



BBC UPDATE

Fall Lecture Series

Bible Baptist Theological Seminary presents:

The Ninth Annual Fall Lecture Series

"The Theology of Geography: A Pictorial Description of Israel."

This will be an effort to use pictures through a PowerPoint presentation to depict significant geographical places in Israel relating to biblical episodes and their theological significance.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018, AT THE MARRIOTT IN CROMWELL, CT

BBC Update

Vol. 9 Num. 20

The Land of Israel



Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

The most important city in human history is the city of Jerusalem.¹ It will be the last remaining city at the conclusion of the Tribulation (Rev. 16:19). So important is this city that the Lord denominated the believer's heavenly home as the "New Jerusalem" (Rev. 21:2). This city was "the place" that Jehovah so chose upon which to put his name (Dt. 12:5, 11). The LORD asserted the cosmic prominence of the centrality of Jerusalem, saying, "Thus saith the Lord GOD; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her" (Ezk. 5:5). Since the earth is the center of God's creation (Gen. 1:2-10; cf. Jn. 3:16), Jerusalem is the most important place in all of creation, of course being the place of the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mt. 16:21; Heb. 13:12). The old name for Jerusalem was Jebus and was located in the land of Canaan (I Chr. 11:4-5), the land that Jehovah designated as the physical inheritance for His chosen people Israel. The LORD had the "Promised Land" in mind when He created the land mass out of the earthly waters (Gen. 1:9-10). After the Flood the Lord allowed the sons of Ham, the Canaanites, to migrate to this land (Gen. 10:15-19), which eventually the Shemites of the blessed Jehovah (Gen. 9:26-27) would receive.

The LORD commanded Abram to leave his home "in Ur of the Chaldees" and travel to Jehovah's land gift of Canaan (Gen. 11:27-12:8). Eventually, Abraham's seed under Jacob left the Promised Land for Egypt and remained until Moses led the sons of Israel into the Wilderness (Acts 7:3-36). Under Joshua the Lord GOD gave the Promised Land to His people to conquer and control. He set up judges to deal with the Promised Land physically and spiritually, which office failed because of sin, and led to the office of king (cf. Joshua and Judges). Spiritual vicissitudes occurred under Saul, David, and Solomon, creating the divided kingdom and eventual judgment on both the Northern Kingdom (722 BC) and the Southern Kingdom (586 BC). Although the LORD brought the Babylonian exiles back into the Promised Land (cf. I and II Sam., I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, and Zechariah), this Jewish possession fell under Gentile dominance (Daniel 2 and 7; Lk. 21:24; Rom. 11:25-26). The prophet Micah revealed that the Lord promised the reunion of His people and their reuniting with the Promised Land after the "church age" and Tribulation, saying, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth:

¹The Hebrew Jerushalam occurs 643x and the Greek Hierousalem occurs 83x. The compound noun means "city of peace" and is identified with Salem (Ps. 76:2; cf. also Gen. 14:18). The Lord Jesus Christ will rule with a rod of iron during the Millennium. As the Prince of Peace, He will give peace to Jerusalem and the world (Isa. 9:6-7; cf. also Ps. 122:6).

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October 15, 2018

THE LAND OF ISRAEL

Continued from Page 1

then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth" (Mic. 5:2-4).

It is not because of literary or theological hyperbole what the Prophet Ezekiel declared about Jerusalem's significant and envied geographical location (Ezk. 5:5). The Land of Israel, housing Jerusalem, is a small and seemingly insignificant parcel of land (8200 sq. mi.). Its propitious location fell within the Fertile Crescent which curved from the Persian Gulf through Mesopotamia, Assyria, and Phoenicia, passing in the corridor of Israel, and around to Lower and Upper Egypt, all of which had lush vegetation due to the inundation of related rivers. Bordered by the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Desert, and the Euphrates and Nile Rivers, this geographical inheritance from Jehovah was the physical tract between the highly developed ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt. These civilizations originated from the region of Mount Ararat and quickly developed. As commerce expanded, so did political, cultural, and ethnic factors, resulting in the control of this geographical passage way, the Land of Canaan. Nations vied for this choice piece of real estate, forcing the inhabitants, first the Canaanites and then the Israelites, into military alertness and defense. The LORD purposefully orchestrated the

geographical boundaries for theological reasons, desiring that His chosen people would trust in Him and not in military might, as He asseverated, leveling a woe and affirming a blessing, saying, "Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!" (Isa. 31:1) and "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God" (Ps. 20:7), respectively. The geography of the Land of Israel, including its boundaries, cities, mountains, rivers, and lakes, influence the flora, fauna, climate, seasons, and religious deities, and therefore give revelatory background for the theological teaching of Scripture.

Biblically, "the Land of Israel" is never designated "the land of Palestine" or "Palestine." In fact, the only reference to "Palestine" occurs in the prophet Joel and refers to Philistia: "Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence? and if ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head" (Joel 3:4). The Romans applied the term "Palestine" to the Promised Land in the AD 2nd century, much to the theological chagrin of Asaph's concern, who warned, saying, "They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance" (Ps. 83:4).²

²The so-called "State of Palestine" claimed possession of the West Bank (west of the Jordan), the Gaza Strip (border of Israel and Egypt), and East Jerusalem, even though these areas have been occupied by Israel since the Six Day War in 1967.



