



BBC UPDATE

Second Anniversary BBC/BBTS

Christmas Banquet

Dr. Thomas Strouse

On Dec. 9, 2011, the Lord blessed the Second Annual BBC/BBTS Christmas Banquet with over sixty church members, friends and four area pastors in attendance. The banquet coincided with the Second Anniversary of the starting of BBC (Dec. 3, 2009). The excellent lasagna meal along with singing, testimonies, a challenge from the Scriptures, and a gift exchange, provided for an enjoyable evening in the Lord. Bible Baptist Church appreciates the fellowship with other churches of like faith in CT, MA, NH, and NY.



Dr. Thomas Strouse Bible Baptist Church appreciates the fellowship with other churches of like faith in CT, MA, NH, and NY.

Bible Baptist Theological Seminary, under the aegis of Bible Baptist Church, is committed to her theme verse, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Tim. 2:2). Since the local church is the pillar and ground of the truth (I Tim. 3:15), this training of men in the Word of God is biblical and necessary to continue the movement of the Lord Jesus Christ's assemblies until He comes back. The NT assembly, such as Bible Baptist Church, is the Depository for Truth, the Defender of Truth, and the Dispenser of Truth. Baptists wrote the NT Scriptures to Baptist churches or Baptist church members, so that they may preserve the truth while distributing the Scriptures world-wide. May we be found faithful!



Above: John Hagglund led in the singing of Christmas carols



Right: Pastor Thomas Strouse brought a challenge from 2 Timothy

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



Mrs. Claudia Norwalt, pictured here with her husband, Pastor Paul Norwalt, will be the speaker at the Second Annual Ladies Fellowship

Christmas Banquet

Christmas Banquet

2

IL Module



A delicious lasagne meal was served with many delectable desserts!



The children in the nursery had a great time!



Pastor Dave Short and his wife Jan



BBC Families enjoyed a good time of fellowship!

Rockford, IL Module



Dr. Thomas Strouse is in Rockford, Illinois this week to teach a BBTS Module on "Luke's Gospel with Emphasis on Medical Terms." There are fifteen students in attendance. Dr. Ray Borah is the dean of North Love Baptist Bible College and former doctoral student of Dr. Strouse. The student body consists of pastors, missionaries and others who want to be prepared in Scripture to serve the Lord.

BBC's Second Anniversary Poem

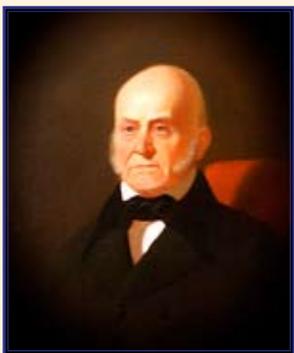
by Kirsten Gagnon

*"Onward to Heaven" was the motto this year
Hoping to have Cromwell the gospel to hear.
Modules were held both far and near,
Hoping to make the Bible more clear.
From Indonesia came the Liauw family.
While Steven sought a Biblical Doctorate degree,
He received after a dissertation on eschatology,
Daisy added greatly to our music ministry.
The Kwons from Korea have joined our small throng,
Driving far for a church whose stand is strong.
We are happy they feel like they belong,
Even though we usually pronounce their names wrong.
Other members we loved moved away.
Tried our hardest to get them to stay.
The Lord's will for them is what we will pray.
Maybe they'll return to visit someday.
The Akers went back to Idaho
Knowing the Lord has more seeds there to sow.
The Strouses settled in North Carolina you know,
Pastor was sad to see his grandchildren go.
The Ladies fellowship was a good meeting.
At Homeschool testing, there was no cheating.
Orphanage boxes were sent as a greeting.
We never had problems with our heating.
The Lecture Series came in April,
To celebrate the KJV Quadracentennial.
This version is the one we use still.
Always have and always will!*

