



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 36 YEARS
1982-2018"



THE CORNERSTONE

SEPTEMBER 2018

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Tuesday
September 11, 2018



Ruth— a story of:

God's sovereignty at
work in the lives of His people.

Key Verse: Ruth 1: 16-17

Morning Classes - Tuesday at 9:00 am
Evening Classes—Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Betty Cooke—Teaching Evening Class
Patricia Chandler—Teaching Morning Class

Missions for the Month



English Summer Camp, China, 2018

This July twenty-one teachers traveled to China to teach English and to share the Gospel in three public high schools and in private settings. Both Jackie Langelier and Betty Cooke from Sugar Land Bible Church went on the trip.

Everyone loved making new friends and connecting with old friends. Additionally, the team sang Christian songs when possible. After two weeks of teaching, several teachers toured parts of China, especially near Chongqing and Anji.



Thank you for your prayers and support during this time! Praise God for His provision and protection!

Betty Cooke



Andy Woods—Pastor

Twenty-Four Church and Israel Distinctions (Part 2)

One of the most rudimentary distinctions that the child of God needs to learn to rightly divide God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15) is the basic distinction between Israel and the Church. A common mistake in Bible interpretation is to take God's promises that are aimed at national Israel and instead to indiscriminately apply them to the Church and consequently the Church Age believer. There are, at a bare minimum, at least twenty-four differences between the Church and Israel. The purpose of this series is to highlight these basic differences. In the last installment, we saw the following distinction:

while Israel is the wife of Jehovah, the Church is the bride of Christ.

Distinction Number 2: The Birthing Order

Jesus came into our world through the nation of Israel and that is why Matthew in his genealogy in Matthew 1:1-18 is very clear that Jesus' lineage goes all the way back, first to David, and ultimately back to Abraham. Why does Christ's Matthean genealogy, written to a Jewish audience, go back to Abraham? Abraham represents the beginning of the nation of Israel. Jesus was not a Presbyterian, He was not a Methodist. He was not a Southern Baptist. He was not even a member of a Bible Church. He was as Jewish as they come because the nation of Israel gave birth to Christ. God blessed the world through Israel (Gen. 12:3) and one of those blessings, the most dominant blessing, is the Messiah Himself. Jesus was Jewish all the way. There was Jewish blood running through His veins from beginning to end. As you go through the Gospels what do you see Jesus constantly doing? He goes to Jerusalem to honor the Jewish various feasts (Lev. 23; John 10:22-24), which is what Jewish people do and did.

Compare this to the Church. Did the Church give birth to Jesus Christ? No, it is the other way around, isn't it? Christ gave birth to the Church. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, "I will build My Church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." You see, the Church is a product of Christ, but with Israel it's the exact opposite. Christ is a product of Israel.

Distinction Number 3: Christ's Return

When is Jesus coming back for the nation of Israel? He is coming back for the nation of Israel at the end of the Tribulation period when Israel cites Psalm 118:26, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." In fact, Matthew 23:37 says, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling." That word "gather" is very important. It is the Greek word *episynagō*. This word *synagō* sounds like synagogue, doesn't it? What is a synagogue? It represents a place of a Jewish gathering. Therefore, when Jesus came to Israel the first time He wanted to have synagogue with the nation. He wanted to gather them together and be with them.

Christ then gives this beautiful metaphor in Matthew 23:37-39, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling."³⁸ Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!³⁹ For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'" The problem was not Me, Jesus says. The problem was you, first-century Israel, because "you were unwilling." Jesus' point was, speaking to the nation of Israel, I am not going to have synagogue with you. I am not going to come back and gather you nationally until you acknowledge Me as your Messiah, which you have never done.

Matthew 23 is followed by Matthew twenty-four, which is a description of the Tribulation period. The Great Tribulation is the instrument that God is going to use to pressure Israel to trust in Christ. When you think about it, is not tribulation of some sort the instrument that God uses in every person's life? God brings people to Himself through tribulation. That is what He has done in my life and it is probably what He is doing or has done in your life as well. The Great Tribulation period is described in Matthew 24:21-22, "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.²² Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."