Dr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Strouse are enjoying their trip in Israel.

Left: they stand in front of the mountains of En Gedi, the place where David hid from King Saul (I Samuel 24:1 ff)

Right: they stand in front of the US Embassy in Jerusalem

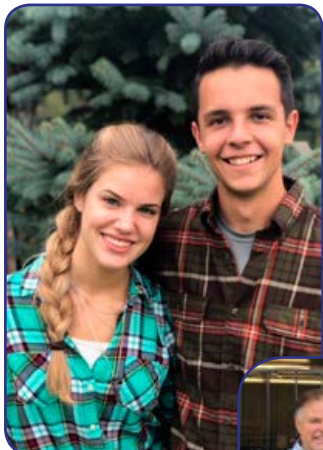




Pastor Cas Reeves

What Jesus Taught Us about Hell

When Jesus first introduced hell in His public ministry He linked it by way of warning to the words that one speaks (Mt.5:22). It is interesting that His brother James speaking about the tongue says, "it is set on fire of hell" (Jam.3:6). Following His introduction of hell, Jesus began to warn people about hell in a series of contrasts. In these contrasts, He warns that it would be better to lose an eye than to enter hell. This warning is recorded three times (Mt.5:29; Mt.18:9; Mk.9:47). People do not want to lose their sight, but it is better to lose one's sight than to go to hell. Jesus then contrasts losing one's hand to going to hell; He records this twice (Mt.5:30; Mt.9:43). Again people don't want to lose a hand, but He warns, it is better to lose a hand than to go to hell. Jesus then finishes with a warning contrasting the foot (Mk.9:45). People do not want to become crippled, but becoming crippled is better than going to hell. Another warning Jesus makes is regarding one's fear of a murderer who can take one's life, but rather people are to be more fearful of the Son of God, the gatekeeper of hell (Mt.10:28; Lk.12:5; Rev.1:18). Jesus describes hell throughout the Gospel; it is not a nice place, nor a place one would want to spend all of eternity. He describes it as a place for the self-righteous (Mt.23:33); a place where the fire is not quenched (Mt.9:43; Mt9:45.); a place filled with those who have rejected the truth (Lk.10:15; Mt.11:23). Finally, He describes it as a place of torments and no comfort forever and ever (Lk.16:23ff). In conclusion, Jesus informs those who will listen that His church is presently assaulting the realm of hell (Mt.16:18). This assault is with the truth, the Gospel of God's dear Son inviting the lost and the damned to repent of their sin of unbelief and to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. And if they will not, then they presently join the membership of hell (Mt.23:15); this membership is revealed as the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars.(Re.21:8). To avoid going to hell, a person needs to believe on Jesus Christ (Jn.3:36). CAR Sometimes in the quest for numbers or perhaps the zealousness for winning souls it has lead us to an "easy believeism" or a "quick profession of faith." But in the end, we watch the poor souls wither because there is no life in them. That life -- must come from Christ (1Jn.5:12) and if he does not commit himself unto them -- they do not have life. Some, may even follow in baptism and church membership, but eventually, if they don't really get saved, they fade back into the darkness, which they love rather than the light (Jn.3:19). They leave us because they are not of us (1Jn.2:19) or they mix with us as tares amongst the wheat, but God knows! (Mt.13:29-30). - CAR



*BBC members
Bill and Kirsten Gagnon
are pleased to announce the
engagement of their daughter
Amanda Gagnon to Mark Reeves,
son of Paul and Michelle Reeves,
members of
Heritage Baptist Church
in Endicott, New York.*



Quotes From the Past:

John Bunyan
1628-1688

**Baptist Preacher
and Author**



*Prayer is a sincere, sensible,
affectionate pouring out of the
soul to God, through Christ,
in the strength and assistance
of the Spirit, for such things as
God has promised."*

GROW IN GRACE

DEVOTIONAL FOR WOMEN

What is Your Reputation?

1 Thessalonians 4:9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

Reflection: Paul is commending the church of the Thessalonians, for they are known for their love one toward another and amazingly their love was known throughout the region. Paul does not, however, say that they have 'arrived'. No...he says that they must increase more and more in this area.

Can your region say this about your church members? Do visitors feel welcomed and cared for when they visit? Do you as a church member minister to visitors personally by having conversation and perhaps sitting with them, or contacting them during the week? Can your church members say this is their experience within your church body, that they feel loved by

you? Where does Paul say this desire to love one another comes from?

It is one thing to be known for faithfulness to the Scriptures, or to be known for Biblical Truth, but it is an entirely different thing to be known for the love demonstrated in a church body one toward another.

Challenge: It is understood that we are in churches made up of sinners. We each have our history that sometimes is laced with those who have rejected us, a variety of fears that keep us stuck, and people in our lives who have judged us before they loved us...what is keeping you from loving others?

