



BBC UPDATE



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

INDONESIA TRIP

On August 18-23, 2024, Dr. Thomas Strouse will be ministering in Graphe Baptist Church and Graphe International Theological Seminary of Jakarta, Indonesia for the Seminary Commencement and Module. Both Dr. Suhento Liauw and his son Dr. Stephen Liauw are former doctoral graduates of Dr. Strouse. Under the leadership of Pastor Suhento Liauw, Graphe Baptist Church has planted some fifty-two biblical Baptist churches with his seminary graduates in various locations such as Banten, Jawa Timur, Kalimantan Barat, Bali, and Papua. Jakarta is located on the northwest coast of Java and is the world's most populous island. The religion of Jakarta is 84 percent Islam. Certainly Indonesia ("the islands of India") needs the Gospel and New Testament assemblies throughout. All messages and lectures will need translators. Pray for this spiritual endeavor.



JOHN THE BAPTIST COURSE

During the Fall Semester of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. Joel Grassi will be teaching a 12-week module from September 5, 2024 to November 28, 2024 on "The Life, Ministry, and Theology of John the Baptist." The course will meet every Thursday evening (6-9 PM) at Bible Baptist Church. The cost will be \$75.00 for audit and \$300.00 for seminary credit. Please pray about and consider this great study on the life and mission of John the Baptist. Classroom reservations should be made ASAP.



THREE SHEPHERDS OR THE THREE AGAINST ONE



Dr. Chet Kulus

My dear friend in the Lord and careful scholar of the Scriptures, Pastor Dr. Chet Kulus of Plymouth, NH, has written a convincing argument for the interpretation about the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ from an obscure and typically baffling passage in Zechariah. Recognizing the Lord's affirmation about the *Tanak* pointing to Him as the Lord Jesus declared, saying, "*These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me*" (Lk. 24:44), Dr. Kulus found fulfillment in Zechariah 11:8. His interpretation is grammatical, contextual, prophetic, Christological, and certainly edifying.

Also, Dr. Kulus has written two erudite and exhaustive works on rare but significant biblical topics, namely, *Those So-Called Errors. Debunking the Liberal, New Evangelical, and Fundamentalist Myth that You should Not Hear, Receive, and Believe All the Numbers of Scripture* (430 pages), and *One Tittle Shall In No Wise Pass* (431 pages). Every serious Baptist exegete should have both of these volumes!

"Three shepherds also I cut off in one month; and my soul lothed them, and their soul also abhorred me."
Zechariah 11:8

In Zechariah 11:8 the LORD states,¹ "*Three shepherds also I cut off in one month; and my soul lothed them, and their soul also abhorred me.*" This verse presents three shepherds against the Lord. It is the three against one. I John 5:7 presents the three in one, but Zechariah 11:8 presents the three against one. Who are these three and when does this happen?

According to *The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary*, "More than forty interpretations, covering a wide range of views, are extant as to the meaning of this verse!"² But many commentators seeing that the context presents events concerning the betrayal of Christ (Zechariah 11:12-13; cf. Matthew 26:15; 27:3-10),³ see the three shepherds as referring to the "three orders of rulers in the Jewish state,"⁴ such as priests, scribes, and elders who opposed Christ at His trial and crucifixion (Matthew 16:21; 26:3; 27:41) and understand the three shepherds being cutting off in one month to refer "to the period of culminating unbelief just before the national leaders crucified our Lord and sealed the fate of the Jewish state. During this period the nation rejected our Lord, and the Lord rejected the nation by disowning its leaders."⁵

¹ That the LORD is speaking here is evident from verse 6.

² Edward E. Hindson and Woodrow Michael Kroll, eds., *The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994), 1831.

³ Matthew 27:9 states, "Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value." It may seem that this contradicts the fact that the prophecy is recorded in Zechariah. But there is no contradiction here concerning the origin of the prophecy. What was spoken by Jeremiah was later written by Zechariah. Both had a part in this prophecy.

⁴ Merrill Unger quoting p. 442 of E. Henderson, *The Book of the Twelve Minor Prophets*, 1868 in *Zechariah Prophet of Messiah's Glory* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982), 195.


⁵ Unger, 195.

But the context presents another possibility for the identity of the three shepherds and the time in which they oppose Christ. The context, in addition to speaking of the betrayal of Jesus (Zechariah 11:12-13), also speaks of a foolish shepherd (Zechariah 11:15) and the idol shepherd (Zechariah 11:17). The foolish shepherd and the idol shepherd are both referring to the antichrist. He is appropriately called the idol shepherd because he will not only set up the abomination of desolation (Daniel 9:26-27), but also make himself into an idol in demanding worship of himself (II Thessalonians 2:3-4). The antichrist will certainly abhor Christ, but also will have two others working in consort with him, namely, Satan and the false prophet. In Revelation 13:1-4 the dragon, a reference to Satan (Revelation 12:9), will give power unto the beast, that is, the antichrist. Furthermore, Revelation 13:11-17 mentions another beast, that is, the false prophet, who will cause people to worship the antichrist. Herein the Bible presents three beings, Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet working against Christ. That these three could be looked upon as false spiritual shepherds is certainly true because both the antichrist and the false prophet will have spiritual leadership in the tribulation and Satan himself will be an object of worship from which people will seek spiritual leadership during the tribulation (Revelation 13:4). Might these be the three shepherds of which Zechariah 11:8 speaks?

