



# BBC UPDATE



M. Ryan Strouse

## WHAT I SHALL ANSWER WHEN I AM REPROVED

**H**abakkuk 2:1 reveals the humble heart of the prophet that is trying to discern the chaotic national events occurring in Judah, “*I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what He will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved*”. The prophet Habakkuk was witnessing the first wave of Babylonian conquest over Judah in 605 BC; this regime change was from the wicked kings of Judah to the

bitter, hasty, terrible, and dreadful nation of Babylon (Hab.1:6-7). The prophet was baffled at why the LORD would allow such a proud and violent nation to overcome the LORD’s covenant people and land; however, the prophet was wise enough to understand the nature of the LORD as “*From everlasting, O LORD my God, Mine Holy One...O mighty God*” (Hab.1:12). Habakkuk would inquire of the LORD two separate questions surrounding why he would allow evil to compass the righteous at the hands of the proud and violent (Hab.1:3-4, 12-13), and the LORD would provide him two responses (Hab.1:5-11, 2:2-20). Habakkuk seemingly knew what he did not know; hence, he asked the LORD and knew his complaint to the LORD would bring divine reproof and understanding. It is key to observe Habakkuk’s prayerful and humble approach to discerning the troubling realities that had come upon him and the nation of Judah.

**T**he role of the prophet was to be a watchmen over the people that would stand on the watchtower of the city walls to observe and discern the happenings among the people and the surrounding nations, intercede in prayer, and to declare the Word of the LORD to the people (cf. Jer.6:17, 25:4, Ezk.33:2). Isaiah 62:6 highlights the ideal role in the Millennium, “*I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: Ye that make mention of the Lord, Keep not silence*”. Habakkuk went to his post to prepare for the LORD’s response to his natural human questions. Upon the watchtower he was set aloft and could observe the ramifications of national happenings on the LORD’s people; he was to prayerfully discern these happenings from a spiritual perspective under the control of the everlasting God. Were the Babylonians just another surging nation in the history of time, or was there a spiritual aspect to this happening?

**F**urthermore, Habakkuk knew his state as a feeble man made from dust; he assumed his inability to discern these national happenings without the LORD’s guidance. The political climate was tumultuous in Habakkuk’s time as the corrupt kings of Judah would conspire and murder one another and would seek help from surrounding nations “*A silly dove*” (Hos.7:11). The political reasons and rationales for Babylonian conquest probably abounded, but the watchmen’s job was to discern the spiritual cause among the temporal effects. In solitude, he prepared his response for when the LORD would inevitably reprove his human perspective with divine wisdom. Subsequently, Habakkuk prepared himself beforehand to respond to the LORD’s reproof in faith, trust, and obedience (Hab.2:4, 3:18-19).

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The LORD revealed and Habakkuk finally understood that, “O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction” (Hab.1:12). The LORD used the wicked Babylonians to judge and correct His covenanted people and land; of course, the political changes had an effect and relation to the LORD’s people in a direct way. The LORD would declare that He would judge His people with the Babylonians, and then He would judge the Babylonians (Hab.2:3ff); the Babylonians would be taken over by the Medes-Persians, and the LORD would bring the ultimate judgement in the tribulation on Babylon (Is.13:1,17; Is.21; Dan.5:30-31).

The LORD’s judgment and correction would be dreadful to the inhabitants of Judah; however, he gave one scintillating clause of encouragement to the believing remnant in Habakkuk 2:4, “Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith”. The righteous remnant that walked in the fear of the LORD were to continue to walk in faith, not by sight. They were to trust in the LORD’s protection and continue to obey in faith while under the most severe of circumstances. Living by faith and walking in obedience when it costs a believer is a difficult thing to do. Habakkuk did not take the LORD’s encouragement as a trite, overused expression; instead, the reality of living by faith in a captive world would require a deep reliance on the LORD to obey when it costs during exile. Daniel lived by faith when he faced the fiery furnace in Babylonian exile under Nebuchadnezzar, and again when he was thrown into the den of lions under the Persian reign of Darius (Dan.3:17-18,6:4). Likewise, Jeremiah would live by faith at the fall of Jerusalem when he was imprisoned by his own king Zedekiah for prophesying but looked after by Nebuchadnezzar at the fall of Jerusalem (Jer.38:5,39:11). Habakkuk would express the reality of the anxiety and fear related to the invasion and subsequent economic disaster in 3:16-17, “When I heard, my belly trembled; My lips quivered at the voice: Rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, That I might rest in the day of trouble: When he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops. Although the fig tree shall not blossom, Neither shall fruit be in the vines; The labour of the olive shall fail, And the fields shall yield no meat; The flock shall be cut off from the fold, And there shall be no herd in the stalls”

