



BBC UPDATE

BBC 2017 Ladies' Fellowship

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse



Dr. Thomas Strouse

On Saturday March 25, 2017, the Lord blessed the annual Bible Baptist Church Ladies' Fellowship with a time of spiritual challenge, multi-church fellowship, and interesting crafts. Mrs. Mandy Breeden challenged the some forty-seven ladies with her testimony of salvation and service to the Lord. Her husband is Dr. Greg Breeden, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in North Windham, ME, and recent doctoral graduate of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary. The ladies came from at least eight Baptist churches and enjoyed the fellowship with one another. Along with brunch consisting of soup and sandwiches,

the ladies painted and decorated various sizes of jars for home or church décor. Bible Baptist Church appreciates the many volunteers who helped make this possible by setting up, providing food and supplies, and giving overall support.



Mrs. Jan Strouse introduced the speaker.



Mrs. Beeden gave a heartfelt and challenging testimony.

Mrs. Jackie Hinebaugh led the singing.



LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

PHOTOS

Ladies' Fellowship

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Photos



The room is ready for the fellowship!



Lovely decorated tables!



PHOTOS

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP



LADIES' FELOWSHIP

CRAFT TIME!!!

Ladies' Fellowship

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Photos



Mrs. Christy Strouse explained the jar painting craft.



FUN!!



CRAFT TIME!!!

LADIES' FELOWSHIP

The ladies made beautiful jars!



“THE BINDING AND LOOSING OF SATAN”

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“deliverance ministries.” On the surface¹, certainly many Christians would hesitate to address the supernatural realm, especially the chief of the supernatural realm, and for good reason since the archangel Michael succinctly retorted the Devil with “*the Lord rebuke thee*” (Jude 1:9). A brief examination of Scripture will show that “*the signs of an apostle*” (II Cor. 12:12) ceased with the termination of the apostolate which cessation was co-terminus with the completion of the New Testament Canon (27 NT books). Therefore, the authority to continue the supernatural signs and wonders of the Apostolic age, especially with the so-called “deliverance ministries” of exorcizing demons and supposedly binding Satan, has ceased, and the practices should not be attempted.

The Termination of the Apostolate

Since the Jews required a sign, as Paul recorded, saying, “*For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom*” (I Cor. 1:22; see also Jn. 4:48; 20:30; Acts 2:19,

¹ Significant is the sage warning of the Basel professor Dr. F. D. Macchia in his analysis of Pentecostal Theology, saying, “Yet Pentecostals must be cautious about the place they give to the demonic in their healing ministries and theologies and not follow the fascination with the demonic realm so prevalent in contemporary culture. ‘Deliverance ministries’ sometimes place such a focus on the demonic that deliverance is more a matter of possessing hidden knowledge of the demonic realm...than of the victory of Christ through the Spirit. Demons are named, located, categorized, and bound through elaborate prayers. Yet the development of such esoteric knowledge and activity with regard to the demonic cannot be found in the Scriptures.” Frank D. Macchia, “Theology, Pentecostal,” *The New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, revised and expanded, Stanley M. Burgess and Eduard M. Van Der Maas, editors (Grand Rapids, Zondervan Publ. House, 2003), p. 1137.



Dr. Thomas Strouse

“The Binding and Loosing of Satan” and the New Testament

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

Introduction

The Pentecostal-Charismatic movement has been trans-denominational since its modern inception (c. 1900) even impacting some fundamental and independent Baptist churches. From time to time some Baptist churches have received the infection of pernicious doctrines such the expression “the binding and loosing of Satan/demons.” Common to both the Pentecostal-Charismatic movement and others has been the erroneous sentiment that the supernatural activity by the apostles and believers during the Apostolic Era of the first century is still valid, expected, and sought. For example, the expression “*I bind you, Satan, in the name of Jesus*” finds usage in some of these groups from the pulpit within the services. Some Baptist churches add this expression and practice to their “arsenal of defense” against the kingdom of darkness and have their own version of