What adds to the possibility of identifying the three shepherds as Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet is that there is a connection between the rejection of Jesus that Zechariah 11:12-13 mentions and the antichrist that Zechariah 11:15-17 presents. The connection is that Jesus stated to the Jews in John 5:43, “I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.” In rejecting Jesus, the Jews opened themselves to receiving one coming in his own name, that is, the antichrist with whom the Jews will enter into an agreement at the beginning of the 70th week of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27). The rejection of Jesus at His first coming has opened the Jews to being deceived by the antichrist.

Another consideration in identifying the three shepherds as Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet is that Jesus will clearly cut off all three, which is something that Zechariah 11:8 states that He will do with the three shepherds. When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, the beast, that is, the antichrist, will be taken and the false prophet and both will be “cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Revelation 19:20). Following that, an angel, operating in agreement with Christ,⁶ will take hold on Satan and bind him a thousand years in the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:1-3).

Yet another consideration in identifying the three shepherds as Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet is that Zechariah 11:8 teaches that Christ will cut them off in one month. The last half of the tribulation lasts for 1260 days (Revelation 12:6). Daniel 12:11 speaks of 1290 days that starts at the midpoint of the tribulation, which means that the 1290 days extends 30 days beyond the end of the tribulation. This is one month of days and could be the very one month of time in which Christ will accomplish cutting off the three shepherds of Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet.

To conclude, many see the three shepherds against one in Zechariah 11:8 as a reference to three orders of rulers in the Jewish state opposing Christ during His first coming at which point the Lord rejected the nation by disowning its leaders. But another possibility is that since the Jewish leaders did reject Jesus, they opened themselves to receive the antichrist (John 5:43) who along with Satan and the false prophet will oppose Christ (Revelation 13) and be cut off by Him in one month (Revelation 19:20-20:3). 

⁶ Angels throughout Revelation work in agreement with Christ and the Father (Revelation 1:1; 8:1-6; 19:17; 21:9; 22:16).

NEW BOOK COMING SOON

“Not after Christ.”

The Ever-growing Movement of Gnostic Christianity

Bible Baptist Church is planning on releasing another book shortly to expose the real but subtle attack upon New Testament Baptist assemblies. Several Bible Baptist Theological Seminary graduates will be contributing articles in this compilation to show the prevalent false teaching encroaching churches of all stripes, including emerging, mega, fundamental, and even independent Christian churches. Its title and theme come from Col. 2:8-10 revealing that any theology or worship *“not after Christ”* is Gnostic in nature and practice! The book will be the topic of the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Fall Lecture Series on Nov. 1, 2024 held at Galilean Baptist Church.

LABOR DAY COOKOUT

You are invited to the Labor Day Cookout at the Strouse House (164 Hickory Hill Rd., New Britain, CT) on **September 2, 2024** from 2-7 PM.

Meat and drinks will be supplied. If attending, **RSVP** with your name and number **ASAP** to drtms_bbts@juno.com. If bringing a dish: A-M sides; N-Z desserts.

Don't forget lawn chairs and specialty drinks (soda, diet, etc.).

Modest Christian attire appreciated.

BBC/BBTS 2024-2025 SCHEDULE

August 17-23
Indonesia Module and
Commencement

August 26
BBTS Fall Semester
Begins
Greek Exposition Mondays
(TMS)

September 2
Labor Day Cookout
Strouse House

September 5
BBTS Fall Semester
Begins
John the Baptist Thursdays
(Dr. Grassi)

September 23-27
Bible Baptist Church
Nashua, NH
Minor Prophets I

October 20-23
Willow Grove Baptist
Church
Waynesburg, PA
Timeless Truths Bible
Conference
The Book of Nahum

October 27
Calvary Baptist Church
Mannington, WV
TBA

November 1
BBTS Fall Lecture Series
Galilean Baptist Church
Stafford Springs, CT
“Not after Christ”

2025
January 6-10, 2025
Ireland Module
Greek III & Psalms 1-41

Jan. 13-17, 2025
Fairhaven Baptist College
Psalms 42-72

February 10-14, 2025
Philippine Module
Quezon City
Psalms 45-72

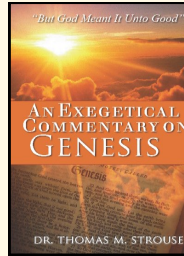
April 11, 2025
BBTS Spring Lecture
Series
Galilean Baptist Church
Stafford Springs, CT
TBA

