

The **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

March 2023



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This month’s cover features Lighthouse Farol do Arnel from Azores, Portugal.

The Purpose of the Berean Bible Society is to help you understand, enjoy, and apply the Bible. The Mission of BBS is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming the whole counsel of God according to the revelation of the Mystery. Our Goals are to evangelize the lost, to educate the saved in “rightly dividing the Word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15), to energize the transformation of the Christian life, and to encourage the local church.

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A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

Life involves change. Life in ministry is no different. For example, changes in staff come to pass at BBS. Over the 27 years of serving the Lord here, I have worked with a number of people. One of those with whom I have worked the longest is Pastor Ricky Kurth. Since 2008, he has more than ably done the work as Editor of the *Berean Searchlight*, putting his heart and soul into that position for the glory of God. As Pastor Kurth announced in last month's issue, he will be stepping away from the Editor's desk of the *Berean Searchlight* and will continue to work exclusively from home as a BBS writer.

Pastor Kurth began his second tenure as a BBS employee in 2001 and since then has faithfully been making the two and one-half hour drive from Steger, Illinois, to Germantown, Wisconsin, every week. He affectionately refers to his commute to Wisconsin from Illinois as "crossing the cheddar curtain." Pastor Kurth would wait for Chicago rush hour traffic to clear out and get to BBS on Monday at noon. Then he would lodge at a hotel on Monday and Tuesday nights and return home on Wednesday evening, working from home for BBS on Thursday and Friday. Over his 21 years here, we were able to convert Pastor Kurth into a Milwaukee Brewers baseball fan. However, we made no progress in convincing him to root for the Green Bay Packers over his beloved Chicago Bears.

All of the staff are going to miss seeing Pastor Kurth every week due to the camaraderie that we have built with him. We have all benefitted from his firm grasp of the Scriptures. And personally, I have appreciated the support and encouragement he has given to me as President.

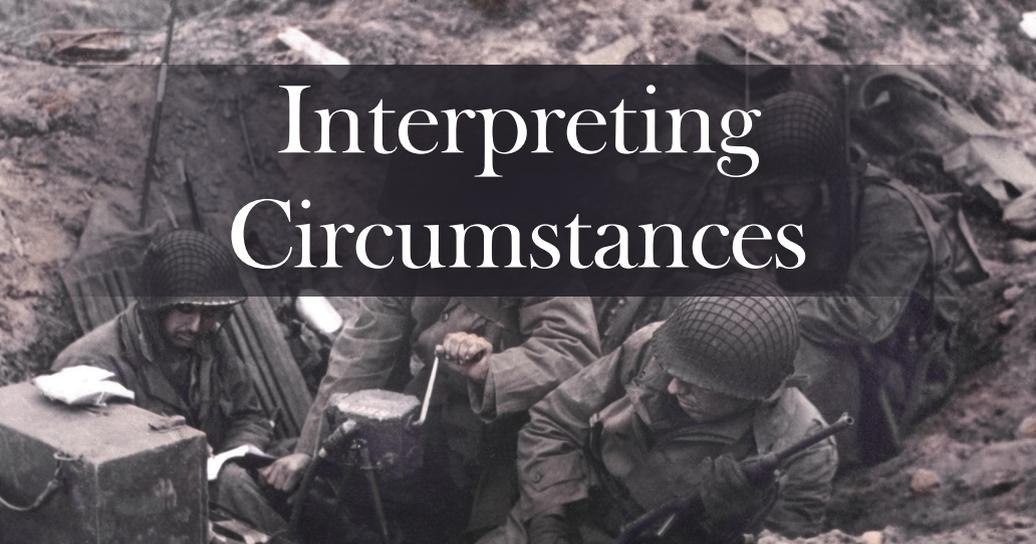
Pastor Kurth is in the process of training the new Editor, Pastor Don Hoffeld. You can read more about Pastor Hoffeld on page 17 of this issue. This may come as a surprise, but the first time I met Pastor Hoffeld was in Tel Aviv! Pastor Don was part of a group of grace pastors that toured Israel in 2018. We spent 10 days together there, and since then I've gotten to know Don more through visiting with him at grace conferences.

Pastor Don has an IT background, and the staff is looking forward to bringing all our computer woes to him. Being from St. Louis, he is also a St. Louis Cardinals fan, but we won't hold that against him. Most importantly, Pastor Don is a very capable man of God and a serious, diligent student of God's Word. I know you will benefit from his ministry at BBS.

Please keep Pastor Kurth, Pastor Hoffeld, and everyone on staff in prayer regarding the changes at BBS this year.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President



Interpreting Circumstances

When near or behind enemy lines during war, communication with commanding officers and artillery is important. During WWII, the U.S. Army used Pvt. Ben Yahzee and Pvt. Charlie Whitehorse to communicate “The Navajo Code” by radio with superiors. It was based on the Navajo language with a code embedded within each message. Even other native Navajo soldiers could not decipher its meaning. Only these two men could properly interpret each transmission and in turn enable their counterparts to act accordingly.

When King Saul saw David as a threat to his reign, he pursued him with an army of trained soldiers, with the intent to put David to death. David had done nothing to deserve such treatment. He had been a loyal and valuable subject. While David and his men hid in a cave, Saul came in alone to relieve himself. This was David’s opportunity to slay the one seeking his life and ascend to the throne. His men even urged him to do so, interpreting this circumstance as God fulfilling a promise to David to “deliver thine enemy into thine hand” (1 Sam. 24:4).

But David was very careful not to haphazardly interpret his circumstances by the counsel of other men, nor by his emotions, which surely would have drawn him to revenge out of self-preservation. Instead, he told his men it would be wrong for him to slay the Lord’s anointed king (vv. 6,10). David chose not to interpret God’s will merely by his circumstances. He believed principles in God’s Word essentially “forbid that I should do this thing unto my master” (v. 6). He believed God had already revealed His will in Deuteronomy 32:35-36 when the Lord explained, “To Me belongeth vengeance, and recompense... For the LORD shall judge His people...” This meant it would be wrong for David to “get even” with this wrongdoer from within his nation. Instead, he must turn him over to the Lord and trust the Lord to take care of him.

In Christian circles today it has become common for believers to almost flip-pantly interpret God’s will by their emotions, the counsel of others, or by circumstances, which are often manipulated to one’s liking. There is a better way! Like David, we need to develop a pattern of primarily interpreting God’s will by God’s Word. We are behind enemy lines in Satan’s territory where interpreting God’s will accurately, through Paul’s letters, is essential. Trust God’s Word to give you clear direction, then act accordingly.

—John Fredericksen

WHAT IS A BEREAN?

(Taken from episode 269 of *Transformed by Grace*)



PASTOR KEVIN **SADLER**
Berean Bible Society President

At *Berean Bible Society*, we often hear the question, “What is a Berean?” We get this question from many people in different situations, such as those who call in to sign up for our magazine, or when we place an order and give the name of our organization, or even when a driver stops in to drop off a delivery. But this gives us the opportunity to talk about the Scriptures and explain what our ministry is all about. Acts 17:10-12 explains what a Berean is.

