

The BBI BULLETIN

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Issue 2

Training for Ministry

September, October, November

Rightly Dividing God's Word



THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

Dr. Robert E. Nix
President, Berean Bible Institute

WHY BBI IS IMPORTANT

In a recent donor letter I quoted from a survey that stated that only 9% of "born again believers" could answer yes to all of the following questions:

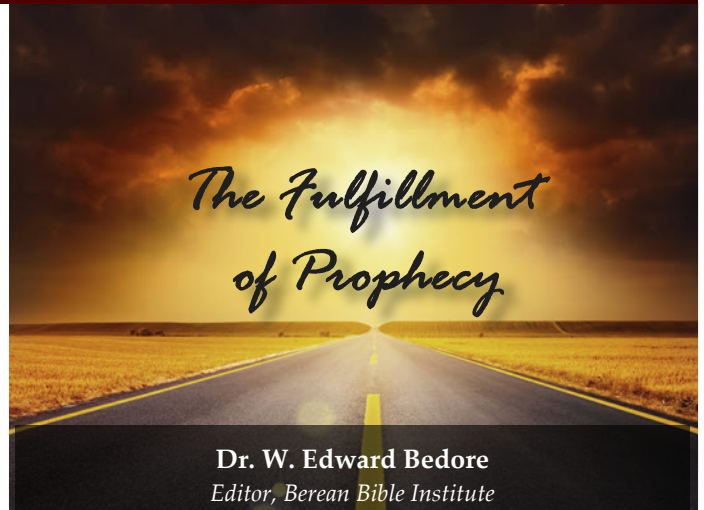
- Do absolute moral truths exist?
- Is absolute truth defined by the Bible?
- Did Jesus Christ live a sinless life?
- Is God the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe, and does He still rule it today?
- Is salvation a gift from God that cannot be earned?
- Is Satan real?
- Does a Christian have a responsibility to share his or her faith in Christ with other people?

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Slinger, WI 53086



This article was first published in the Winter 2004-2005 issue of the BBI Bulletin and it was well received. With the continuing fascination with Bible prophecy and speculation about its fulfillment in light of current events, this seems to be a pertinent time to reprint it.

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.

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Mail Received at Box 587

FROM E-MAIL:

"Your answer about the death of Christ has given me food for thought. Thank you for this special service which you offer to the public. May the Lord richly bless you. (Editor's note: Besides educating our students, BBI's ministry includes helping anyone who is interested to know and enjoy their Bible however we can. If you have Bible questions we are glad to try to answer them for you. By email send questions to drb@bereanbibleinstitute.org; for regular mail send to BBI, PO Box 587, Slinger, WI 53086.)"

FROM FLORIDA:

"Please accept this gift for your Institute. We learned of you when Dr. Nix came to our church. We were happy to hear of the work you are doing. We enjoy your monthly newsletters and wanted to send you this gift."

FROM KENTUCKY:

"Thank you always for your steadfast faith in rightly dividing the Word of Truth and providing your newsletters which are always welcome, informative, and provide inspiration and insight into God's Word. A true treasure trove."

FROM WISCONSIN:

"We are learning more and more now that we have the CD's from Cedar Lake! It is so nourishing to hear you all, in addition to both the Pastor Sadlers."

FROM E-MAIL:

"I sincerely appreciate the effort you put into your 'Hell, Sheol, Paradise, and The Grave' article. It helps make sense of an issue that can be bewildering." (Editor's note: We receive more queries and comments on the subject of the article mentioned than any other. My book, 'THE STATE AND PLACE OF THE DEAD: What Happens After We Die' contains an expanded version of the article as well as pertinent information on related subjects. It is available from Berean Bible Institute."

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

The "Bulletin Board" Upcoming Events & News



GRACE PASTORS LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

Date: November 12

Time: 12-2 p.m.

Location: BBI, Slinger, WI

Speaker: Dr. Paul M. Sadler

An opportunity for Pastors and Elders to come together for encouragement, fellowship, and instruction. Call or e-mail BBI for more information.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

*September 14—Grace Bible Church, West Allis, WI

*November 2—Grace Chapel of Laramie, Laramie, WY

November 12—Grace Pastors Leadership Luncheon,
BBI, Slinger, WI

December 11—Semester End

If you would like more information on any of these churches or conferences, please contact BBI and we would be happy to help!

