

The

Berean Searchlight

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

April 2004



Feature Articles

Studies in the Book of Revelation—Rev. 13:1-18
 Pastor Paul M. Sadler 5

Abraham and the Hebrew Nation
 Pastor Cornelius R. Stam 11

A Stranger in a Strange Land
 Pastor James T. Penney, Jr. 15

Departments

Is the Mystery in the Old Testament? 4

Question Box 10

Spotlight on Grace Churches 21

From Our Mailbag 26

Pastors Promoted to Glory 29

News and Announcements 30

The **Purpose** of the *Berean Bible Society* is to help you understand and enjoy 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" (II Tim. 2:15), to energize their Christian lives, and to encourage the local church.

The *Berean Searchlight* is the official organ of the *Berean Bible Society*, and is sent free of charge to any who request it.

Editor: Paul M. Sadler; Assistant Editor: Ricky L. Kurth

Composition and Layout: Kevin J. Sadler

Printing: United Press Inc., Elk Grove Village, IL

Questions, comments, orders? You can reach us at:

Berean Bible Society
 N112 W17761 Mequon Rd
 PO Box 756
 Germantown, WI 53022

Main Office: (262) 255-4750
 Fax Number: (262) 255-4195

Internet: www.bereanbiblesociety.org
 E-mail: berean@execpc.com

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., CST

The *Berean Searchlight* (ISSN 0005-8890), April 2004. Volume 65, Number 2. The *Berean Searchlight* is published monthly (except July) at no subscription price, by *Berean Bible Society*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756. Second-class postage paid at Germantown, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Berean Searchlight*, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756.

From the Editor to You:

Dearly Beloved,

The Christian family is the vehicle that God uses to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Children are little imitators! If they see Mom and Dad being affectionate toward one another, they too will show affection. When they see Dad leading in prayer at dinner, it's not long before they want to return thanks. Then there are those times when the old nature shows itself and correction and discipline are necessary!

Any parent will tell you that raising kids is a full-time job, and then some. In the *Sadler Family Circus* we have three little munchkins that are just close enough in age to challenge your ability to keep pace. But through it all there are those lighter moments of which memories are made.

The other day, Kevin and Jessie were clowning around in the living room while the kids were playing. Later that morning Cody walked slowly around the corner wearing a cowboy hat and "packing heat." He paused, and said in a slow drawl to his daddy: "*You leave my Mama alone!!!*"



Then there's Katie. I may be wrong, but it seems to me that Katie's always in trouble. One afternoon she had done something wrong and Jessie caught her in the act. To put it lightly, she was in the proverbial dog house. Jessie told Katie to march herself upstairs to her room, and added, "We need to talk!!" To which Katie frantically conceded, "*No Mama, No Mama, don't talk, I just need a paddling!!!*" I guess a paddling was preferable to admitting her guilt. This is an age-old problem, as demonstrated by Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:8-13).

Carissa is the family tease. Nana watches the grandkids every Wednesday while Jessie works at BBI. Well it got unusually quiet one afternoon, so Nana went to check on Carissa. Just as she was walking through the dining room Carissa left out this blood-curdling scream in the kitchen. Nana rushed over and as soon as Carissa saw her she started giggling!! It starts early, we all want to be heard! Don't they just look like little angels, though?!



My Grandfather used to say that kids keep you young. There must be some truth to this old saying because you sure don't have time to sit around rocking. If you have trouble sleeping at night, just invite the grandchildren over for the day. I guarantee you'll sleep like a baby!

Grandpa & Nana Sadler

Is the Mystery in the Old Testament?

By Pastor Ricky Kurth

No, of course not! Then why does Paul often *quote* the Old Testament to *substantiate* the Mystery (e.g., Rom. 15:9-12)? Let's start in Acts 26:22, where Paul testifies:

"I continue unto this day...saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come."

