

BBC UPDATE



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

“A WOMAN SHALL COMPASS A MAN” (JEREMIAH 31:22)

What could this verse in Jeremiah 31:22 possibly mean? The conservative and critical scholars of the world admit, saying, “This last line of v. 22 continues to puzzle scholars,” according to F. B. Huey, Jr. (*The New American Commentary. Jeremiah, Lamentations*, p. 277). He posited several views, such as it is an ancient proverb about something unusual! Huey cited Calvin, who said it meant “Israel would be stronger than the Babylonians.” Erudite scholar G. van Groningen postulated that it meant that God was going to transform “miraculously harlot Israel into ‘Virgin Israel’ through the new covenant.” In Huey’s commentary, he gave no interpretation! C. C. Ryrie averred in a footnote, saying, “The meaning is uncertain... Still others relate it to the incarnation” (*The Ryrie Study Bible*, p. 1092 [*Loc. cit.*]). Perhaps the writers of Scripture could give some insight to the meaning of **“a woman shall compass a man”** (Jer. 31:22)!

Chapter 31 in Jeremiah focused on the restoration of both the Northern Kingdom Israel (vv. 1-22) and the Southern Kingdom Judah (vv. 23-26), and the promise of the New Covenant (vv. 27-40). So sure was this New Covenant to be enacted by the Lord Jesus Christ ratifying it, that the LORD challenged man that it would become null and void if man could challenge His claims, saying, *“If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD”* (Jer. 31:37). Evolutionary scientists claim that the age and limits of the “universe” have been measured, even if the edges are expanding. *Hmm...!* Nevertheless, Jesus of Nazareth did indeed ratify the New Covenant with His broken body and shed blood, as Scripture revealed, *“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the*



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“A WOMAN SHALL COMPASS...” (CONCLUSION)

disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is **my blood of the new testament**, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Mt. 26:26-28).

The Scripture has prepared the believer for the interpretation of Jeremiah 31:22. First, the Hebrew word for “man” is **geber** or mighty man, and is the source for Isaiah’s claim, saying, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, **The mighty (gibbor) God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace**” (Isa. 9:6). Second, Adam and Eve were given the promise, saying, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Gen. 3:15). “**A Woman Shall Compass a Man**”! Third, the prophet Isaiah prophesied, saying, “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel**” (Isa. 7:14). “**A Woman Shall Compass a Man**”! Fourth, Daniel averred concerning the object of the Antichrist’s attack, saying, “Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor **the desire of women**, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all” (Dan. 11:37). “**The desire of women**” was to give birth to the Messiah (which desire Eve, Thamar, Rachab, Ruth, and Bathsheba had [Mt. 1:3-6]), or “**A Woman Shall Compass a Man**”! Fifth, the promised fulfillment of “**A Woman Shall Compass a Man**” was given by Angel Gabriel to Mary, saying, “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also **that holy thing which shall be born of thee** shall be called the Son of God” (Lk. 1:35) and “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” (Mt. 1:23). Mary was the woman who did indeed **compass a man, the God-Man!**

The “best of the best” of the world’s Bible scholars struggle over Christological truths because they are not in the Place of Truth with the Word of Truth and may not even know the Spirit of Truth. However, the Lord’s biblical saints do not struggle over or feign ignorance about contextually clear passages, and receive the truth of Scripture by faith, knowing that “**A Woman Shall Compass a Man**” refers to the Virgin Mary and her Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh (I Tim. 3:16)!



BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH CANTATA

The Lord blessed with a wonderful and Christ-honoring Cantata on December 14, 2025. Participants in the Bible Baptist Church Cantata were the Bible Baptist Church choir members, reader August Gagnon, and pianist Mrs. Naomi Tinte. This ministry (not performance) integrated Scripture with Scriptural songs to honor the birth of the precious Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, Whom Scripture averred, saying, “*God was manifest in the flesh*” (I Tim. 3:16).



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Luke 1:26-35

“*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*”

Luke 2:1-7

“*O Holy Night*”

Luke 2:8-16

“*Silent Night, Holy Night*”

Luke 2:17-20

“*Angels We Have Heard on High*”

Luke 2:25-35

“*Joy to the World*”

Luke 2:36-38

“*Go Tell it on the Mountain*”

Matthew 2:1-11

“*The First Noel*”

Isaiah 9:6-7

“*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*”

CANTATA

More photos on next page

CANTATA PHOTOS



Left: Pastor Strouse opened the Cantata with a message on Jeremiah 31:22.

Right: Bro. Darrell and the choir led the congregational singing.



Top row: The pianist, the singers, and the Scripture reader

Middle row: Each group sang their assigned song.

Bottom row: The Cantata concluded with a joyful congregational singing of "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing."



BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

For the 16th year, Bible Baptist Church had the privilege to thank the Lord for His mercy, grace, peace, and protection while being the Head of Bible Baptist Church of Cromwell, CT.

On December 3, 2009, Bible Baptist Church organized as a biblical Baptist church in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Strouse with twenty-seven Baptists. Within two months, the Lord opened the door and provided a public meeting place for the Baptist assembly. Bible Baptist Church members left a former area church without any

rancor, and have met regularly on Sunday and Wednesday with the exception of heavy snowstorms on three different Sundays. As Dr. Strouse was the former dean and professor of another seminary, he became dean and professor of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary as well as pastor of Bible Baptist Church. Several seminary professors followed. During the following 16 years, several professors have written over twenty-five commentaries on the Bible and Bible truths, and have held modules in the United States as well as in Abu Dhabi, Czech Republic,

Dubai, India, Indonesia, Ireland, South Korea, the Philippines (Quezon City and Iloilo), Portugal, Puerto Rico, and Vietnam (Hanoi).

