



BBC UPDATE

BBC Youth Christmas Program



Dr. Thomas Strouse

On Dec. 25, 2011, BBC presented her second annual Christmas Program, entitled "Who is He," with the BBC young people. The children sang songs and cited Scriptures to reinforce the biblical teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. He was not merely an infant in a manger, but the Creator, Saviour, and Judge, Who came once for salvation and is coming again to complete the redemption of believers. To the world, Jesus of Nazareth the Christ is concealed; to the Christian, He is revealed. We are thankful for the faithful turnout of our church members, as well as for at least 5 visitors on Christmas Sunday.



Dr. Thomas Strouse



Above: The set and cast of the Christmas Program entitled "Who Is He?"

Right: A Shepherd provides witness to who the Lord Jesus Christ is!

BBC 2012 Theme

The BBC theme for the coming year is "Into the Bible we'll Delve in 2012." Our emphasis will be that of David, who said, "Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes" (Ps. 119:12). Eight additional times in this psalm he prayed that Jehovah would teach him (Ps. 119:26, 33, 64, 66, 68, 108, 124, and 135). The Lord answered his prayer, as the psalmist said later in the same psalm, "I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me" (Ps. 119:102). As pastor of BBC, I want this assembly to be well grounded in the Scriptures as we face an unstable and uncertain future in America and around the world. Knowing the Bible will give us discernment to have "understanding of the times" (I Chr. 12:32).

BBTS Winter Interim Module

January 23 - 27

New Testament Introduction

BBTS Spring Schedule

Monday

Greek Proficiency	10:00 AM - Noon
Hebrew VIII and II	6:00 - 9:00 PM

Wednesday/Friday

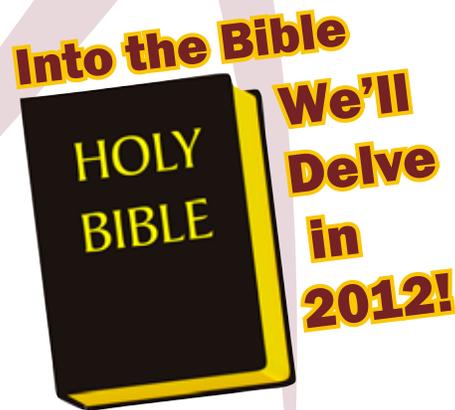
Book of Revelation	8:00 - 9:30 AM
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Wednesday

Greek II	5:00 - 7:00 PM
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Thursday

Book of Hebrews	6:00 - 9:00 PM
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BBC Update
Vol. 3 Num. 1

“WHO IS HE?”

Christmas Program

2

BBC Youth



The young children singing “Away in the Manger”



A musical special



Mrs. Gagnon accompanied the program beautifully!



“John the Baptist”



“A Wise Man”



“The Apostle John”



Above: The manger for “Who Is He” handcrafted by Jeannot Rossignol.

Right: The program was attended by many!



The “Prophet Isaiah” and speakers

Ps. 119:12 Exegesis

By Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

EXEGESIS

Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

Psalm 119:12

For the first and only time in this strophe (vv. 9-15) the psalmist did not employ the *beth* preposition for his acrostic. Instead, he used the *Qal* passive participle *baruc*¹ for "blessed" (literally "the one being blessed").² Because of the blessed nature of the LORD,³ the psalmist wanted divine instruction in Jehovah's statutes (*chuuqim*). Since the Lord is the Master Teacher and the sole Benefactor with "blessings," David implored Him, with the *Piel* imperative, to "teach" him the knowledge and practice of the word of God. The psalmist's desire to be taught by the Author of Scripture runs throughout this psalm like a refrain (cf. vv. 26, 64, 68, 108, 124, 135 and 171).

The Apostles enjoyed the divine privilege of having the Holy Ghost teach them revelatory truth that eventually was inscripturated as the NT Scriptures. The Lord Jesus Christ declared to them, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you"

(Jn. 14:26). The Christian, with the indwelling Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Cor. 6:19-20), in the institution of truth--the immersionist assembly (cf. 1 Tim. 3:15), under the God-ordained leadership of pastor/teacher (cf. Eph. 4:11), may know all revelatory knowledge revealed in the always available Scriptures (cf. Psa. 12:6-7). The Apostle John declared: "But ye have an *unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things*" (1 Jn. 2:20).