**Denotes that Dr. Nix will be speaking for the services.*



ORDER YOUR 2014 BBI T-SHIRT TODAY!

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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.

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.

- **There is no prophecied 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!

- **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 prophecied "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.
- **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.
- **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.

- **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).

ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO HEAVEN?

The Body of Christ is made up of all of those who have been saved during this present age of grace. Every lost sinner who comes to Christ for forgiveness of sins is saved and baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 12:13). Redeemed by the blood of Jesus, the believer is sealed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit as well. At this point, the believer is given new life, made a new creation in Christ (Eph. 1:7, 13-14; II Cor. 5:17).

Those who are saved from the power and penalty of sin through the cross of Jesus Christ are given a new identity and a new citizenship (Eph. 2:5-6; Phil. 3:20-21). The believer’s hope is in Heaven. As a citizen of heaven, every believer should look forward to the time that they will be in Heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ. Our goal as believers should be to live in such a way while we are on this earth that God would be glorified in our lives. We should be serving the Lord on earth, looking for eternal reward in Heaven.

However, it seems that most professing Christians give much more time, effort, and thought to earthly things than to heavenly things. You would think they were planning to spend eternity on earth. Life on earth is short with no guarantee of tomorrow. But, eternity in heaven is guaranteed to those “in Christ.”

Are you more attached to this world and its passing pleasures than you are to the Wonderful Lord who saved you?

In Colossians 3:1-2, the Apostle Paul wrote “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

BIBLE WORDS & WORDS OF THE BIBLE

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, *Editor, BBI Bulletin, BABQ*


CHURCH

The word translated “church” in our English Bibles is the Greek word *ekklesia*. It is derived from two words, *ek* which means “out”, and *kaleo* which means “to call.” Its basic meaning is “a called-out assembly.” Luke used it in this general sense when writing about the “assembly” of people at Ephesus who were protesting against Paul and his message at the urging of Demetrius the silversmith (Acts 19:21-41; see verses 32, 39, 41). In other places it refers to a company of God’s people. Stephen referred to the twelve tribes of Israel that Moses had led out of bondage in Egypt as “the church in the wilderness” in his quotation of Psalm 22:22 (see Acts 7:37-38; cf. Heb. 2:12). This shows us that the Old Testament equivalent of “church” is “congregation”. This church is also many times referred to as the “children of Israel”. This was a church with a distinct “national” identity. It began with Israel’s deliverance from Egypt and was confirmed by their officially entering into a covenant relationship with God at Mt. Sinai (Ex. 14:5-31; 19:1-6; 24:3-8).

A second church found in the Bible is the Messianic Kingdom Church, which began to be formed during the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not a completely different church than “the church in the wilderness”, but it is the same Church that is being brought into a new dynamic by the onset of Messianic Prophecy beginning to be fulfilled. A “new covenant” would replace the old covenant that was given through Moses at Mt. Sinai (Jer. 31:31-33). This new covenant was to be ratified by the blood of the Messiah, who is Jesus Christ (Matt. 26:26-27). John the Baptist preached that the prophesied Messianic “Kingdom of Heaven is at hand” (Matt. 1-2). He was a forerunner sent by God to introduce (make manifest, or make known) Jesus Christ as “the Son of God” (John 1:29-34). Christ’s disciples recognized Him as the Messiah as is evidenced by the words of Nathanael; “*Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God; Thou art the King of Israel*” (John 1:49). When Israel as a nation rejected Jesus Christ as her long awaited Messiah, God interrupted His prophetic program by putting it on hold to await fulfillment at some yet unrevealed time in the future. When that time comes, Israel will

enter into seven years of great trial, trouble, and hardship known as the Tribulation. At the end of this Tribulation, the nation will emerge as a redeemed, cleansed, and glorified people of God and enter into the Millennial Kingdom where they will reign for one thousand years (Rev. 20:4).