The Lord desires that we **increase more and more** in this area. **Are you increasing and moving forward, are you in reverse or parked in neutral?**

If you would like to receive Grow in Grace morning devotions emailed to you Monday - Friday, please email me at: Elenas6259@gmail.com

Growing in Grace: A 12 Week Devotional for Women Books 1 & 2



Book 1

This 12 Week Devotional is a ministry of Bible Baptist Church in Cromwell, CT. It is designed for women, and is meant as a support for victory in daily Christian living. Spiritual victory comes by having the Genuine Christ, Accurate Biblical Teaching, Applying the Infallible Word of God, and a Humble Heart.



Book 2

Using this Devotional Each day you will be given a daily Scripture followed by thoughts upon which to reflect and a challenge for the day. To get the most out of this book, it is encouraged that you take the time each morning to reflect upon and apply each devotion.

"Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart." (Psalm 119:2)

If you would like a complimentary copy of Book 1 or 2, please contact Bible Baptist Church at: Elenas6259@gmail.com

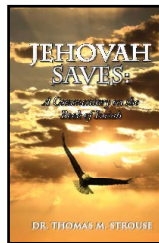


The Strouse family arrive at church on a beautiful Sunday morning!

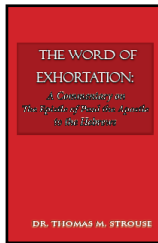
THE BOOK CORNER

These Books may be purchased through
Bible Baptist Church:
40 Country Squire Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-229-5387

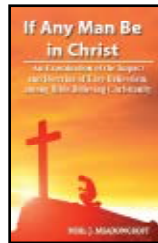
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Isaiah
\$20.00



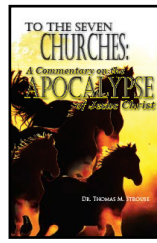
Hebrews
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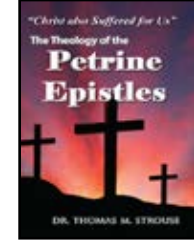
If Any Man Be ...
\$10.00



I & II Timothy
\$20.00



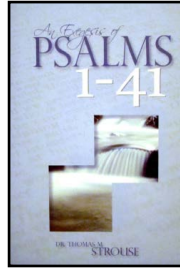
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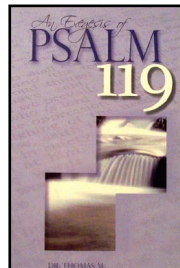
Peter
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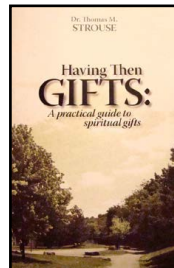
I & II Thessalonians
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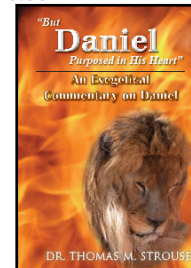
Psalms 1 - 41
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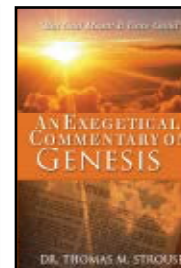
Psalms 119
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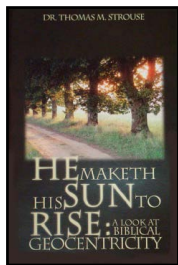
Spiritual Gifts
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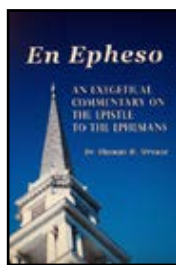
Daniel
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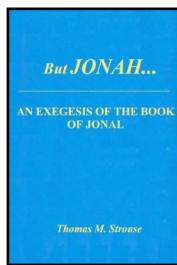
Genesis
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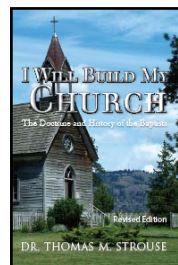
Geocentricity
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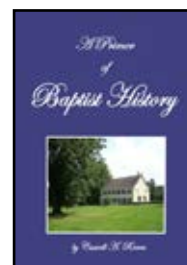
En Epheso
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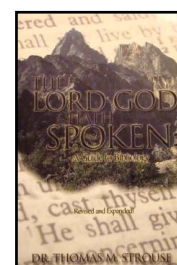
Jonah
\$10.00



I Will Build My Church
\$15.00



A Primer of Baptist History
\$20.00



The Lord God Hath Spoken
\$15.00

Upcoming Events

November 9, 2018
BBTS Fall Lecture Series
"The Theology of Geography"

December 9, 2018
BBC Annual Banquet
1:30 p.m.

April 12, 2019
BBTS Spring Lecture Series

April 27, 2019
Ladies Fellowship

BBTS Fall Schedule

Mondays
Bibliology II
9:00AM - 12:00PM

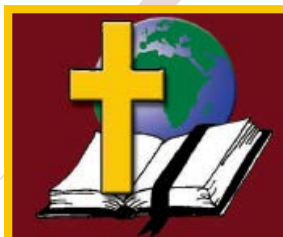
Tuesdays
Greek I
6:00PM - 9:00PM

Wednesdays
Minor Prophets I
9:00AM - 12:00PM

All Courses Taught by Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send email to:

drtms_bbts@juno.com



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