



BBC UPDATE

BBTS Begins Second Academic Year!

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, Pastor



Dr. Thomas Strouse

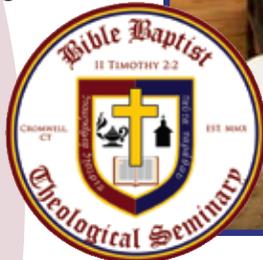
We thank the Lord Jesus Christ that the seminary ministry He has begun in Connecticut continues to flourish at *Bible Baptist Theological Seminary* under the aegis of *Bible Baptist Church*. On August 29, 2011, *BBTS* began her second academic year with several new students along with current seminarians. All NT churches have the sole privilege and responsibility to train men in the word of God (Mt. 28:19-20). *BBC*

takes seriously the Great Commission, and trains men for the Lord's work with advanced courses in the biblical languages as well as in biblical, theological, and historical studies. This semester *BBTS* offers courses in Greek, Hebrew, the Book of Ezekiel, the Book of Hebrews, and OT Introduction. It is not too late to enroll in one or more of these seminary classes leading to the degrees BDiv, MBS, MDiv, DMin, ThM, and ThD. Remember to pray for this ministry. Please visit our web site giving details about *BBTS*:

www.bbc-cromwell.org



Six Seminarians eagerly awaiting the start of the class on the Book of Ezekiel!



BBTS/BBC Picnic!

The annual Labor Day BBTS/BBC picnic is planned for **Sept. 5, 2011** at the Strouse house from **3:00 - 7:00 PM**. All past and present seminarians and all BBC members are welcome to attend!! Please RSVP to **drtms_bbtts@juno.com** by **Sept. 2**



BBTS Fall Schedule

Monday

Advanced Hebrew VII 6:00 - 7:00 PM
Hebrew I 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Wednesday

Book of Hebrews 8:00 - 10:30 AM
Greek I 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Thursday

Book of Ezekiel 6:00 - 9:00 PM

TBA

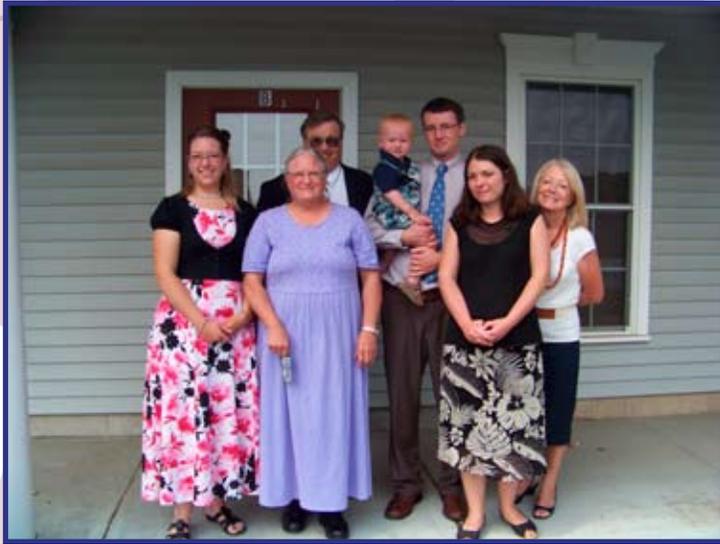
OT Introduction

BBC PHOTOS

BBC

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Photos



A reunion of sorts! The Jacobs family and Haverty family from Community Baptist Church in Quakertown, PA both visited BBC on Sunday, August 21. They are pictured above with Mrs. Harding.



Two of our girls cutely dressed in their sailor dresses!



Dr. and Mrs. Strouse enjoy a couple of days in Maine celebrating their 45th anniversary before returning to confront Irene.

BIBLICAL REASONS THAT PRAYER IS PROFITABLE

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse



Dr. Thomas Strouse

Job's summarization of the blasphemous attitude of the wicked depicts the day in which we live: *"What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?"* (Job 21:15). The following are some biblical reasons that prayer is **profitable**:

- 1. God obligates Himself with prayer.** *"He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?"* (Ps. 94:9).
- 2. The Lord commands prayer.** *"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving"* (Col. 4:2).
- 3. Christ modeled the prayer life.** *"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared"* (Heb. 5:7).
- 4. Christians have always practiced prayer.** *"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren"* (Acts 1:14).
- 5. The believer receives edification from prayer.** *"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost"* (Jude 1:20).

PRAYER

- 6. Prayer prepares the saint for the Rapture.** *"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer"* (1 Pet. 4:7).
- 7. Prayer benefits others.** *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"* (Jam. 5:16).
- 8. Christians receive wisdom through prayer.** *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him"* (Jam. 1:5).
- 9. Prayer is a spiritual weapon against temptation.** *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"* (Mt. 26:41).
- 10. God hears prayer.** *"O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come"* (Ps. 65:2).
- 11. The Lord meets secretly with the believer in prayer.** *"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly"* (Mt. 6:6).
- 12. The believer experiences early fellowship with God.** *"I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word"* (Ps. 119:147).