This will be a time of unparalleled distress, and what is the result? Verse 31 says, "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other." Notice that "gather" is used again here. Do you recall the Greek word for "gather?" It is *episynagō*, and, as mentioned previously, that is where we get the word synagogue. Jesus essentially here says, I wanted to do this when I came to you the first time, but you would not have Me. So, you are going into a time of unparalleled distress where you are going to recognize that everything you have trusted in has failed. Then you are going to acknowledge Me as the Messiah when you will cite Psalm 118:26, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." Then I will gather you. When Jesus returns for Israel, it is not talking about the Rapture. Rather we are talking about the Second Advent at the end of the Tribulation period to gather them and protect them from the Satanically energized Antichrist who will be trying to eradicate them. Therefore, as I understand it, Christ will come back for Israel in His Second Advent at the end of the Tribulation period.

How about the Church? When is Jesus coming back for us? He is not coming back for us at the end of the Tribulation period. Rather, He is coming back for us in an event called the Rapture where He will take us to the Father's house for seven years while the events of the Tribulation period transpire on the earth below. You will find a description of this event first alluded to by Christ in John 14:1-4, "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.² In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.⁴ And you know the way where I am going." What you will start to see is that God is coming back for Israel in a specific time and He's coming back for the Church in a completely different time.

Here in John 14:1-4 is the birth of a doctrine called the Rapture of the Church, which is heavily attacked today. One of the reasons it is attacked is because the devil hates it. Why? Because it is the blessed hope of the Church (Titus 2:13). Some interesting background on this doctrine involves understanding how it was discovered. The doctrine has always been in the pages of God's Word, but the man who brought it out to the forefront was a man named John Nelson Darby. Despite what you read about him on the internet, in my estimation he was one of the good guys. He lived in Ireland in the 1800's. He was a man of God who was baptizing around a hundred people a week. God was using him greatly in his parish. Then he got into a horse-riding accident and broke his leg. Now remember, this is in the 1800's. It was prior to X-ray machines and hyperbaric chambers and all the other medical advances that we have today. As a result, the only thing he could do was to remain immobilized and try to heal. This was obviously before cable TV. Consequently, Darby was studying his Bible during this time of convalescence. What were the results of his endless hours of study? He concluded that the Scripture is the final authority, even over Church traditions. He also committed himself to a literal, grammatical, historical approach to Scripture interpretation in all areas of Bible doctrine, including end-time prophecy. Guess what he began to see? He began discovering that Israel and the Church are indeed distinct programs of God. He noticed what we today call dispensational divisions. He brought to light the area of premillennialism, and of course, this doctrine of the Rapture.

As a side note, Darby had a legal background. So did Cyrus Ingerson Scofield, who went on to further advance Dispensationalism. Why is it that both Darby and Scofield noticed that Israel and the Church are two distinct programs? Because a lawyer, perhaps more than any other profession, understands the legality behind contract law. When two parties engage in a legal contract those parties are bound by the conditions of the

contract. In Scripture, both Darby and Scofield saw that the covenants that God had with Israel were indeed legally binding contracts between Himself and the nation of Israel. They understood that the Abrahamic Covenant was *unconditional*, meaning that God obligated Himself to fulfill the terms of the covenant independent of Israel's actions. It is important to understand that this theology is derived from the biblical text based on the understanding of these legal binding contracts, or covenants. As you understand the binding nature of these covenants that God made with Israel, you will quickly realize that there is a future for Israel and that the Church did not inherit Israel's promises. In fact, God made contracts with Israel long before the Church was ever in existence.

During his time of convalescence, Darby saw that Israel and the Church are different simply because they are *described* completely different. In other words, if Israel and the Church are different, if they are two trains on different railroad tracks, if they are two distinct and separate programs of God, then guess what? Christ is coming back at a different time for the Church as compared to Israel. As a result, his understanding of this Israel-Church distinction led him to believe in a *Pretribulational* Rapture. If you believe that Israel and the Church are different, not just different people, but different divine programs entirely, then the proper foundation has already been established for you to believe in a *Pretribulational* Rapture. That is the way it worked for Darby and Scofield, and that is also what I believe. I do not theologically place the Church into Israel's end-time program because Israel and the Church are two separate programs. Therefore, this third difference shows us how Christ is coming back for Israel at the Second Advent, which takes place at the end of the Tribulation period. It also shows us how Christ is coming back for the Church in what is called the Rapture at the end of the Church Age, which can happen at any moment.

What have we seen thus far? Israel is different than the Church in the sense that Israel is the wife of Jehovah and the Church is the bride of Christ. Furthermore, Israel birthed Christ whereas Christ birthed the Church. In addition, Christ will return for the Church in the Rapture while Christ will return for Israel at the end of the Tribulation period. These major distinctions constitute the first three of the twenty-four differences that will be highlighted in this series.

