



# BBC UPDATE

## Lawrence/Hagglund Picnic and Fellowship

Dr. Thomas Strouse



On Saturday June 6, 2015 Bible Baptist Church held a picnic at the Strouse House in honor of long time

*Dr. Thomas Strouse* church members, Mr. and Mrs. John Hagglund and Krista and Eric, and church planters Pastor and Mrs. James Lawrence. The Hagglunds will be moving to the Chicago area shortly and will be sorely missed. Both John and Laura have been very active in and supportive of BBC. Both have taken BBTS classes, and John has been the music director/song leader, while Laura has been the publications director (including Update and books). Krista has been one of the BBC piano players and Eric the chief usher/offering taker. We appreciate all



of their labor for the Lord. Pastor and Mrs. Lawrence were sent out by BBC to plant a NT assembly in Washington, Utah, and on Sunday June 7, they reported on their new church and evangelistic efforts in this

Mormon-dominated land. We thank the Lord for both families which BBC has had the privilege to know, and to train for the Lord's work.



*From L-R: Eric Hagglund, John Hagglund, Laura Hagglund, Krista Hagglund, Kathy Lawrence, James Lawrence*

## Jehovah Saves: A Commentary on the Book of Isaiah

Excerpt from new book *Jehovah Saves: A Commentary on the Book of Isaiah* by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

### Chapter One



Dr. Thomas Strouse

#### Overview

After the introduction (v. 1), Isaiah allowed the LORD to indict Judah for her rebellion, by describing her wickedness (vv. 2-9).<sup>1</sup> He then denounced the people for empty worship,<sup>2</sup> including their bloody hands which caused murder (vv. 10-15; also v. 21). There will be an ultimate deliverance of the Jews, even if it includes only a remnant (vv. 16-31).<sup>3</sup>

#### Verse 1

As with many prophets, Isaiah saw the divine vision which ultimately became the words his inscripturated book (Amos, Micah, and Habukkuk; cf. Ezk. 1:1; Dan. 4:5, and Zech. 1:8).<sup>4</sup>

#### Verses 2-9

Jehovah called together the greatest grand jury including heaven and earth to hear the divine indictment against His people (cf. Dt. 4:26). He

likened them to children who have rebelled<sup>5</sup> against their father (v. 2), ignorant of their master (v. 3), thoroughly sinful, having forsaken the LORD and having provoked the Holy One of Israel, and having gone backward (v. 4). They had been severely beaten by divine judgment and left as the “half dead” man that “fell among thieves” (vv. 5-6; Lk. 10:30, 36).<sup>6</sup> The land had been consumed with devastation and only because of the mercy of the Lord had a remnant (*sariyd*)<sup>7</sup> been left and not destroyed as Sodom and Gomorrah (vv. 7-9).

#### Verses 10-15

The Lord switched from using the simile of likening them to Sodom and Gomorrah to the metaphor of calling them by the name of these historical cities of shameful abominations (Lev. 20:13). He began a litany of examples of empty worship within the divinely instituted Levitical system of worship. Their sacrifices (vv. 11-12), holy days (13-14),<sup>8</sup> and prayers (v. 15) were hypocritical. Their hands were full of blood, but not that of animal sacrifices, but of human murder (cf. 21).

#### Verses 16-31

Jehovah called for reasonable repentance. By turning from sin, as manifested in social

<sup>1</sup> The Lord called creation to the heavenly court room for His formal charge against Judah: guilty of sin.

<sup>2</sup> The sacrificial system was established by the LORD God (Lev. 1:2 ff.), but the Israelites degraded it with such emptiness of heart, that Jehovah denounced every aspect of the system. Amos succinctly expressed God’s disdain for empty worship with irony, stating, “Come to Bethel, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes after three years.” (Amos 4:4; cf. also Zech. 7:5-6).

<sup>3</sup> Cf. v. 27.

<sup>4</sup> This vision followed Isaiah’s surrender to divine calling and subsequent commissioning (Isa. 6:1-13).

<sup>5</sup> The Jews had a history of rebelling (Isa. 43:27).

<sup>6</sup> The Saviour was “smitten” and identified with their “griefs” (“is sick”) as Isaiah later prophesied (cf. Isa. 53:4 with 1:5).

