

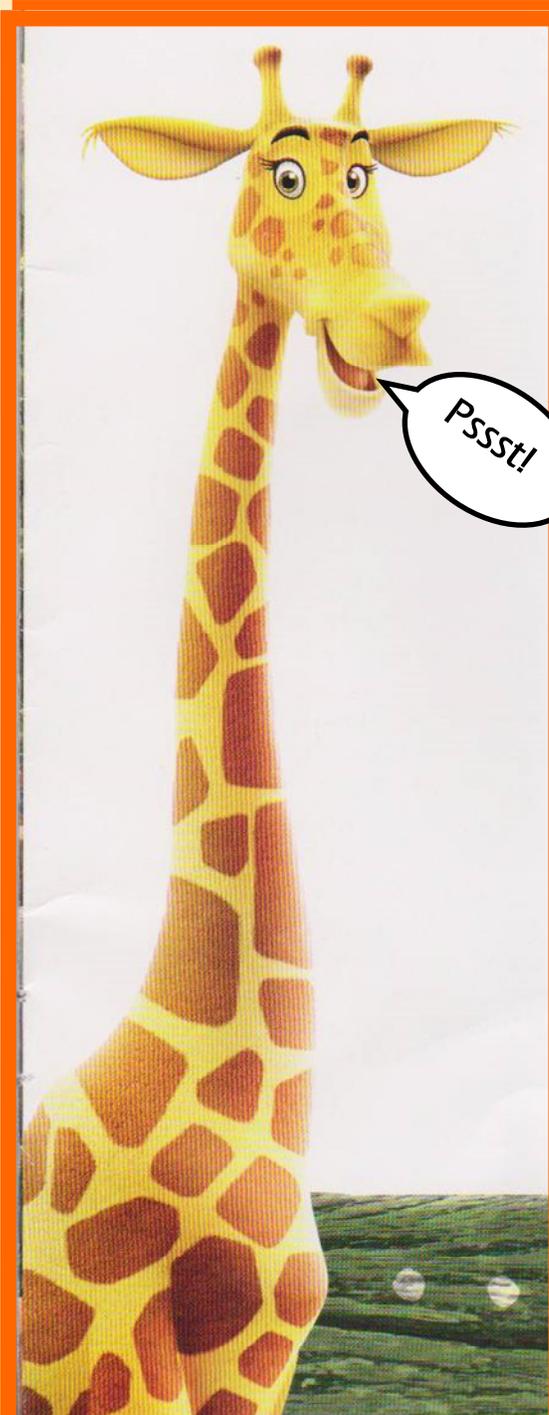


**SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH**  
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 37 YEARS"  
1982- 2019



## THE CORNERSTONE

**JUNE 2019**



### VBS!

It's that time!! We have already started our VBS workdays, so if you are available please come join the fun!!



We began on Wednesday 5/15 and Thursday 5/16 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm – Plan is to work on decorating the hallway., We have part of it completed, but there is still a whole lot of work left to do..

**Wednesday 5/22 and Thursday 5/23** from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Agenda to follow, but we will start working on the foyer and assembling the jeep. Gabe is in charge of this workday.

**Thursday 5/30** from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (light lunch provided) – Agenda to follow, but we will continue to work on the foyer and start any stage prep. Gabe in charge of this workday.

Starting 5/30, all ladies' bible studies and Wednesday night activities are over for the summer, so we have a more flexible schedule the week of **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Decorating really generates a lot of excitement and builds the anticipation. The plan is to have at least 1-2 workdays per week for the main VBS decorating leading up to the Ark trip, as well as any workdays for individual stations during this time. We will hit VBS hard starting the **first week in July**. If you are interested in helping, please contact KC at the Church.



## Missions for the Month



# *KHCB Radio Amistad*

Houston Christian Broadcasters, Inc.

Desde 1991



Last month, Rich and I visited the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, KY.