ANNIVERSARY POEM

*Limericks were written by our pastor.
Piano played by Dorothy Vassar.
Tract ministry gets the gospel out faster.
The Bible Study gives glory to the Master.
Another highlight was VBS.
We learned the plagues from the book of Exodus.
With fun and games and Bible verses,
Visitors came which encouraged us.
"Tiamo's Tasties" is a special treat,
Since every Sunday we gather to eat.
For Erika Schabert it is an easy feat,
To keep the nursery tidy and neat.
We have to mention Skorupski Hall,
Which housed seminarians that blessed us all.
And Jeannot put the timeline on the wall,
Let's hope it is secure enough not to fall.
At the Labor Day picnic, we all over ate.
In November Ryan got a new mate.
The TR Brother will translate
All to be found in our monthly "Update."
The Fall lecture taught of Christ's imminent return.
There were many good truths there to learn,
And now makes our hearts more yearn
To leave this world in which we sojourn.
Our second year has come to an end.
Standing on Truth we surely won't bend.
Our pastor we'll continue to send
To train faithful men, the devil to fend.*

Quotes From the Past:



John Quincy Adams

John Quincy Adams 1767-1848

6th U.S. President

"The hope of a Christian is inseparable from his faith. Whoever believes in the divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures must hope that the religion of Jesus shall prevail throughout the earth. Never since the foundation of the world have the prospects of mankind been more encouraging to that hope than they appear to be at the present time. And may the associated distribution of the Bible proceed and prosper till the Lord shall have made 'bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God' (Isaiah 52:10)."

DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Joseph: The Man of the Season

by Pastor Cas Reeves

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Matthew 1:18-25:

As we approach this time of the year our thoughts tend toward this wonderful Season that celebrates the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Certainly He is the purpose of the season, but there are other characters, which come to mind. There are the animals of the manger, the Lord's creatures; His heavenly

angels, His worshipping shepherds. Then there is His earthly mother, Mary and father, Joseph. It is Joseph, who is the man of the season, the man every Christian man should wish to be like.



Pastor Cas Reeves

Consider that Joseph was a just man, one who was saved and right before God. He was also a compassionate man who was concerned for Mary before he knew the truth of what had happened to her. Joseph was a Biblicist who knew the Scripture and wished to follow it in its exactness regarding Mary, again before he knew the truth of the matter. When God instructed Joseph as to Mary's condition and how it came to pass, he immediately received God's words. He did not question the human rationale of what God said, but he simply by faith believed it. When God told Joseph what to name His son, he obeyed and called His name "JESUS."

He is a wonderful example of a Godly man for Christian men. May each of us willingly accept God's will for our life.

In this entire event as it unfolded in God's time, Joseph remained honorable in all that he did before others and before the Lord. As he learned of God's plan for him and his wife, submissively and faithfully he accepted the responsibility to parent the Son of God until He was of age to carry out the saving plan of God. It is certainly difficult to comprehend the magnitude of this responsibility, yet Joseph willingly accepted God's will for his life.

Certainly, Joseph is the man of the season.
-CAR

Heretical Views on the Second Coming of Christ

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

Nov. 17, 2011

BBTS Fall Lecture Series

III. Dispensational Fundamentalist's Errors Relating to the Rapture

A. "Seven Church Ages"

1. The Scofield Reference Bible (1909, 1917) became the Bible of fundamentalism, and its dispensationalism became attractive to many fundamental Baptists. The notes of this reference Bible, named after C. I. Scofield (1843-1921), promoted and popularized seven distinct dispensations or stewardships between Creation and Final Judgment.
2. Although the editors of the Scofield Reference Bible held to an imminent, pre-Tribulation Rapture, the notes seemed to contradict this position.
3. C. I. Scofield held to a universal, invisible church/mystical body view that all Christians are in the "Church." Therefore, according to his notes, Rev. 1-3 refers to the history of this universal church. The notes on Rev. 1:20 state: "(4) prophetic, as disclosing **seven phases of the spiritual history of the church** from, say, A.D. 96 to the end. It is incredible that in a prophecy covering the church period, there should be no such foreview. These messages must contain that foreview if it is in the book at all, for the church does not appear after Rev. 3:22. Again, these messages by their very terms **go beyond the local assemblies** mentioned. Most conclusively of all, these messages **do present an exact foreview of the spiritual history of the church**, and in this precise order. Ephesus gives the general state at the date of the writing; Smyrna, the period of the great persecutions; Pergamos, the church settled down in the world, 'where Satan's throne is,' after the conversion of Constantine, say A.D. 316. Thyatira is the Papacy, developed out of the Pergamos state: Balaamism (worldliness) and Nicolaitanism (priestly assumption) having conquered. As Jezebel brought idolatry into Israel, so Romanism weds Christian doctrine to pagan ceremonies. Sardis is the Protestant Reformation, whose works were not 'fulfilled.' Philadel-

