



THE CORNERSTONE

November 2017

Dr. Andy Woods Begins New S.S. Class

The focus of this class will be on "**Ecclesiology**," which is otherwise known as the "**Doctrine of the Church**." The material for this teaching will be taken from a class that Pastor Andy regularly taught at the College of Biblical Studies entitled "Angels, Church, and Prophecy." This class will focus on biblical Ecclesiology, which is the study of what the Bible reveals concerning the doctrine of the church.

- What is the church?
- What is its purpose?
- Why does the church exist?
- What are the biblical metaphors used to depict the church?
- How is the local church to be governed?
- How are its leaders qualified and what are its leaders supposed to be doing?

We will pursue these and many other similar questions in this important study.

- **First**, we will be doing our teaching in the sanctuary.
- **Second**, the sessions will be recorded and archived for the benefit of our missionaries, who sometimes need theological guidance in certain areas.
- **Third**, the basic format will include teaching from 9:45 to 10:40AM, which will be followed by questions and answers from 10:40 to 10:45 AM. The class will conclude sharply at 10:45AM so as to allow ample time to prepare for our morning worship service, which will begin at 11:00 AM sharp.
- We are excited to be offering this new class for the benefit of the saints at Sugar Land Bible Church. We hope and pray that many will take advantage of it. We are looking forward to what God will do through these sessions of study in "His Word."



As a supporter of **Village Ministries**, you know that we are called to teach people the Word of God and train them for ministry so that they can, in turn, reach others within their own country. Currently, Village Ministrie's partners with 21 missionaries around the world and you might be surprised at the scope and variety of activities that Village Ministries has implemented as we walk out our calling.

- **Bible Distribution.** **Village Ministries seeks** to answer the great demand of Bibles in rural village churches by providing them to pastors and families. Although Bibles cost little by our standards, the cost is often beyond the reach of rural villagers or are simply not available. In the last five years VMI has been blessed to be involved in distributing over 200,000 Bibles to those in need. Through the giving of these Bibles seeds are being sown and watered for a great spiritual harvest.
- **Foundations & Essentials.** *Foundations: Building in the Faith* is available in more than 30 languages and is used to train pastors and Christian workers through conferences and one-on-one mentoring. *Essentials* is an abridged version of *Foundations* that provides the new Believer with a brief overview of the Bible and basic study principles. All publications are provided free of cost to the extent the Lord provides funds for printing. The most recent translations of *Foundations* and *Essentials* include Mandarin and Arabic with French to be completed by the end of this year. The Lord is already opening doors for these new translations.
- **New Materials.** *Foundations II: That You May Know* is the second book in the *Foundations'* series. It is a basic apologetics book written in very simple English for easy translation. Publishing of the book will begin once field-testing and final editing is complete and the Lord provides funds for printing.
- **Pastor Conferences.** Three-day conferences held in central host locations to which rural pastors and Christian leaders travel. Village Ministries covers the conference expenses that include renting the conference venue and the travel costs, lodging and meals for the local missionary and participants. Pastors often travel two to three days to reach the host location to receive the training. Due





Andy Woods—Pastor

DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS, PART 13

In this series of articles, we are exploring a very important Bible prophecy, which is generally referred to as Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks, found in Daniel 9:24-27. In the first installment, we explained the background of the giving of this prophecy. With this background information in mind, we then turned our attention to a textual analysis of Daniel 9:24-27. We began to break the prophecy down into ten manageable facts. As the reader tracks with me through the presentation of these ten facts, concepts, or ideas, he will develop a very clear understanding of the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. In turn, he will be rewarded by the Holy Spirit with greater confidence that the Bible is indeed God's Word, and he will also obtain a blueprint or timeline through which he can understand how all end time events predicted in the Bible will ultimately come to pass.

We then noted our *first* fact, which is the idea that the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks concerns the nation of Israel in general and the City of Jerusalem in particular. As previously noted, this prophecy has nothing to do with the present age of the Church. We then noted a *second* feature, which is the notion that the prophecy consists of a 490-year stop watch. We then noted our *third* feature, which is the idea that each year of Daniel's 490-year stopwatch consists of 360 days. We then introduced our *fourth* feature, which is the idea that at the end of Daniel's 490-year period Israel will be politically and spiritually restored. Our *fifth* fact pertains to the notion that Daniel's 490-year stop watch began to run on March 5, 444 B.C. Our *sixth* fact indicated that exactly 483 years elapsed between the beginning of the prophecy (March 5, 444 B.C.) and when the Messiah formally presented His messianic credentials to the nation of Israel on Palm Sunday (March 30, A.D. 33). In other words, the first 69 weeks of the prophecy were fulfilled to the exact day. *Seventh*, in between the conclusion of the first 69 weeks of the prophecy but before the elapsing of the prophecy's 70th week, there exists a gap of an unspecified duration of time. *Eighth*, the unelapsed portion of the Seventy Weeks prophecy comprises the future Tribulation period. We are now prepared to offer our *ninth* fact.

