

The BBI BULLETIN

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

We are glad to be able to report that we were able to retire the mortgage on our building in January. This is a real blessing from the Lord who provided the finances to make this possible through the generous giving of His people, some of whom gave special gifts to the *building fund*. It is a real blessing to be able to be debt free less than two years after purchasing our building. This will result in a considerable savings in interest. We thank God for each of you who have contributed to the ministry of **Berean Bible Institute**. You are a genuine blessing from the Lord.

Without a monthly mortgage payment to make every month, we will be able to use the resources that the Lord gives us stewardship over more effectively. Our goal is to provide the very best Bible and ministry training possible. We believe that we have a quality program but we also know that there is room for improvement, and by God's grace we will work towards making **BBI** even better.

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THE FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

The vast amount of yet unfulfilled prophecy found in the Bible has to do with God's chosen people, Israel, their land, and Jesus Christ's return to earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. In general, this is most often referred to as the "Second Coming of Christ." The primary events of the Last Days as foretold in the Bible are:

- ◆ The emergence of the anti-Christ who will sign a bogus seven-year peace treaty with Israel.
- ◆ The seven year Tribulation period.
- ◆ The invasion of Israel by the surrounding nations.
- ◆ The Battle of Armageddon.

All of these things revolve around God's promise to restore Israel as a nation in the "Promised Land" at the time of the return of her promised Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because Israel has such a significant place in Bible prophecy, it is quite natural for those who hold to a literal approach to Bible interpretation to see current events in Israel as the fulfillment, or at least the beginning of the fulfillment, of Bible prophecies of the Last Days. The problem with this is that we are living in an unprophecied period of time that pertains particularly to the Church rather than to Israel as a nation. Failing to recognize that the current Dispensation of Grace is an interruption of the prophetic program concerning Israel can lead to a serious misunderstanding of how and when End Time prophecies will be fulfilled.

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Mail Received
at
Box 587

FROM WEST VIRGINIA:

"I am so comforted to know that because of your dedication there will be grace pastors and educators for the foreseeable future."

FROM WISCONSIN:

"Thank you for standing fast and continuing to train men and women for His service in this present dispensation. We think and pray for you often."

FROM INDIANA:

"Thank so much for the *BBI Bulletin*, I enjoyed 'Following Paul'."

FROM MINNESOTA:

"I pray for **BBI** daily and am very encouraged by the way the Lord is blessing it."

FROM MISSOURI:

"Dear Brother Bedore and faithful laborers in the Lord. It is with thanksgiving to our Lord that I write to you. I am very thankful to read from the *BBI Bulletin* of your steadfastness to proclaim with clarity, the need to be faithful stewards. May the Lord continue to give wisdom and guidance in this work."

FROM MICHIGAN:

"Just completed Vol.6 Issue 2, for which I thank you. Your faithful contact to me has been sustaining over these years. It has been amazing to witness the growth of **BBI** and its unfolding influence. The September issue of the *Berean Searchlight* carried photos of the most recent graduates, and it excites my heart to watch as these young warriors go forth and stand in the gap!"

FROM FLORIDA:

"Thank you for the newsletter and the encouraging news about the **Institute**. We hope one day a **BBI** graduate will come here. I will continue to hold everyone there up in prayer."

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

THE BULLETIN BOARD

News & Announcements

**Midwest Grace Fellowship
Spring Conference**

Location: Miracle Hills Ranch,
Bethany, Missouri

Dates: June 3rd-5th, 2005

Speakers: Pastor Dan Wolgast,
Pastor Ken Lawson, Kevin Heyle

Theme: "The Holy Spirit"

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

Spring Semester at
**Berean Bible
Institute** begins
January 24th,
2005. If you would
like an application
or a Handbook and
Course Catalog,
please contact
BBS.

**36th Annual Berean
Bible Fellowship
Conference**

Location: Cedar Lake,
Indiana

Dates: June 18th-23rd,
2005

Theme: "If Any Man
Love God"

Contact: Pastor Floyd
Baker at:
(386) 851-0744.

Sheridan Bible Conference

Location: Grace Fellowship Bible Church
Sheridan, Arkansas

Dates: February 26th-27th, 2005

Theme: "To Make All Men See"
Ephesians 3:9

Speakers: Pastor Paul M. Sadler,
Pastor Joe Watkins, Ben Anderson,
Kevin Sadler

Contact: Pastor Dick Ware at: (870)
942-2700 wk or (870) 942-2799 hm.