Despite the dire and hopeless situation he found himself in, Habakkuk was able to declare in 3:18-19, “Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, And he will make my feet like hinds’ feet, And he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments”. When Habakkuk’s world was turned inside out and everything he had was gone, he was still able to rejoice in the God of his salvation! He rejoiced that he would find strength and stability in the LORD in a weak and unstable time! His prophecy and psalm would be given to the chief singers to be used as a form of worship by the believing remnant.

The applications from this watchman abound for the pastors and, no less, the church members of independent Baptist assemblies around the world amid a pandemic with a proud and wicked regime impending in the US government. Are believers attempting to discern the spiritual out of the global happenings? (Obviously, local churches are not the nation of Israel, and are not looking for signs) Or is this regime change and pandemic a part of the natural course of human history? Is the pandemic a God-given hiatus for believers to take a break from assembling while the virus cools down? It seems the virus is heating up and the LORD’s churches may be cooling down.

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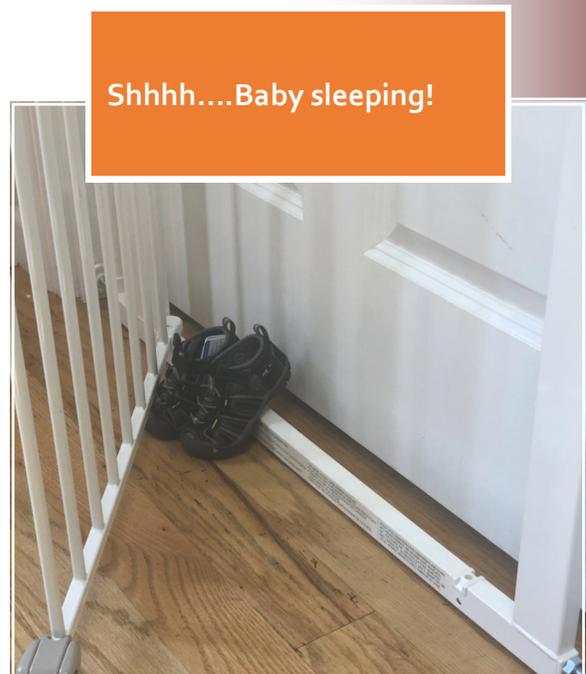
## ARTICLE CONTINUED

During the surrounding chaos of COVID restrictions, are believer's preparing their hearts to be reproved by the Word and to respond in obedience? We have the closed canon of scripture; do any of the LORD's everlasting Words diminish or fall prey to rational exception clauses in a modern world? If every church in the world submitted to the recommendations and mandates of the government regarding COVID then the world would have gone nine months without a candlestick preaching the everlasting Word of God in the physical place where the LORD meets with His people! Specifically, pastors and churches need to observe the ways of the watchman and see the spiritual impacts of these national and global happenings on local churches. Unlike Habakkuk, we already know the LORD's response for churches and church members: fear God, count the cost, and obey God rather than man.

For round two of COVID, we are to live by faith as we walk in obedience with assembling. To simply state the need to live by faith and trust the LORD, but to not take the challenging steps of obedience is empty. Just as Habakkuk understood, the just live by faith as they walk in the narrow, unpopular, truths of scripture that costs the remnant believer something. The final application from the ideal watchmen in Isaiah 62:6, "*I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: Ye that make mention of the Lord, Keep not silence*". These watchmen were not to keep silent in their prayers or declaration of the Word until the heathen were judged and the Millennial reign of Christ established. Likewise, the discerning watchmen of 2020 need not to keep silent in their prayers and declarations of the pertinent truths of assembling in the place of the LORD! Now is the time to encourage one another to walk in faith and obedience regarding the preeminence of the "*house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth*", which comes with a promise from our Savior/King "*I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*".