phia is whatever bears clear testimony to the Word and the Name in the time of self-satisfied profession represented by Laodicea."⁷

4. There are several serious problems with the "Seven Church Ages" view in Revelation 2-3.
 - a. Scofield holds to a Protestant and unbiblical view of church/body. In all contexts of the ecclesiological usage of ἐκκλησίᾳ and σῶμα, they refer to NT assemblies of immersed believers (cf. Eph. 1:22-23; I Cor. 12:27).
 - b. The "spiritual" history is primarily that of the Roman Catholic Church and the Catholic Reformers, hardly spiritual or NT.
 - c. The time element of "ages" undermines any imminent doctrine of the Second Coming for the first century believers, since Paul taught and believed they had the Blessed Hope (Tit. 2:13; I Thess. 4:17). Some try to counter by saying that the ages could have all occurred in the first century to maintain imminency, but then in what sense are they "ages"?
 - d. The so-called beginning and ending of the ages are speculative and non-uniform among the devotees of this subjective *eisegesis*.
 - e. The fallacious interpretations of Protestant theologians, who are not included in the audience to whom Revelation was written,⁸ are not wor-

Continued on Page 6

⁷ Cohen lists the seven ages and approximate ages: Ephesus (Apostolic church) AD 30-100; Smyrna (Persecuted church) AD 100-313; Pergamos (State church) AD 313-590; Thyatira (Papal church) AD 590-1517; Sardis (Reformed church) AD 1517-1790; Philadelphia (Missionary church) AD 1730-1900; Laodicea (Apostate church) AD 1900-present. Gary Cohen, *Understanding Revelation*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1978), pp. 53-54. LaHaye demurs, saying, "although this time-honored belief that Christ's message to the seven churches includes a prophecy of the seven stages of church history has never been unanimous, it is held by most premillennialists." Tim LaHaye, *Revelation Unveiled* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publ. House, 1999), p. 36.

⁸Non-baptized, non-NT church member Christians cannot possibly understand the Ἀποκάλυψις fully, since they "are reading someone else's mail."

thy of exposition on the part of NT assembly members.

B. "Rapture of the Church"

1. Again, the Scofield Reference Bible teaches the "Rapture of the Church," for instance, in notes for I Thes. 4:17 for "caught up," saying, "Not church saints only, but all bodies of the saved, of whatever dispensation, are included in the first resurrection. See I Cor. 15:52, as here described, but it is peculiarly the 'blessed hope' of the Church."
2. Pre-Tribulation Rapturist LaHaye expands on this faulty teaching, saying with regard to Rev. 4:1, "Inasmuch as John was the last remaining apostle and a member of the universal Church, his elevation to heaven is a picture of the Rapture of the Church just before the Tribulation begins." *Revelation Unveiled*, p. 99.
3. Again, Clarence Larkin, in his highly illustrated book, *The Book of Revelation—A Study of the Last Prophetic Book of Holy Scripture*, repeatedly refers to the Rapture of the Church (p. 37 *et al*).
4. Significant errors of this expression and sentiment are as follows:
 - a. Although the expression is extremely popular, it never occurs in I Thessalonians 4, or anywhere in the whole Bible. It is a man-made theological term which must be examined for biblical certitude. "Rapture" comes from the Latin for "to catch away" and is a good theological term for this event. However, "church" does not mean all Christians or all saints. Ecclesiologically, ἐκκλησία refers exclusively to baptized church members (e.g., I Cor. 1:2).
 - b. Paul's expression is "the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together..." (I Thes. 4:16-17). The event is the catching up (Rapture) of those in Christ. The expression "in Christ"

