Berean Bible Institute** at PO Box 40, Germantown, WI 53022 or phone: (262) 255-4094.

BLOCK ONE

102 - Apologetics	(2 hrs)
104 - Bible Exposition II	(4 hrs)
106 - Basic Bible Doctrines II	(2 hrs)
108 - Romans	(2 hrs)
110 - Acts	(2 hrs)

THE RAPTURE

by Dr. W. Edward Bedore

What is the Rapture?

The word "*rapture*" is not actually found in the Bible but is a term used to refer to a prophetic Biblical event that is still future. The word "*rapture*" means to be carried or taken away. So we use the word "*rapture*" to refer to the time when the Body of Christ will be "*caught up together ... to meet the Lord in the air*" (I Thess. 4:17).

Who will be Raptured?

Only those who have been saved during this present Dispensation of Grace will be included in the rapture. When this catching away of the saints takes

BLOCK TWO

202 - Christian Education I	(2 hrs)
204 - Bible Exposition IV	(4 hrs)
206 - Dispensational Theology II	(2 hrs)
208 - The Minor Prophets	(2 hrs)
210 - Homiletics II	(2 hrs)

Some have mistakenly thought that certain events recorded in Matthew chapter 24 describe the rapture of the Church the Body of Christ. But, as we compare Matthew chapter 24 and I Thessalonians chapter 4, we will see that there are significant differences between these two passages.

Matthew 24:31 and I Thessalonians 4:16-17 have two similarities and two differences that we are concerned with. By way of similarities, both mention a gathering together of the elect (saved) and both mention the sound of a trumpet in connection with their respective gathering together of the saints of God.

But, in contrast, Matthew 24:31 says nothing

So then, the rapture is not part of the Old Testament prophetic program but is part of God's mystery program never revealed until Jesus Christ revealed it to Paul (see Rom. 16:25; Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:1-7).

We do not know, and cannot know, when the rapture will take place. But we do know that it will

take place before the beginning of the Great Tribulation and outpouring of God's wrath, for it is God's purpose to "*deliver us from the wrath to come*" (I Thess. 1:10; also see Rom. 5:9).

When the Body of Christ is completed by the last member being added, then, and not until then, will the rapture take place.

Contrasts Between the Rapture of the Church and the Revelation of Jesus Christ

THE RAPTURE

1. An event that is specifically related to God's mystery promises to the Church which is Christ's Body.
2. Is spoken of only in Paul's epistles (I Cor. 15:51-58; I Thess. 4:13-18; Phil. 3:20-21; Titus 2:13; etc.).
3. The saints will stand before the Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ in heaven where their works will be evaluated in regard to rewards (Rom. 14:12; I Cor. 3:11-15; II Cor. 5:10).
4. It is imminent with no signs (wars, earthquakes, famine, etc.) to be fulfilled. It will take place when "the fullness of the Gentiles be come in" (Rom. 11:25).
5. The believers' bodies will be changed but not the earth (I Cor. 15:51-58; Phil. 3:20-21). This is in conjunction with the resurrection that concludes the Dispensation of Grace and pertains only to the Body of Christ.
6. The Church which is Christ's Body is taken to heaven (I Thess. 4:17).
7. Jesus Christ Himself will descend from heaven to meet the Church in the clouds of the air (I Thess. 4:16-17).
8. It is a mystery that will take place without warning (I Cor. 15:51).
9. Christ will only descend as far as the clouds of the air (I Thess. 4:17).
10. Believers will be removed from the world (I Thess. 4:13-18).
11. The removal of the Church will allow the Lawless One (Antichrist) to be revealed to the world through the power of Satan (II Thess. 2:6-10).
12. It will be a time of great joy for the Body of Christ (Rom. 8:18-23; Phil. 3:20-21; Titus 2:11-14).

THE REVELATION

1. An event that is specifically related to God's prophetic promises to national Israel.
2. Spoken of by all the prophets since time began (Matt. 24:24-30; Acts 3:21; etc.).
3. The nations that survive the Tribulation will be judged on earth before Jesus Christ's throne of glory for entrance into His Millennial Kingdom or to suffer the punishment of everlasting fire (Matt. 25:31-46).
4. It will be preceded by the fulfillment of prophetic signs (Antichrist revealed, Temple rebuilt, wars, plagues, famine, etc.). It will mark the end of "the Times of the Gentiles" (Lk. 21:24).
5. There will be drastic changes in nature (weather, geography, animal life, etc.), but not the bodies of those who survive the Tribulation and enter into Christ's Kingdom (Isa. 11:1-16; Eze. 20:34-38; Matt. 25:31-40; etc.). This includes both Gentiles and Jews.
6. Israel will be re-gathered in the Promised Land (Jer. 23:5-8; Ezek. 20:40-44; 34:11-13,31).
7. Jesus Christ "shall send His angels to gather together His elect" (Matt. 24:31).
8. His sign shall appear in heaven to announce Christ's soon coming. All the world will see it (Matt. 24:30).
9. Christ will descend to earth "and His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives" (Zech 14:4; Matt. 24:30; Acts 16:11).
10. Unbelievers will be removed from the world (Matt. 24:37; Lk. 17:34; cf. Matt. 13:36-43; 25:31-36; etc.).
11. Antichrist will be removed from the earth and Satan rendered powerless by being bound and put into the bottomless pit (Rev. 19:20; 20:1-3).
12. It will be a time of great terror for those dwelling on the earth (Matt. 24:29-30).

change to any who request it.

Berean Bible Institute exists as a non-degree granting school of adult education which endeavors to provide advanced Biblical and doctrinal studies in accordance with the Biblical principle of right division and the revelation of the mystery, along with practical training in ministry and leadership skills in order to help individuals become prepared to do the work of the ministry in local churches and/or the mission field, at home or abroad, with the overall goal of making the Gospel of Jesus Christ known to the lost throughout the world, the edification of believers, and the promotion of personal Bible study.

Editor: W. Edward Bedore
Composition and Layout: Jessica S. Sadler

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE

N112 W17761 Mequon Road

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N112 W17761 Mequon Road
PO Box 40
Germantown, WI 53022