The children wait outside on a beautiful Sunday morning for church to begin!



Shhhh....Baby sleeping!

## 11th ANNIVERSARY OF BBC

On December 4, 2009, church members from several different area churches covenanted together to start Bible Baptist Church with twenty-seven believers signing the church charter. After several weeks of meeting in members' homes, Bible Baptist Church rented a building in Cromwell, CT for the meeting place. By the grace of the precious Lord Jesus Christ the church was started and upheld by the Lord Himself, with encouragement from the word of God and several area churches. We are celebrating what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in the last eleven years. The Lord has continually met the financial needs of the assembly and allowed Bible Baptist Theological Seminary to continue and to flourish, with modules around the world as well as with online seminary classes. Through the years Bible Baptist Church has had regular services on Sunday and Wednesday without missing any services with the exception of about three because of snowstorms. Even during the pandemic COVID -19 the church has continued to meet in obedience to the Lord (Mk. 12:17), and by the grace of God without illnesses of any sort, claiming passages such as the following: *"He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes"* (Ps. 105:37). As Pastor of Bible Baptist Church, I thank the Lord for the faithful family units that continue to grow in and unite around the truth. *"Brethren, pray for us"* (I Thes. 5:25), that this candlestick will continue to be faithful to the Lord, obeying His word.



### ADDICTION RECOVERY MINISTRY

*Then they cried unto  
the LORD in their trouble,  
and he saved them out of  
their distresses.  
He brought them  
**out of darkness**  
and the shadow of death,  
and brake their bands in  
sunder.*

Psalm 107:13-14

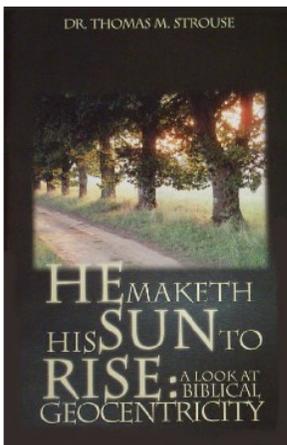
On Friday evenings from 7-9 PM, Bible Baptist Church holds the weekly meeting for the ARM Ministry with Dr. Robert Hovey introducing and preaching. The meetings involve singing hymns, sharing praises and prayer requests, before going into group sessions. There are also special speakers who come in to encourage, come alongside, and put an spiritual ARM around those in need.

If you know someone who might benefit from this church ministry, please contact Dr. Hovey at 860-380-0681.

## GEOCENTRICITY BOOK

It is my privilege put forth this second and expanded edition of *He maketh His Sun To Rise: A Look at Biblical Geocentricity* which has been distributed globally and has been received un-reservedly with enthusiasm by many Bible believers. However, the naysayers of the world and Christendom have labeled me “a village idiot,” and the book has received universal notoriety in works such as *The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in America* by Paul C. Gutjahr, editor.

Nevertheless, the Bible is geocentric in expression, narrative, and doctrine, giving the Creator’s absolute truth on His *cosmos*. The precious Lord Jesus Christ has spoken concerning physical and spiritual realities (cf. Jn. 3:12), and has revealed concerning the Father that “*He maketh His sun to rise*” (Mt. 5:45). The Christian must answer the question about final authority, even with regard to the physical heavens and earth, and side either with the Saviour or the scientist!



Included in this expansion are three appendices dealing with “Einstein Versus the Bible,” “Geocentricity’s Rejection by Creationists,” and “A Review of Biblical Geocentricity.” Especially significant is the second Appendix which is Dr. Gerardus Bouw’s exposure about and excoriation of the influence of Bob Jones University on the rejection of biblical geocentricity within the 20<sup>th</sup> century Creation Movement.

I trust that Bible believers will examine the biblical passages and believe the Lord’s absolute truth about His creation and the relative movement therein.

*“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were*



*Recently several BBC ladies and friends celebrated Christy Strouse’s birthday with a very special tea party.*



Pastor Cas Reeves

It is a wonderful thing to be saved. To know we are going to heaven when we die, and to have an absolute assurance of our personal salvation. All of this made possible by our Savior, the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Our text summarizes what Jesus Christ did for us.