is a NT soteriological expression referring to those who are regenerated (cf. Jn. 14:20 with Ezk. 36:25-27 and Jer. 31:31 ff.).

- c. The Rapture is not the catching away of Baptists only (i.e., Baptist Bride), nor is it the catching away of OT saints, since they anticipated Tribulation then Resurrection (cf. Dan. 12:1-2).

C. "Signs for the Rapture"

1. Israel became a nation in 1948.

- a. George Konig, along with many others, gives the common argument for the fulfillment of Isaiah 66:7-8, saying, "In Isaiah 66:7-8, the prophet foreshadowed the re-birth of Israel, which happened 'in one day.' The woman giving birth before going into labor represent Israel. This accurately describes what happened on May 14, 1948 - when the Jews declared independence for Israel as a united and sovereign nation for the first time in 2,900 years. During that same day, the United States issued a statement recognizing Israel's sovereignty. And, only hours beforehand, a United Nations mandate expired, ending British control of the land. During a 24-hour span of time, foreign control of the land of Israel had formally ceased, and Israel had declared its independence, and its independence was acknowledged by other nations. Modern Israel was literally was born in a single day. Isaiah said the birth would take place before there would be labor pains. And that too is precisely what happened. A movement called Zionism began in the 1800s to encourage Jews worldwide to move to Israel, which at that time was called Palestine. Within hours of the declaration of independence in 1948, Israel was attacked by the surrounding countries of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. When reading Isaiah 66:7-8, keep in mind that Israel's status as a sovereign nation was established and reaffirmed during the course of a single day, and that it was born of a movement called Zionism, and that its declaration of independence was not the result of a war but rather the cause of one." *About Bible Prophecy*. www.therefinersfire.org/israel.
- b. What Isaiah 66:7-8 says: "Before she travailed,

she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.”

- 1.) Before Israel’s travail (Tribulation) the Lord Jesus Christ was born (First Advent before Second Advent).
- 2.) Naturally, women travail and then bear children. Whatever Isaiah predicted would be supernatural!
- 3.) As soon as Zion (Israel) travailed (endured Tribulation), she would bring forth her children (plural), causing a nation to be born at once (at the start of the Millennium). Sequence: man child, travail, children—land/sons born in one day (Messiah, Tribulation, Millennial nation born). This fulfillment is after the Tribulation and at the start up of the Millennium, not during the Church Age (cf. Rom. 11:25-27).⁹
- 4.) Other such “supporting” passages as Zeph. 2:1-2 and Ezk. 37:4-14 refer to the Lord’s dealing with Israel during the Tribulation, not during the Church Age!¹⁰

2. Technology

- a. Television, the Internet, the UPC Bar Code, etc.—David Reagan expresses the popular idea that the Rapture could not occur until after the invention of the TV, saying with respect to Rev. 11:8-9, “We are further told that their dead bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3.5 days and that all the people of the world will look upon them. How could that be? Prior to 1957 that prophecy was not understandable in natural terms. There was just no way that all the people of the world could look upon two dead bodies in the streets of Jerusalem. All that changed on October 4, 1957 when the Russians sent up the first Sputnik satellite. Today, 30 years later,

⁹Paul alluded to the promise of the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31 ff.) which will be fulfilled at the outset of the Millennium.

¹⁰Bible Commentators of all eschatological stripes before 1948 did not interpret these passages as the requirement for Israel to become a nation prior to the Rapture. Many dispensational, Pre-Trib., Rapture prophecy “experts” simply read back into these OT prophecies, after the fact, the alleged fulfillment of “signs” for the Rapture—a fallacious interpretative practice.