People from Berea in Macedonia

“And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews” (Acts 17:10).

In Acts 9, the Apostle Paul had to flee persecution in Damascus under the cover of *night* (Acts 9:23-25). In Acts 17, for the second time in his ministry, Paul had to flee a city, this time the city of

Thessalonica, under the cover of darkness. Following a riot in Thessalonica, “the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas *by night* unto Berea” (v. 10).

Berea is a city of Macedonia located about 50 miles southwest of Thessalonica and 190 miles north of Athens. Berea was “off the beaten path” and not on a main route. The city lies in a remote region on the western foot of the Vermio mountain range.

The first answer to the question, “What is a Berean?” is that they were people from a city called Berea in Macedonia in northern Greece. Like those who live in Wisconsin are called Wisconsinites, the people who lived in Berea were called Bereans. And the city of Berea still exists today, but under the name of Veria. The reason some ministries, such as ours, are named “Berean” is due to the ancient Bereans’ attitude toward the Scriptures: they had respect and love for God’s Word, and out of that love and respect, they searched and studied it.

When Paul came to Berea, he followed his usual habit of going “into the synagogue of the Jews” (v. 10). He would do so because there he would find Jews *and* devout Gentiles (Acts 14:1) who had an interest in spiritual things and some knowledge of God’s Word. The synagogue was a good jumping-off point for Paul in a new location to reach *both* Jews and Gentiles.

One Who Receives the Word

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind...” (Acts 17:11a).

Regarding our question, “What is a Berean?” here is the first of three answers, all beginning with the letter “R” to help you remember. First, a Berean is one who RECEIVES the Word with all READINESS of mind.

A BEREAN



**RECEIVES
THE WORD**
with all Readiness
of Mind

A Berean is one who is open-minded to the truth. The Bereans had an openness to the Word preached to them. They had an anticipation, an expectancy to learn and grow. The Greek word translated as “received” means to receive favorably, to give ear to, to grant access to a visitor, and, in this context, to take up the thing offered in speaking, teaching, and instructing. This was the attitude the Bereans had toward the Word as it was proclaimed to them.

“The Word of God” (Acts 18:11), “the Word of His grace” (20:32), “the Word of the Lord Jesus” (19:10), “the Word of the gospel” (15:7), “the Word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15), “the Word of life” (Phil. 2:16) was taken up and received favorably. The Bereans did not close their ears to the Word; they gave their ears to it, giving it an honest, interested hearing.

The Bereans had a readiness and willingness to receive the Word. “Readiness of mind” speaks of eagerness, zeal, inclination—having a ready, willing mind. Out of their respect for the Word and their desire to receive it, they leaned in, as it were, listening with rapt attention to what was taught from it.

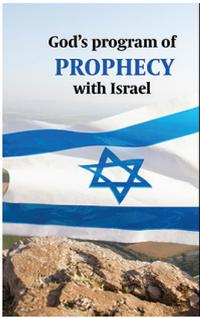
The Bereans did not immediately *close* their minds to further light. On the contrary, they granted access to the Word and gave Paul an enthusiastic hearing, listening with *open* minds to what he had to say.

Their eager acceptance was like the psalmist in Psalm 119:33: “Teach me, O LORD, the way of Thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.” There was an eager interest in the Word and readiness of mind to receive more truth. And the Holy Spirit ascribes *nobility* to this state of mind.

A Berean attitude is a humble understanding that there is always room for refinement and growth in one’s knowledge of the Word of God. Having a ready mind means allowing our minds to be open to understand what we didn’t understand before.

Founder of *Berean Bible Society*, Cornelius R. Stam, wrote this of the important quality

of receiving the Word with all readiness of mind: “How sorely this Berean lesson is needed in the professing Church today! So many among God’s people, yes, and even among their leaders, lack this quality of true spiritual greatness. Their first thought is to conform to accepted beliefs rather than to conform to the written Word of God. Their desire to stand well with the popular leaders is greater than their desire *to know the truth and to make it known*. They would rather be *orthodox* than *Scriptural*.”¹



God's program of
THE MYSTERY
with the Body of Christ



Many refuse to open their minds to the necessity of rightly dividing the Word of truth, of a dispensational approach to properly interpreting and understanding God’s Word. They will not consider the truth of Paul’s unique apostleship to the Gentiles, and God’s message of grace for us, the Body of Christ, found in his letters. Most would rather hold tight to the long-held traditions of their denomination.

God has a twofold purpose in His Word: (1) an eternal plan and purpose for the earth through God’s program of prophecy with Israel; (2) an eternal plan and purpose for the heavens through

God’s program of the mystery with the Body of Christ. This is the key that unlocks understanding and proper application of the Scriptures.

The attitude of a Berean is one of readiness of mind, eager to receive the truth but then always to go back to the Scriptures to see if it is so. We want people to look at Scripture as the Bereans did—in light of the dispensations, Paul’s apostleship and message, and God’s overall, twofold purpose—to be open-minded toward it and then go to the Word to see if it is so.

One Who Researches the Word

“...and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11b).

As we continue to answer the question, “What is a Berean?” first, a Berean is one who RECEIVES the Word with all READINESS of mind. Second, a Berean is one who RESEARCHES the Word.

A BEREAN



The Bereans were eager to receive, but not gullible. They had an open mind but also a cautious heart, and they were not willing to accept what Paul said just because he said it. The reason that they researched the Word is that, for a Berean, the Scriptures are our first and final authority in all matters of the faith and practice.

The Bereans would not accept Paul's teaching without checking for themselves. The Bereans' attitude was, "That's interesting! But are these things really so? Is this the truth? We need to search the Scriptures to find out."

Christian editor Dave Branon wrote, "A deadly jungle spider has migrated to the US and is killing



people.' This was the story sent to me and to others on my friend's email list. The story sounded plausible—lots of scientific names and real-life situations. But when I checked it out on reliable websites, I found it was not true—it was an Internet hoax. Its truth could only be verified by consulting a trusted source.

"A group of first-century believers living in Macedonia understood the importance of confirming what they were hearing."²

As the Bereans listened to Paul, their reaction was to confirm that what he was saying was the truth, and so they consulted *the* most trusted source, the Word of God.

When Paul went to this synagogue in Berea, we can be sure that he taught them the same things from Scripture that he had taught shortly before in the synagogue in Thessalonica. Verses 2-3 of Acts 17 state,

"And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ."

As Paul reasoned with the Bereans out of the Scriptures, and he opened the Word to them and alleged that Christ needed to suffer, die, and rise again, the Bereans realized that they needed to verify that for themselves. They listened intently to Paul and considered what he said, but they would not concede until they checked the Scriptures themselves that the truth had been preached. They exhibited the spirit of Isaiah 34:16: "Seek ye out of the Book of the LORD, and read..."