This statement seems to belie Paul's insistence that his message was "hid from ages and from generations" (Col. 1:26). However, he explains himself in the next verse:

"That Christ should suffer, and that He should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles" (Acts 26:23).

The death and resurrection of Christ was not a mystery, nor was God's plan to show light unto "the people" (of Israel) and "to the Gentiles." Thus Paul is saying that while his message did not *fulfill* the prophets, generally speaking it did not *contradict* the Old Testament. We see the same thought in Acts 15, where the leaders in the church met to decide what to make of Paul's new gospel. James concluded:

"Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name. And to this agree the words of the prophets..." (v. 14,15).

James didn't say that Paul's new message *fulfilled* the prophets. Rather he said it *agreed* with them, i.e., God always intended to visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name. Of course, according to Prophecy this was *supposed* to happen through Israel's *rise* (Isa. 60:3), not through her *fall* (Rom. 11:11). Someday in the kingdom it will. But in the meantime, James could not deny that generally speaking Paul's new message was *in accord* with the Old Testament.

When most New Testament writers quote the Old Testament, it is to show *fulfillment* of prophecy. However, when *Paul* quotes the Old Testament, it is to show *harmony*, not fulfillment.

Let's close with an example. In Romans 10:19 Paul quotes Deuteronomy 32:21, where God vows to provoke Israel to jealousy by "a foolish nation." This cannot be the Gentiles, for they are "the nations," plural. Peter rather identifies the believing Jews to whom he wrote as the "holy nation" that God originally used to provoke the apostate nation of Israel to jealousy (I Pet. 2:9 cf. Matt. 21:43; Luke 12:32) and *fulfill* Deuteronomy 32:21. But in the *next* chapter of Romans, Paul says,

"...I am the apostle of the Gentiles...if by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh..." (Rom. 11:13,14).

Here Paul declares that God was *now* using *the Gentiles* to provoke Israel to jealousy. Not in *fulfillment* of Deuteronomy 32:21, but certainly *in harmony* with it!

So while the Mystery is not in the Old Testament, Paul can quote it freely to show how his new message was *in agreement* with it.



Studies in the Book of Revelation

Revelation 13:1-18

By Paul M. Sadler

“And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

—Rev. 13:2

In the march to the end of the world as we know it, a common question is, “How will it all end?” Of course some scoff at such a notion, while others approach the subject with fear and trepidation. Those who hold to the latter position seem to think that by searching the quatrains of Nostradamus they have discovered the key to things to come. Beloved ones, any source that claims to predict the future other than the Word of God is untrustworthy. The Scriptures are our final authority in these matters and they must never be compromised by the speculations of men. In the infinite counsels of God, only He knows the end from the beginning.

With these things in mind, as we approach the middle of the Tribulation in our study, John observed a terrible beast rise up out of the sea. It was a fearful looking thing that had a body like a leopard, feet like a bear, and a mouth like a lion. Before we sort all this out by way of interpretation, we first want to consider the

significance of the imagery John presents to us.

A member of the cat family, the *leopard* is one of the fastest animals on earth. It has the ability to cover a large area in a very short space of time. And it's well known for its stealth-like prowess before it overtakes its prey. The *bear*, while not as agile, is more powerful. Its strength in the animal kingdom is next to none. Most big game hunters will tell you that bears are extremely difficult to kill. Last but not least, we have the *lion*, commonly known as the king of beasts. In the bush, there is nothing that will strike fear into the heart of man more than the appearance of this killing machine. It has no mercy as it tears its victims into pieces.

The mighty revelation that towers before us in the form of the Book of Revelation has its roots deeply planted in Old Testament prophecy. The key to the future is found in the past. The imagery of the leopard, bear, and the lion is not foreign to the Scriptures. Each is identified with the *Times of the Gentiles* foretold by the prophet Daniel. This period has to do with the Gentile occupation of Israel. Since the Babylonian Captivity, Israel has been scattered throughout the nations of

the world and consequently under their control.

