

The BBI BULLETIN

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

With the beginning of the 2005-2006 academic year, **Berean Bible Institute** will enter its tenth year of operation. This means that at graduation time in May we will be celebrating our tenth anniversary. We praise the Lord for how He has blessed this ministry and made this achievement possible.

From its inception **BBI** has been, and continues to be, an independent faith based ministry. There is no large formal organization, group, foundation, or denomination backing this school. **BBI** depends on the prayer and financial support of local Grace churches and individual Grace believers who believe that the furtherance of the Grace Message is worth sacrificing for. In like manner, the school's faculty and staff are men and women who are dedicated to defending and propagating the Gospel of the Grace of God. And, of course, the most important part of **BBI** is the student body. Whether they get their training at **BBI** or somewhere else, without individuals who are willing to make the sacrifices necessary in order to prepare themselves for the work of the ministry there will be no next generation of Grace pastors, evangelists, Bible teachers, and missionaries.

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HELL, SHEOL, AND HADES

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

There seems to be some confusion about the meaning of Hell and who goes there because of the way the Hebrew word *Sheol* and the Greek word *Hades* have been translated in our English Bibles. This has resulted in a misunderstanding by some of what the Bible actually teaches about where those who have died are presently. Is the soul in a conscious state? Is the soul asleep? Or does the soul even continue to exist after death? These are important questions that we will try to answer.

The Hebrew word *Sheol* is found in the Bible sixty-five times. It is translated "the pit" three times, "the grave" thirty-one times, and "Hell" thirty-one times. The Greek word *Hades* is used eleven times; being rendered "Hell" ten times and "grave" once. Adding to the confusion is that two other words are also translated Hell in the New Testament. These are *Tartarus*, which is found once and *Gehenna*, which is used twelve times.

The term "Hell" is commonly understood to mean a place of torment where the souls of the wicked go after physical death. This is true. However, because Hades in the New Testament and Sheol in the Old are variously rendered Hell or grave, there has been some who have the wrong idea about what Hell and the grave are. Before looking at these words though, we should first give our attention to the Greek word *Gehenna*, which is always translated Hell and used in reference to the Lake of Fire. It is found in Matthew 5:22,29,30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45,46; Luke 12:5; and James 3:6.

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Mail Received
at
Box 587

FROM MISSOURI:

"I appreciate receiving the *BBI Bulletin* and especially enjoyed the article 'What Jesus will do at His Second Coming.' I am most grateful for your efforts in standing unwaveringly for His Word rightly divided and preparing students in the grace ministry. Thank you again."

FROM WISCONSIN:

"Dear friends, I do appreciate the work of **Berean Bible Institute**. Thanks for sending the newsletter, which is inspiring and interesting."

FROM ILLINOIS:

"I am thrilled with the young people whom we have met who are studying there. We had several visit the church last Sunday. What a blessing they are!"

FROM OREGON:

"What a wonderful blessing it is to be able to give to a precious ministry. How exciting it is to be a part of the workmanship of our Lord and Savior. I pray for each of you to be strong and to be richly blessed in Him and the preaching and teaching of the Word rightly divided. I also pray that one day soon we would have a pastor to lead a Grace Fellowship here in Southern Oregon."

FROM GEORGIA:

"Praying that this coming school year will be a great success. I hope that you have many new students and graduates this year and next year. I pray that many more Grace churches will be established as a result of the **Berean Bible Institute**. I know that this is one of the few schools that teaches the Grace message and the importance of rightly dividing the Word of Truth."

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

THE BULLETIN BOARD

News & Announcements

Family Bible Conference

Location: Tabor, South Dakota.

Dates: October 21st-23rd, 2005.

Speakers: Joel Finck, Kevin Sadler, Vern Simmons, Kevin Mepsted, and John Peters.

Contact: Pastor Joel Finck at:
(605) 463-2070.

Berean Bible Fellowship Fall Conference

Location: *Grace Fellowship Bible Church, Sheridan Arkansas.*

Dates: September 29th & 30th, 2005.