**(THE FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY
continued from page 1)**

Emphatically, we must insist that yes, all of God's promises to Israel, as a people and a nation, will finally be fulfilled. We also believe that ultimately God is in control of world events. His providential care in directing the events of history insures that His plan and purpose for Israel and the nations of the world will be brought to fruition in due time.

Because Israel is, and always will be, God's chosen people and Jerusalem His chosen capital of the world, we should be interested in the Jewish people and the land of Israel. After all, it is through these people and in their land that the climax of Bible prophecy will take place. But we should not, and must not, try to force the interpretation of Bible prophecy to fit current events.

**GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETING
BIBLE PROPHECY**

If we are going to properly interpret Bible prophecy, there are several things that we must keep in mind.

1. There is no prophesied event that must take place before the Rapture can happen. It is possible that some things may take place in preparation for the fulfillment of End Times prophecy, but there are no signs or events that will come to pass of which we can categorically say "this is prophecy being fulfilled in our time." If we could make such a statement, then the current Dispensation of Grace would be a part of prophecy rather than the "mystery" that God's Word says it is. The Rapture is imminent, meaning that it could happen at any time. In His wisdom the Lord has not made known to us when the Rapture will take place. But we can rest in the assurance that it will happen in His time, thus its timing will be perfect. Perhaps it will happen today!

2. We must make a distinction between the Last Days of the Church, and the Last Days of Israel. The "last days" spoken of by the Apostle Paul (see II Tim. 3:1-13; cf. I Tim 4:1-3) are not the prophesied "last days" of Israel (see Gen. 49:1 ff; Isa. 2:2; Dan. 2:28; 10:14; Hos. 3:4-5; Mic 4:1). The "last days", or "latter times", that Paul refers to has to do with the pitiful state of the Church in the days before the

Rapture takes place. It is a time in which most believers "will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables" (see II Tim. 4:1-5). This turning from the Gospel Paul preached began very early in Church history and continues until this day. It is obvious from Paul's second letter to Timothy that this turning away had already begun in Paul's lifetime (see II Tim. 1:7-8; 13-15; 4:9-10). The facts of church history reveal that the Church has, for the most part, been turning away from Paul and his message of grace ever since.

3. We cannot predict the future based on current events. World leaders come and go and the international scene can, and does, change very quickly. The speculations about current events and the End Times are endless. The Bible teachers are many who speculate on current events and then teach and preach their speculative conclusions as Biblical fact. The result of this kind of thing is not the edification of the hearers but confusion. When, in the course of time, these "conclusions" prove to be wrong, many are disillusioned and their faith in the infallibility of the Scriptures is shaken. I believe that this is the main reason that the error of Preterism (the doctrine that all End Times prophecies were fulfilled in AD 70), has gained such wide acceptance in recent years.

4. The Bible itself is the only source we have for understanding the future. Found in the Scriptures are many clear prophecies about Israel and the End Times. While it is true that in a general way the news of today indicates that the world is drifting toward the End Times, we are not to look at the Bible to find verses that seem to fit current events and then say "this is that." Over the centuries many have done this, and they have all been wrong. In the 1930's and 40's, many were saying that Hitler was the anti-Christ and the war in Europe was the beginning of the Tribulation. After Israel became a nation in 1948, based on Matthew 24:32-34 it was commonly taught that the Rapture would take place in 1988 or before. The reasoning behind this was that the "generation" that witnessed the beginning of Israel's return to the Promised Land would last until Christ's return. It was further assumed that a Biblical generation is forty years, thus the Rapture had to happen within forty years of Israel becoming

a nation again. So, the Rapture had to happen during or before 1988. Of course it didn't happen, but many of its proponents were undaunted and went about looking for new "signs of the times" to prove that prophecy is being fulfilled before our eyes.