<sup>7</sup> Found 31x, this is a different word than which also is translated “remnant” throughout Isaiah (cf. Isa. 10:20-22; 11:11; Rom. 9:27).

<sup>8</sup> The expression “new moons” translates (*chodesh* = “new”) and refers to the beginning of the month. When the high priest saw the first crescent of the moon, the month began. This was to be a time of rejoicing (cf. Num. 10:10).

## BOOK EXCERPT

violations,<sup>9</sup> they could become cleansed (vv. 16-17)<sup>10</sup> and reconciled with God. In a broad and gracious invitation for national cleansing, the LORD offered the purity of righteousness. His Hebrew parallelism is graphic:

*“though your sins be as scarlet”*

*“they shall be as white as snow”*

*“though they be red like crimson”*

*“they shall be [white] as wool”*

Their restoration of course was conditional on

<sup>9</sup> Since Israel had the national religion (*sacral* society) of Judaism, one’s relationship with society reflected upon one’s relationship with Jehovah. Correcting social injustices demonstrated personal righteousness. New Testament (NT) Christianity is not a *sacral* society, but it is the Lord’s immersionist assemblies scattered throughout the world (Mt. 28:19-20). Although churches have a responsibility toward the fatherless and widows (Acts 6:1; I Tim. 6:3-16; Jam. 1:27), their primary mission is converting the lost. New Evangelicalism has wrongly re-directed churches from spiritual goals to social programs, promoting Protestantism and neglecting the Lord’s Great Commission.

<sup>10</sup> In a set of nine imperatives, the Lord demanded specific changes in their lives, namely “wash you”, “make you clean,” “put away,” “cease to do,” “learn,” “seek,” “relieve,” “judge,” and “plead.”

obedience, and lack of it would allow judgment to follow (vv. 19-20). In the meantime, the inhabitants of Jerusalem were still as a harlot.<sup>11</sup> Corruption was wide spread running even up through the leaders (vv. 21-23). The Lord looked ahead and promised restoration to the ones responding to His purging. After the Tribulation judgment will come the Millennial blessings including the restored office of judges<sup>12</sup> (vv. 24-27). But for those involved in the idolatrous fertility cult among the trees in the gardens, only fiery judgment would follow (vv. 2-31).<sup>13</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Cf. Isa. 23:15-17; 57:3.

<sup>12</sup> During the Millennium, the Lord will have an hierarchy of leaders helping Him rule with a rod of iron (cf. Mt. 19:28).

<sup>13</sup> Cf. “And he [Ahaz] sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree” (II Ki. 16:4).

# Vacation Bible School

## From Rain to Rainbow Noah and the Great Flood



Join BBC for Vacation Bible School  
Learn about the Noah and Great Flood  
Children Grades K-6 Enjoy  
Bible Verses Crafts Songs Games FUN  
July 13-15, 2015 at 9 am -Noon  
Finale at BBC July 15, 2015 at 7 pm



**On July 13-15, BBC will hold its sixth annual Vacation Bible School with teaching Noah and the global flood. All are welcome to attend from 9 AM to Noon these three days.**

# LAWRENCE/HAGGLUND PICNIC

# Fellowship Sweet

Lawrence Hagglund Picnic

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Photos



*Left to Right: Mrs. Laura Hagglund, Miss Krista Hagglund, Mrs. Jan Strouse, and Kathy Lawrence*

*>>Jeff Skroupski, Jim Lawrence, Pastor Strouse and John Hagglund*



*Fun and games were in full swing*



## Picnic Photos

*BBC members enjoyed a beautiful day of fellowship and fun! It was wonderful to share these moments with the Hagglund and Lawrence Families!*



## BBC HAPPENINGS



### BBC/BBTS Calendar

**June 15-19, 2015** **5:00 PM**

**2 Corinthians Module**

**Quakertown, PA**

**July 13-15, 2015** **9:00 AM-Noon**

**Vacation Bible School**

**Noah And the Great Flood**

**July 20-24, 2015**

**Joshua Module**

**Plymouth, NH**

**August 17-21, 2015**

**Isaiah Module**

**Fairhaven Baptist College**

# BBC HAPPENINGS

BBC Happenings

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Photos



*Delicious food and beautiful fellowship was enjoyed by all!*



# Lawrence/Hagglund Picnic

# BBC HAPPENINGS

*Many hands helped execute a wonderful meal*



# MISSIONARIES AROUND US

On Sunday June 7, 2015, the Sunday School Students presented a song and oral report about BBTS graduate James Lawrence and his wife Kathy. The children learned about the Lawrences and Faithful Men Baptist Church in Utah, a church planted by the Lawrences. The children even got the pleasure to meet and spend time with the Lawrences!