Theme: "*The Grace of Christ*"

Speakers: Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Pastor Paul Sadler, and many more.

Contact: Pastor Richard Ware at:
(870) 941-6110.

*The Spring
Semester for BBS
begins January 23rd
Register Soon!!!*

The MCF Fall Conference

Location: Ankeny, Iowa.

Dates: September 23rd-24th, 2005.

Theme: "*Choice of Masters*"

Speakers: Kevin Heyle, & Kevin Sadler.

Contact: Kevin Heyle at: (816) 520-3943.

THE FINAL HELL

The Lake of Fire, or Hell, is a literal place of everlasting fire that was originally created by God as a place of punishment for Satan and the angels that followed him in his rebellion against God (Matt. 25:41). Because it is referred to as the place of “*outer darkness*” (Matt. 8:12; 25:30), we believe that it is most probably located at the farthest reaches of the creation. Gehenna is described in Scripture as a “*furnace of fire*” (Matt. 13:42); “*everlasting punishment*” (Matt. 25:46); “*the mist [gloom] of darkness*” (I Pet. 2:17; the “*hurt of the second death*” (Rev. 2:11 cf. 20:6,14; 21:8); and as “*a lake of fire burning with brimstone*” (Rev. 19:20; 20:10; 21:8).

While Hell was created for Satan and the other fallen angels, the unsaved of humanity from all ages will be with them in this place of torment where “*there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth*” (Matt. 13:42). This is the “*everlasting reward*” of all who die in their sins.

While there is no one in the Lake of Fire at this time, it will one day hold a vast multitude. The first residents of this place of righteous retribution will be the Beast (Anti-christ) and the False Prophet who, at the end of the Tribulation, will be “*cast alive into a lake burning with brimstone*” (Rev. 19:19-20). Joining them will be the unsaved of the nations who survive the Tribulation (Matt. 25:31-32, 41-46). Also, at Jesus Christ’s return to earth, the rebel Israelites, i.e., unbelieving Jews, who survive the Tribulation will be denied entrance into the Millennial Kingdom, no doubt to join their Gentile counterparts in the “*place of everlasting fire*” (Eze. 20:33-38; cf. Matt. 25:29-31, 45-51). Then, at the end of the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ, Satan will be “*cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever*” (Rev. 20:10). And finally, the unsaved dead of all ages will be raised and judged at the Great White Throne by Jesus Christ and then cast into the Lake of Fire (see Rev. 20:11-15).

The name Gehenna comes from a deep narrow ravine south of Jerusalem where some Hebrew parents actually sacrificed their children to the Ammonite god, Molech, during the time of the kings (II Kin. 16:3; II Chron. 28:1-3; cf. Lev. 18:21; I Kin. 11:5, 7, 33). This pagan deity is also referred to as Malcham, Milcom, and Moloch in the Bible. It later served as the city-dump and, because there was

continual burning of refuse there, it became a graphic symbol of the place of punishment for the wicked. It was named the “*Valley of Hinnom,*” which translated into Greek becomes Gehenna. The passages where the word is found in the New Testament plainly show that it was a commonly used expression for Hell by that time. The word is found twelve times in the Scriptures being used eleven times by the Lord Jesus and once by James.

When we consider the contexts it is found in, it is obvious that the Lord used this word in reference to the place of everlasting punishment for the wicked dead.

Gehenna, or the Lake of Fire, might be referred to as the future, or final Hell because it is where all of the wicked from all ages will finally end up. Satan, the fallen angels, and all lost of mankind will reside in torment there forever.

SHEOL/HADES: THE PRESENT HELL

Scripture passages in which Gehenna is used should be distinguished from those using Hades, which refers to a place of temporary torment that we might refer to as the immediate, or present, Hell. What we mean by this is that, at the time of death, the souls of the lost go directly to Hades where they suffer in torment until the time of the Great White Throne Judgment when they will be resurrected and cast into the Lake of Fire. The souls of all those who die in their sins immediately go there.