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22, 43; Rom. 15:19; I Cor. 14:22; Heb. 2:4)², the Lord has manifested many signs for His chosen people throughout their history. An early example occurred with Moses, as Scripture revealed, saying, *“And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign”* (Ex. 4:6-8; see also Jn. 3:2; Acts 2:22). To be sure, the supernatural is replete throughout the Bible, but in the history of Israel the Scripture gives four major periods of supernatural signs and wonders. 1) Initially, under the leadership of Moses the LORD gave signs and wonders to this newly-covenanted nation. 2) Later when His people went into apostasy, Jehovah raised up His servants the prophets, especially two, namely Elijah and Elisha, to perform outstanding miracles to arrest the attention of apostate kings. 3) With the First Coming of Christ the Lord God performed many signs and miracles to demonstrate His Messiahship, and as manifested on Pentecost, His new day (Sunday not Saturday) in His new place (local church not Temple) about His final sacrifice (Christ’s not animals’). He employed signs and wonders through His apostles and disciples in the Apostolic Age of the

first century. 4) With the Second Coming of Christ (initiated with the Rapture and culminating with the Revelation of Christ at the conclusion of the Tribulation and the outset of Millennium) the Lord God will display great signs and wonders to offset the Antichrist’s supernaturalism, as well as to confirm revelatory truth (Rev. 11:5-6; 13:14; 14:6; see Joel 2:28).

To be sure, the Lord Jesus Christ authorized His apostles with supernatural power as Matthew recorded, saying, *“These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give”* (Mt. 10:5-8). Later, He sent out the seventy with power over the “devils” through the Lord’s name (Lk. 10:1-17). This supernatural power for apostles and disciples finds examples in the book of Acts as the Lord’s new institution of the Baptist assembly began to flourish with many churches throughout the Mediterranean basin. The Messiah Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled the great Servant prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-2 as Luke recorded (Lk. 4:18-21). The Lord and those identified with Him gained the attention of the Jewish world with miraculous signs and wonders as John revealed, saying, *“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his*

² *“Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas”*

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disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (Jn. 20:30-31). However, in due time the Lord Jesus Christ died and his apostles began to expire. James was the first to die and his brother John was the last, with Peter and Paul dying in between. Albeit the Lord gave several temporary offices to the assembly, as Paul declared, saying, *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers”* (Eph. 4:11), only the offices of bishop and deacon continued (I Tim. 3:1 ff. and v. 8 ff.). In the end Paul told Pastor Timothy to do the work of an evangelist.

The apostle Paul claimed he had divine power, saying, *“Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds”* (II Cor. 12:12). Obviously, *“the signs of an apostle”* belonged exclusively to the apostle. When he was gone so were the signs! Although Paul laid hands on and healed the father of Publius (Acts 28:8), his apostolic power seemed to wane later in life as he could not heal Timothy (I Tim. 5:23), Trophimus (II Tim. 4:20), or even himself (II Cor. 12:7-9). The characteristics of the miracles of the Lord Jesus and the apostles/disciples included the fact that they were miraculous in their **timing**

(instantaneous), **permanence** (no relapses) and **scope** (various afflictions and diseases).³ Although it is thrilling to read about the supernatural activity during apostolic age as recorded in the Gospels and Acts, especially with the healing the sick, cleansing the lepers, raising the dead,⁴ casting out demons, speaking in tongues, etc., these all came to an end with the termination of the apostolate.

The Completion of the New Testament Canon

Co-terminus with the termination of the apostolate was the completion of the NT Canon. The Apostle John wrote the last canonical Scripture, the *Apocalypse*, sometime presumably shortly before his demise. He finished the canon and then died. The Apostle Paul clearly revealed that Jehovah’s final revelation came through the divine Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, stating, *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds”* (Heb. 1:1-2). God established the Son’s new revelatory truth, which became the inscripturated Gospels and the Apostle’s Doctrine, by signs and wonders. Again, Paul revealed this truth,

³ Certainly some of the early disciples commissioned by Christ were ineffective in exorcizing demons, as Matthew recorded, saying, *“And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?”* (Mt. 17:18-19).

