



BBC UPDATE

BBTS 2024 SPRING LECTURE SERIES



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

On Friday, April 12, 2024, the Lord blessed with a wonderful and wet day for the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Spring Lecture Series. Ten of the Lord’s Baptist assemblies were represented by 93 church members and pastors from CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, and PA. Pastor Stephen Hinebaugh of Galilean Baptist Church in Stafford Springs, CT, hosted the Bible Baptist Theological Seminary Lecture Series. Dr. Thomas M. Strouse dealt with suffering within the Lord’s churches for various reasons, some for good and some for evil. Dr. M. Ryan Strouse dealt with suffering in families and especially in Christian families because the feminization of Christianity in the west, and the so-called “toxic masculinity” foisted upon society and the Lord’s churches. The messages seemed to be well received as biblical solutions were posited for Christian families and Baptist Churches. The luncheon consisted of turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans and salad. We are thankful for these sister churches which pastors and members fellowship around the truth of the Word of God.



“For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.”

1 Peter 3:17



The *Ishtar* Heresy: Good Friday, Easter, Bunny Rabbits and Easter Eggs!

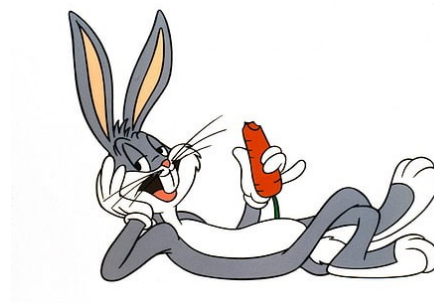
Scripture:

1. “*And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people*” (KJV Acts 12:3-4).
2. “*In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread*” (KJV Lev. 23:5-6).
3. “*And when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people*” (ESV Acts 12:3-4). Herod had a mockery *pascha* called *Ishtar*—how is the mockery working out among Christians?

Then Luke added even more details about Herod’s plan that he was “*intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.*” The *KJV* translators derived much of the phraseology of the NT from the *Tyndale NT* (1534). As the *Tyndale* translated the Greek *pascha* as “*Ester*” some twenty-four times including Acts 12:4, the *KJV* rendering followed the *Tyndale* only on this one verse as “*Easter.*”

Since Luke was instructing the Gentile Theophilus about the account, the latter would have understood the obvious chronology in this order, “*the days of unleavened bread*” and then *to pascha*, whatever it meant. A Jewish audience may have excused the “unlearned” Gentile Luke in seemingly confusing the order since they “know” the *Torah*. However, Luke wrote under the influence of the Spirit of inspiration, and the *KJV* translators, believing that, were sensitive to the order of the wording. Moses gave the inspired order as “*Passover*” on the Nisan 14 and “*the feast of unleavened bread*” on the Nisan 15 through Nisan 21 (Ex. 12:3-9; Lev. 23:5-6). Luke revealed however with specific wording and parenthesis that Peter was captured during “*the feast of unleavened bread,*” and then “*after Easter*” Herod would kill Peter. Luke’s rendering should make the exegete have pause in attempting to explain what the writer was saying. The *KJV* translators gave pause and rendered *to pascha* as “Easter” and not as “Passover,” as almost all modern translations posit.

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WARNING ABOUT “WASCALLY WABBIT” DOCTRINE AND PRACTICE

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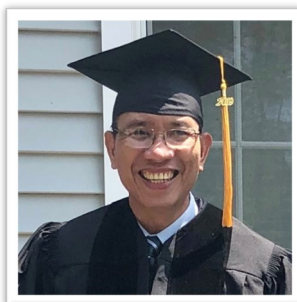
The *KJV* translators recognized the chronological discrepancy and rendered *to pascha* as “Easter” to denote possibly that this referred to a pagan holiday that Herod desired to celebrate. Since the *KJV* translators were cautious about Luke’s chronology, they apparently recognized that the celebration of *to pascha* was not the “Passover” but Herod’s pagan day of worshipping “Eostre,”¹ the goddess of love and fertility. Later, the dimly illuminated Roman Catholics amalgamated the pagan Eostre/Easter celebration with the resurrection of Christ in the month of April.² Today, through the syncretism of the Roman Catholic Church passed on to Protestants and eventually to the majority of Christendom, Easter with all of its pagan accouterments remains a Christian holiday somehow associated with Christ’s resurrection!³

¹Cf. the worship of “*the Queen of heaven*” (i.e., *Ishtar*, *Anat*, *Ashtoreth*), the eastern worship of the sun, and the worship of “*Tammuz*” (Dt. 12:30-32; Jer. 7:18; 44:25; Ezk. 8:13, 14, respectively). The name “*Esther*” (‘*ester* [55x]’) was the paganized name *Ishtar*. One should notice *Esther* = *Ishtar* = *Easter*.