### **KHCB's Spanish Ministry Celebrates 28th Anniversary**

On April 1st, KHCB's Spanish ministry, Radio Amistad, (Friendship Radio) celebrated their 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Iglesia Cristo Vive, with a concert and Bible message. The Lord worked "far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us." (Ephesians 3:20-21). Pastor Henry Escobar preached a powerful expository message based on Numbers 14 in which he reminded everyone how God has redeemed us and how he has taken care of us throughout our lives just as He did for the children of Israel after He brought them out of Egypt. Many of those in attendance expressed a desire to renew their walk with the Lord. The event was also broadcast live across the 15 stations that are part of KHCB's Spanish network which spreads out across four states.

While adults enjoyed the service, children were ministered to by volunteers from the Reaching Out to Kids ministry. They spread a colorful parachute and invited kids to listen to a presentation of the Gospel.



**Andy Woods—Pastor**

## Twenty-Four Church and Israel Distinctions (Part 11)

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 prior installments, we saw the following distinctions: while Israel is the wife of Jehovah, the Church is the bride of Christ. Moreover, 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. Furthermore, while Jesus is the King of Israel, He is the groom and head of the Church. While eighty percent of the Bible relates to Israel, a mere twenty percent of it relates to the Church. Also, while Israel was a party to the Biblical covenants, the Church is a mere third-party beneficiary to them. In addition, another very significant difference between Israel and the Church is that the two entities have different birthdays. While Israel started in Genesis 12, the Church began in Acts 2. Moreover, while Israel is a political nation, the Church is a spiritual organism. Also, while Israel fought physical battles, the Church fights spiritual battles. Furthermore, although Israel is characterized by time texts and calendars, the Church has no similar timing characteristics. In addition, while Israel had a priesthood, the Church is a priesthood. Moreover, although Israel had a physical structure called the temple, today the temple of God consists of not only the believer's individual body but also the corporate gathering of God's people. Finally, not only will Israel and the Church be resurrected at different times, but they will also be judged at different times and places as well. In this installment, we will examine *two* further distinctions.

### Distinction Number 15: The Gates and Foundation Stones

Notice the giant eternal city that we read about in Revelation 21–22. Did you know that parts of that city represent Israel and other parts of that same city represent the Church? I would encourage you to read those chapters alongside Genesis 1–2, which are chapters explaining what the world was like before sin entered the world. By contrast, Revelation 21–22 are those chapters depicting what the world will be like *after* sin leaves the world. Those four biblical chapters taken together represent what is normal. Everything in between them, on the other hand, represents what is abnormal because of the entrance of sin into the world through the volition of the creature's decision to rebel against God. If you do not understand this perspective, then you lose hope! If this world and all its problems were all there ever was and all there ever will be, as reincarnation religions and evolutionary thought teaches, that would be a very depressing reality.

Christianity, however, has such a different point of view. We live with hope. We believe there was perfection before sin entered the world (Gen. 1–2) and there also will be perfection after sin leaves the world (Rev. 21–22). Evil is on a leash when you understand this correctly. Evil is finite and has its end coming. But only a belief in the absolute authority of God's Word and only a knowledge of those introductory chapters in the Book of Genesis and those concluding chapters in the Book of Revelation inform us of this hopeful reality. It is in these final chapters where we learn about this city, which is described as a giant cube and is currently in heaven. In fact, based on Galatians 4:25–26, this city *already* exists. It is just not fit to come down to this world because this world is cursed by sin (Gen. 3:17–19; Rom. 8:19–23). It is going to come down to the new heavens and new earth, which the Lord *will* create after the present heavens and earth are destroyed by fire (2 Pet. 3:10–13). Notice the present tense verb "is" as Paul writes in Galatians 4:25–26, "Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery

with her children. But the Jerusalem above *is* free; she is our mother” (italics added).

Revelation 21:16-17 tells us how large this city really is: “<sup>16</sup> The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. <sup>17</sup> And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements.” There is no reason not to take these numbers literally. Therefore, how big is this city? It would take up a little over half the size of the United States of America. Said another way, this city would stretch from Los Angeles, California to Houston, Texas which is about a twenty-two-hour drive. The way its dimensions are described, I do not see it as a pyramid, although some people see it as a pyramid. Rather, I look at it as being described as a cube being 1,500 miles in height, width, and length. All of this to say, this city will ultimately reside on the brand-new earth that God is going to create, and it will be laid out like a cube.