⁴ If the apostolic empowerment still exists today one wonders why hospitals are not decimated of their sick and terminally ill.

saying, *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”* (Heb. 2:3-4). The Lord God “confirmed” (*bebaioo* = to establish, verify) with signs and wonders the Lord Jesus’ spoken words of which many became the inspired words of the NT Canon (e.g., Jn. 16:13; Rev. 1:1 and 19).

Mark revealed the same truth, saying, *“And these **signs shall follow** them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover... And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and **confirming the word with signs following**. Amen.”* (Mk. 16:17-18, 20). The Lord was “confirming” (*bebaioo*) the preaching and teaching of the apostles and disciples, many of whose messages became the inscripturated “word” (*logos*)—NT Canon (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul, James, etc.), with the supernatural activity of casting out of demons (Acts 16:16-18), of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6), of handling snakes (Acts 28:3-6), of drinking poison, and of healing the sick (Acts 5:12-15). Once the NT Canon was completed, there was no more need, expectation, or experience of this

supernatural activity⁵. Mark’s theological truth received biblical augmentation from the Apostle Paul, who stated, saying, *“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known”* (1 Cor. 13:8-8). This passage teaches several truths. 1. Certain media for divine communication would cease. 2. There was a temporal transition from partial to complete revelatory truth (i.e., the Apostolic Age). 3. This transition is evinced with the examples of a child growing into manhood and a dark mirror becoming illuminated. 4. Biblical theology, such as anthropology, is progressive, moving from partial knowledge about oneself to complete knowledge about all of the doctrine of man. Once the Apostle John finished the Apocalypse, he stated that divine revelation in the written NT Canon was the final and complete authority with no

⁵ In the post-Apostolic Age the Lord still does perform supernatural activity such as the regeneration of the repentant sinner. However, He does not need to authenticate His working with signs and wonders because the Scripture is the final authority and authenticator on all supernatural activity, since it *“is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Heb. 4:12).

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possibility of change. He warned, saying, *“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book”* (Rev. 22:18-19).

Article Concluded in 4/15/17 BBC Update

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PASTOR STROUSE!!!



The BBC assembly honored Pastor Strouse with a card and cake.



Pastor Strouse made a jar, too! The artwork illustrates the biblical timeline.

BBTS/BBC SPRING SCHEDULE

Apr. 14, 2017

“BBTS Spring Lecture Series”

May. 20, 2017

“BBTS Banquet”

May. 21, 2017

“BBTS Commencement”

May. 29-June 2, 2017

Ireland

“Matthew and Creation and the Flood”

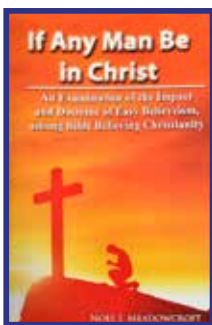


BBTS SPRING LECTURE SERIES "UNDERSTANDING OF THE TIMES"

On Friday, April 14, 2017 BBC will host the BBTS Spring Lecture Series at the Marriott Courtyard Motel in Cromwell, CT. The times will be from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM with lunch provided at 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Dr. Thomas Strouse will deal with "Understanding of the Times" (I Chr. 12:32), giving a biblical template to understand the current political, national, global, economic, and religious issues of the day. Dr. Cas Reeves will deal with "Christian Financial Stewardship in a Trumpian Era." For those planning on attending, please give a total number of persons in your group or church as soon as possible. A book table will be available.

BBTS SPRING 2017

Bible Baptist Theological Seminary began its eighth Spring Seminary Semester, offering the courses Ps. 119, Cults, and Ecclesiology. All of these courses as well as past courses may be viewed online at www.bbc-cromwell.org under "Seminary." Students may view these courses for credit towards the Master of Biblical Studies, Master of Divinity, or Doctor of Ministry degrees or may audit the courses.



NEW BOOK!