ARTICLE

our planet (*sic*) has many man-made satellites circling it, making possible all sorts of instantaneous communication. When those two prophets lie dead in the streets of Jerusalem, all someone will have to do is point a TV camera at them, send the signal up to a satellite, and all the world will be able to look upon them. Once again, modern technology has made an ancient prophecy understandable for the first time.” www.raptureforums.com/signs/modern.cfm

- b. Since the First and Second Beasts will have satanic power, they could supernaturally produce some sort of “hologram” for the world to view (Rev. 13:4, 13-14). After all, Satan is “*the prince of the power of the air*” (Eph. 2:3).
- c. To argue that the Rapture could not occur until the modern inventions of TV, the Internet, or the UPC Bar Code,¹¹ undermines the imminent Return of Christ, which imminency doctrine and blessed hope was a legitimate promise for the first century saints (1 Thes. 4:17).
- d. By the time the four horsemen of Rev. 6:1-8 ride over the earth, killing one fourth of the world’s population, all infrastructure of the world will be destroyed, including all electrical communication systems and the world will turn extremely primitive. The mega earthquake of Rev. 6:12-14 will exacerbate this primitiveness.

3. World Wide Travel

- a. H. A. Ironside suggests that the fulfill-

Continued on Page 8

¹¹The interpretation of the Universal Product Code marks is most revealing in that the three numbers ‘666’ are the key working numbers for every designed Universal Product Code. Every group of Universal Product Code marks has in it three unidentified numbers. All three of these numbers are 6, making the use of the numbers ‘666’ the key to using this identifying marking system. . . There is no deviation. Every Universal Product Code has three unidentified marks whose number equivalent ‘6’ encoding it with the code number ‘666’. “ (Bob Fraley, *The Last Days in America* (Palestine, OH: Christian Life Services, 1984), p. 225, 228).

ARTICLE

Continued from Page 7

Article

8

Heretical Views...

ment of Dan. 12:4 occurs in modern day travel, saying, "Could anything more aptly set forth the chief characteristics of these last days? Men seem to have a perfect mania for traveling from place to place; and human inventions of all kinds are pressed into service to accelerate and make comfortable those who run to and fro." H. A. Ironside, *Lectures On Daniel the Prophet* (Neptune, N.J.: Loizeaux Brothers, 1911), 233-34.

- b. The Lord Jesus Christ taught that the *Book of Daniel* would be the source for eschatological knowledge during the Tribulation as many would seek this book and its knowledge (Mt. 24:15).

4. World Wide earthquakes

- a. Hal Lindsey posits about earthquakes and Christ's prophecy in Mt. 24:7, saying, "Newsweek magazine recently asked the question: 'Are Earthquakes Getting Worse?' Opinions vary, but one thing is certain. Jesus said that two of the 'signs' of the last days would be 'great earthquakes in various places' and 'fearful sights.' **A 'sign' is something that can be seen or heard. At no point in history have we been able to 'see and hear' like we can today.** Because of the advent of television, satellites, and the internet, we are able to see and hear 'fearful sights' virtually as they happen. No more reading about them in the newspaper several weeks after they occurred. Today, we are always 'on the scene.' And in the last few years, we've been 'on the scene' of great earthquakes all over the world -- from the United States to the Indian Ocean to Iran to China to Italy to Haiti to Chile to Japan, and the list goes on." The Hal Lindsey Report, 3/5/2010, www.hallindsey.com/the-hal-lindsey-report-352010.
- b. This prophecy of the Saviour referred to the events such as wars, famines, and earthquakes occurring during

the Tribulation (Mt. 24:6-8, 15), as the parallel passage of Rev. 6:1 ff. affirms.¹²