The book of Revelation, chapter 21 and verses 12-14 says, “<sup>12</sup> It had a great and high wall, with *twelve gates*, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the *twelve tribes of the sons of Israel*. <sup>13</sup> There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. <sup>14</sup> And the wall of the city had *twelve foundation stones*, and on them were the twelve names of the *twelve apostles of the Lamb*” (italics added). According to verse 12, the gates of this eternal city will be named after the twelve tribes of Israel. These twelve tribes represent the foundational infrastructure of the nation of Israel (Gen. 29–30). Thus, the gates of the city serve as a perpetual reminder of the beginning of God’s work with and through the nation of Israel. Revelation 21:14 reveals that each foundation stone of the city is named after one of the twelve apostles. The apostles are the foundational infrastructure of the Church. Ephesians 2:19-20 says that God built the *Church* on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets: “<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, <sup>20</sup> *having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone*” (italics added).

Interestingly, these gates are wide open, and they are never portrayed as closing or as being closed. This reality is very different than the Garden of Eden where the cherubim were stationed outside the garden after the Fall in order to prevent man, in his sinful condition, from going back into Eden and consequently eating again from the Tree of Life. Thus, after the Fall of man, Adam and Eve could not get back into Eden. You will see a description of this in Genesis 3:23-24, “<sup>23</sup> therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.”

All of this to say that all throughout eternity as we go in and out of the gates we will be perpetually reminded of Israel, because the gates are named after the tribes (Rev. 21:12). Similarly, every time you go in and out of a gate you will see a foundation stone. The foundation stones remind us of the Church because the foundational stones are named after the apostles (Rev. 21:14). I find it fascinating that all throughout eternity God keeps Israel and the Church in remembrance but separated through these conspicuous markers. There are many contemporary replacement theologians that apparently hate the idea that Israel and the Church are eternally separate, as represented by the gates and the foundational stones. However, every time you go in and out of a gate and glance upon the city’s foundational stones, the city’s residents will be perpetually reminded of God’s two great programs that He has used to bring His redemptive purposes to the human race, Israel and the Church.

## Distinction Number 16: Becoming A Member

How do you become a member of the nation of Israel? You must be a genealogical, physical descendant of Abraham, Isaac, *and* Jacob. Unless this genealogical connection can first be established, you do not have any



Andrea Altamirano Mendez gave this report about the response from the kids: "We thank the Lord for the great opportunity to share the gospel in this beautiful event. Nine children heard the message of salvation of which five received the Lord Jesus as their Savior."

Radio Amistad continues to faithfully "Proclaim the Truth", so that God's name may be glorified through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Last month we conducted a survey of listeners and 159 people took the time to give us their opinions, comments, and suggestions about programming. We are still tabulating the results but I want to share what two listeners said about how Radio Amistad has impacted them.

*"I used to listen to other stations but they are not as motivating as Radio Amistad. I love it because of the level of people involved. They have university education, they know how to express themselves and transmit their secular and spiritual knowledge. They are brothers ready to motivate and exhort others"*

*"Personally, I consider you the best radio station on the AM band because your programming is entirely educational in social, spiritual, political, and especially life issues. Radio Amistad impresses me with its staff: very effective, serious, faithful and above all, their vision that opens and builds paths to life."*

We give all the glory to God because He has given us the message of eternal life that we proclaim on Radio Amistad. Without the Lord Jesus, we would have no message or word of encouragement to share on the air. Thank you for empowering us through your offering. Together, we are bringing hope to a

\*This Article was adapted from several Amistad News Letters!)

Sirviendo al Rey,

Dolly Martin  
Directora, Radio Amistad



## “WHO’s Who at SLBC”

by Ashlynn Morris

# Sunday School

We have an amazing Sunday school and Junior church program for our little ones here at SLBC, which means we have amazing teachers. One of those teachers is Miss Sydney Reichardt. She works as the nursery coordinator, Junior church coordinator, VBS administrative assistant, and her personal favorite, a Pre-primary teacher. Her favorite thing about her job as a Pre-primary teacher is that she loves to teach the kiddos about the Lord and watch them soak in His Word. I have helped in her class and have seen first hand her enthusiasm, patience and willingness to help kids learn about Jesus.