The recent book, *If Any Man Be In Christ: An Examination and the Impact of the Doctrine of Superficial Easy Believe-ism among Bible Believing Christianity*, by Dr. Noel Meadowcroft, has put forth the biblical case for the teaching of the need for repentance in conversion, as well as for elucidating the biblical perspective of so-called "Lordship Salvation." Dr. Meadowcroft has been a student of the trends and movements in conservative Christianity for many decades, observing the faulty doctrine of easy believe-ism and its fruitless "conversions." Because of his heartbreak over the empty lives of many "unrepentant Christians" and because of his passion for truth, he has written *If Any Man Be In Christ*. It is my privilege to recommend this book as a defense of biblical soteriology, readable for both the babe in Christ as well the seasoned saint of the Lord. (\$8.00 each).

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

Bible Baptist Church, Pastor

PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

DEVOTIONAL CORNER



Dr. Caswell A. Reeves

PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

There is no question from the Bible that Christian Believers are in a spiritual warfare: Ephesians 6:12:

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities (devil and demons), against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” God clearly reveals this is not a warfare with men (flesh and blood), but with the devil and his demons (rulers of the darkness) and with wickedness in the heavens (in high places).

This spiritual warfare requires a different kind of armour than the armour which soldiers wear when fighting men. It requires spiritual armour. Using a soldier motif, the Apostle Paul shares this armour with the church of Ephesus by commanding them to put on the whole armour of God.

The Christian therefore learned he needs to stand in Ephesians 6:14-17: He needs to stand, having his loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And his feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith he shall be

able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

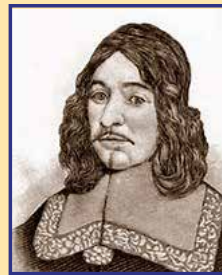
This armour is clearly necessary to give the Christian Believer victory over his spiritual adversaries: the devil and his wiles (tricks), and the wicked influences of life that are always tempting a Believer away from righteousness, truth and spiritual living. Have you put on your spiritual armour? -CAR

Quotes From the Past:

William Kiffin

Baptist Preacher in England

1616-1701



William Kiffin

“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s’ As this distinction ought to be observed by all men, in the conduct of their lives, so the king (King James of England, 17th Century) has given us an illustrious example in his own person.”

Read: Acts 9:36-43

Act 9:36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

Reflection: How does this verse describe Tabitha? If she was a disciple then was she saved? Do you see that the Lord does not leave this detail out of the verse. Being a saved Christian woman comes first and then the verse goes on to describe her good works and almsdeeds.

Not everyone that is a Christian is a disciple. A Carnal Christian is one who becomes a Christian by trusting the Lord and then coasts through life, barely attending church, barely serving in the church, or giving to the church. Sometimes you can't really tell them apart from the unsaved, only the Lord knows the heart.

A disciple is disciplined in:

- *Church Attendance
- *Bible Reading and Prayer
- *Financial Giving
- *Charity Toward Others
- *Encouraging Others

***Trustworthy and Dependable**

***Service/Good Works**

*** An Example To Others**

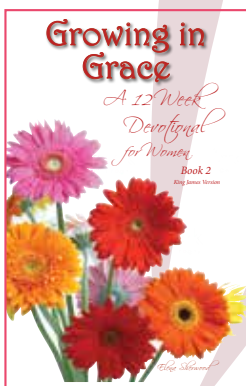
Challenge: Which are you? A person saved by grace and that is good enough for you, or a disciple who wants to go deeper with the Lord Jesus Christ every day and it shows by actions and faithfulness to Him and to the local church body.

If your desire is to be this kind of Christian disciple, pray and ask the Lord to bring conviction where needed and ask Him for the spiritual growth to be the godly woman He wants you to be as a doer of the Word and not a hearer only!

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

- Please contact Elenas6259@gmail.com if you would like to receive Grow in Grace each morning through email.

“Growing in Grace: A 12 Week Devotional for Women” Book 2



This 12 Week Devotional is a ministry of Bible Baptist Church in Cromwell, CT. It is designed for women, and is meant as a support for victory in daily Christian living. Spiritual victory comes by having the Genuine Christ, Accurate Biblical Teaching, Applying the Infallible Word of God, and a Humble Heart.