The strength of the Bereans was that they kept close to the Word. When confronted with some doctrine they had not heard before, they gave it an interested hearing but then "searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

If the Scriptures agreed with what Paul taught, then it was accepted. But had they found anything in Paul's message which contradicted the Scriptures, they would have immediately and wisely rejected it. This was how they operated, because the Bible was their only authority and guide; it is a book of truth and the arbiter by which it can be determined what is true and what is false.

The Bereans encourage individual, personal Bible study. The Bereans were open-minded to

truth, yet—and *stop and think about this*—they would not accept the word of even an apostle of God, the Apostle Paul, without subjecting what *he* said to personal examination of the Scriptures. And for this, the Holy Spirit commended them and called them “noble”! If the Bereans didn’t accept the word of even an apostle of God, that tells us we should not accept everything we hear from pastors and teachers today, even from ones we trust.

The Bereans further teach us that it doesn’t take a theologian, pastor, or teacher to interpret the Word of God for us. The Bereans believed they could open the Scriptures and read, study, understand, and discover the truth from the Bible for themselves. And God has given each of us the Holy Spirit to help us understand His Word and to apply it (1 Cor. 2:7-13).

For these noble Bereans, it was not man’s word which they were to act upon, but God’s revealed, written Word. Thus, when Paul came to them, speaking to them from the Scriptures, they eagerly listened, *but they did not let Paul do their thinking for them*. The Bereans saw themselves as individually and personally responsible before God to search out Paul’s teaching from the Scriptures and to see if it was consistent with the revelation of the Bible.

Likewise, every preacher should expect and *want* his teaching to be so examined, and he should thank God for those who do it. It is a troubling sign when a preacher resents the examination of his teaching by his hearers. Every preacher and teacher is fallible. Man is not the authority. God’s

Word is our authority, and the Bereans show us not to blindly follow spiritual leaders who are very capable of making mistakes.

Richard DeHaan wrote this, “My wife and I were driving to church one Sunday when we came



to a red traffic light, so we stopped. There was only one car in front of us. While I waited, my mind began to wander. When the car ahead started to move, I was far away in thought and absentmindedly followed right along without even glancing up at the light. Only after I had driven through the intersection did I realize that I had blindly followed the leader. If the other driver had moved ahead before the light had turned green, my following along might have caused a serious accident.

“As I reflected on my carelessness, I thought about people who blindly follow their religious leaders. Many are attracted to speakers who have dynamic personalities, the ability to communicate effectively, and an air of authority. They accept and do everything these preachers say without ever thinking for themselves. In sharp contrast, the Christians in Berea ‘received the Word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so’ (Acts 17:11).

“Blindly following the leader can be dangerous. That’s why we must test everything by what the Bible says.”³

The Greek word translated “searched” in verse 11 is a legal term. It means to interrogate, investigate, examine, question, scrutinize. The term gives you the sense of a witness on the stand in a court of law being cross-examined and put through a rigorous line of questioning. The same term was used of Pilate in his examination and questioning of the Lord. Luke 23:13-14 reads,

“And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, HAVING EXAMINED Him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse Him.”

“Having examined” is translated from the same Greek word as “searched” in Acts 17:11. Like the great detail and care that is given to judicial examinations, that is how thoroughly and carefully the Bereans pored over the Scriptures. Before the Bereans would render a final verdict on Paul’s preaching, they carefully sifted through the Scriptures, and examined, cross-checked, and compared what Paul had said against the teaching of the Word of God. All of us are encouraged to imitate these Bereans by being people of the Word who faithfully test the messages we hear against the truth of the Scriptures.

Not only did the Bereans search and examine the Scriptures, they did so “daily.” They were not only

earnest in their desire to receive the Word, but they were diligent in their pursuit of verifying the truth. It was worth it to these people to work hard at it and investigate what the Word of God said, and how Paul’s teaching matched up with it. They did so because, again, they believed in the authority and sufficiency of Scripture. And like the Bereans and the Reformers, we are to be *Sola Scriptura!*

One Who Responds to the Word

“Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few” (Acts 17:12).

Back to our question of what a Berean is: First, a Berean is one who RECEIVES the Word with all READINESS of mind. Second, a Berean is one who RESEARCHES the Word. And third, a Berean is one who RESPONDS to the Word.

A BEREAN



RESPONDS TO THE WORD

In response to receiving the Word and then researching the Word, the Bereans responded to the Word. And they responded *by faith*: “Therefore many of them *believed*,” verse 12 says. The “many” here are many Jews. In verse 4, we see that only “some” Jews believed in Thessalonica. In contrast, among the noble

Bereans, many Jews believed. Similar to those in Thessalonica, however, “not a few” (vv. 4,12) honorable, prominent Gentile women believed, and quite a few Greek men believed as well. We see the impact of Paul’s gospel in Berea on *both* Jews and Gentiles.

In the account of Paul’s third missionary journey, we learn the name of one of the Greek men from Berea who believed and who assisted Paul on that journey:

“And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea...” (Acts 20:4).

When Paul went to Berea and preached the Word, Sopater was one of the Bereans who would have been leaning forward in the synagogue, open-minded and eager to hear the Word as it was taught. Sopater then researched and checked the Scriptures daily to see if the things Paul taught him were so. And then, Sopater responded by believing Paul’s message. Sopater’s Berean response also involved him giving his life to further the gospel, which he found to be true, and being available in the cause of Christ.

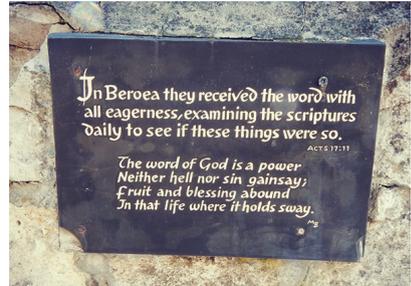
Another response characteristic of a Berean is what Paul challenges the church to do in 1 Thessalonians 5:21: “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” The church today is filled with error and confusion. This is all the more reason that, like the Bereans, we must “prove all things,” or examine and evaluate everything we hear, carefully measuring all things by the standard and truth of God’s Word.

Once we’ve proved, tested, verified, and made sure things are in harmony with the teaching

of Scripture, then it’s imperative that we carry out the next part of that verse: “hold fast that which is good.”

“Hold fast” means to keep firm possession of, to keep secure, to hold back from going away. When you find something that is true, you hold onto it and keep firm possession of it, and you don’t let go. It is the believer’s responsibility to test or examine everything in the light of the Word of God, *and* to hold to that good, stand for it, and live it out.

My wife and I had the privilege to visit Berea in Greece. And there was a small plaque near a statue of Paul and a mosaic depicting his visit to Macedonia. As you can see, it contains Acts 17:11 and a poem, very powerful and true:



“The Word of God is a power / Neither hell nor sin gainsay; / Fruit and blessing abound / In that life where it holds sway.”

This is a good Berean response to the Word, to allow the Scriptures to hold sway in our lives and to live out the Word in the strength of the Holy Spirit. Fruit and blessing abound when we do!