Written to the church of Colosse by the Apostle Paul, our text tells us, first, that Jesus made peace for us through his blood. Before his death, Jesus said to his disciples, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"* (John 14:27). The world can not give us peace with God, but Jesus made peace for us.

Second, we are told our peace came through *"the blood of his cross."* This is the propitiatory work of Christ. The sacrifice of his own blood (life) to cover our sins once and for all, and satisfying the offended righteousness of God, which until his offering was temporarily appeased by the O.T. Believer's offering of the blood of animals. *"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us"* (Hebrews 9:12). The

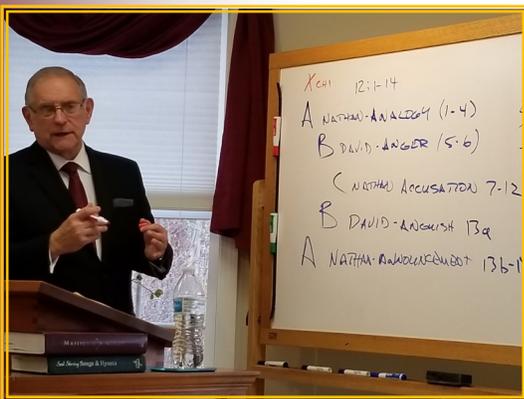
## THE WORK OF CHRIST

*"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven"* Colossians 1:20

writer of Hebrews goes on to tell us, this should be for us an incentive to serve the LORD. *"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* (Hebrews 9:14).

Third, our text tells us, the work of Christ is a reconciling work. That means, we are now able to approach our holy God through faith in Jesus Christ. Having accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior, the enmity that was between sinful man and his holy and just God has been reconciled in *"the body of his flesh through death"* (v.22). The Greek word for, "reconciliation" signifies "to change thoroughly from." The sinner is now so thoroughly changed from his enmity toward God, that he is reconciled to God. *"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled."* (Colossians 1:21).

The understanding of what Christ did for us gives us a greater appreciation of our salvation. It also roots our faith in Jesus Christ, who is alone the Savior of our salvation and the one who is able to strengthen us for service to our God and Creator.



During a recent sermon, Pastor explains the Chiasm structure used in 2 Samuel 12:1-14.

### Quotes from the Past



*"I will honor  
Christmas in my  
heart, and try to  
keep it all the year."*

Charles Dickens 1812-1870

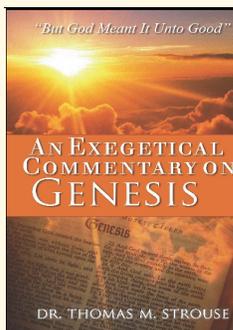
English Author

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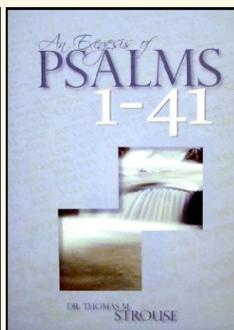
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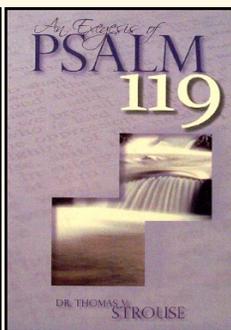
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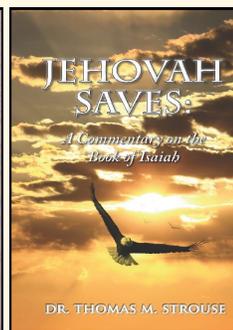
Genesis  
\$20.00