Fact # 9: The Final Seven Years of the Prophecy (as Depicted in Daniel 9:27) Provides a General Overview of the Future Tribulation Period

We are now ready to move on to fact number 9, which is the idea that Daniel 9:27 provides a general overview or thumb-nail sketch of the future Tribulation period. The overview is given in Daniel 9:27, which represents the part of the prophecy that is yet to come and that has not yet transpired. Daniel 9:27 says, "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate." In other words, when you look at Daniel 9:27 what you're seeing is in blueprint form the coming seven-year Tribulation period.

In fact, we can discern *four* basic facts about this time. *First*, we know, for example, that it will last seven years. How do I know it will last seven years? I know it will last seven years because one "seven," or "week," or *shabua*, or seven-year period remains on Daniel's 490-year clock. Daniel 9:27 makes a reference two times to this coming "week," or "seven," when it says, "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for *one week*, but in the middle of *the week* he will put a

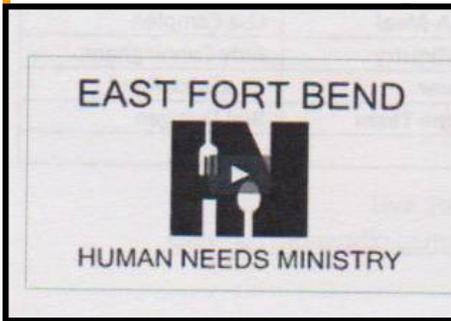
stop to sacrifice and grain offering" (*italics added*). Thus, we can know exactly how long the Tribulation period is going to last. Some think the notion of a seven-year Tribulation period is merely contrived. Yet, the basis of this idea is found in Daniel 9:27.

Second, we can also know exactly what will start the Tribulation period. What is it that is going to take God's hand off the pause button and put it back on the start button of this 490-year stopwatch? Daniel 9:27 clarifies this point when it says, "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week." So, what will start the Tribulation period is someone called by the pronoun "he" making a "covenant with the many." Now, "the many" is a reference to the nation of Israel. Daniel 11:33 tells us that "the many" is in relation to Israel. Daniel 11:33 says, "Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to *the many*; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days" (*italics added*). Furthermore, as we saw back in fact number 1, this entire prophecy concerns the nation of Israel and the City of Jerusalem because the prophecy is specifically related to Daniel's people and city (Dan. 9:24). So, somebody known as "he" will step forward at a point in time and they will enter into a peace treaty or a peace covenant with unbelieving Israel.

Now the question is who is this "he" who will do this? As we simply continue to read the rest of verse 27 we learn "he" is the same man who will apparently rule the world for forty-two months or three and one-half years before the temple is desecrated. Cross references tell us exactly who this will be. It will be the coming Antichrist. Revelation 13:5 reveals that the Antichrist will rule the world for forty-two months when it says, "There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him." Daniel 7:25 teaches the same truth when it says, "He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time." A time, times, and half a time refers to a forty-two month or a three and a half year period of time.

Also, we know that this same "he" will desecrate the temple in the middle of the future seven-year Tribulation period. Daniel 9:27 goes on to say, "in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate." Other cross references reveal exactly who will fulfill this prophecy. Paul tells us it will be the coming Antichrist or lawless one. Second Thessalonians 2:3-4 predicts, "Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God."

We also know that this same "he" will be personally overthrown by Jesus Christ. It talks at the end of the verse about the end being poured out on the temple desolator. Daniel 9:27 concludes by predicting, "...even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate." We know from other Scripture references that Jesus Christ is going to overthrow the Antichrist with the breath of His mouth and the splendor of His coming. Second Thessalonians 2:8-9 makes this very clear when it says, "Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders." Revelation 19:20 similarly predicts, "And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone." Thus, the "he" is the same person that other verses tell us will reign for forty-two months, desecrate the Jewish temple, and be personally over-



Holiday Food Baskets are distributed during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and include everything needed to cook a traditional holiday meal, including a turkey.

Clients are required to pre-register/sign up to receive a holiday basket on a specified day and then return to pick up the food on a designated day prior to the holiday.

2017 Holiday Basket Program *Thanksgiving and Christmas*

What to Donate:

Sugar (2lb &/or 4lb) | Flour (2lb &/or 4lb) | Pie Filling | Mashed Potatoes (all sizes) | Frosting
Turkey/Chicken Gravy | Green Beans (15oz cans) | Corn (15oz cans) | Yams (29oz &/or 40oz) | Pumpkin (29oz)



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Scripture for the Month: Matthew 24: 3-8:

As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. "But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

to the lack of financial means, this is the first formal Bible training virtually all of them have the opportunity to attend. The attendees are given a copy of *Foundations* in their language for personal study with additional copies given to take home to teach others. The surprise on their faces and thanksgiving in their smiles for the training and additional copies of *Foundations* to teach others demonstrate how valuable the training and materials are.