1. C. R. Stam, *Acts, Dispensationally Considered, Volume 2* (Germantown, Wisconsin: Berean Bible Society, 2011), p. 78.
2. Dave Branon, “Verify the Truth,” Our Daily Bread, <https://odb.org/US/2015/08/30/verify-the-truth>.
3. Richard DeHaan, “Following the Leader,” <https://www.preceptaustin.org/acts-17-commentary#17.11>. 

Question Box

“In the December issue, you said Rahab knew that God had given the land of Canaan to Israel (Gen. 15:18-21) because God made sure that copies of His Word got around to people everywhere. How do we know that’s true?”

Moses predicted that after the people of Israel rebelled against God that He would judge them, and then,

“...when they see...the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown...even *all nations* shall say, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger? Then men shall say, *Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD*....For they went and served other gods....And the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written *in this book*: And the LORD rooted them out of their land in anger...and cast them into another land...” (Deut. 29:22-28 cf. 1 Kings 9:8,9; 2 Chron. 7:21,22; Jer. 22:8,9).

Moses predicted that men in “all nations” would see the judgment God brought on Israel and ask why He had judged them. Then *other men* in those nations would open a copy of God’s “book” and explain from it that God judged His people because they broke the covenant they made with their God, the covenant *found in God’s book*. That’s how we know that men *in all nations* had a copy of Israel’s Scriptures.

The answer of the men of those nations reflects their familiarity with the *details* of the covenant found in Israel’s book. They knew God told them not to worship other gods (Exod. 20:3), and that He would consider it a breaking of the covenant if they did (Deut. 31:20). They also knew that if they did, God would curse them by uprooting them and removing them from their land (Deut. 28:15,36,64).

We see another example of this when Jeremiah was clapped in the Babylonian slammer in Jeremiah 40,

“And the captain of the guard took Jeremiah, and said unto him, The LORD thy God hath *pronounced* this evil upon this place. Now the LORD hath brought it, and done according as He hath said: because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed His voice, therefore this thing is come upon you” (vv. 2,3).

That pagan Babylonian guard knew God had “pronounced” the evil He’d do on Israel *in the Bible*, and “therefore” it came upon Israel. He had a Bible too!

—Pastor Kurth



Buying Up the Time

A WARNING AGAINST PRESUMPTION

PASTOR C. R. STAM
Berean Bible Society Founder

“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:16).

Few people really understand what is meant by the phrase “redeeming the time.” They know, to be sure, that it has to do with buying up the opportunities to work and witness for Christ, but unless the mystery of God’s purpose and grace is understood, most of the meaning of this phrase is lost.

THE WRATH OF GOD

The Old Testament prophets had clearly and emphatically predicted that God would judge the world for its rejection of Christ.

Look at the Psalms alone:

Psalm 110:1: “The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.”

Psalm 2:1-5: “Why do the heathen rage, and the people [of Israel, See Acts 4:25-27] imagine a vain thing?

“The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against His anointed, saying,

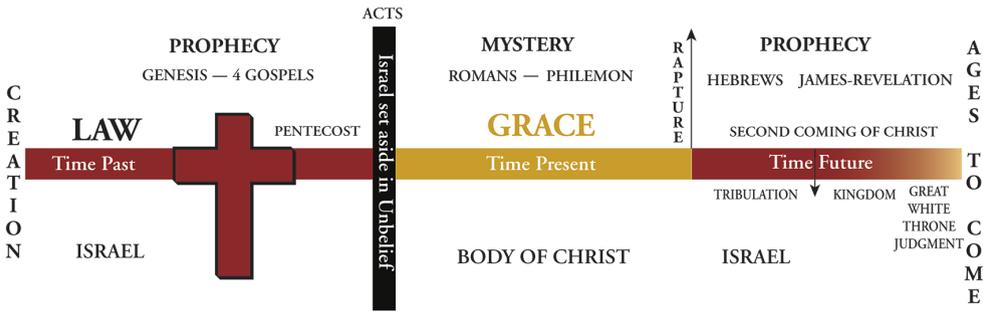
“Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

“HE THAT SITTETH IN THE HEAVENS SHALL LAUGH....”

Yes, He shall laugh! This does not at all imply that He is pleased, either with their folly or their calamity, for the next verse speaks of His “sore displeasure.” We laugh at the ridiculous. We laugh at jokes, and God laughs at the vain attempts of Christ-rejecting nations to get along without His Son! He laughs, as selfish, jealous rulers try to talk peace while they reject His Anointed, “the Prince of Peace!” To think of it!

“He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall have them in derision.

“Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure.”



THE STAGE SET

At Pentecost, as far as prophecy was concerned, the stage was set for the day of God’s wrath to begin. When Peter quoted Joel’s prophecy concerning “the last days,” he said, “*This is that,*” and he was right. As far as God’s revealed plan was concerned the last days had begun. The sufferings of Christ were over and all was in readiness for the glory that should follow (1 Pet. 1:11). The rejected Messiah had ascended to the Father’s right hand; the next number on the program was for God to make Christ’s enemies His footstool. The signs of Pentecost were to be followed, as far as prophecy was concerned, by the signs of the “great tribulation,” which should usher in “the great and the terrible day of the LORD” (See Joel 2:28-32).

THE MERCY OF GOD

But God is longsuffering. He is “slow to anger and plenteous in mercy.”

He had said, to be sure, “*Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool,*” but He had not made known whether He would subdue Christ’s enemies *immediately* or at some later time. He had never intimated how long a period would elapse between our Lord’s ascension to His Father’s right hand and the judgment of His enemies. The prophets had testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow, but they did not, indeed could not, tell how soon after the sufferings the glory should come, even though they “inquired and searched diligently” to find out.

They could not find out, because God had a secret purpose which He could not yet divulge; a plan which, purposely, He had “kept secret since the world began” (Rom. 16:25).

Thus it was that something amazing took place which the prophets had never uttered nor had ever known. Interjected into the midst of the prophetic scheme was a whole new dispensation, a whole new order of things, a new divine administration!

Delaying the fearful judgments He had predicted, God ushered in a period of grace. He concluded all in unbelief that He might have mercy upon all (Rom. 11:32), simply and only through the merits of His crucified, risen, glorified Son.

THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE

Just as surely as the dispensation of the grace of God was hidden from the prophets, so surely was it revealed to and through the apostle Paul—not the twelve apostles.

See Paul’s words to the Romans, the Corinthians, the Galatians, the Ephesians, and the Colossians. Read them, carefully, prayerfully.

“For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that *by revelation He made known unto me the mystery...Which in other ages was not made known...the unsearchable riches of Christ...the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God...the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Eph. 3:1-11).

“Now to Him that is of power to establish you according to MY GOSPEL, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY, which was kept secret since the world began” (Rom. 16:25).

“But we speak the wisdom of God in A MYSTERY...THE HIDDEN...which God ordained before the world unto our glory” (1 Cor. 2:7). The words “even” and “wisdom” are in italics and are not found in the original.

Dispensation of Grace

YOU ARE HERE



“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST....And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them [the leaders at Jerusalem] that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately

to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain” (Gal. 1:11,12; 2:2).