(To Be Continued...)



Scripture for the Month:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

SLBC Wednesday Night Schedule!

Beginning September 5

6:00—Dinner

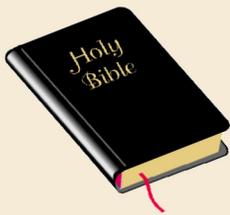
6:30—Games for Kids Klub

6:45—Prayer in Sanctuary

7:00—Adult Bible Study

Kids Klub Bible Study and Activities

Child Care is Provided for Children under 4 years of age.



Tuesday Schedule:

Ladies Bible Study—9:00 am

Ladies Bible Study—7:00 pm

Men's Bible Study—8:00 pm

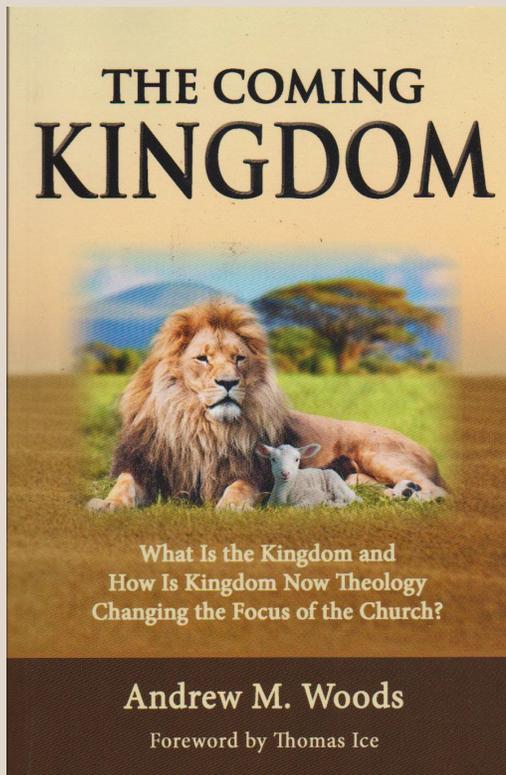
Kids Klub

Kids will enjoy Games and Play time at 6:30 pm

At 7:00 pm we will be Singing songs
and studying and memorizing the
book of 1Peter chapter 1



Sugar Land Bible Church



Wednesday Evenings Bible Study Beginning September 5, 2018,

Pastor Andy Woods will be teaching Wednesday night Bible study at Sugar Land Bible Church for the Fall quarter as he continues his ongoing series on the Kingdom.

The material for this teaching will be the Bible but also biblical material as organized in Pastor Andy's 2016 book entitled "**The Coming Kingdom.**" This book was given out as a free resource to all SLBC members

and regular attenders. More copies will be supplied to all who desire to come to this class.

This class will ask and answer three basic questions:

1. what does the Bible say about the subject of the kingdom?
2. What are the key passages that many utilize to argue that we are in the kingdom now?
3. Why does it matter what one believes about the kingdom?

The sessions will be videotaped and archived for the benefit of our missionaries who sometimes need theological guidance in certain areas and for the benefit of our growing online church. The basic format will include prayer from 6:45 to 7 PM, teaching from 7 to 8 PM, and questions and answers from 8 to 8:15 PM. We understand that some will have to leave at 8 pm sharp to collect their children and so they may not be able to stick around for the question and answer session. 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 this opportunity. We are looking forward to what God will do through these sessions of study in "His Word."

Baptism



We have scheduled 2
Baptism Classes
(attendance at only one is
required). Please see the
dates below:

- Sunday, October 7, 2018
- Sunday, October 14, 2018

These classes will be held during the normal Sunday School hour (9:45AM – 10:45AM), in the Conference Room #107, across from the Church Library (unless otherwise noted).

The subsequent Baptismal Service will be held on — October 21, 2018 at Wayne Pittman's home located at 207 Lombardy, Sugar Land, TX 77478 in the Venetian Estates Subdivision

If you or a family member desire to be baptized, please respond to this email as soon as possible with the full name of the Candidate for Baptism as it should appear on the Baptismal Certificate.

Also, please take time to carefully review the information in the attached "A Baptism Guide for Adults, Parents, and Children" with each candidate for baptism, BEFORE the class meets.

**SLBC POLICY REQUIRES THAT ALL CANDIDATES
FOR BAPTISM ATTEND "ONE" SCHEDULED BAPTISM CLASS
PRIOR TO BEING BAPTIZED.**