²The Roman Emperor Constantine called for the Nicene Council of AD 325 to settle the Arian controversy (was Christ true God?) and the date of Easter. He did not want the “Christian Easter” to fall on the Jewish Passover. The Council determined that Easter was to be on the Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox, or between March 22nd and April 25th.

³Cf. “Easter. [Gk. *pascha*, from Heb. *pesah*] The Passover...and so translated in every passage except the *KJV*: ‘intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people’ [Acts 12:4]. In the earlier English versions Easter had been frequently used as the translation of *pascha*. At the last revision [1611 A.V.] Passover was substituted in all passages but this...The word Easter is of Saxon origin, the name is *eastra*, the goddess of spring in whose honor sacrifices were offered about Passover time each year. By the eighth century Anglo-Saxons had adopted the name to designate the celebration of Christ’s resurrection.” Merrill F. Unger, “Easter,” *The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, R. K. Harrison, ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 2006), *loc. cit.*

BBTS 2024 COMMENCEMENT



Dr. Jed Raquintan,

On the weekend of May 18-19, BBTS will have the 2024 Graduation Banquet and Commencement. The six candidates for commencement from BBTS are the following: Mr. Aiko Tinte (Certificate of Theology), Mr. Dileshu Edwards (Master of Biblical Studies), Pastor Mike Johnson (Master of Biblical Studies), Pastor Alexei Jusev (Master of Biblical Studies), Mr. Mark Edwards (Master of Divinity), and Pastor Stephen Hinebaugh (Master of Divinity). Dr. Jed Raquintan, Pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Quezon City, Philippines, will give the commencement challenge to the candidates. Both the Graduation Banquet on Saturday, May 18, 2024 and Sunday Services on May 19, 2024, will be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Cromwell, CT.

BBC EXTRAS

PHOTOS



TITUS PROGRAM

Mr. Tommy Thompson taught from Mark 7:13 during Sunday School



The attendees listen intently to the lectures.



Young men are the future of our churches



Mark and Amanda talk with Ryan during the break.



Everyone enjoyed the delicious catered lunch.



Bill Gagnon manned the book table.

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SCHEDULE

BBC/BBTS 2024 SCHEDULE

May 18
Bible Baptist Church
Graduation Banquet

May 19
Bible Baptist Church
Commencement Service

May 27-31
Ireland Module
Greek and Acts III

June 3-7
Community Baptist Church
Coopersburg, PA
Bibliology

July 22-26
Plymouth, NH
TBA

August 12-17
Indonesia Module and
Commencement

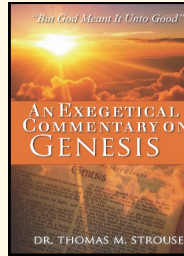
September 23-27
Bible Baptist Church
Nashua, NH
TBA

October 20-23
Willow Grove Baptist Church
Waynesburg, PA
Timeless Truths Bible Conference

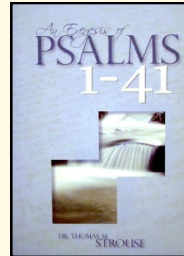
October 27
Calvary Baptist Church,
Mannington, WV
TBA

The Publication Page

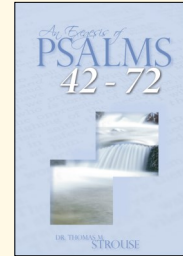
The books on this page may be purchased by contacting:
 Bible Baptist Church
 860-229-5387
 drtms_bbts@juno.com