“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill [complete] the Word of God: Even *the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory*” (Col. 1:25-27).

“Praying always...for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known THE MYSTERY OF

THE GOSPEL, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak” (Eph. 6:18-20).

“Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak” (Col. 4:3,4).

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

Since the dispensation of grace was not prophesied, no one can tell how long it will last. There are no signs to mark the time of its termination and the Rapture of the Church. Believers from Paul’s day until now were told to be *“looking for that blessed hope,”* and *“to wait for His Son from heaven,”* and unbelievers are not given the slightest assurance that it will last for another day, or that judgment will not strike tomorrow!

It is an astonishing fact that “this present evil age” is also the age of grace, yet this fact merely emphasizes the true character of grace. It is a testimony to the infinite mercy and longsuffering of God that this dispensation of grace has lasted longer than any other.

St. Peter, speaking of the delay in Christ’s return to judge and reign, says:

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9).

It is not slackness on God’s part that causes Him to postpone the judgment; it is the very opposite. It is *longsuffering*. He controls and restrains Himself because He is loathe to judge. Thus Peter adds:

“Account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you” (2 Pet. 3:15).

BUYING UP THE TIME

But as the evil of this “evil age” increases, it should remind us that the time may be very short. Every moment is a moment of grace. No one can tell how soon the day of grace will give place to the day of wrath.

It is the extreme uncertainty of the duration of the dispensation of grace that caused Paul to write:

“We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:1,2).

It was this that caused him to write:

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15,16).

It was this that caused him to solicit the prayers of the Colossians that he might be given opportunity and boldness, *“to speak the mystery of Christ...as I ought to speak,”* urging them too, to *“walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time”* (Col. 4:1-5).

Our Lord may come before these words are finished and then our opportunities to toil and testify for Him will be over. Yet we often act as though we were sure that God will linger in grace for a long time to come.

May God awaken us all to see the value of this moment—*now!*

May He awaken us to an appreciation of His longsuffering and grace, that we may indeed “*walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.*”



Meet Pastor Don Hosfeld!

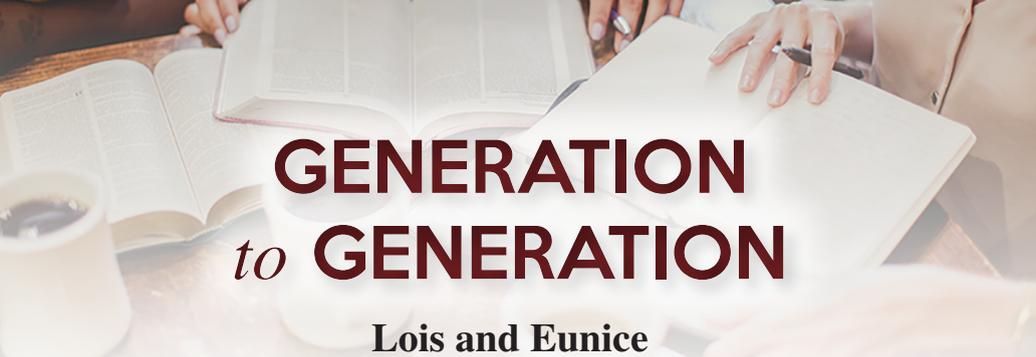


I grew up in the suburbs of St. Louis in a very secular home where there was neither animosity nor affection for God or His Word. I did, however, know of Christ and about His death on the cross, and I believed it to be so, thanks to visiting a friend’s church. However, my reasons for attending my friend’s church had ev-

everything to do with the youth group and nothing to do with the teaching. Though I knew that Christ died and rose again, I didn’t then understand or believe He did so for **my sins**; this did not happen until I was an adult. It was at the age of 29 that I began to look to the Lord for answers and the peace that only comes from Him. I still vividly recall the moment I lay in bed speaking to God and saying, “I have looked for answers everywhere, except to you; I am looking now.” David’s words in Psalm 63:6, “*When I remember thee upon my bed and meditate on thee in the night watches,*” very much take me back to that moment.

The desire to know, learn, and understand led me to many hours of study, alone and with Valerie, the woman I met at Bible study who would become my wife. I attended *Brookes Bible Institute* and *St. Louis Theological Seminary*. Still, the greatest amount of learning came from weekly Bible studies at *St. Louis Bible Fellowship*, under the teaching of my former pastor, Rick Owsley, as well as the books and other material produced by the *Berean Bible Society*. Like so many others, Pastor Stam’s *Things That Differ* was instrumental in my growth in *grace* and the understanding of the Word *rightly divided*.

In 2015, Valerie and I moved to Quincy, Illinois, to plant a church where I served as pastor. In 2017, I accepted the invitation to pastor at *Grace Bible Fellowship* in Nokomis, Florida. Additionally, I served on the board of *Things to Come Mission* and continue to serve on the board of the *Berean Bible Fellowship*. I have been privileged to be a Bible teacher, elder, and pastor in nearly 20 years of ministry service. Valerie and I have six grown children and eight grandchildren. Besides my love of studying and teaching the Scriptures, I am an avid student of history and science.



GENERATION *to* GENERATION

Lois and Eunice

When we think of women of influence in the Scriptures, often individual names are what come to mind. However, there is a pair of ladies that Paul mentions who impacted the life of a young man that would eventually join Paul on his missionary journeys and be a partner in the ministry.

Lois and Eunice are called out in 2 Timothy 1:5 as the faithful grandmother and mother duo who invested in the life of Timothy. This mama and grandma team took seriously their responsibility in the teaching and training of young Timothy in the things of the Lord. Most believe it was the Apostle that led the young man to faith in Christ, and by the time of Paul's second visit, Timothy's background and reputation made him a wonderful choice to become a traveling companion and ministry partner with the Apostle Paul (Acts 16:2-3; Phil. 2:19-23). Here are a few takeaways from their lives.

- **They laid the faith foundation.** These two ladies were evidently strong in their faith and had taught young Timothy the truths of God. The Scripture tells us that Timothy's father was a Greek and his mother was a Jewess, who did believe (Acts 16:1). That combination could make for an interesting home environment, however, it would seem that the women's commitment to raising Timothy in a godly manner was reflected in the young man's life and choices.
- **They had testimonies that mattered.** Their genuine faith, first found in Grandmother Lois and then in Mother Eunice, was recognized by Paul, and he knew their loving teaching and training prepared Timothy for ministry and service (2 Tim. 1:5). Our homes are the first and primary place where our kids see the love of Christ modeled.
- **They left a spiritual legacy.** Their faithfulness in sharing and living out their beliefs was important as they were laying the groundwork of generational faith that would be passed on through Timothy. Their investment in his early life reaped future spiritual benefits (2 Tim. 3:15). I love these ladies' example of how Christ can impact a family.

This is personal to me because it was my own mother who, coming out of a works religion, instead trusted in the work of Christ as her Savior. She shared this exciting truth with my dad and all six of us children, who have had the privilege to share with our own children, who are now sharing with their children. Generational faith is forever changing our family's eternity tree. Thanks Mom! May we as women of grace take seriously the opportunities God gives us to impact our families for Christ through the Gospel. The benefits are certain to be eternal.

