



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH  
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 39 YEARS  
1982- 2021"



## THE CORNERSTONE

July 2021



### Fun, Food, Fellowship and Fajitas!

Join us for a special Fellowship Lunch on  
**Sunday, July 4th!**

In celebration of Independence Day, we plan to serve fajitas and all the "fixin's", but this will happen only with your help.



**The church will provide the fajita meat and tortillas.**

**Our grill master needs volunteers to:**

- Prep meat on Saturday Morning (July 3rd)
- Grill meat on Saturday Night (July 3rd)

**The kitchen needs volunteers to:**

- Bring a dessert
- Bring a fajita fixin'

All items need to be cut, prepared, and ready to serve.



**Please sign up in the foyer if you will be able to attend and if you are able to help.**

Celebrate 4th of July with us!  
**The SLBC Kitchen Ministry**

## Missions for the Month

### Village Ministries June 2021

French Polynesia

God has preserved and protected us through much - for me, through two bouts with Leukemia and a stem cell transplant, nothing short of a miracle -for our family, to bring our two children out of college and beautifully into



**The Road to Fenua**

adulthood -for our church, to provide an excellent young pastor and his wife to teach and lead them into new generations.

At the same time, He has provided a great missions partner in Village Ministries and a wonderful network of friends and churches to pray for us and support us.

Yet there is more, because it matters greatly whether we have friends and churches in Tahiti who mirror our stateside network. We have met, prayed with, studied with, and worshipped with new Tahitian friends. Although more than once we thought we might be stymied by some who have had bad experiences with past missionaries, our stubborn love and the Holy Spirit continues to prevail. After all, we just want to share who we are in Christ and what we have from a lifetime of study and practice of God's Word.

*One church in particular has been crucial to our decision to relocate overseas: Eglise Pane Ora, "Bread of Life Church" in Papa ra , Tahiti. They have had a recent revival and have a core group that is hungry for the teaching of the Word. It is for that reason that we began searching the internet want ads for a rental home in Pa pa ra . For several weeks we were unable to find anything that was a good combination of nice and price. On a whim early one Sunday morning I took another look at the ads, and there was a new listing. It seemed to work, and the immobilier (agent) replied immediately to my inquiry. We decided to rent it without knowing*

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**Andy Woods—Pastor**

## Signs of the Times for 2021 (Part 17)

In our first installment, we observed that the Bible places much emphasis on the signs related to Christ's return (Matt. 24:33; Luke 21:28; Heb. 10:25, etc.). Observing these signs helps us ascertain that general time of human history in which we find ourselves. We noted that if the signs of the Tribulation period are rapidly approaching, and the rapture of the Church precedes the Tribulation period, then the rapture must be coming even faster. Thus, we began to ask ourselves, what are some of these signs that are now setting the stage for the coming Tribulation period? We selected the following *seven* signs as deserving of analysis to be covered in this series:

1. Signs related to Israel
2. Signs related to international politics
3. Signs related to economics
4. Signs related to technology
5. Signs related to spirituality
6. Signs related to society
7. Signs related to understanding Bible prophecy

Therefore, this series is dedicated to exploring the *seven* signs related to the soon return of Jesus Christ. As a result of this teaching, may we all grow in our understanding of the unique time in which we now live. As dealt with in the prior installments in this series, there are several signs meriting discussion concerning the modern state of *Israel* and *international politics* and signs related to *economics* and *technology*. In this installment, we continue to turn our attention toward the predicted *spiritual signs* of the last days.

### **5. Signs Related to Spirituality**

The Bible has much to say about the *spiritual* climate that will characterize the world at the time of Christ's Second Advent. While there is much to consider, for our purposes we will limit ourselves to just *six* categories. These include the advent of *global persecution against believers*, *global religion*, *ecumenism*, *ridicule of the doctrine of the Second Advent*, *the last days apostasy of the Church*, and *the rise of Anti-Semitism*. Having already explored the trends toward *persecution*, *global religion*, *ecumenism*, *ridicule of the doctrine of the Second Advent*, and *the last days apostasy of the Church* in prior installments, let us now turn our attention to the *rise of Anti-Semitism*.

#### **Past Warfare**

Another spiritual sign of the last days will involve a trend toward Anti-Semitism, which involves an irrational hatred toward the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Yet, such animosity is a product of the angelic conflict. This spiritual reality is openly disclosed in Revelation 12. To properly understand this conflict, it is necessary to examine its historical origins (Rev. 12:1-5). It begins with Christmas, or the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The true meaning of the holiday is the celebration of the superintendence of a sovereign God that allowed His



prophesied redeemer, God the Son, to be born into the world. A seldom considered Christmas passage is Revelation 12:4, which says, "And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child." Here, the dragon, or Satan (Rev. 12:9), is pictured as standing before the woman, or Israel (Rev. 12:1; Gen. 37:9-10), so that he might preempt the birth of Jesus Christ (Rev. 12:5; Ps. 2:9; Acts 1:9). This passage represents the angelic perspective on Herod's attempt to prevent the birth of the Messiah by murdering all of the male infants in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:1-8, 16). Although Matthew 2 depicts this event from the human perspective regarding Herod's insecurity over his own throne, Revelation 12:4 describes the same event from the point of view of the fallen angelic realm. It was Satan who used Herod's insecurity to prevent the birth of the Messiah.