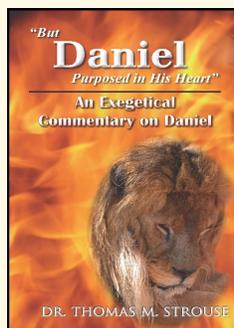
Psalms 1-41  
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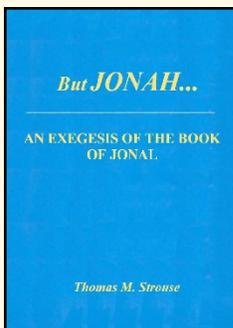
Psalm 119  
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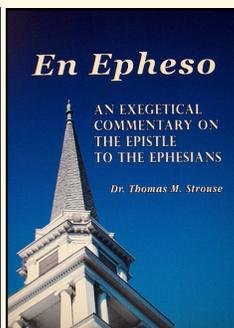
Isaiah  
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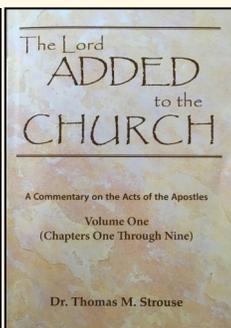
Daniel  
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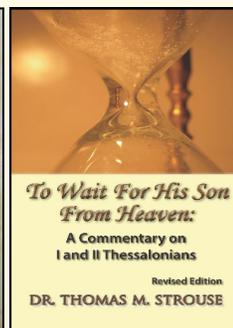
Jonah  
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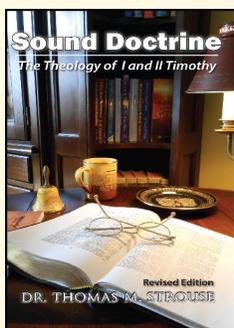
Ephesians  
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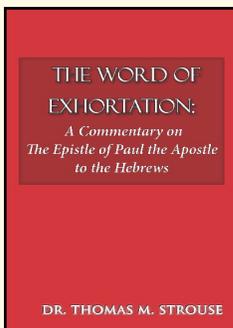
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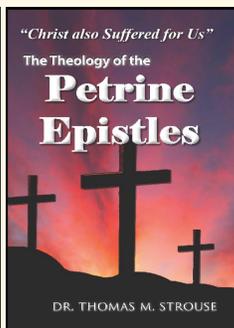
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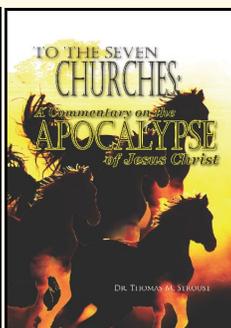
1 & 2 Timothy  
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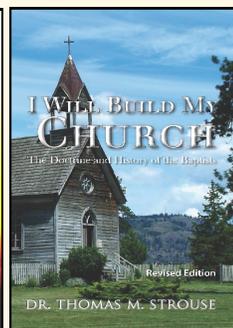
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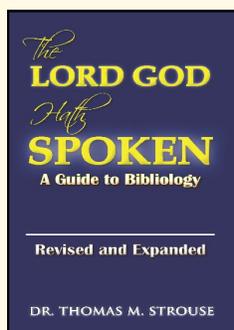
Peter  
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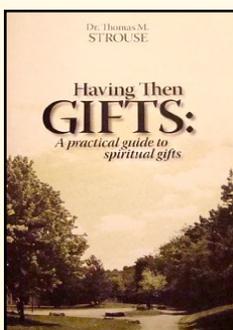
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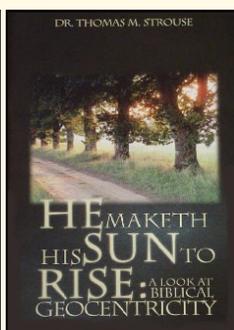
Baptist Doctrine & History  
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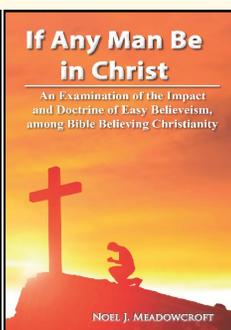
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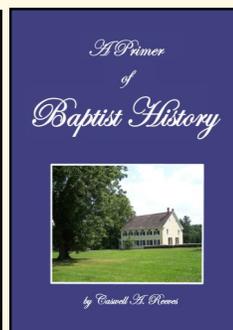
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Geocentricity  
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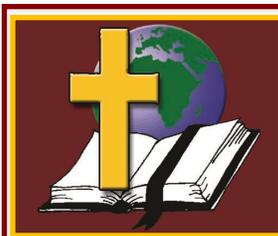


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Baptist History  
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