¹Baruch was a popular name in Biblical times with several notable examples. Jeremiah's scribe and colleague Baruch was one of the Lord's faithful servants (Jer. 36:4 ff.; 45:1-5). Another example was Baruch, son of Zabbai, a faithful workman on the repaired wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 3:20).

²In its 330 occurrences in the Masoretic text, most often *baruc* is translated "blessed," but because of context it is translated "curse" four times (Job 1:5; 3:1; 5:3 and 24:18) and "blaspheme" twice (1 Kgs. 21:10 and 13). The *Vulgate* reads "*benedictus es Domine.*"

³In Psa. 119, this is the first of twenty-two vocatives for Jehovah, translated "O LORD." The psalmist identified the vocative case by addressing *Jehovah* with the personal masculine singular pronoun ("thou" or "thy," etc.) in the particular verse.

Second Annual Ladies Fellowship

On **March 10, 2012**, BBC will host the **Second Annual Ladies Fellowship** from **10 AM to 1 PM**. Mrs. Claudia Norwalt, wife of Pastor Paul Norwalt (Merrimack Baptist



Temple, NH), will give her testimony and sing several special songs. The fellowship will include congregational singing, testimonies, and a brunch.

Mrs. Claudia Norwalt Please RSVP with number of ladies by 3-1-12 to drtms_bbts@juno.com.

Quotes From the Past:

**Charles H. Spurgeon
1834-1892**

*"Nobody ever outgrows scripture;
the Book widens and deepens
with our years."*



Charles H. Spurgeon

DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Saved to Serve

by Pastor Cas Reeves

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

When a sinner is saved, what is he saved for? The answer becomes clear as one reads from a few verses in the book of the Revelation and the book of Romans. In Rev.7:15 one reads: *Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.* Note believers that died during the tribulation period are before the throne of God, serving God day and night. Again in Rev. 22:3 one reads: *And there shall*



Pastor Cas Reeves

be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: In this verse one learns that Believers are called His servants and shall serve Him in the New Jerusalem following the Millennium and after the new heaven and earth are formed. The conclusion that is made from these two verses is that the sinner is saved to serve the Lord God forever and ever.

Romans 12:1, is interesting in that the Apostle Paul wants the Believers in the church at Rome to see that it is *reasonable* or [logical] to present themselves to the service of God. He describes this presentation of one's body for service as a *living sacrifice, holy* [morally pure both physically and spiritually], and *acceptable* [well-pleasing] unto God. He further shares that the serving Believer is not to be *conformed* [fashioned] after the world. This certainly slaps the so-called Christian in the face who believes he has to conform to the world's ways and standards in order to win the lost for Christ. Paul continues by exhorting the Believer to be *transformed* or [changed] by the renewing of his mind that they may know the perfect will of God.

There should be no question for the Believer that the sinner is saved to serve the Lord God. One notes, that if he is saved, he is to be serving the Lord in this present life and that he shall serve Him for evermore in eternity. - CAR



BBC Members and guests enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner!



BBC Youth Choir

Heretical Views on the Second Coming of Christ

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse
Nov. 17, 2011
BBTS Fall Lecture Series

ARTICLE

IV. A Summary of Biblical Eschatology

- A. The Lord Jesus Christ taught eschatology to His Apostles (cf. Mt. 24:1-24) based on Daniel's Seventy Heptads (cf. Dan. 9:24-27).¹⁴
- B. He made the Mid-Point of the Tribulation the linchpin to understanding eschatology (cf. Mt. 24:15).
- C. Daniel taught that two events would have to occur between the first 69 heptads and the last heptad: 1) the cutting off of the Messiah (crucifixion) and 2) the destruction of the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (Temple). This temporal parenthesis is roughly the local church age dispensation (*vide* Dan. 9:25-27).
- D. The Lord Jesus added an additional requirement that would have to occur before His Second Advent—the death of Peter (cf. Jn. 21:18-19).
- E. These three events would have to occur before the Coming of Christ (i.e., the Rapture): 1) the Crucifixion of the Saviour, 2) the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, and 3) the death of Peter. All three occurred in the first century and in the lifetime of the generation of Christ's First Advent. Therefore, for both the Apostle John and the Apostle Paul, the imminent Second Coming Rapture could have occurred in their lifetime. Christ had been crucified, the destruction of Jerusalem/the Temple was imminent in the 60's, as was Peter's death. Nothing else had to be fulfilled once these events occurred.
- F. Although the Lord Jesus knew about the Rapture doctrine and event, He did not teach it (however see Jn. 14:3), but allowed Paul to reveal its progressive truth (cf. I Thes. 4:15-18).¹⁵
- G. All of the other OT prophecies were either fulfilled in His First Advent, or will be fulfilled during the Tribulation or the Millennium. None will be fulfilled during the mystery period of the local church dispensation with the exception of the aforementioned three.