The Lawrences have relocated in Utah, found an apartment, updated driver's licenses, and obtained employment. They are currently ministering with a group of believers in Hurricane, Utah, with the goal of establishing a New Testament assembly. Their address is the following: Mr. and Mrs. James Lawrence, 147 E. Arrowweed Way, Washington, UT. 84780.

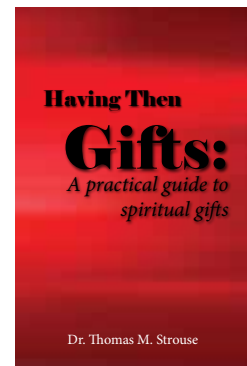
Learn more about their work at:  
<http://www.faithfulmenmissions.com/>



## Having Then Gifts A practical guide to spiritual gifts



Pastor Strouse is preaching a series on spiritual gifts. Over the past several weeks he covered Prophecy, Ministry, Teaching and Exhortation. Dr. Strouse with BBC Publications recently revised and reprinted *Having Then Gifts*, which covers spiritual gifts. Please see the Book Corner on page 11 to learn how to get a copy of *Having Then Gifts*, or other publications.





# A SPECIAL SUNDAY



Miss Krista Hagglund beautifully played the harp

Bro. John Hagglund lead the singing



The Lawrences joined BBC to visit a local nursing home. Miss Krista Hagglund often entertained residents with her beautiful musical talents



# FAREWELL HAGGLUNDS

Farewell Haggunds

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Photos



*Krista and Eric Hagglund with their BBC friends*



*From R-L: Jan Strouse, Pastor Strouse, John Hagglund, Laura Hagglund, Krista Hagglund  
Front: Eric Hagglund*

# A LOOK BACK

A photographic remembrance of the Hagglund Family and their time at Bible Baptist Church.



*BBC loves and appreciates the Hagglund Family, they will be greatly missed..*



# DEVOTIONAL CORNER

## The Song of Habakkuk

Text: 3:1-19



Pastor Cas Reeves

The book of Habakkuk is one of the books of the Jewish Nebuim. In our English Bible, it is in the section we call the Prophets. Habakkuk was an Old Testament prophet, who live as a contemporary of King Jehoiakim around 609 BC, which was just prior to Babylon's Nebuchadnezzar's invasion of Judah in 605 BC.

Habakkuk, the prophet, begin by revealing the burden he saw (1:1). Why wasn't the LORD dealing with the injustices (3-4) and concluding the law was slack (4). Habakkuk records the LORD's response, "I will work a work in your days...the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breath of the land." Thus God promised justice to Judah for its lack of following, violating and resisting the law of God. Yes, God in His justice would deliver Judah into the hands of the Chaldeans. This began in 609 BC with the deportment of the Jewish nobles of whom Daniel was one.

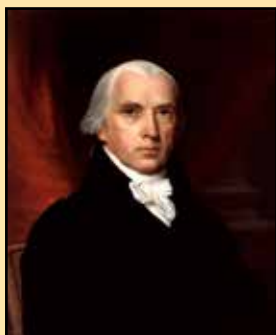
In chapter 2, Habakkuk is commanded to write plainly or distinctly God's words regarding the vision God gave to him. It is interesting because it reveals what we understand today as the received text movement. Habakkuk received the truth of God in a vision; he believed the truth of God; he obeyed the truth of God. The reader or runner is the one to carry it forth; thus, implied is that the runner receives the truth from Habakkuk, believes it and obeys it by carrying it forth (2:2). This, received method, is the method employed through the centuries. Today, we can be assured that our King James Bible, which has come to us by the received text movement, is God's Word. In this chapter God's indictments or woes against Judah are issued: 1) against those who steal (2:6), 2) against those with evil designs (2:9), 3) against those who employ mayhem to build (2:12), 4) against those who give intoxicating drink to others (2:15), and 5) against those who worship idols (2:19).

