



BBC UPDATE

ISRAEL TRIP

During the days of October 6-17, 2020, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Strouse will be taking a tour to Jerusalem and helping with site devotionals. Others from Bible Baptist Church and other churches are invited to join them. The details include the following:

COST: About \$3600.00 per person which includes the 12-day Tour, air flight, hotels, most meals, bus and driver, guides, and gratuities.

TOUR: Pilgrim Tours: "Israel in Detail First Class 12 Day Tour" ("Strouse Tour")

SITES: Basically, the tour will go up the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, over to the Sea of Galilee and boat ride, up to Dan, then down Jordan to Dead Sea (for floating), and then to Jerusalem.

BENEFIT: See the Bible land in 3-D and color!

PASSPORT: Make sure passport is valid for at least six months beyond tour!

For those interested, they need to go through Pilgrim Tours.

PO Box 268
3071 Main St.
Morgantown, PA 19543
800-322-0788
www.pilgrimtours.com



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

THE BIBLE AND SUICIDE

Examples

I. ABIMELECH (Jdg. 9:54): The rebellious son of Gideon murdered his brothers except for Jotham, usurped leadership, and fought at Shechem. Being wounded by a woman's millstone toss, he commanded his armour-bearer to thrust him through with a sword, which he did, killing Abimelech.

II. SAMSON (Jdg. 16:30): During the time of Judges when every man did that which was right in his own eyes (Jdg. 21:25), another suicide occurred, this time by a believer in Jehovah (cf. Heb. 11:32). A servant of the LORD, Samson had great strengths and weakness. As Samson sinned and walked carnally, the LORD judged him with blindness, imprisonment, and mocking. He asked the LORD to strengthen him once again so he could pull down the pillars of Dagon's temple upon himself and thousands of Philistines. The LORD enabled him to have the strength to kill himself!

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III. SAUL (I Sam. 31:4): Saul demonstrated through his rebellion against Jehovah that he was an unworthy king. He got involved in the occult with the witch and received Samuel's prophecy of death. In battle against the Philistines he lost his sons and was wounded. He asked his armour-bearer to slay him, but he would not kill Saul. Saul fell on his own sword.

IV. SAUL'S SERVANT (I Sam. 31:5): Saul's armour-bearer could not kill Saul, but he did fall on his own sword.

V. AHITHOPHEL (II Sam. 17:23): He was David's counselor and grandfather of Bathsheba. He betrayed David in favor of Absalom, who ultimately rejected Ahithophel's counsel. Now betrayed by Absalom, he hanged himself.

VI. ZIMRI (I Ki. 16:18): Zimri murdered his king (Elah) and usurped the NK for seven days. The people wanted Omri as king who took the city Tirzah. As Zimri realized that his short reign was over he went into the king's palace and burnt it down upon himself.

VII. JUDAS (Mt. 27:5; Acts 1:18): Judas, one of the twelve apostles, walked with the Lord Jesus for three years and was the church treasurer. Disappointed in the failure for the Lord to set up His Kingdom and enticed by thirty pieces of silver, Judas betrayed the Lord Jesus. Realizing he was condemned, Judas attempted to return the money, was rejected by the religionists, and then attempted to hang himself but fell, gushing out his bowels.

Observations

1. All seven had biblical knowledge about the LORD and His will.
2. All had special positional and personal privileges in the truth.
3. At least one was a believer (Samson [Heb. 11:32]). Samson's sin of murder was covered at the cross when he had trusted in the Messiah. Christ died for the past, present, and future sins of repentant sinners!
4. All were self-willed and lusted after the wrong things. James warned about spiritual declension: lust, sin, death (sometimes suicide).
5. Others had the thought of suicide, desiring to die.
 - a. Job: He cursed the day he was born. Ultimately, he repented of his pride (Job 3:1 ff.; 42:6).
 - b. Elijah: He wanted Jehovah to kill him. The LORD gave him food, water, and rest. Then He told him to get up and serve the LORD (I Ki. 19:4 ff.).
 - c. Jeremiah: He called God a liar and a deceiver and cursed the day of his birth. The Lord told him to put away these evil words or he could not serve Jehovah (Jer. 15:18 ff.; 20:7 ff.).