—Mrs. Penni Wiskirchen



He's Alive

Come, See. Go, Tell.

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER
Berean Bible Society President

“He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead...” (Matt. 28:6-7).

“The pyramids of Egypt are famous because they contained the mummified bodies of ancient Egyptian kings. Westminster Abbey in London is renowned because in it rests the bodies of English nobles and notables. Mohammad’s tomb is noted for the stone coffin and the bones it contains. The Taj Majal was built as a memorial to a wife of one of India’s Shahs. Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C., is revered, for it is the honored resting place of many outstanding Americans. The garden tomb of Jesus is famous not because of what is inside, but because it is empty!”¹

The tomb of Jesus Christ was only a 15-minute walk from the center of Jerusalem, so the empty tomb could have easily been confirmed or disproved by anyone who went to inspect it. The unbelieving Jewish leaders were unable to disprove the fact that the tomb was empty, so they bribed the Roman guards to lie and say that Christ’s disciples stole the body (Matt. 28:11-15).

Further, after Christ arose, the apostles did not immediately travel to far-off Athens or Rome to preach that Christ had risen from the dead. Instead, they stayed and preached in Jerusalem (Acts 2:5-32; 3:1-15), the very city where, if what they were proclaiming about the resurrection and the empty tomb was false, it could have been easily refuted.

The only explanation for the empty tomb is the truth found in Scripture: Christ, Who promised to rise again, rose again, “as He said” (Matt. 28:6 cf. 20:17-19).

It’s been said well that “No tabloid will ever print the startling news that the mummified body of Jesus of Nazareth has been discovered in

old Jerusalem. Christians have no carefully embalmed body enclosed in a glass case to worship...we have an empty tomb. The glorious fact that the empty tomb proclaims to us is that life for us does not stop when death comes. Death is not a wall, but a door.”²

“Come, see” was the invitation (Matt. 28:6). On resurrection morning, an angel “rolled back the stone from the door” (v. 2) of the tomb. The angel did not move the stone to let Christ **out**; he moved the stone to let the world **in**, so anyone could see that He rose from the dead.

Even today, the invitation for the resurrection is the same, “Come, see.” Read and examine the Scriptures, and you will find that the tomb is empty. Come, see the miracle, power, and truth of Christ’s resurrection, **and believe it**. Christ was raised to show that He fully paid the price for all our sins at the Cross (Rom. 4:25). The work of salvation is complete! When you trust that Christ died for your sins and rose again, you are saved from all your sins and have the gift of eternal life (1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 1:13; 2:8-9).

Then the instruction is also the same as what the angel told the women at the empty tomb, “Go...tell” (Matt. 28:7). Tell others the good news. Don’t keep the truth to yourself. Go and tell others about the Savior, that He lives and that He saves! 

1. “Why the Tomb Is Famous,” Ministry 127, accessed January 25, 2023, <https://ministry127.com/resources/illustration/why-the-tomb-is-famous>.
2. Peter Marshall, Goodreads, accessed January 25, 2023, <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/560240-no-tabloid-will-ever-print-the-startling-news-that-the>.

This article is available as a Gospel tract for purchase (See page 28)!



SPOTLIGHT

on Grace Churches

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375 N San Geronio Ave.
Banning, California

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Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am
Tuesday Night Bible Study 6:00 pm

YouTube Channel: Banning Bible Church

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The Unspoken Token

(An article based on studies that will be reflected in our upcoming *Grace Study Bible*)

PASTOR RICKY KURTH
Berean Searchlight Editor

One day a man asked his friend, “Do you ever watch your wedding video?” His friend said, “Yeah, I like to watch it *in reverse*. That way I get to see myself take my ring off, and give my wife back to her father!”

Then there’s the story of the woman who asked *her* friend, “Why do you wear your wedding ring on the wrong finger?” She responded, “Because I married *the wrong man!*”

Speaking of wedding rings, when I officiate at weddings I always ask the bride and groom, “Do you give your ring as a *token* that you will keep the promises you have made this day?” And in Joshua 2, the word “token” is used the same way. Rahab the harlot saved the lives of the spies that Joshua sent to Jericho, and now she’s about to ask them to promise her something—and give her a token of that promise. She told them:

“...swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness

unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

“And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters...” (Josh. 2:12,13).

Rahab knew the people of Israel were about to conquer Jericho, so she asked the spies to promise they would spare her life, and the lives of her loved ones, in return for saving *their* lives. And she *also* asked them for a token that they would keep their promise.

The word “token” means a *symbol*, or a *sign*, just as a wedding ring is a sign you’re married, as well as a token that you’ll keep the promises you make on your wedding day.

And this isn’t the only place in the Bible where a token is a sign of a promise. After the flood, Genesis 9:8,11-13 says,

“God spake unto Noah...I will establish My covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by...a flood....And...this is *the token* of the covenant...I do set My bow in the cloud, and it

shall be for a token of a covenant between Me and the earth”

Every time you see a rainbow, that’s a token of God’s covenant, a symbol of His promise not to flood the world again, and a sign He’ll keep His promise.¹ And that’s the kind of token Rahab was asking of the spies here, a sign that they’d keep *their* promise to spare her and her family.

Rahab Won the Lottery

As we read on, we see the spies must have thought that what she was proposing was only reasonable, for verse 14 says,

“And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.”

Here these spies were acting in perfect accord with the revealed will of God for that dispensation, for in Genesis 12:3, God promised to bless those who bless the seed of Abraham.

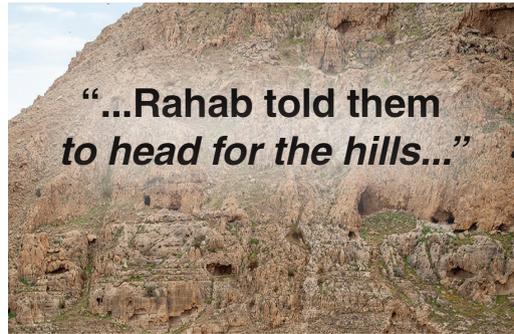
The “business” the spies told Rahab not to utter was the business they had just finished conducting, that of agreeing to spare her family. She’d have to utter it *to her family* to get them to gather into her home prior to the attack of course (v. 18). But if she told *anyone else* that her family would be spared, *everyone in Jericho* would claim to be related to her! Kind of like how, when you win the lottery, I’m told you suddenly hear from cousins you never knew you had.

Next, Rahab helped them make their escape:

“Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

“And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way” (Josh. 2:15,16).

The “pursuers” were the king’s storm troopers that she had *mised* by telling them, “The spies went that-a-way,” when she’d actually hid them on her roof (2:1-7). Those pursuers were still combing the area between Jericho and the Jordan River, where the people of Israel were encamped on the other side. That means if the spies headed *back toward their people*, they’d be sure to run into those pursuers.