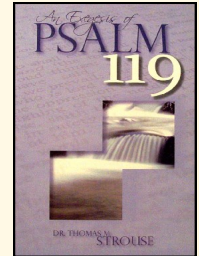
Genesis
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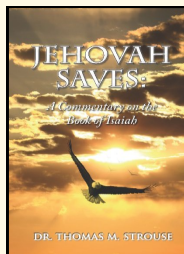
Psalms 1-41
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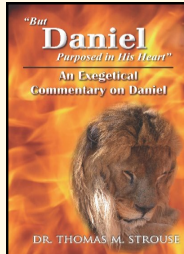
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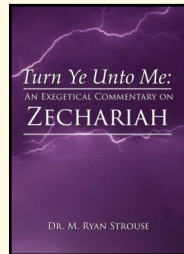
Psalm 119
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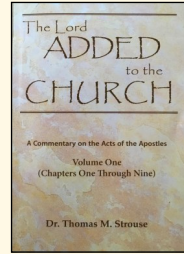
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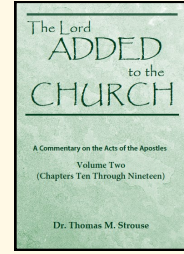
Daniel
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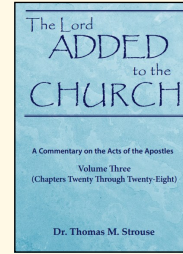
Zechariah
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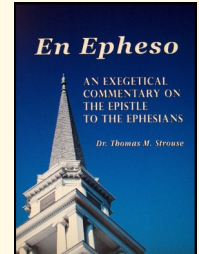
Acts 1-9
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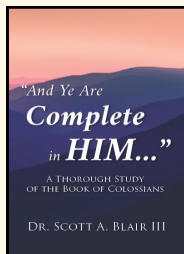
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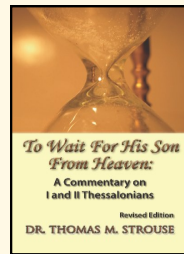
Acts 20-28
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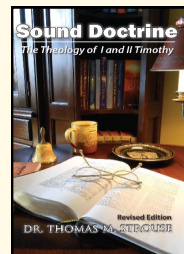
Ephesians
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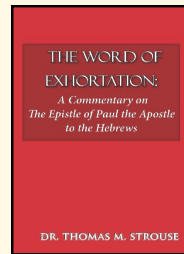
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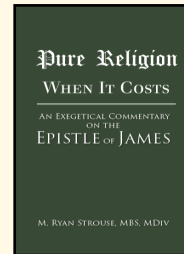
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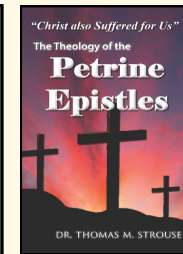
1 & 2 Timothy
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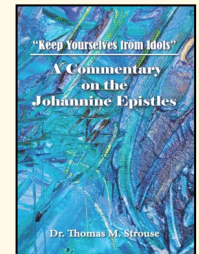
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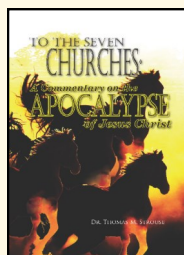
James
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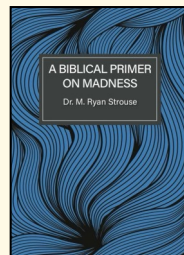
1 & 2 Peter
\$20.00



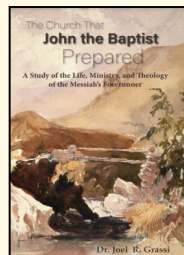
Johannine Epistles
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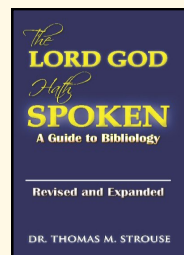
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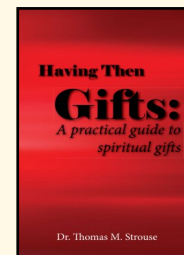
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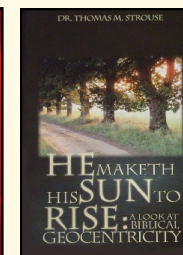
John the Baptist
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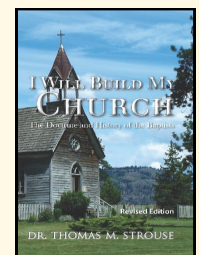
Bibliology
\$15.00



Spiritual Gifts
\$8.00

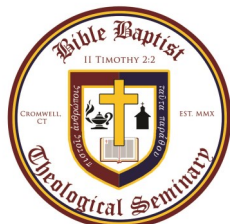


Geocentricity
\$10.00



Baptist Doctrine & History
\$15.00

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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