Conclusion

Suicide is the ultimate angry expression of self-will, brought about by sin and hating the consequences of sin. For the Christian, the believer needs to stop walking in the works of the flesh (i.e., murder) and start being filled with the Spirit, producing the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:17-28).



SUCCESS IN SERVING

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success"

Joshua 1:8

Pastor Cas Reeves

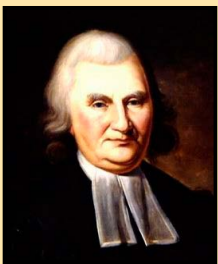
God spoke these words to Joshua as he was beginning his role of leadership in serving the Lord and leading God's people into the Promised Land. We can just imagine how Joshua must have felt as he assumed this mantle of great responsibility. It must have been a time of great personal introspection, and those times are fearful. However, we note that God is there to bring assurance: *"Be strong and of good courage"* God says as He reiterates to Joshua his mission. *"Only be strong and very courageous"* as He speaks about the character of His servant's service. And finally as He commands, *"Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest"* (Joshua 1:6-9).

We note that God promised Joshua success; *"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee"* (Joshua 1:5). The key to this success is found in (Joshua 1:8) the *"book of the law"* [the Bible] and what Joshua was supposed to do with it. He was to know it; *"shall not depart out of thy mouth."* He was to understand it; *"meditate therein day and night."* And he was to obey it; *"observe to do according to all that is written therein."*

By application, just as Joshua was encouraged from God's Word, so we are encouraged. The Apostle Peter encouragingly points us toward successfulness in our service to the Lord, when he says, *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober be vigilant"* (1 Peter 3:6-8). Here, Peter detailed biblical activities for our personal success: 1) Humility, 2) Dependence, 3) Seriousness, and 4) Vigilance.

The Psalmist of old said, *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night"* (Palm 1:1-2). The Psalmist knew, that being successful in service meant being successful in the Word. -CAR

Quotes From the Past:



John Witherspoon
1723-1796

Signer of the
Declaration of
Independence

*"Cursed be all learning that is
contrary to the cross of Christ."*

BBTS SPRING SEMESTER SCHEDULE

MONDAY ~ 9 AM to Noon
Soteriology with Dr. Strouse

TUESDAY ~ 6-9 PM
Ezekiel with Dr. Strouse

WEDNESDAY ~ 9 AM to Noon
Ezekiel with Dr. Strouse

THURSDAY ~ 6-9 PM
Malachi with Prof. Skorupski

GROW IN GRACE DEVOTIONAL FOR WOMEN

THE DAY OF RECKONING PART 1

Read Matthew 18

Matthew 18:23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

Reflection: A parable is designed to tell a story that teaches hidden principles. As we go through this parable notice what additional principles and lessons you can glean from it. So the Lord begins with giving an illustration of the Kingdom of Heaven, certainly our ears should perk up to desire to have a deeper understanding of this contrast between an earthly kingdom and the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus continues to teach that in a Kingdom,

there will be a King and servants.

What can we learn from these three verses?

*There will be a day of reckoning

*These servants will give a verbal account

*This debt was great and must be settled

*This parable only gives an illustration of one type of servant, one who has insufficient means to pay.

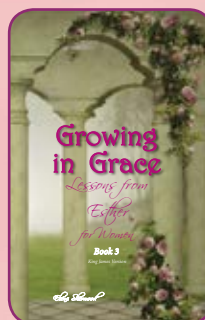
Challenge: What is the connection between this parable and you? Did you know that you have a day of reckoning with the Lord and your great debt must be settled? Why doesn't this parable have an example of a servant that was able to afford and fully pay his own debt?

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

If you would like to receive Grow in Grace morning devotions emailed to you Monday through Friday, please send an email to:

Elenas6259@gmail.com

GROWING IN GRACE: DEVOTIONAL FOR WOMEN ON BOOK OF ESTHER

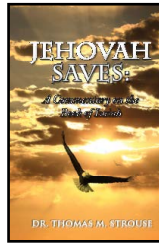


Bible Baptist Church has published the third book in its devotional series for women. If you would like to receive a complimentary copy, please contact the author, Elena Sherwood, at: Elenas6259@gmail.com.