DEVOTIONAL CORNER

The Temple of God

by Pastor Cas Reeves

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

(1 Corinthians 6:19).



Pastor Cas Reeves

This verse states a wonderful New Testament truth. And what a great truth it is: That we, Believers, are the temple of God. And residing in us is the Holy Spirit of God. The same Spirit, who in the beginning created the world. *"And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters"* (Genesis 1:2).

This indwelling Spirit of God, which we have as Believers, also authored the Word of God. We're told, by declaration of God that *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God"* (2 Timothy 3:16). The meaning of inspiration is "breath" or "wind." The idea is that scripture is "God breathed" or that its origin is of God. The Scripture is clearly the work of the Godhead. *"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"* (2 Peter 1:21). *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14).

We as Christians are truly blessed to have the Spirit of God as our companion and comforter. Jesus promised, *"I will send him unto you"* (John 16:7). We are taught this

happens to us when we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior: *"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise"* (Ephesians 1:13).

We as Christians are truly blessed to have the Spirit of God as our companion and comforter.

The Holy Spirit is a seal upon us that we are God's. It speaks with a view of the past when, perhaps a king would place his seal upon a document with wax and the impression of his ring. We as Believers have received God's stamp or impression of His authority by the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. And it is precisely because of this, we are commanded, *"grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption"* (Ephesians 4:30). In other words, we are not to sadden our God's Holy Spirit, which He has graciously given to indwell or to temple with us. We are His temple, and we are warned not to defile it (1 Corinthians 3:17). Therefore, we are told to put away from us *"all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking; And be ye kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven [us]"* (Ephesians 4:31-32). Truly, it is our blessing to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, and to be His Temple. He is holy and gracious. And because we are His Temple, therein, lies the reason for our personal holiness and graciousness in our character and behavior.

Earthquakes and the Second Coming of Christ

SERMON

By Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

Introduction

The Scripture predicts that there will be earthquakes signaling the Second Coming of Christ. The Lord Himself prophesied in His Olivet Discourse about earthquakes, saying, *“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places”* (Mt. 24:7). Many “fundamentalist” Baptist preachers affirm that the recent earthquakes in Japan and in the east coast of the United States are signs for the Rapture (I Thes. 4:16-17). However, it is very disappointing that these pre-tribulation rapture preachers who claim to preach the Bible can espouse such an erroneous position in eschatology. They apparently fail to realize or remember that there are two aspects to the Second Coming, the “private” Rapture for NT saints prior to the Tribulation, and the “public” Revelation of Christ after the Tribulation (cf. Rev. 1:7). The signs which fulfill OT Scripture are for the Revelation of Christ, and NOT for the Rapture. This type of sensational but ill-informed preaching is contrary to the Scriptures and misleads those who have a shallow understanding of biblical prophecy. The advocacy of the position that the increase in the number of earthquakes worldwide (including “*divers places*” such as Japan [!]) is a sign for the Rapture is heresy. An additional heretical eschatological position is the notion that when Israel became a nation in 1948, this fulfilled another sign for the Rapture (cf. Isa. 66:7-8). The following are several biblical arguments refuting these false positions preached by many “pre-Trib fundamentalists.”

A. General Arguments:

1. The Apostle Paul affirmed with great clarity that Christians don’t look for signs but for the Saviour, saying, *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ”* (Phil. 3:20).

2. Signs are for Jews, and certainly not for Gentile Christians, as Christ stated, saying, *“For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom”* (I Cor. 1:22; cf. also Mt. 12:39).

B. Contextual Arguments:

1. The context of Mt. 24:7 refers to the Lord’s Olivet Discourse in which He instructed the disciples about the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in fulfillment of the prominent OT eschatological passage of Dan. 9:24-27. His discussion parallels His Apocalupsis truth He gave to John in Rev. 6 concerning the Four Horsemen (vv. 1-8) and the Sixth Seal Judgment (vv. 12-14) of the mega-earthquake. Clearly, these events including earthquakes are included in “the beginning of sorrows” (Mt. 24:8). The only prophecies that needed to be fulfilled according to Daniel’s Seventy Week prophecy was the crucifixion of the Messiah and the destruction of the Jerusalem and the Temple (Dan. 9:26), both of which occurred in the first century (c. AD 30 and AD 70, respectively).
2. The context of Isa 66:7-8 is the Lord’s address to Israel about judgment (Tribulation) and hope (Millennium). The Messiah came before Israel’s travail (Tribulation) but “remnant” children will come forth from the Tribulation. The Millennial joys will follow the nation born in one day (Isa. 66:10 ff.). Paul alluded to this same phenomenon which will follow “the fullness of the Gentiles,” wherein “all Israel shall be saved” (Rom. 11:26). To assert that OT prophecies will be fulfilled during the “[local] church age” is poor exegesis of Scripture, and really undermines the doctrine of the imminency of the Coming of Christ.