With the temporary setting aside of the fulfillment of end-times prophecy and Israel as a nation, God did not leave the world in a spiritual void with no message of hope and no special people of God on earth to represent Him. What He did do was to bring into being a third Church, which is referred to as “the Church which is His (Christ’s) Body” (Eph. 1:22-23). God began forming the Body of Christ Church with the conversion of Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus. Through this man, who became better known as Paul the Apostle, the Lord revealed a secret program called the “Dispensation of the Grace of God” (Eph. 3:2). This secret program of God had never been made known to anyone before He revealed it to Paul. It was a “mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God” (see Eph. 3:8-9). This distinctly “international” church will maintain its presence on earth as Christ’s ambassadors making known the Gospel of the Grace of God in Jesus Christ “until the fullness of the Gentiles (nations) be come in” (Rom. 11:25) and the Lord Jesus calls the Church which is His Body home to Heaven (Phil. 3:20-21; I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15: 51-52). This will bring the interlude between the prophetic fulfillment of Jesus Christ’s first and second comings to an end.

Prophecy will pick up with Israel in the same predicament it was in following the stoning of the Lord’s servant, Stephen. The Day of the Lord will be upon them just as Peter foretold (see Acts 2:14-21; cf. Joel 2:28-32) in his message to the assembled men of Israel who were in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost which is the 50th day after Christ’s resurrection. It will not be long after the Rapture of the Church that the Lord will vent His wrath against unrepentant Israel and an unbelieving world. “*For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*” (Rev. 6:17). The faithful of Israel, the Messianic Kingdom Church, will emerge from the Tribulation a purified people of God having been refined like gold and silver in the fires of afflictions and trials of “the great and dreadful day of the Lord” (see Zech. 13:7-9; Mal. 4:5). 

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

by Dr. W. Edward Bedore

As we survey the uncertain political/military, religious/social, and economic/financial climate of the world, it is evident that “today” we are at an important crossroad of history.

And what is history? It is no more than the todays that have passed on to become our yesterdays. It is the story of men and women of the past and how they lived their “todays.” Some have passed from the scene leaving no significant mark on the world to identify them. Others have left a legacy that has caused their names to become household words in succeeding generations. Their decisions and actions in politics, religion, military campaigns, the arts philosophy, sports, etc. have caused them to be remembered as famous or infamous. But, whether unknown or known, as heroes or scoundrels, as talented or inept, regardless of their field of endeavor, all who have ever lived have been engaged in one common battle – the battle for the minds and souls of men and women.

And “today” as we face a new era of world history, there is an urgent need for the true Church of Jesus Christ, the Body of Christ, to be about the business God has called us to, the work of ministry. And this is a work that every believer is called to be actively involved in (see Eph. 4:11-16).

Every generation of believers is responsible to boldly make known the message of reconciliation in Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:3-5; II Cor. 5:14-21), preaching Christ according to the Revelation of the Mystery (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:8-9). And it is equally important to remember that each generation is also responsible to train those who will follow them as the leaders of tomorrow (II Tim. 2:1-2).

For each of us, our “yesterdays” are gone, they are history; only while they were our “todays” could we use them. And remember, today was the tomorrow of yesterday and tomorrow will soon be yesterday. So, if we would have our lives count for Christ, we must take action today. It is too late for yesterday, and who knows what tomorrow might bring. Let us take advantage of today while it is today.



(THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 1)

It is important to understand that while not all who claim to be “born again believers” are really saved, the results found in this survey should cause us great concern.

While it is true that a survey like this is rather shocking, it demonstrates even more clearly why a school like Berean Bible Institute is important. We stand firm on our commitment to the Word of God “rightly divided” and to the truth that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God. The Bible is correct in all its teachings and there is not a more sure foundation than God and His Word. I believe Berean Bible Institute stands as a shining light in both the proclamation of the Word of God and the training of men and women who are committed to sharing with others.