- **Ladies Conferences.** Ladies conferences are held when possible in conjunction with Vacation Bible School, Camp or a Pastor Conference. For most of the attendees, the event is the first woman-focused event they have the opportunity to attend. These events provide Christian women the opportunity to worship together, learn from one another, and be encouraged in their personal walk with the Lord while equipping them for their role within their church, community and family.
- **Bi-vocational Projects.** These projects, which consist of startup funds and training to establish a small business, enable a pastor or ministry to be financially self-sufficient looking to the Lord for His provision and reducing their dependence on others. Projects include livestock, farming and small service businesses. These projects will free up resources to spread the Word in other areas.
- **Special Needs.** Village Ministries' missionary partners sacrificially serve, many times exhausting their own personal resources to help those in need in their area of ministry. As a result, Village Ministries assists our missionaries with urgent medical needs, vehicle repairs and replacement when needed, building maintenance, and education fees for their children as the Lord provides the funding. It is a blessing to watch the Lord provide for our local missionary partners.
- **Short-term Missions.** By providing outreach opportunities on the mission field, Village Ministries partners with American churches and individuals to evangelize, equip and serve those in need. Through these edifying mission trips both recipients and team members are encouraged and strengthened in their faith.

As you can see, there are a lot of ongoing projects within this small ministry. It is exciting to be a part of an organization the Lord is blessing. Village Ministries may be small in the eyes of the world, but I believe that God is reminding us of the principle in the miracle of the loaves and fishes, a little in the hands of the Lord is a lot.

But He said to them, "You give them something to eat!" And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless perhaps we go and buy food for all these people." (For there were about five thousand men.) And He said to His disciples, "Have them recline to eat in groups of about fifty each." And they did so, and had them all recline. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them, and broke them, and kept giving them to the disciples to set before the multitude. And they all ate and were satisfied; and the broken pieces which they had left over were picked up, twelve baskets full. Luke 9:13-17

Blessings,
Win Noren, Director of Operations

thrown by Jesus Christ. Other passages inform us that the Antichrist will do these things. Putting all the biblical data together, we know that the "he" of Daniel 9:27 is the future Antichrist.

So, this "he" who is coming onto the world scene will be the coming Antichrist. One day the rapture of the church will occur. Then, there will be nothing left to restrain the man of sin (2 Thess. 2:6-7). He will go forward to unbelieving Israel with an olive branch and he will enter into a peace treaty with the nation of Israel. Isaiah refers to such an agreement as "a covenant with death," and "a pact" with "*Sheol*" (Isa. 28:15). This description is appropriate since Israel will enter into the covenant with the Satanically inspired Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:9) who, in turn, will ultimately betray the nation by desecrating her temple at the Tribulation period's mid-point. The moment the nation, which will still be in unbelief, acquiesces to this treaty is the moment God will put His finger back on the start button of Daniel's prophecy and the final seven years remaining on this stop watch will begin to elapse. Remember, based on the previously discussed fact number *seven*, God's finger has been on the pause button ever since Palm Sunday. However, one of these days, this peace treaty will occur and God will put His finger back on the start button. This treaty inaugurating the final seven years of the prophecy will be just as real as the decree with Artaxerxes (Neh. 2) that we studied under fact number *four* which initially began the clock. Although we do not know exactly when this will happen, it is destined to take place at some future point.

Now, a very common misunderstanding is that the rapture will start the Tribulation period. However, this is not true. The rapture is something that pertains to the church. The church is currently, as Paul explains it in 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7, restraining the man of sin. Second Thessalonians 2:6-7 says, "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming." But one day the church will be removed from the earth. The rapture will take place. There will be nothing left to hold back the man of sin. At some point, most likely not too long after the rapture (although we do not know for sure), the Antichrist will enter into this peace treaty with national Israel. The moment that this peace treaty is entered into is the moment God's finger, which has been on the pause button for these last two-thousand years, will go back onto the start button and the final seven-year countdown will begin to take place. So, it will not be the rapture of the church which will start the seven-year Tribulation period. Rather, the Tribulation's inauguration will coincide with the peace treaty between the Antichrist and the nation of Israel.

(To Be Continued...)

Children & Youth 2017 Christmas Program
Rehearsals are every Wednesday starting @
4:30 pm from now until December 6, 2017.
Please join us even if you are not able to
make it every week or if you need to come a
bit later. We have a lot of parts and I am sure
we have the perfect one for you!



Christmas performance will be Sunday December 17, 2017 from
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Ladies Ministry Upcoming Events

November 11– Ladies Brookwood Excursion

November 18—Secret Sisters' Reveal

December 9—Ladies' Christmas Soup & Salad—5 PM



Men's Breakfast



Saturday, December 2



8:00 am

Alex Garcia will be this month's speaker.

All men and teenage boys are invited to attend.

Church-Wide Christmas Events



December 13—Church-wide Gingerbread Houses—7pm

December 17—Children's Christmas Program—6pm

December 24—Candlelight Service—



6pm