So Rahab told them *to head for the hills* instead. About five miles from Jericho there’s a mountain range that is literally *honey-combed* with caves where two

1. Pilots will tell you that from the air a rainbow is not an arch, but a full circle, like a wedding ring.

men could hide. And this reminds me of something we saw in our last study in Joshua 2. These two spies were types of the disciples who followed the Lord:

“He called...the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two....and they went out, and preached...” (Mark 6:7,12).

“After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two...into every city...” (Luke 10:1).

We also talked about how, if the dispensation of grace hadn't interrupted God's prophetic program for Israel, all those disciples would have headed into the Tribulation. And what did the Lord tell them to do when they saw the abomination of desolation in the Tribulation? Matthew records Him as saying,

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation...stand in the holy place...flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house” (Matt. 24:15-17).

When the false prophet convinces men to erect that idol to the beast in the temple (Rev. 13:14,15), that's a sign he's about to start *hunting Jews who believe on Christ*. So the Lord told them that when they see that, they should *head for the hills*. And we are seeing that pictured here with these two spies, who are being hunted by the king and his pursuers, and escape by heading for the hills. These spies were on Rahab's "housetop" just *before* they headed for the hills, so we even see *that* detail pictured in this type (v. 6 cf. Matt. 24:17).

Code Red

But before these spies headed for the hills, they repeated their promise, and gave Rahab the token she had asked them to give her:

“And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear.

“Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee” (Josh. 2:17,18).

“Scarlet” is a shade of *red*, and red is the color of *blood*. That makes this token the same color as one we read about at the first passover, when God said to Moses,

“Speak ye unto all the congregation...saying...they shall take...a lamb...and...kill it...And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses....For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt....And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you...” (Exod. 12:3,6,7,12,13).

Blood sprinkled on the upper-post and two sides of a door is a picture of the Lord's blood that was sprinkled on the cross in the area of his head and outstretched hands. That's significant, for our apostle Paul wrote,

“Christ our passover is sacrificed for us” (1 Cor. 5:7).

The passover lamb was a type of “the Lamb of God, *which taketh away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29). So Paul was saying that when you believed Christ paid for your sins when He died for them, God applied His blood to the doorposts of your heart, as it were, and saved your soul from the wrath of God in hell.



And we see that symbolized when the scarlet blood of the passover lamb saved the Jews from God’s wrath in Egypt, *and* when this scarlet line saved Rahab and her family from God’s wrath when His people conquered Jericho.

All of this makes Rahab a type of something the prophet Joel talked about. In speaking of the Tribulation period, he wrote:

“...it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance...and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call” (Joel 2:32).

Jerusalem was God’s city, but most of the Jews who will live in Jerusalem in the Tribulation won’t be saved. This is why Peter

told Jews who were heading into the Tribulation, “Save yourselves *from this untoward generation*” (Acts 2:40). That generation in Israel had rejected Christ and was headed for hell, so salvation could only be found in the small “remnant” of the Lord’s “little flock” in Jerusalem (Luke 12:32), just as Joel predicted. And once Rahab believed on Israel’s God, she became a type of that believing remnant, for salvation was now found *in her*. Her family members could only be saved if they joined her *in her home*.

Staying Power

But Rahab’s loved ones had to not only *enter* her house when the city started to fall, but they also had to *remain* in her house, as the spies told her:

“And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head...” (Josh. 2:19).

If the members of her family *left* the safety of her home, they’d be responsible for their own deaths. That’s a type of something the Lord told those disciples who were heading into the Tribulation:

“Abide in Me....If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch...and men...cast them into the fire, and they are burned” (John 15:4,6).

The way that Tribulation Jews will get *into* Christ will be by believing He is their Christ. But they’ll have to *abide* in Him by *continuing* to believe He is their Christ, instead of *leaving* Him to

believe that *Antichrist* is their Christ. If they leave Him, they'll be "burned" *in the fires of hell*.

True believers *will* abide in Him, of course, as John explained when he wrote of some Jews who had left the fellowship of the little flock:

"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" (1 John 2:19).

If any Jews believe on Christ in the Tribulation and *don't* abide in Him, that will make "manifest" that they didn't "believe to the saving of the soul" (Heb. 10:39). And we see all this pictured here when Rahab's family had to abide in her house or else get "burned" *when the Jews burned the city* in Joshua 6:24.

Well, Rahab must have thought that all this sounded fair enough, for in verse 21 we read:

"And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window" (Josh. 2:21).

The Original Red Alert

In the Bible, the color scarlet is associated with the *application* of the blood of animal sacrifices, as we see in Hebrews 9:19,20,22, where the writer says,

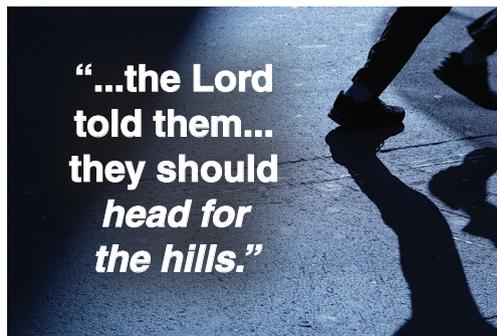
"...Moses...took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled...all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you...without

shedding of blood is no remission" (Heb. 9:19,20,22).

Those "calves and goats" were types of the sacrifice of Christ, as we see when we compare what the Lord said about His *New Testament* blood:

"Jesus...took the cup...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" (Matt. 26:26-28 cf. 1 Cor. 11:25).

When Rahab was saved by applying that scarlet line to her home, that's a type of how Christ's blood will be applied to believing Jews in the Tribulation to save them under the terms of the *New Testament*.



"...the Lord told them... they should head for the hills."

Now let's see what the spies are up to in verse 22:

"And they went, and came unto the mountain, and abode there three days, until the pursuers were returned: and the pursuers sought them throughout all the way, but found them not" (Josh. 2:22).

Those three days of hiding in the mountain are typical of the three years that Tribulation Jews will have to remain in the hills hiding from the Antichrist when he begins to hunt them

down, as we see in Revelation 12:13,14:

“...the dragon...persecuted the woman....And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place...for a time, and times, and half a time....”

The dragon there is the devil, who will persecute the woman of Israel in the Tribulation in the person of the antichrist. Her “place” in the wilderness will be in the *mountains* of the wilderness. Jerusalem is only about five miles from Jericho, so the caves in those mountains where the spies went to hide might be the very place where Jews will hide from the beast in the Tribulation.

The “time, and times, and half a time” there are a reference to

the latter three and a half years of the seven-year Tribulation, the time when Antichrist will actively begin to persecute God’s people, forcing them to head for the hills. And we’re seeing that pictured here when these spies spend three days in the mountains, hiding from the men who were hunting them.

What an amazing God we have! He gave His people in Israel instructions as to how to live during the Tribulation in a Book that can only be described as an *illustrated* instruction manual, a guidebook that is positively *brimming* with illustrations from Israel’s past. An awesome God like that is worthy of all the service you can give Him. Amen! 