- H. A case in point is the prophecy of Isaiah concerning the coming of the LORD's Servant, saying, "*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn*" (Isa. 61:1-2). The Lord Jesus interpreted Isaiah's prophecy by understanding that Isa. 61:1-2a referred to His First Coming, and Isa. 61:2b ("*the day of vengeance*" [*vide* Isa. 63:4]) referred apparently to the Tribulation in His Second Coming.
- I. The Apostle Paul was privileged to reveal the details about the Rapture, which teaching he termed "*a mystery*," saying, "*Behold, I shew you a **mystery**; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed*" (I Cor. 15:51-52; cf. I Thes. 4:13-18). (See Eschatology Chart on page 6)

Conclusion

Whereas Bible believers may evaluate and reject the speculations of pagan and pseudo-Christian eschatology, it behooves all Christians to have a biblical understanding on and practical application of the Second Coming of Christ. Did not John exhort, saying, "*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, **when he shall appear**, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that **hath this hope in him purifieth himself**, even as he is pure*" (I Jn. 3:2-3)?

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¹⁴"*Seventy weeks* (שבעים שבועים) are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city..."

¹⁵The taking away in Mt 24:37-41 refers to those taken away to judgment during "the judgment of Israel" (Ezk. 20:32-38) and "the judgment of the nations" (Mt. 25:31-46). It does not refer to the Rapture, but to that of which Zechariah predicted, saying, "*And it shall come to pass, that every one that is **left** of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles*" (Zech. 14:16).

ARTICLE

Continued from Page 5

Article

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Heretical Views...

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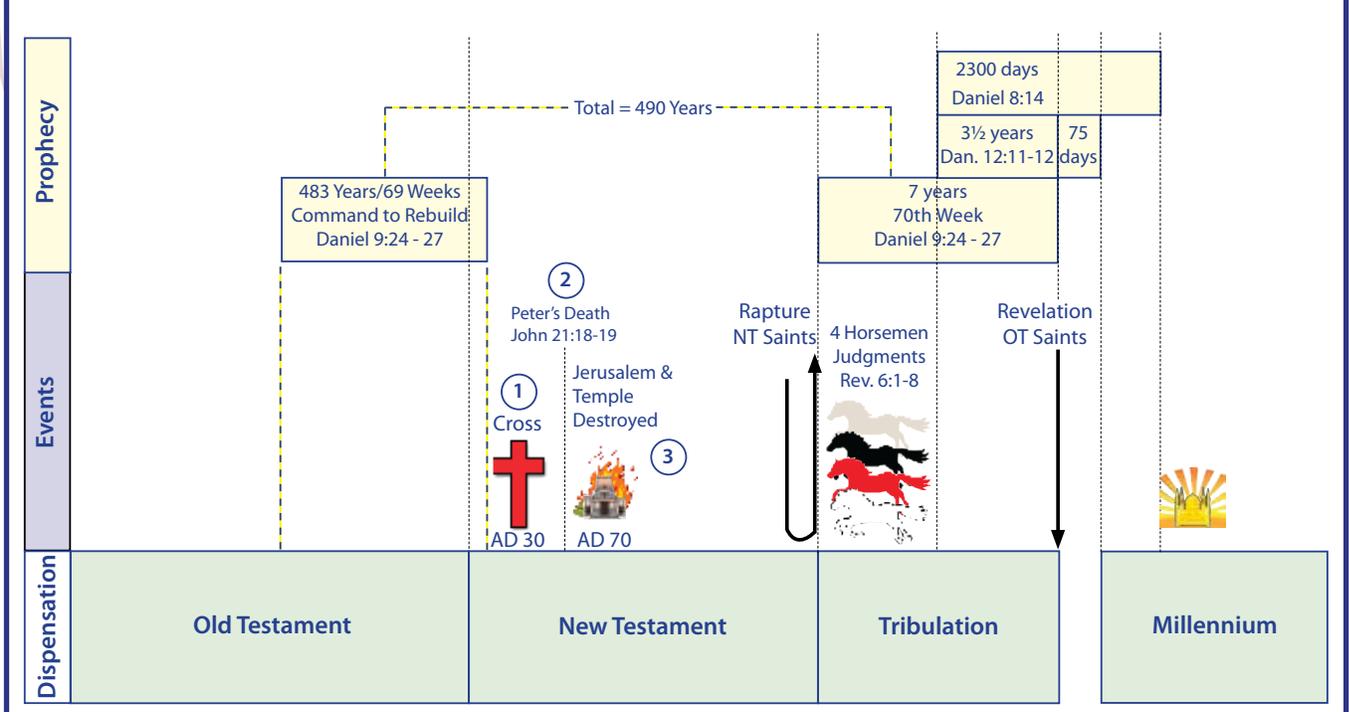
Strouse, Thomas M. *But Daniel Purposed in His Heart: an Exegetical Commentary on Daniel*. Newington, CT: Emmanuel Baptist Theological Press, 2001.