Hades is the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament word Sheol. The Greek and Hebrew words speak of the same place, the present Hell. However, this is problematic because Sheol has been translated “*grave*” as often as it has “*Hell*” and some have mistakenly taught that Sheol and Hades are only references to the grave rather than Hell. This erroneous teaching leads to the denial of the existence of an immediate or present Hell. The false doctrine of soul-sleep, and other ideas that teach the unconscious state of the dead between death and resurrection, spring from this error.

The common word for “*grave*” in the Old Testament is *queber*. Of the sixty-four times it is used, it is translated “*grave*” thirty-four times, “*sepulcher*” twenty-six times, and “*burying place*” four times. *Queber* is used five additional times as part of a place name, Kibroth-hattaavah, which means “*graves of lust*” As we said earlier, Sheol is found sixty-four times, being rendered “*grave*” thirty-one times, “*Hell*” thirty-one times, and “*pit*” three times.

A comparison of how *Sheol* and *Queber* are used reveals eight points of contrast that tell us that they are not the same thing.

1. *Sheol* is never used in plural form. *Queber* is used in the plural 29 times.
2. It is never said that the body goes to *Sheol*. *Queber* speaks of the body going there 37 times.
3. *Sheol* is never said to be located on the face of the earth. *Queber* is mentioned 32 times as being located on the earth.
4. An individual's *Sheol* is never mentioned. An individual's *queber* is mentioned 5 times.
5. Man is never said to put anyone into *Sheol*. Individuals are put into a *queber* by man (33 times).
6. Man is never said to have dug or fashioned a *Sheol*. Man is said to have dug, or fashioned, a *queber* (6 times).
7. Man is never said to have touched *Sheol*. Man touches, or can touch, a *queber* (5 times).
8. It is never said that man is able to possess a *Sheol*. Man is spoken of as being able to possess a *queber* (7 times). (Adapted from "Life and Death" by Caleb J. Baker, *Bible Institute Colportage Ass'n*, 1941).

From the differences in how *Sheol* and *queber* are used in Scripture, it is obvious that they are not one and the same thing. The use of the Greek word *Hades* in the New Testament is comparable with how *Sheol* is used in the Old, strongly indicating that it is the same thing as *Sheol*. *Hades* is used eleven times, being rendered Hell ten times and grave once.

EXAMPLES SHOWING THAT SHEOL IS NOT A BURIAL PLACE

1. After selling Joseph into slavery, his brothers stained his coat with blood and used it to convince their father that he had been killed by a wild animal (Gen. 37:26-36). Jacob's sons and daughters tried "to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, 'for I will go down into the grave (*Sheol*) unto my son mourning'. Thus his father wept for him" (v. 35).

From Jacob's words it is clear that he fully intended to eventually be reunited with his son in a tangible way. Obviously then, he did not simply have in mind the idea of joining him in burial as he believed that Joseph's body had not been buried at all, but was eaten by an animal (v.33). This being the case, it was impossible for Jacob to join Joseph in

burial, but he could be reunited with him in the place of the departed dead. The word rendered grave in this passage is *Sheol*, the abode of the souls of those who have died.

2. After Jacob died, Joseph had his body mummified (a process that took forty days) then took him back to Canaan for burial (Gen. 50:1-14). When we add to that the thirty days of mourning (Gen. 50:2-4) and the time it took to travel to Canaan for the funeral (Gen. 50:5-13) we see that it was several weeks after Jacob was "gathered unto his people" (Gen. 49:33) before his body was placed in the cave that served as his burial place.

Considering that he had been dead for well over two months before his body was buried and that the Scriptures state that at the time he died he was "gathered to his people" (Gen. 49:33) is telling. This shows that at the time of physical death, when "he yielded up the spirit," his soul immediately departed his body to be with Isaac and Abraham. This cannot be a reference to his body being gathered together with their bodies as that did not take place for over ten weeks. This is strong proof that *Sheol* does not mean a burial place for the body, but is the place where the souls of the departed reside.