May 17-18, 2025
BBTS Banquet and
Graduation
Bible Baptist Church
Cromwell, CT

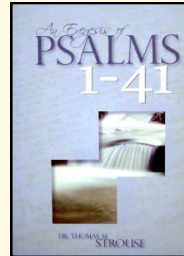
May 26-30, 2025
Ireland Module
Greek IV & Psalms 42-72

The Publication Page

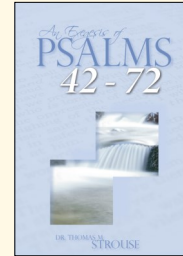
The books on this page may be purchased by contacting:
 Bible Baptist Church
 860-229-5387
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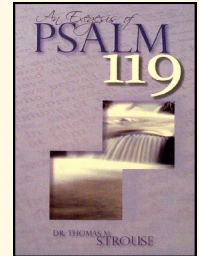
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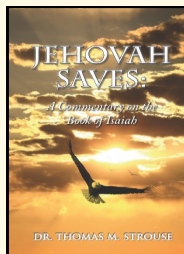
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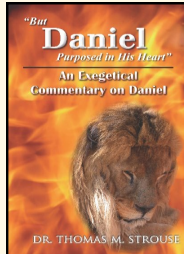
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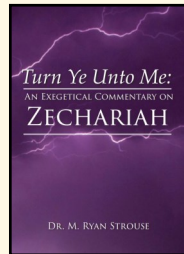
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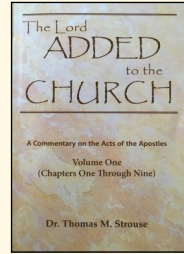
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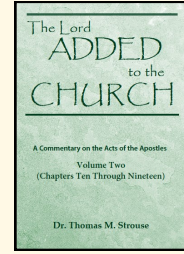
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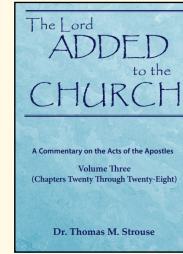
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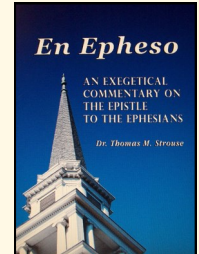
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Acts 10-19
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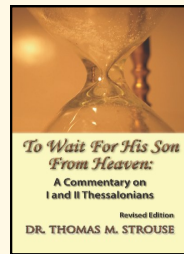
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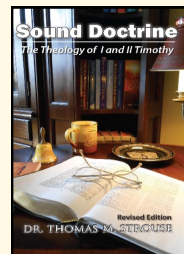
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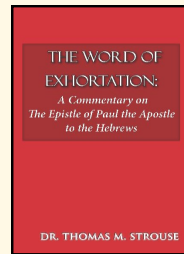
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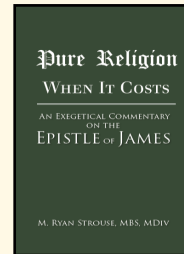
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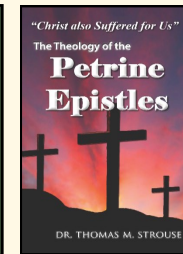
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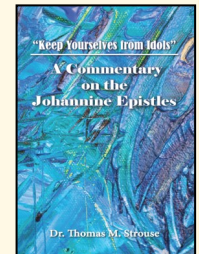
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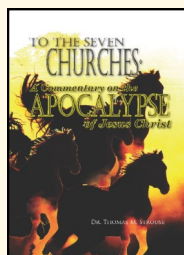
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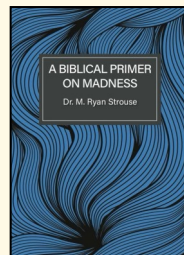
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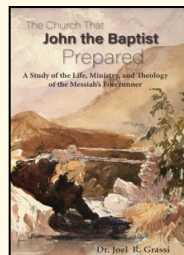
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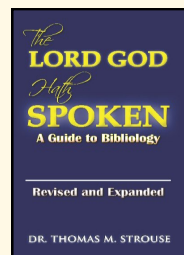
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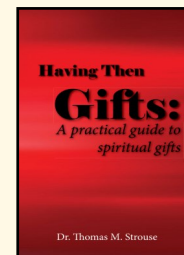
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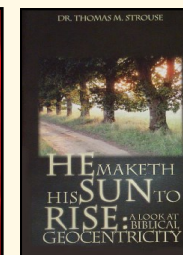
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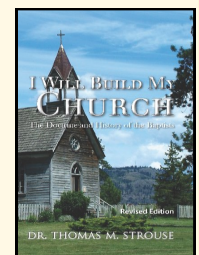
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Spiritual Gifts
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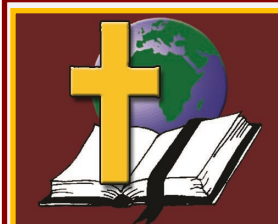


Geocentricity
\$10.00



Baptist Doctrine & History
\$15.00

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send an email to: drtms_bbts@juno.com



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