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Eschatology Chart

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse



THE BOOK CORNER

Book Corner

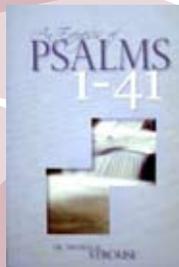
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Bible Study

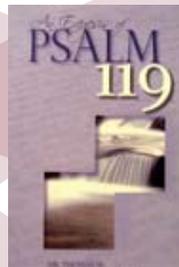
The Book Corner

These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church:**

40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387



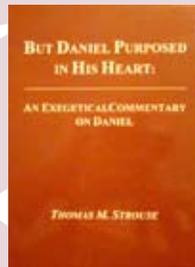
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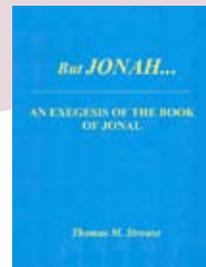
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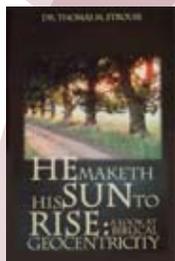
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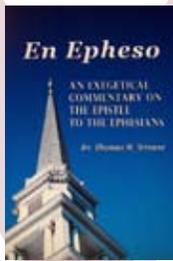
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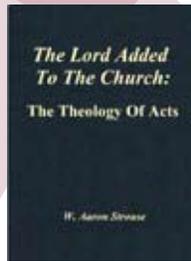
Jonah
\$10.00



Geocentricity
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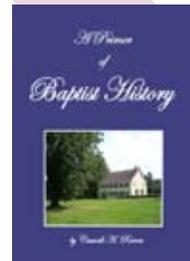
En Epheso
\$20.00



The Theology of Acts
\$20.00



I Will Build My Church
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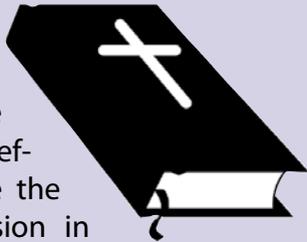
A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

Manchester Bible Study

Continue to pray for the Manchester Bible Study as Mark Schabert teaches the *Gospel of John* to several families who live in the area. This is an effort to practice the Great Commission in Manchester, CT, evangelizing and edifying folks who come to the study. The Bible study is every Friday night at 7 PM. Please contact the pastor for directions.



Save the Date!!

2012 Spring Lecture Series

April 19, 2012

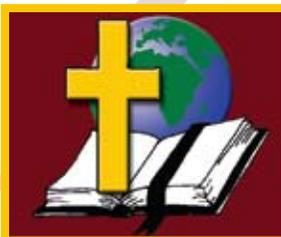
Crown Plaza, Cromwell, CT

Who Are the Baptists?

- I. Dr. Joel Grassi—*John the Baptist*
- II. Dr. Thomas Strouse—*Theology and Polity of Baptists*
- III. Pastor Cas Reeves—*History of Ancient Baptists*
- IV. Noel Meadowcroft—*History of 20th Century Baptists*

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send to the Editor, Cas Reeves, at either

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