3. That communication takes place in *Sheol*/*Hades* tells us that something other than a burial place is in view. In Isaiah 14:4-20 we find the prophet foretelling the eventual defeat and death of the king of Babylon. The nation that would eventually send Judah into captivity will itself be defeated and its mighty king will find himself among "the chief ones of the earth,...the kings of the nations" (Isa. 14:9) who preceded him in death. These are the kings of nations that he had conquered with the sword and ruled over with a cruel hand (Isa. 14:6). These same men will serve as a welcoming committee for this once great "world ruler" when he arrives. In mock surprise they will ask this once powerful king, "Art thou also become weak as we? Are thou become like unto us?" (Isa. 14:10). They then taunt him by pointing out that the pretentious display of magnificence that he had demonstrated as the king of Babylon now meant nothing (Isa. 14:11).

All of those who find themselves in this section of *Sheol*/*Hades*, like this king of Babylon and the kings who greeted him, will be faced with the reality of how helpless and hopeless they are. One of the boasts that they make against him is that, while their

Student's Corner

bodies have been placed in their respective tombs, or graves, he was not honored by a respectable burial; "But thou are cast out of the grave (Queber) like an abominable (despised) branch...thou shalt not be joined with them in burial" (Isa. 14:18-20). What we see here is this man going into Sheol, while at the same time his body is cast out of its grave. Obviously then, Sheol cannot be the grave here as the body and soul are in different places, the soul going to Sheol while the body remains unburied, or outside of the grave (vs. 20), to be infested by maggots (vs. 11).

4. In the case of Samuel and Saul we find another example of the Scriptures making a distinction between Sheol/Hades and the grave. In his conversation with King Saul, Samuel, whom the Lord had sent back from the dead to deliver a message to Saul, said that Saul and his sons would be with him the next day (see I Sam. 28:15-19). As foretold, Saul and his sons did die the next day while in battle with the Philistines (see I Sam. 31:1-6). However, their bodies were not buried the next day so they did not join Samuel in the grave, but their souls went down to Sheol/Hades where the person, or soul, of Samuel was. As Samuel "came up" to talk to Saul it is obvious that he went back down after speaking with him (I Sam. 28:8,11,14). As for the bodies of Saul and his sons, their remains were not buried for several days. As Samuel had said, they did die the next day (I Sam. 31:1-6). The day after they died, which was a day after their joining Samuel, their bodies were taken by the Philistines and hung on wall of Beth-Shan (I Sam. 31:7-10). After hearing of this, valiant men from Jabesh-Gilead went by night and took their bodies down, took them back to Jabesh, burned them, and then buried their bones. All this took place at least three days after Saul died, and probably more. Saul and his sons joined Samuel in Sheol/Hades the day they died and the flesh of their bodies was burned with only their bones going into a grave several days later.

The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus that is found in Luke 16:19-31 gives us the record of a remarkable conversation that took place in Hades between these two men. Obviously these two men could not have had this conversation at all if Sheol/Hades is only a place where dead bodies are buried. First, there could be no communication between lifeless, decaying corpses and second, Abraham's body, which was buried in the cave of

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We are pleased to announce the arrival of Tyler Paul Sadler, born June 21st, 2005. His parents Kevin and Jessica Sadler, and siblings Cody, Katelyn, and Carissa are overjoyed! Kevin is a part-time student here at **BBI**. He is currently ministering as the typesetter for the *Berean Bible Society*, and Jessica works one day a week at the **Berean Bible Institute**.

BBI would like to congratulate Andy and Sarah Kern on their marriage. They were joined in holy matrimony here at **Berean Bible Institute** on July 9th, 2005. Andy is a **BBI** graduate of 2004 and has been taking some extra classes along with Sarah. We wish them all the best as they seek God's will in their lives and in their future together.