Such a preemptive effort was not Satan's first attempt to prevent the birth of the Messiah. All the way back in Genesis 3:15, we find the first biblical, messianic prophecy. It is often referred to as the *protevangelium*. This critical verse says, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." Here, Satan was put on notice of a coming redeemer. Not only does this verse predict a coming one who would crush the serpent's (or Satan's) head, but it also predicts the serpent's bruising of the heel of this coming redeemer. Much of this bruising occurred through Satan's attempt to prevent the Messiah from being born. Thus, Revelation 12:4 and Genesis 3:15, when taken together, furnish an angelic commentary or perspective on the repeated jeopardy and near extinction experienced by the messianic lineage as recorded throughout the pages of the Old Testament.

For example, because Abel's sacrifice was accepted, Satan figured that the messianic lineage would come through him. Thus, Satan prompted Cain to murder Abel (Gen. 4; 1 John 3:12). Yet, God circumvented Satan's effort through the continuation of the messianic line through the birth of Seth (Gen. 4:25-26; 5:1-32). Satan again sought to prevent the birth of the Messiah through the contamination of humanity's pre-flood gene pool (Gen. 6:1-4) so that the human race could never give birth to a Messiah, who must not only be fully God but also fully human. God again got around this Satanic attempt through the preservation of Noah and his sons (Gen. 6:9; 1 Pet. 3:19-20). Through this line, the Messiah would ultimately come (Gen. 9:26; 11:10-26). In the days of Moses, Satan again tried to thwart the birth of the Messiah by enslaving the nation through which the anticipated redeemer would come (Exod. 1). Yet, God again circumvented Satan's effort through the Exodus event. The same pattern again repeated itself when the usurping queen Athaliah sought to exterminate all the royal offspring of the house of Judah. Yet, God again thwarted this Satanic attack through the preservation of baby Joash, the sole surviving Davidic descendant, in the temple throughout the duration of Athaliah's rampage (2 Chron. 22). This pattern again emerged when wicked Haman developed a plot to exterminate all the Jews. Yet, God again circumvented this Satanic effort to preempt the birth of Christ by sovereignly working through Mordecai and Esther in order to preserve the Jewish race from annihilation as recorded in the Book of Esther.

Thus, Herod's ambition to kill all of the male Bethlehem infants (Matt. 2) represents yet another chapter in the ongoing attempt by Satan to preempt the birth of the Messiah. Once again, God sovereignly intervened by causing the royal family to flee to Egypt until Herod's death. Despite these numerous attempts to thwart the Messiah's mission by preventing His birth, God sovereignly protected the messianic line thereby allowing the redeemer to be born and eventually fulfill His earthly mission of paying the world's sin debt. God's faithful protection of the messianic line leading to the birth of Christ is what we are to remember and celebrate at Christmas time. Let us continually praise God for how He has worked so faithfully and sovereignly in history to allow the redeemer to come into the world so that He could accomplish His great mission on humanity's behalf.

In our next installment, we will explore how such Satanically inspired spiritual warfare will eventually evolve into last days Anti-Semitism. We will also examine how this future spiritual warfare is even now escalating on the world stage.

(To Be Continued...)

# Sugar Land Bible Church VBS 2021

This year's VBS was one of the best we have ever had! Even though two weeks out we were a bit worried because we only had 28 children registered, God came through as always! We ended up having 81 children registered, with a consistent attendance of 77 or more children every day! 40 children were from outside the church, and half of the 81 children were under the age of 6, a first. We had 64 volunteers that did a fantastic job and made this year the easiest by far. The energy from the children and volunteers could be felt on the last day when they were singing so loud that you couldn't hear the music! It was a sight to see and hear! ☐

Thank you to everyone that prayed, donated, and volunteered for this year's VBS! We could not have done it without each and every one of you!

SLBC 2021 VBS Volunteer Team



# Scripture for the Month

## Daniel 2:17-23

Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon. Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision.

So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.

And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.

He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what *is* in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

“I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers;

You have given me wisdom and might,  
And have now made known to me what we asked of  
You, For You have made known to us  
the king’s demand.”



*its exact location, trusting God and praying it would be o k a y. A Tahitian friend went by the place to take a look, and what he told me left me amazed. It was less than a minutes' walk to Eglise Pane Ora! We truly had found our island home, our little patch of fe nua . To God be the glory.*



***Mark and Rene Perkins, French Polynesia***

*We learned over the weekend that we will have our long stay visa appointment in Chicago on June 30. We should be set soon after. Our planned departure is July 8th though that may be delayed due to the processing of our visas.*

*We have a small rental home reserved and we will be engaged in ministry from week one.*

*On the docket are a Vacation Bible School in Papeete, the first committee meeting for our Tahitian Bible translation, and discussions with various people about how to proceed with theological education.*

*We need your prayers for all these things!*

*Serving the Chief Shepherd,*

*Mark and Rene'*

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