Sydney is the oldest child of Brian and Jodie Rechartd, and has two brothers. She has attended SLBC for most of her life. I asked her what her favorite bible verse was and she said, “My favorite bible verse is Daniel 3:18 because it reminds me that God is always faithful even when we are in bad situations.” Her favorite attribute of God is His faithfulness because, “I love seeing him work in difficult situations in our lives.”

Miss Reichardt currently goes to school for dance and is pursuing a career in teaching dance to high school students. “I can’t wait to help high school students find a creative outlet through dance,” she said. Sydney also loves reading books, especially in the mystery genre, and her favorite dessert is red velvet cupcakes.

Sydney is a wonderful friend and is known for her cheerfulness. She has a wonderful servant’s heart and would love to meet you if she hasn’t met you already.



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Pastor Andy Woods programs airs 10AM, 4PM, 10PM, 4AM weekly and 6AM to 10AM Saturdays CST. For a complete program schedule and to download the free app visit: [www.graceglobalradio.org](http://www.graceglobalradio.org)

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## Scripture of the Month



### Psalm 96:1-5

**A Call to Worship the Lord the Righteous Judge.**

Sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

right calling yourself a member of the Hebrew race. Everyone else outside this lineage is a Gentile. However, within Israel there is a believing Israel and an unbelieving Israel. Who is God going to fulfill His covenants through, unbelieving Israel or believing Israel? God is going to fulfill His covenants through believing Israel. This is what John the Baptist was saying in Matthew 3:7-9 to the Jews of the first century: “<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ <sup>8</sup>Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; <sup>9</sup>and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.” John the Baptist’s point is do not take pride in the fact that you are sons of Abraham because God could raise up rocks to be sons of Abraham. Rather, what impresses God is not just being a Hebrew but rather a *believing* Hebrew.

Paul, in the book of Romans, chapter 2 and verse 28 says, “For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.” Also, Romans 9:6 says, “But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel.” In other words, what God is impressed with is not just being a Jew but being a *believing* Jew. Furthermore, Revelation 2:9 and Revelation 3:9 refers to people that call themselves Jews but who are of “a synagogue of Satan.” Jesus speaking to the Church at Smyrna in Revelation 2:9 says, “I know your Tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not but are a *synagogue of Satan*.” Also, Jesus speaking to the Church at Philadelphia in Revelation 3:9 says, “Behold, I will cause those of the *synagogue of Satan*, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you” (italics added). Thus, to be a Jew you must be a physical descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Yet, that, in and of itself, is not enough in terms of having God’s hand of approval upon you and Him fulfilling His covenants through you. You not only need to be a Hebrew, but you must be a Hebrew in faith.

You see, just by putting a few of these pieces together that we have learned thus far, you might begin to say to yourself, “aha, that is what the purpose of the Tribulation period is for!” The purpose of the Tribulation period is so God can purge off the unbelievers *within* Israel and consequently preserve for Himself a believing remnant. Remember the judgment that we mentioned in the last installment in Ezekiel 20:33-44, which involved Israel at the end of the Tribulation period? That is exactly the purpose of that judgment. God will purge off unbelieving Israel and allow believing Israel to enter the millennial kingdom. God will fulfill His national covenants in the kingdom age through the believing remnant of Israel.

Zechariah 13:8-9 similarly indicates that in the Tribulation period two-thirds of Jews will be purged away and the remnant will consist of only one third. Zechariah 13:8-9 says, “<sup>8</sup>It will come about in all the land,’ declares the LORD, ‘That two parts in it will be cut off *and* perish; but the third will be left in it. <sup>9</sup>And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them; I will say, “They are My people,” and they will say, “The LORD is my God.””’ The purpose of the Tribulation period is to separate the unbelieving two-thirds from the believing one-third. God is purifying that one-third and through that one-third He will fulfill His national covenants. If you talk like this to an unbelieving Jewish person today, they do not want to hear anything like this. Why? Because the slogan of the Jewish person concerning the Holocaust is “Never again!” Adolf Hitler killed a third. As tragic as that is, the yet future Antichrist will kill two-thirds of the Jewish population. Do you think a Jew wants to hear that? Of course, they do not because their mindset is “never again.” In other words, as I am understanding Bible prophecy, the worst Holocaust for Israel is not past, as horrific and terrible as that was. Rather, there is something even more severe in store for the nation of Israel. However, this coming Tribulation will be the very means that God will use in order to separate the believing one-third remnant from the unbelieving two-thirds majority.