After a delicious banquet provided by the ladies of the church, Dr. Strouse *“declared all things that God had done with them”* (Acts 15:4). For instance, a handful of men in Bible Baptist Church have received biblical training and regularly fill the pulpit of Bible Baptist Church as well as the pulpits of area churches. A ministry of Bible Baptist Church is Bible Baptist Theological Seminary, which has trained about 64 men for the Lord’s service in Baptist churches nationally and internationally.

Following the Anniversary Service, the members had an exciting gift exchange. We thank the LORD for using our small Baptist assembly for His national and international purposes!

More photos on next page



The Strouses



*Bible Baptist Church members and attendees
at the Anniversary Banquet*

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET PHOTOS

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PHOTOS



Rows 1 & 2: Enjoying the food and fellowship with the brethren

Row 3: Planning which gifts to pick

Row 4: (Left) Is Collin happy with the gift he picked? (Middle) Pastor opens his gift with a cake knife! (Right) Having fun in the snow!



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PASTOR BOB HAMMOND'S AFRICA MINISTRY

One of the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary graduates, Pastor Bob Hammond of Long Hill Baptist Church, ministered in Africa recently, using the Genesis commentary by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse and gave the following report:

I was invited by our long-time missionary, Robert Mickey, a Fairhaven graduate. Brother Mickey planted Grace Bible Baptist Church (GBBC) in Nakuru, Kenya, and has since turned the church over to a national pastor. He is now focused on training pastors and assisting in the establishment of new churches throughout Kenya, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Several churches have already been planted through the ministry of GBBC.

GBBC is also completing a new Swahili Bible translation. The New Testament has been completed, and work on the Old Testament is expected to begin shortly.

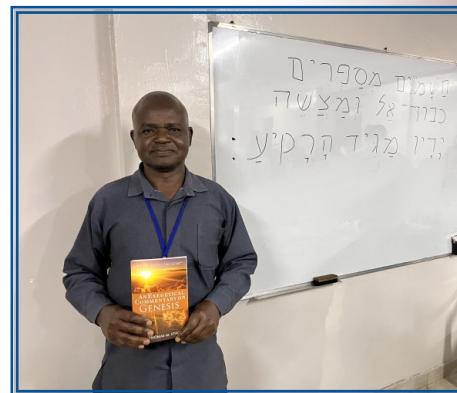
During my time in Kenya, I had the privilege of teaching through the book of Genesis at Rift Valley Bible College, a ministry of Grace Bible Baptist Church. The college draws members from the Nakuru church, as well as men from across Kenya. Some of these men pastor small churches in very remote villages, often without access to water or electricity. I was able to distribute several copies of your Genesis commentary to these men, while others accessed the digital copy you generously provided. Many asked me to convey their sincere thanks to you for making this resource available.

In addition, I preached several times, including in the college chapel, at a pastors' dinner, and in Sunday services. Three of these messages were preached with the assistance of an interpreter, which was a new experience for me. By God's grace, it went well, and the messages appeared to be well received.

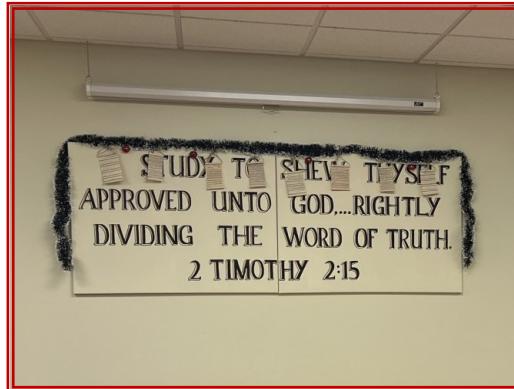
I also assisted with a neighborhood Bible study for young children. The children were especially curious about the "mzungu," as they refer to a white man, and were eager to interact.

Finally, I conducted a half-day workshop on biblical leadership, which was also well received.

The trip was long and physically demanding, but the Lord graciously supplied all that I needed. He is faithful.



One of the recipients of the Genesis commentary



On Saturday, some of the brethren came over to put up Christmas decorations in the church building.



BBTS SPRING SEMESTER

Beginning January 26, 2026
Monday (6-9 PM)
Romans
Dr. Thomas M. Strouse



Beginning January 29, 2026
Thursday (6-9 PM)
Hebrew/Greek
Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

BBC/BBTS 2025-2026 SCHEDULE

January 5-9, 2026
Ireland Module
Hebrew Exegesis

February 9-13, 2026
Philippines Module
Gospel of Matthew

January 12-16, 2026
Fairhaven Baptist College
Chesterton, IN
The Book of Job

May 16, 2026
BBTS Graduation Banquet

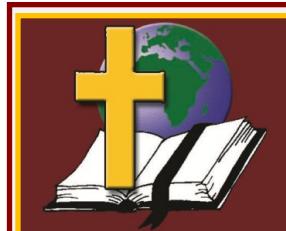
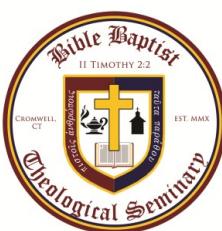
May 17, 2026
BBTS Graduation Service

The Publication Page

The books on this page may be purchased by contacting
Bible Baptist Church at 860-930-9960 or drtms_bbts@juno.com

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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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