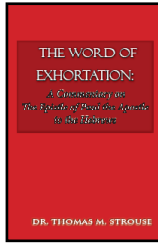
THE BOOK CORNER

These Books may be purchased through
Bible Baptist Church:
40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387

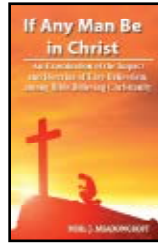
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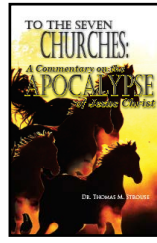
Isaiah
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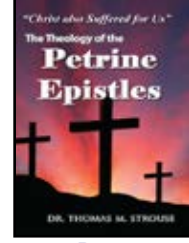
Hebrews
\$30.00



If Any Man Be ... I & II Timothy
\$10.00 \$20.00



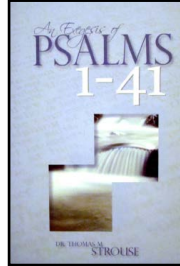
Revelation
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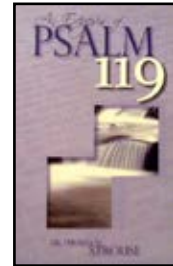
Peter
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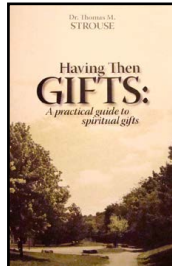
I & II Thessalonians
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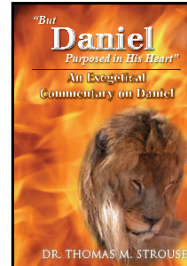
Psalms 1 - 41
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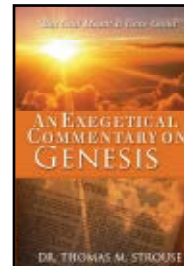
Psalm 119
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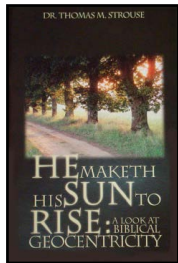
Spiritual Gifts
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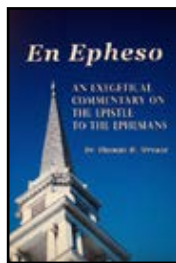
Daniel
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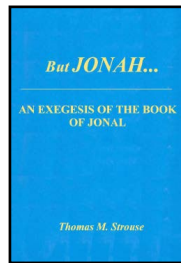
Genesis
\$20



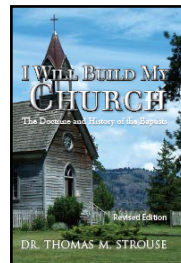
Geocentricity
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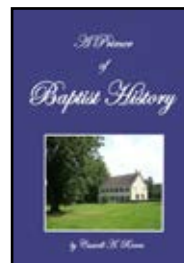
En Epheso
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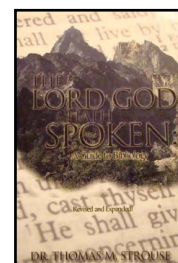
Jonah
\$10.00



I Will Build My Church
\$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

BBC 2020 SCHEDULE

Jan. 6-10

Dublin Module

Feb. 10-14

Dubai Module

Mar. 9-13

Endicott, NY

Apr. 17

BBTS Spring Lecture Series

May 17

BBTS Graduation

Jun. 8-12

Quakertown, PA
"Eschatology"

Jun 22-26

Quezon City

Oct 6-17

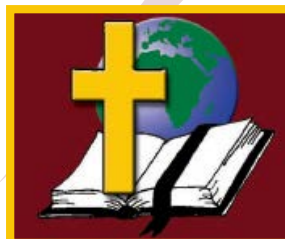
Israel Trip



*Praise the Lord for the fellowship of 2019!
May He continue to bless into the New Year!*

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

drtms_bbts@juno.com



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