In Chapter 3, Habakkuk puts his prayer to music. This is the song of Habakkuk, it is about the coming of the LORD. Though Judah will be judged, and the justice of God will prevail against them for their wrong doing, the LORD will still give them hope for the future through the promise of His coming and victory over Judah's enemies. We are told in Habakkuk's song that God's glory will cover all the heavens, and that all the earth will praise Him (3:3), His brightness shall shine as light and His power is concealed in His hand (3:4), His judgment will be upon the earth, geological in nature, and toward all nations with pestilence and fire (3:5-7). There will be a judgment upon the waters, of which nations are defenseless (3:8-9). Mountains shall tremble; the sun and moon shall stand still (3:10-11). Judgment will be complete against the heathen and the wicked (3:11-15). But the people of God shall find their salvation through this great and terrible judgment (3:16-17). In this great truth, Habakkuk found cause for rejoicing, acknowledging that his strength was in God, and praising Him with stringed instruments.

-CAR

### QUOTES FROM THE PAST: James Madison 1751-1836

4th President of the United States



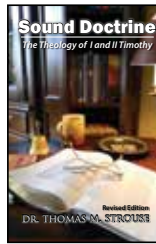
James Madison

*"Ecclesiastical establishments tend to great ignorance and corruption, all of which facilitate the execution of mischievous projects."*

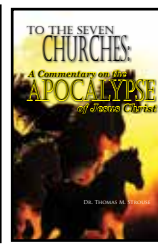
# THE BOOK CORNER

## The Book Corner

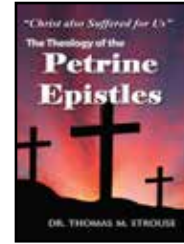
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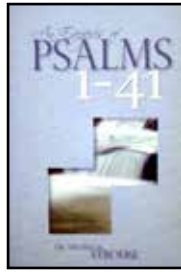
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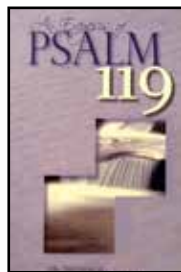
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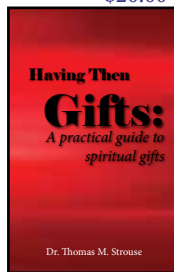
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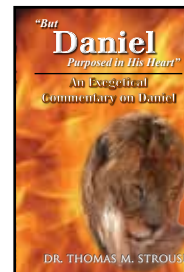
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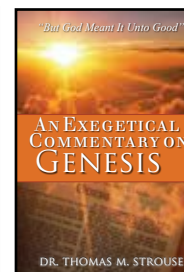
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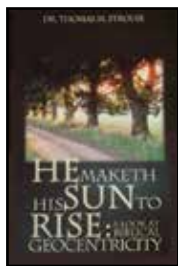
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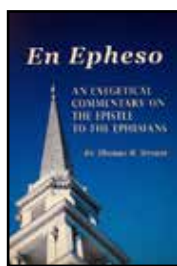
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Genesis  
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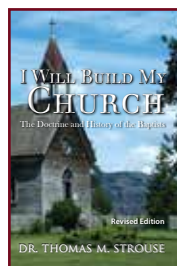
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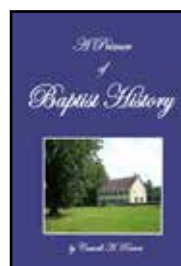
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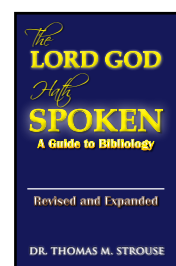
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## BBC Treats



An update worthy dessert spread



The Hagglund's farewell cake

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

[drtms\\_bbts@juno.com](mailto:drtms_bbts@juno.com)



### Bible Baptist Theological Seminary

A ministry of Bible Baptist Church

40 Country Squire Road

Cromwell, CT 06416

860-613-2096

[www.bbc-cromwell.org](http://www.bbc-cromwell.org)