A new semester will begin shortly for **Berean Bible Institute**. Please pray for the instructors and the students as they undertake another semester of the Word, rightly divided. Please pray that the teachers will be steadfast in their stand of the Gospel and that the students will "receive the Word with all readiness of mind." Our instructors this semester will be: Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Mrs. Linda Bedore, Pastor Dan Wolgast, Pastor Paul Sadler, Pastor Joe Watkins, Pastor Ricky Kurth, Mr. Mike Ratsch, & Pastor Robert Nix. Thank you to all who make **Berean Bible Institute** possible.

Pastor Timothy Board (graduate 2005) was ordained in May by his home church in Steger, Illinois (*Faith Bible Church*). Tim and Lori began their ministry in Colorado at the beginning of August. Please keep them in your prayers. Tim is Pastor of *Grace Bible Church* in Castle Rock, Colorado. For information on church times and services contact Pastor Board at: (303) 681-9889.

Dean Reinheimer, (graduate 2005) will be helping to minister at *Community Bible Church* in Bitely Michigan for a few weeks, before traveling on to New Jersey where he will be an interim guest speaker for a month at *Grace Fellowship Church*. He is fulfilling a need, which is what **BBI** strives to do, to further the Gospel in whatever capacity.

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Machpelah over 1,800 years earlier, had long since decayed. Also, the rich man's body, would not have been buried in the burial cave of Abraham, and the poor beggar probably wasn't buried at all. From the context, it is obvious that these men were in the place of departed souls rather than a burial place.

According to God's Word, the soul of man lives on in a continued state of conscious existence after physical death. Those who die in their sins go to Sheol/Hades to await the Great White Throne Judgment. Those who die "in Christ" go immediately to heaven to be with Him until the resurrection of their bodies in glory (II Cor. 5:8; I Thess. 4:13-18; Phil. 3:20-21).

These truths bring comfort to our hearts when those we love, who are trusting in Christ, are taken from us through physical death. They also provide hope and strength for the believer who is facing death. Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we know that when we depart this life we will immediately join those who have gone on before us into the very presence of the Lord. There we will wait for the resurrection of our bodies at the time of the Rapture of the Church (I Thess. 4:13-18).

On the other hand, knowing the fate of those who die in their sins without Christ, we should be emboldened to share the Gospel of Grace with those who are lost. Apart from Christ, no one has any hope of eternal life. Praise God that all who are "in Him" have a hope of glory that will not fail (Rom. 5:1-5). Praise His holy name, now and forever more.



THE CLOCK OF LIFE

The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power to tell
Just when the hands will stop,
At late or early hour.
To lose one's wealth is sad indeed.
To lose one's health is more.
To lose one's soul is such a loss
That no man can restore.

Thirty-nine people died while you read this short poem. Every hour 5,417 people go to meet their Maker. What are you doing to help reach them with the Gospel before they are cast into Hell?



COURSES FOR THE FALL 2005 SEMESTER AT BBI

(August 22nd-December 15th)

**All classes are held at BBI. No correspondence courses are available at this time.*

101 - DISPENSATIONAL SURVEY: (*Two credit hours*) This course gives an overview of the Bible from a dispensational point of view. It lays the groundwork for a lifetime of effective personal Bible study.

103 - BIBLE EXPOSITION I: (*Four credit hours*) This course begins with an in-depth study of the foundational book of Genesis and then moves on for a book by book study of Exodus through Deuteronomy. It provides the student with an understanding of the outworking of God's plans and their dispensational importance.

105 - BASIC BIBLE DOCTRINES I: (*Two credit hours*) A concise study of the important major doctrines of Scripture from a dispensational point of view.

107 - PERSONAL EVANGELISM & FOLLOW UP: (*Two credit hours*) The student will learn first hand how to lead both adults and children to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. In addition, how to follow up on a new believer in order to help them become established in the faith and begin walking in the spirit is taught.

109 - DISPENSATIONAL HERMENEUTICS: (*Two credit hours*) The study of how to correctly interpret the Bible from a literal and dispensational view. This is an important course for those who want to be serious students of God's Word.