5. We must make a clear distinction between the Grace Gospel and the Body of Christ and the Kingdom Gospel and National Israel. If we fail to understand that God has two distinct plans for two distinct groups of people, we will surely fail to understand His unique plan and purpose for each of them. Israel is God's chosen nation, and its people are God's chosen people. Their gospel of redemption includes the promise of their being re-united in a restored Davidic Kingdom. They will live in the Land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and will be the principle nation of the world. Their Messiah/Redeemer will rule the earth in righteousness. The doctrines of the Kingdom Gospel concerning Israel and its origin, position, walk, destiny, and rewards are found throughout the Bible with the exception of Paul's letters (Romans-Philemon). Israel is the central subject of End Times Bible prophecy. Since the world began, all of the prophets of God spoke of the Messianic Kingdom, which encompasses Israel's hope (see Acts 3:18-21; cf. Lk. 1:67-75).

On the other hand, the doctrines of the origin, position, walk, destiny, and rewards of the Body of Christ are uniquely found in the letters of the Apostle Paul whose message was exclusively given to him by the Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 1:11-12; cf. Eph. 3:1-9). His was a "mystery" message that was kept secret until the Lord revealed to him this body of truth concerning Jesus Christ and His relationship to the Church, which is His Body. What we refer to as the Grace Gospel, is *"the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began"* (Rom. 16:25). Its hope is not to enter God's future earthly kingdom with Israel but to reign over the heavens in Christ's stead.

The doctrines of Israel and the Kingdom are prophetic in nature having been *"preached since the world began"* (Acts 3:21). The doctrines of the Church, which is Christ's Body are mysterious in nature having been *"kept secret since the world began"* (Rom. 16:25).



O Lord God,

Teach me to know grace precedes, accompanies and follows my salvation, that it sustains the redeemed soul, that not one link of its chain can ever break.

From Calvary's cross wave upon wave of grace reaches me, deals with my sin, washes me clean, renews my heart, draws out my affection, kindles a flame in my soul, consecrates my every thought, word, work, teaches me Thy immeasurable love.

How great are my privileges in Christ Jesus!

Without Him I stand far off, a stranger, an outcast;

In Him I draw near and touch His kingly sceptre.

Without Him I dare not lift my guilty eyes;

In Him I gaze upon my Father-God and friend.

Without Him I hide my lips in trembling shame;

In Him I open my mouth in petition and praise.

Without Him all is wrath and consuming fire;

In Him all is love, and the repose of my soul.

Without Him is gaping hell below me, and eternal anguish;

In Him its gates are barred to me by His precious blood.

Without Him darkness spreads its horrors in front;

In Him an eternity of glory is my boundless horizon.

Without Him all within me is terror and dismay,

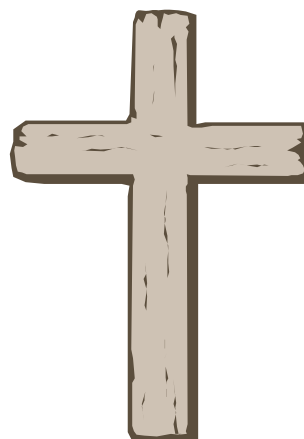
In Him every accusation is charmed into joy and peace.

Without Him all things external call for my condemnation;

In Him they minister to my comfort, And are to be enjoyed with thanksgiving.

Praise be to Thee for Thy grace, And for the unspeakable gift of Jesus.

—Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision*



COURSES OFFERED FOR THE SPRING 2005 SEMESTER

January 24th-May 19th, 2005

102 - APOLOGETICS: *(Two credit hours)* Apologetics is a defense of the origin and absolute reliability of the Bible as a Book uniquely inspired by God. This course offers a comprehensive and systematic survey of the evidences of the truth and authority of the Scriptures

104 - BIBLE EXPOSITION II: *(Four credit hours)* This course begins with Joshua and moves through II Chronicles giving the student a working knowledge of the history of Israel as a nation in the Promised Land.

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

108 - ROMANS: *(Two credit hours)* This course systematically works through the important epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Romans. The study of this book is vital to the understanding of man's universal need of salvation.

110 - ACTS: *(Two credit hours)* This course is an expositional study of the book of Acts with special emphasis given to the importance of its historical aspects concerning the beginning of the Church.

112 - CULTS: *(Two credit hours)* This course gives special attention to the distinctive errors that characterize the religious systems of the cults. The main emphasis is given to the true message of God's Word enabling the student to recognize erroneous teachings whenever and wherever they are encountered.