Using this Devotional Each day you will be given a daily Scripture followed by thoughts upon which to reflect and a challenge for the day. To get the most out of this book, it is encouraged that you take the time each morning to reflect upon and apply each devotion.

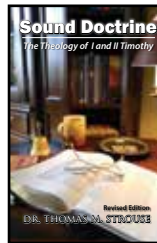
Psalm 119:2 “Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.”

Please contact Bible Baptist Church (Elenas6259@gmail.com) if you would like a complimentary copy of Book 1 or 2 today.

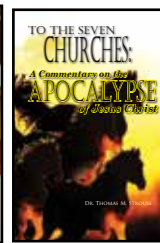
THE BOOK CORNER

The Book Corner

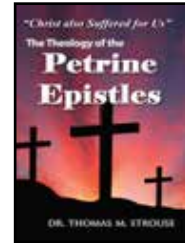
These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church**:
40 Country Squire Rd.
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I & II Timothy \$20.00



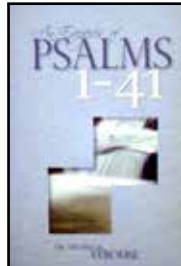
Revelation \$30.00



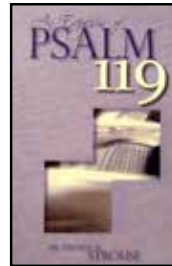
Peter \$20.00



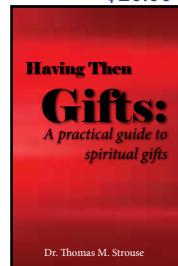
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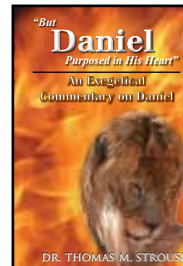
Psalms 1 - 41 \$20.00



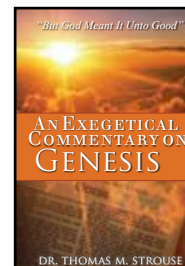
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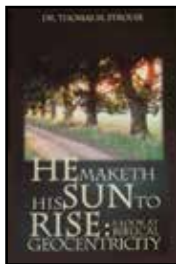
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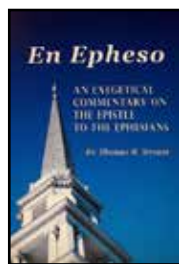
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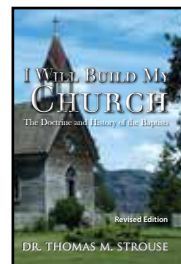
Geocentricity \$10.00



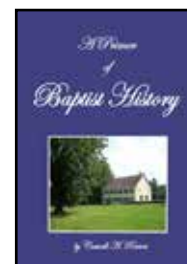
En Epheso \$20.00



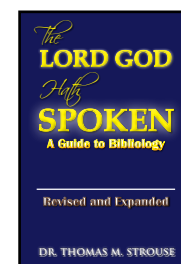
Jonah \$10.00



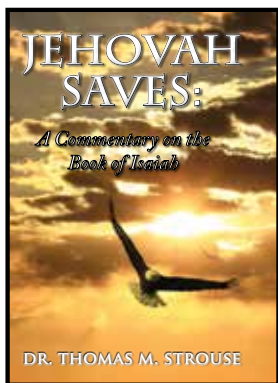
I Will Build My Church \$20.00



A Primer of Baptist History \$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken \$20.00



NEW BOOK: JEHOVAH SAVES: A COMMENTARY ON THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

The new book by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse entitled *Jehovah Saves: A Commentary on the Book of Isaiah* is available for purchase. The book is an effort to exegete the contents of all sixty-six chapters of Isaiah, resulting in 508 pages of commentary with 746 footnotes chocked full of word studies, grammatical explanations, and theological teachings. It reflects over forty years of study, research, and reflection from the author. Available now! \$30.00

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send email to:

drms_bbts@juno.com



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