Transformed by Grace Regional Conference

Saturday, May 20th (9am-4pm)

WHEATON COLLEGE

501 College Avenue, Wheaton, Illinois

Speaker: Pastor Kevin Sadler BBS President

For more information or to **register** for this free conference, please contact BBS at 262-255-4750 or berean@bereanbiblesociety.org



BBS Letter Excerpts

From Washington:

"I have been a follower of BBS for close to 20 years since my conversion to God's grace and understanding dispensationalism. Thank you for being the driving force in my conversion from a non-Christian gang member in prison to a firm believer in Christ and His finished work. I loved Stam's teachings....I just moved...with basically just the clothes on my back... could you change my *Searchlight* address to here?"

From Illinois:

"After reading *Two Minutes with the Bible* for five years—that's how I got saved. The light bulb finally came on!"

From North Carolina:

"I was diagnosed with pancreatic/liver cancer. Thank you to Pastor Kevin, whose timely *Transformed by Grace* messages on Joseph were encouraging to me and my husband. BBS has been a beacon of light and encouragement to us for many years. Praying for BBS every day."

From Alabama:

"I am a believer in the message of the content on your website. I am a Sunday school teacher in a Southern Missionary Baptist Church, so I struggle with the literature I am basically forced to use." (Pray for this brother! –Ed).

From our Inbox:

"Pastor, please don't ever retire.... We just watched your six-part series on the mysteries we are supposed to be stewards of on your *Transformed by Grace* channel. First of all, we loved it. Is this available in written format? You really brought it all (so many things) together with Scripture. Again, thanks so much.... Understanding is power."

From Missouri:

"Thank you so very much for the end of the year surprise you had for us with the preview of the new Bible that you so nicely wove into your article. I really enjoyed getting to see a peek at the layout, and your explanation was very easy to understand where the further information could be found in the resource. I am so PUMPED about the new Bible!"

From California:

"Thanks so much for that article. Very helpful! I should just buy the FAQ books! I am looking forward to the conference in March in Banning, California."

From British Columbia:

"The *More Minutes* message 'The Beginning from the End' by J. C. O'Hair...is a very important and well-done survey of dispensations, truth dividing, and the grace gospel. I say this because these subjects are not easily understood by traditional believers, so it's important to offer this kind of detail...so more people will recognize 'the mystery' given to Paul."

From Georgia:

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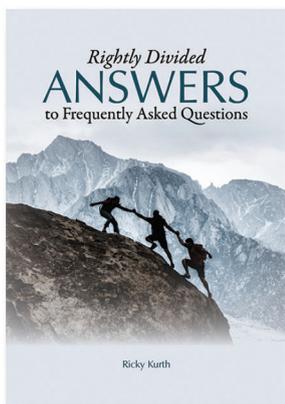
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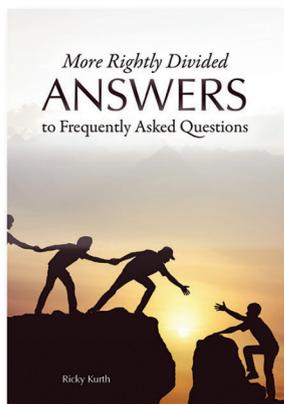
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News and Announcements

New gospel tract: The religious world about us has certainly made a mess out of Christmas and Easter, but don't let that get you down. BBS founder Pastor C. R. Stam always encouraged *Searchlight* readers to use these religious holidays to get the gospel out. With that in mind, BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler has written a new tract entitled *He's Alive*. You can read the text of this new tract in its entirety on pages 19-20, and you can find information about how to order it on page 28.

Northeast Ohio Bible Conference: Now that Pastor David Adams is with the Lord, we're delighted that Pastor Michael Morris has chosen to continue to host an annual Bible conference at *First Grace Gospel Church*. If you feel the same way, mark May 12-14 on your calendar, and make plans to spend that weekend studying the Scriptures with *Berean Searchlight* editor Pastor Ricky Kurth. Pastor Morris can field your questions about the details if you reach out to him at 440-997-8191, or at counting91bluecars@yahoo.com.

Pastoral Opportunity: If you're a grace pastor looking for a church, *Grace Bible Church* of Nokomis, Florida, just might be looking for you. Founded in 1972 by Pastor Byron Richardson, this church has been making all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery ever since. If you'd like to lead the charge as they embark on their next 50 years of faithfulness, email them at board@GBFCFlorida.com. Who knows, you could be the next pastor of this church of warm-hearted saints located in a warm-weather state.

First Things First: Our BBS board of directors has made the difficult decision to postpone any BBS tours of Greece or Israel until after the completion of our *Grace Study Bible*. We know that those of you who had hoped to tour with us will find this news disappointing, but we trust your disappointment will be somewhat assuaged by knowing just how focused we are on hastening the day when grace believers everywhere will be able to hold in their hands a mid-Acts dispensational reference Bible.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Arizona Bible Conference, March 24-26, Sun City West, Arizona

California Bible Conference, March 24-26, Banning, California

Northeast Ohio Bible Conference, May 12-14, Ashtabula, Ohio

Transformed by Grace Regional Conference, May 20, Chicago, Illinois

GOSPEL TRACTS and CHARTS

(This is only a partial price list. For a full price list please see our website or contact BBS.)



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- The Teachings of Christ

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- Gambling with Eternity

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- How To Please God
- If You Keep Trying You'll Never Succeed
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 - According to the Scriptures booklet
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\$3.00 each -or- 10 pack for \$18.00



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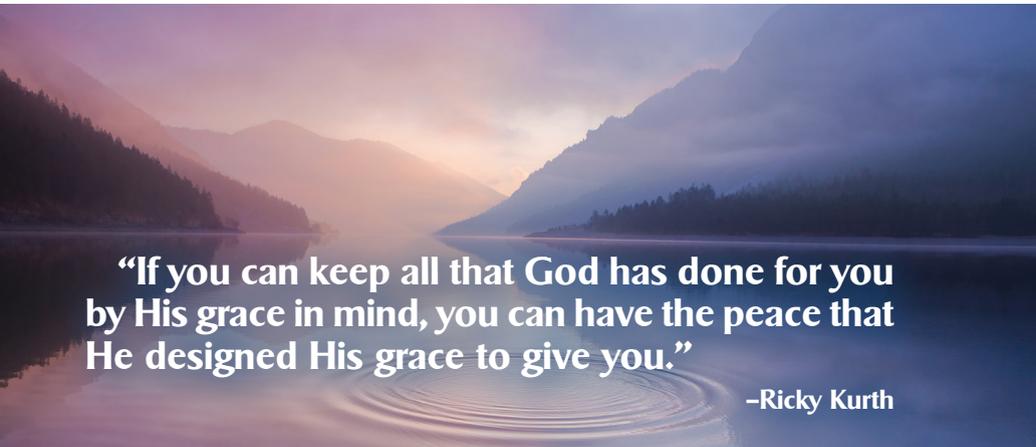
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by His grace in mind, you can have the peace that
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—Ricky Kurth

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