116 - BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW: *(One credit hour)* The major worldviews are compared and contrasted with Biblical Christianity. This study shows how non-Christian values and belief systems have negatively influenced the thinking of our times.

302 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION II: *(Two credit hours)* This course provides a general overview of the purposes, principles, and practices of Christian education within the local church. This course covers the organization, development, and maintenance of educational ministries for children, youth and adults within the context of the local church and its outreaches.

304 - BIBLE EXPOSITION IV: *(Four credit hours)* This course deals with the Poeticals, or Wisdom Literature of the Bible found in the books of Job through Song of Solomon. Each book will be studied in its dispensational setting as part of all Scripture, (II Tim. 3:16). The primary textbook for this course is the Bible.

306 - PRACTICAL DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY II: *(Two credit hours)* Practical Dispensational Theology is the study of dispensational theology with an emphasis on the application of Biblical truths to both the individual believer's life and in the context of the corporate Body of Christ.

308 - DANIEL & REVELATION: *(Two credit hours)* Because of their intricate relationship to each other these two important prophetic books will be studied together and compared.

312 - EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, AND COLOSSIANS: *(Two credit hours)* A systematic review of the Apostle Paul's prison epistles to local churches.

316 - THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM: *(One credit hour)* In this course the three major millennial views are compared with each other and the Scriptural teaching about the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

318 - INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY: *(Two credit hours)* In this class students will learn and put into practice the principles of inductive Bible study as they work through a selected Bible book. (317-Advanced Dispensational Hermeneutics is pre-requisite for taking this course).

1002 - BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF MARRIED LIFE: *(Two credit hours)* Offered during the spring semester, this is a special class on the Biblical principles of marriage. With the institution of marriage under assault because of the increasingly secularist/humanistic worldview that has permeated our society, it is vitally important that those who want a secure marriage understand the Biblical principles of marriage and how to apply them in their own relationship.

1006 - 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.

WHAT JESUS CHRIST WILL DO AT HIS SECOND COMING

By Dr. W. Edward Bedore

After the Rapture of the Church, the prophesied Kingdom program will be restarted and the seven-year Tribulation period will begin. At the end of the seven years Jesus Christ will return to earth in great power and glory. The following are some of the things that will take place at that time.

I. He will fight the Battle of Armageddon. His victory over Satan, the anti-Christ, and the False Prophet will result in Him repossessing the earth (Rev. 19:11-20:8; Ps. 2:1-12).

A. He will destroy God's enemies (Rev. 19:11-20; Zech. 14:3).

1. He will crush all rebellion on earth by man (Ps. 2:1-9; Rev. 19:11-20).
2. He will sit in judgment of the nations soon after the battle is won (Rev. 19:19-21; Matt. 25:41-46; Jude 14-15).
3. He will bring the "*Times of the Gentiles*" to an end (Lk. 21:10-24ff.).
4. He will abolish all of the existing governmental systems (Ps. 2:8-9; Dan. 2:35).

B. He will deliver Israel from her persecutors (Rom. 11:25-29; Zech. 14:1-5).

1. He will regather Israel in her own land (Isa. 11:10-12; Jer. 16:14-16; 23:5-8; 30:7-10; Matt. 24:29-31; cf. Deut. 30:1-5; & Zech. 2:7-12).
2. He will appoint the resurrected saints of Israel as rulers of the earth (Dan. 7:18; Rev. 20:4-6).

II. He will bind Satan in "*the bottomless pit*" for one thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3).

A. His binding of Satan for one thousand years will keep him from deceiving the nations (Rev. 20:3).

B. He will allow Satan to be set loose for a short period to deceive the nations again after the one thousand years are completed (Rev. 20:3,7-8).

III. He will repossess the earth as His inheritance (Ps. 2:7-8; I John 5:19).

A. He will establish a worldwide theocratic government (Ps. 72:8-11; Isa. 2:1-4; Dan. 7:13-14; Micah 4:1-3; cf. Rev. 2:27; 11:15; 12:5; 19:11-15ff.).

1. He will reestablish David's throne in Jerusalem (Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; 30:7-9; Hosea 3:4-5).
2. He will reign over all the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords (Ps. 72:8-11; Dan.7:13; Rev. 11:15; 19:11-16ff.; cf. Deut. 10:17; Isa. 54:5; Dan. 2:47).