5. Plans for Rebuilding the Temple

- a. The web site "Rapture Signs: Signs of the Coming Rapture of the Church" www.rapturesigns.com adds to eschatological confusion, saying, "In the end times, the Jewish temple, which was once located in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount, will be rebuilt. **We do not know if this will come before or after the Rapture of the Church**, but it's clear that the Bible says the temple will be in use in the time of the Tribulation."
- b. Although many prophecy preachers espouse that the Jews' desire to rebuild the Temple, along with the building stones, etc., are signs for the Rapture, they indeed are not.
- c. Since AD 70, the Jews have had a growing interest to rebuild their beloved Temple, but this is no sign of the Rapture.¹³

6. Computer Chip

- a. The Jeremiah Project states: "Modern technology has created a brave new electronic world without borders. With modern computer technology, satellites, GPS, biometric and smart card technology, people can now be tracked within 3 feet anywhere in the world. Advances in digital technology have made it possible now to engineer an identification system capable of monitoring virtually every human transaction. Indeed, Antichrist's world government is not only believable but may have actually arrived." www.jeremiah-project.com
- b. Again, Satan has the supernatural power to "tattoo" the forehead or wrists of his followers, in a similar imitative fashion as the marking angels of Ezk. 9:4 ff. Satan has not been, and will not be, limited to human technology to accomplish his purposes.

To Be Continued Next Issue

¹² In 1996, nine "great" earthquakes (6-7 on Richter scale) occurred in the first six months around the world (Indonesia, China, etc.), but no Rapture for the next 15 years!

¹³ Cf. Thomas Ice and Randall Price, *Ready to Rebuild* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publ., 1992), for an excellent history of the Jewish effort to rebuild their Temple.

Errata

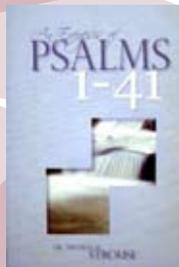
In the Dec. 1, 2011 issue of the *Update*, Page 3, Introductory Point 5, it was incorrectly stated that Orson Wells wrote 1984. George Orwell is the author.

THE BOOK CORNER

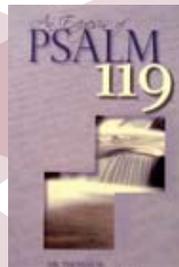
The Book Corner

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Cromwell, CT 06416
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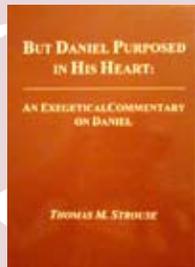
Psalms 1 - 41
\$20.00



Psalm 119
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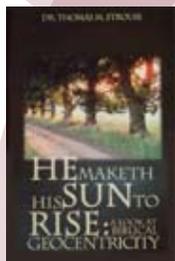
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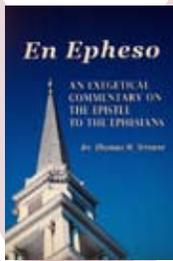
Daniel
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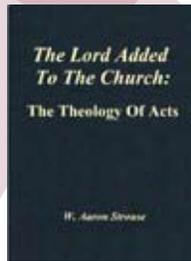
Jonah
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Geocentricity
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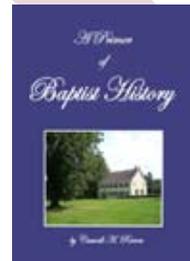
En Epheso
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The Theology of Acts
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I Will Build My Church
\$15.00



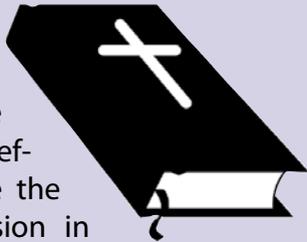
A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



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.



Save the Date!!

2012 Spring Lecture Series

April 19, 2012

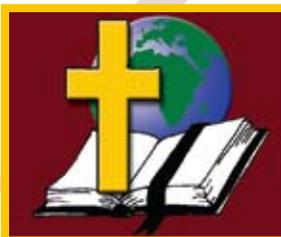
Crown Plaza, Cromwell, CT

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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