A NEW ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR AT BBI

We are so blessed at BBI to have faculty who care greatly for our students. BBI is a special place where students and faculty interact to make their education more than just theory. In August we were blessed to add Mrs. Sarah Kern to our adjunct teaching faculty. Mrs. Kern is teaching our Women in Ministry course, and has served the Lord faithfully with her husband Pastor Andy Kern who serves as our Dean of Academics. Sarah Kern is a graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran College with a degree in education and a mother of five. We are so thankful to have her use her gifts and abilities in the ministry of Berean Bible Institute.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF BBI WE NEED YOUR HELP

It is truly a joy to travel and represent Berean Bible Institute in various churches, conferences and camps. I am especially blessed to meet both current distance studies students and alumni of BBI. In either case almost without exception I hear how their training at BBI was an encouragement to them, and how useful BBI’s courses were in preparing them to serve the Lord. I want to take this time to ask that you help us identify those potential students who have a heart for the Lord and a desire to serve Him. It has been said

(continued on page 7)

(THE INSTITUTE UPDATE continued from page 6)

that word of mouth is the best form of advertisement and we want to encourage you to help introduce us to those who you identify as having a genuine desire to serve the Lord to BBI.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

I would like to take this time to congratulate Pastor Kevin Sadler, a 2011 graduate of Berean Bible Institute, for being elected as President of the Berean Bible Fellowship. Pastor Kevin currently serves as pastor of Kettle Moraine Bible Church in West Bend WI. and also is employed at Berean Bible Society in Germantown, WI. Pastor Kevin is a much sought after speaker and teacher. We are excited for Pastor Kevin in this new appointment and we ask that you pray for Him as he serves the Lord in this ministry.

DOORS AND WINDOWS

In our last Bulletin Update we shared that we are currently in need of replacing our doors and twelve windows at the Institute. Our cost is estimated to run between \$15,000.00 and \$20,000.00. While we did not come close to raising the amounts needed to complete these projects, we were blessed by several gifts that will certainly help. Because of the condition of our doors we will be moving ahead and replacing the doors in September and then we will be replacing our windows. As I said in my last update our building is in rather good shape but getting older and in constant need of TLC. I truly praise the Lord for those who have given specifically for this project and for those who give to BBI on a regular basis. Your partnership in this ministry is a blessing.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR NEEDED

Please keep BBI in your prayers. We are thankful for the work and dedication of Mr. Doug Cox. Doug has served faithfully at BBI over the past year as our Financial Administrator and desires to step down from his weekly duties at BBI. Doug will stay on as a trusted advisor in the areas of finance and estate giving. Therefore, Berean Bible Institute is looking for a Part time Financial Administrator. This individual

must know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and be an active participant in a local Bible believing church.

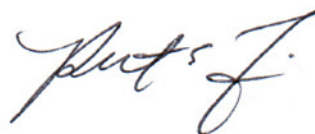
The position consists of 8 to 14 hours a week.

This individual will be responsible to the president of the institute concerning: Quick Books accounting, Payroll, Banking and related business office duties. If you are qualified and interested please contact Dr. Robert Nix at 262-644-5504.

TRAINING LEADERS BY LEAVING A LEGACY

Over the years BBI has been funded primarily by the monthly gifts of individuals and churches that see the need for an Institute with a goal to train students to be leaders in the Grace Movement. Since the founding of Berean Bible Institute in 1996, we have on occasion been blessed with various estate gifts. It has been the desire of these donors to see BBI continue to train leaders for the Grace Movement long after they have gone to be with the Lord. We want to ask that you prayerfully consider BBI as you plan for the future. Please note that there are also various Trusts and or Charitable Annuities that may allow one to give and also receive some tax benefits through their giving. If you have any questions about this process or need more information about Berean Bible Institute don't hesitate to call us at 262-644-5504.

Transformed By Grace,



Dr. Robert Nix
President, Berean Bible Institute

If you live in, or visit the area of Milwaukee, WI we would like to extend an invitation to come visit the school, and if time permits, stay for chapel which is held from 7:10-7:30. Our class times our 5:30-9:15 p.m. We would enjoy seeing you! Please call ahead so we can arrange a tour (262) 255-4094.



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Berean Bible Institute exists as a college level 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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Berean Bible Institute, Inc. admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.