B. He will establish universal worship of the Creator God of Israel (Isa. 2:1-4; Micah 4:1-2; Zech. 8:20-23; 14:16-21).

C. He will establish universal peace and prosperity on the earth (Ps. 72:1-20; Isa. 2:4; Micah 4:1-7).

1. He will make Israel to become a land that can be compared to the Garden of Eden before sin came into the world (Acts 3:20-21; Isa. 51:1-3ff.; Ezek. 36:33-35ff.).
2. He will take away some of the consequences of sin upon the physical world and make Himself and His ways known throughout the earth (Ps. 98:1-9; Isa. 11:1-9).

IV. The Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ will have a political government that is actuated by the Spirit of God (Isa. 9:6-7; 61:1-2 ff.; Eze. 36:24-28; cf. Deut. 28:9-14).

Under the Old Covenant of the Mosaic Law, the government of Israel changed forms from the time of Moses until the time of Christ (judges, kings, and provincial). The objective under each system was for Israel to recognize God Himself as her real King.

Under the New Covenant, Israel will fully submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as her Messiah from the royal line of David (Isa. 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 40:9-11; Jer. 23:5-6; 31:31-34).

(THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1)

One thing we will not do, though, is to ever allow the ministry of **Berean Bible Institute** to become bogged down in academics and social issues. Our mission is to train faithful men and women who will be able to pass this glorious Gospel of the Grace of God on to the next generation of believers. As long as God gives us the strength, we will stand strong for the Grace message that was revealed through Paul and continue to make it known through the *“preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.”*

We are living in perilous times. For the most part “the professing church” is in turmoil and has turned away from the Apostle Paul, to whom God revealed the doctrines of Grace that provide the answers that the world is desperate to find. The sons and daughters of Adam can only find true peace through the Grace of God. Apart from the Savior, they cannot be made right with God nor know what their purpose in life is. The men and women we are training now for the work of ministry will, by God’s grace, be those who will be defending and proclaiming the wonderful message of Grace in the future. They are important to the future of the Grace Movement.

Please pray with us that the Lord will continue to raise up new students to begin preparing for the ministry of tomorrow. May each of us be found witnessing, working, and watching as we wait for that day when our Lord will catch us up out of this world to always be with Him.

By His Grace,

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

Student’s Corner

Berean Bible Institute is happy to announce that two of our students were joined in marriage on January 8th, 2005. Candace Fredericksen and Justin Lynn were married in the chapel of **Berean Bible Institute**. It is exciting to see the Lord working in the lives of our students. **BBI** wishes Mr. & Mrs. Justin Lynn the best as they seek the Lord’s will in their lives together.

Jonas Daniel Ritchey was born on January 20th, 2005 to proud parents Matthew and Jennifer Ritchey. Jonas’ older brothers Noah and Isaac are very excited to have another brother. Matt is a full time student here at **BBI** and is looking forward to continuing his studies.

Paul Turner, a student at **BBI**, has accepted the call to become the pastor of *Grace Bible Church* in Oshkosh Wisconsin (formerly pastored by Pastor Richard Ware, who is now pastoring at *Grace Fellowship Bible Church* in Sheridan, Arkansas). Paul, his wife Rebecca, and their two children, Elise and Ethan, moved here to Wisconsin to attend **BBI** in January of 2003. Please keep both Pastor Ware, Pastor Turner and their families in your prayers.

BBI Graduation and Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 20th. Please consider attending to encourage our graduates. It is a time of fellowship and rejoicing in the Lord.

*Jesus Christ is the reason for everything that **Berean Bible Institute** does and stands for. He is both the beginning and the end as well as the means by which we exist and function. We do not merely name Christ as a formal facade for otherwise secular or religious pursuits and activities. He is not a figurehead, but the Living Head of the Church, which is His Body. The members of the Body of Christ are called to serve Him by making known the Gospel of the Grace of God. At BBI we do this by teaching and preaching “Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery” to our students, in both words and actions, preparing them to go out and do the same (see Rom. 16:25-26; II Cor. 5:14-21; Eph. 3:1-12; II Tim. 2:1-15).*

Will you join us in the most noble of endeavors that a man or woman can become engaged in, that of making Jesus Christ known to a lost and dying world? If you won’t, who will?

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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