111 - STUDY SKILLS/PERSONAL FINANCE: (*One credit hour*) The first part of the semester are devoted to helping the student develop good study skills. The second part deals with personal finance, a practical course that teaches people how to get out of debt and stay out of debt.

113 - ENGLISH: (*One credit hour*) This course is provided to help students to improve their speech and writing skills.

115 - PUBLIC SPEAKING: (*One credit hour*) The goal of this course is the development of basic oral communication skills to give the student confidence in extemporaneous speaking, giving their testimony, presenting a devotional message, etc.

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*(Courses Offered for the Fall 2005 Semester
continued from page 6)*

201 - PASTORAL MINISTRY I - *(Two credit hours)*
This course focuses on the local church as God's primary ministry in this dispensation of Grace. Covered is the training of elders, church growth, and the pastoral job description etc.

203 - BIBLE EXPOSITION III- *(Four credit hours)*
This study is of the history of Israel and covers the captivity and return from Babylon to rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem, the inter-testimonial years, and the time of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry.

205 - PRACTICAL DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY - *(Two credit hours)* Covers the introduction to Dispensational Theology; Bibliology (revelation, inspiration, authority, and the dispensational character of the Bible); Theology Proper (the existence of God, the nature of God, the eternal purpose of God, and the works of God).

207 - THE MAJOR PROPHETS - *(Two credit hours)*
This course focuses on the ministry, message, and person of each of the major writing prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel). This study looks at the significance of each prophet's time and place in Israel's history.

209 - HOMILETICS I - *(Two credit hours)* Covers the introduction of the basic purpose, principles, and the importance of preaching from the Bible. The student is presented with the need for personal Bible study and with an emphasis on relying on the power of God and His Word in preaching.

211 - BIBLE COUNSELING - *(Two credit hours)*
This course presents the Bible as sufficient for providing answers for all of man's personal problems in every area of life and as such shows how it is to be used in dealing with one's own personal problems or in counseling others who are in need.

213 - MANNERS & CUSTOMS OF THE BIBLE - *(One credit hour)* This course studies the manners and customs of the people of the Bible during the time of Christ and the apostles.

1001 - BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY LIFE: *(Two credit hours)* **BBI** is offering a special class on understanding and applying the Biblical principles of personal relationships within the family.

1005 - WOMEN IN MINISTRY: *(Two credit hours)*
This class is offered on a limited "as needed" basis for those planning to be pastor's wives, missionaries, Sunday School teachers, etc.

(THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1)

We thank God for each student He has brought to **BBI** over the last nine years. Some have stayed only for a semester or two, and some for the full three year program; some have attended part-time and others full-time; some have become pastors, while others have become Sunday-school teachers or elders in their local churches, and some have even been called into the pastorate while still in school. All have gained something during their time at **BBI** that will benefit them in their life and service to the Lord.

As God provides and enables, we will move forward in the ministry of helping men and women prepare for a life of service to the Lord. To this end, I earnestly ask that you keep **Berean Bible Institute** in your prayers. Pray for our instructors as they prepare for and teach their classes. Pray for the administrative staff as they carry out their day-to-day duties that keep **BBI** going. Pray for the students as they work to prepare themselves to be effective ministers of God's Word "rightly divided."

I would also like to ask that, if you are not already, you would consider becoming a regular financial supporter of **BBI**. I believe that what we are doing here is important to the Grace Movement and your participation as a supporter would be greatly appreciated.

Because Christ Lives,

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

THE ONLY IMPORTANCE

Over the triple doorways of the Cathedral of Milan there are three inscriptions spanning the splendid arches. Over one is carved a beautiful wreath of roses, and underneath is a legend. "All that which pleases is but for a moment." Over the other is a sculptured a cross, and the words "All that which troubles us is but for a moment." But underneath the great central entrance to the main aisle is the inscription, "That only is important which is eternal."

The BBI Bulletin is the official newsletter of the **Berean Bible Institute Inc.**, and is sent free of charge 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, 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.

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Composition and Layout: Jessica S. Sadler

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Berean Bible Institute, Inc. admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.



BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE

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