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SERMON

Continued from Page 5

Conclusion

Paul gave encouragement about the Blessed Hope (Tit. 2:13) and Peter demanded "holy conversation and godliness" for the life that anticipates the reality of eschatological truth (II Pet. 3:11-12). Rather than succumbing to sensational preaching about certain signs that must occur before the Rapture, which preaching has failed every generation so far, preachers need to emulate John's teaching on the practicality of the Second Coming: "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).

"Earthquakes..."

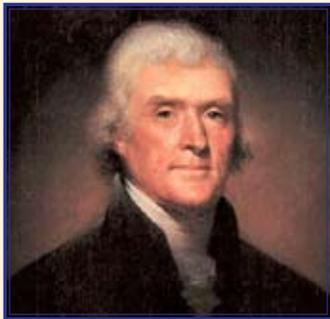
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Quotes from the Past

Quotes From the Past:

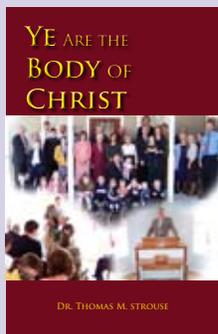
Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826

3rd President of USA



Thomas Jefferson

I suppose, indeed, that in public life, a man whose political principles have any decided character and who has energy enough to give them effect must always expect to encounter political hostility from those of adverse principles.

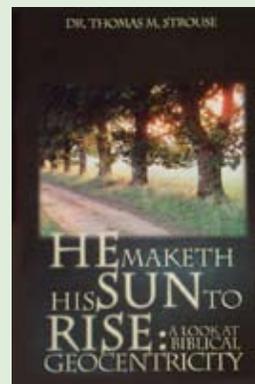


YE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

Dr. Strouse's article on the doctrine of the local church has been printed and is still available through Bible Baptist Church.

HE MAKETH HIS SUN TO RISE

The book "He Maketh His Sun to Rise" by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse is a must read for every serious Bible student.



It very carefully sets forth a biblical argument for Geocentricity. It puts forth a fideistic rather than a rationalistic approach to hermeneutics, which challenges the reader as to whether he really accepts what God says by faith or by a human scientific rationale. We are pleased that this book is now available.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

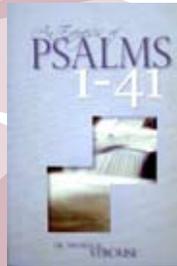
Hebrews 10:25

THE BOOK CORNER

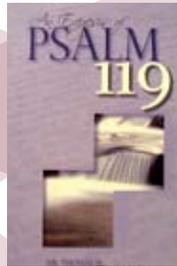
The Book Corner

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

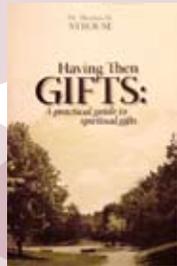
40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387



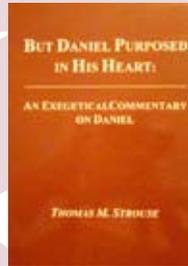
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



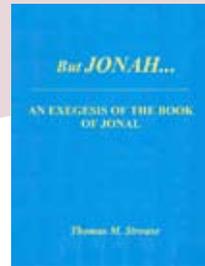
Psalm 119
\$20.00



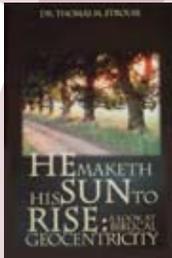
Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00



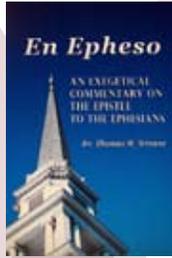
Daniel
\$20.00



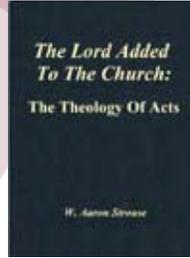
Jonah
\$10.00



Geocentricity
\$10.00



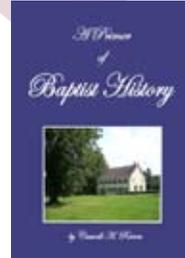
En Epheso
\$20.00



The Theology of Acts
\$20.00



I Will Build My Church
\$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

Manchester Bible Study

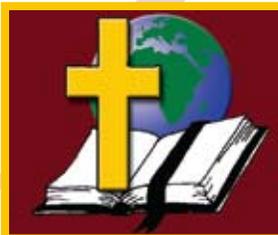
Continue to pray for the Manchester Bible Study as Mark Schabert teaches the *Gospel of John* to several families who live in the area. This is an effort to practice the Great Commission in Manchester, CT, evangelizing and edifying folks who come to the study. The Bible study is every Friday night at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



Boxed up and ready to go!!

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

bbts@stny.rr.com
hbc5923@stny.rr.com



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A ministry of Bible Baptist Church

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