Let us compare all this to Church. How do you become a member of the universal Church? It is by faith alone in Christ alone. Does the universal Church consist of believers and unbelievers like you have within Israel? No! Such a notion is a foreign concept in the New Testament regarding the universal Church. Although it is possible to have unbelievers attending a local Church, what we are dealing with here is the uni-

versal, worldwide body of Christ. Within this worldwide, universal Church it is impossible to have unbelievers within this spiritual body (1 Cor. 12:13). When you start to understand this truth, then it becomes clear why the Church *will not* be in the Tribulation period. Why are not there any references to the Church in the Tribulation? The answer to this question lies in the fact that the purpose of the Tribulation period is to separate believing from unbelieving Israel (Zech. 13:8-9). By contrast, God does not have to purge any unbelievers from the universal Church for the simple reason that everybody within the Church is already a believer in Jesus Christ or they would not be a part of the Church to begin with.

This issue of membership therefore represents a monumental difference between God's programs for Israel and the Church. To be of the nation of Israel you must be physically born into it as a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, *and* Jacob. Even within Israel it is completely possible to have a believing and an unbelieving division. To be of the Church, by contrast, you must be spiritually born into it. It is impossible to have unbelieving Church members within the universal Church. Thus, there is no need to place the Church into the Tribulation period to separate the believing Church from unbelieving Church because in order to be initially identified into the body of Christ you have had to express faith alone in Christ alone. A lot of people today are trying to put the Church in the Tribulation period, and such a belief relates to a fundamental misunderstanding of Ecclesiology, which is the doctrine of the Church, and how Israel and the Church are different in terms of the outworking of God's membership programs. In sum, admittance into Israel is granted based on physical ethnicity via physical birth, and admittance into the Universal Church is granted only based upon spiritual birth (Titus 3:5).

What have we seen thus far in our series? 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. Moreover, while Jesus is the King of Israel, He is the groom and head of the Church. While eighty percent of the Bible relates to Israel, a mere twenty percent of it relates to the Church. Also, while Israel was a party to the Biblical covenants, the Church is a mere third-party beneficiary to them. In addition, while Israel began in Genesis 12, the Church began in Acts 2. Furthermore, while Israel is a political nation, the Church is a spiritual organism. Also, while Israel fought physical battles, the Church fights spiritual battles. Moreover, although Israel is characterized by time texts and calendars, the Church has no similar characteristic. In addition, while Israel had a priesthood, the Church is a priesthood. Furthermore, although Israel had a physical structure called the temple, today the temple of God consists of not only the believer's individual body but also the corporate gathering of God's people. In addition, not only will Israel and the Church be resurrected at different times, but they will also be judged at different times and places as well. Finally, Israel and the Church are different in the sense that both will comprise different features of the New Jerusalem, and initial membership is granted on a different basis. Membership to Israel is granted based on physical ethnicity while membership to the universal Church takes place only through regeneration or the new birth that is the result of salvation through faith alone in Christ alone. These major distinctions constitute the first *sixteen* of the *twenty-four* differences between Israel and the Church that will be highlighted in this series.

(To Be Continued...)

## New Sunday School Class "Angelology,"

Begins June 2019



Beginning in June 2019 Pastor Andy Woods will be teaching a new class during the Sunday School hour at Sugar Land Bible Church. The focus of this class will be on "Angelology," which is otherwise known as the "Doctrine of the Angels." 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 Angelology, which is the study of what the Bible reveals concerning angels. What are Angels? What is their purpose? Why do they exist? How many Angels are there? What are their activities? When were they created? Do they age or die? Since Satan and the Demons were originally good Angels prior to their fall, the class will also cover Satanology and Demonology. In this regard, we will examine the power of our spiritual enemies in the heavenly places as well as the resources that God has given to the child of God for spiritual warfare. The class will also cover the difficult passage of Genesis 6:1-4 and why an angelic interpretation of the passage is the proper understanding. 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 not only our online followers but also 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 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."