Although the Mystery has interrupted the *Times of the Gentiles*, we find it interesting that the present Gentile dispensation does not conflict with God's eternal purpose. Today God is carrying out the counsel of His will among the Gentiles, which again has left Israel inter-dispersed amid nations. The *Times of the Gentiles*, according to prophecy, will resume after the Rapture and conclude at the Second Coming of Christ (Luke 21:24-28).

SUPERPOWERS

Some years ago two construction crews tunneled their way through a Colorado mountain starting at opposite ends. When they met in the middle they were only six inches off center. It was an amazing engineering feat for that time. Unlike man who usually misses the mark even if only slightly, Bible prophecy is 100% accurate, 100% of the time, without exception. History itself bears testimony to this fact. According to Daniel there would arise four great Gentile world empires, each having a prominent world leader:

“Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings” (Dan. 7:2-4).

The *lion* is Babylon, the first of the great world empires. The king of beasts is portrayed here as having eagle's wings, a reference to the swiftness in which Nebuchadnezzar destroyed his adversaries.

He was unmerciful in the plunder of his enemies (II Chron. 36:17-20).

“And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh” (Dan. 7:5).

The *bear* is Media-Persia. The phrase, “it raised up itself on one side,” speaks of Persia's superiority, but it was not strong enough to conquer Babylon. Therefore, they formed an alliance with the Medes, the merger of which made their strength invincible. Under Darius they overpowered their enemies, as noted by the “three ribs in [its] mouth,” thus increasing its territory over that of their predecessor.

“After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it” (Dan. 7:6).

The *leopard* is the Grecian Empire under Alexander the Great. It is said that Alexander would march his armies day and night in order to surprise his enemies, who were unaware of the danger descending upon them until it was too late. The expansion of his empire was the most extensive of all.

“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it...” (Dan. 7:7).

The fourth *beast* is the future Anti-Christ kingdom. Daniel relates

that it was dreadful and terrible and unlike anything he had seen before it. The Apostle John picks up here to explain why. The fourth beast is the same *wild beast* John saw and recorded for us in Revelation 13. It is diverse from all the others simply because it is a stunning *combination* of them. Notice that John reverses the order of the beasts, and for good reason.

The superpower to come will cover the territory of Alexander the Great's empire, have the strength of Media-Persia, and plunder the wealth of the nations it tears into pieces, as did Babylon. History bears testimony that the past world empires were strategically situated in what has come to be known as the Middle East. The same will be true of the greatest superpower of them all, which looms on the horizon. It will include: Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Iran, and regions beyond. While other countries will align themselves with the Anti-Christ out of fear, he will take control of the Middle East through *deception* and *force*. What Washington D.C. is to the United States, Babylon will be to the Anti-Christ kingdom. The city of gold will become his seat of authority from which he will rule the world (Rev. 18:9-19). This will be the *one world government* that has been long sought after by the world about us.

COUNTERFEIT OR GENUINE

According to the world, diamonds are a girl's best friend! But beware of the counterfeit. Today, the marketplace is being flooded

with Cubic Zirconia, which is a stone that has the exact appearance of a real diamond. In some cases only a jeweler can distinguish between an authentic diamond and a high quality Cubic Zirconia. I would venture to say that most men probably couldn't tell the difference between the two, but I'm not so sure that's true of most women. The jeweler's apprentice is only permitted to handle real diamonds when he's being trained. He becomes so familiar with the genuine that he's well prepared to expose a counterfeit gem.



The same is true in spiritual things. If we discipline ourselves to study the truth, it will unmask the counterfeit. For example, God is a trinity! We serve one God who eternally exists in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Godhead is co-equal and co-eternal. In the coming day of the Lord, Satan will attempt to *counterfeit* the Godhead. As we know, he aspires to be like God (Isa. 14:14).

After the Devil is cast to the earth he sets out to deceive the world into believing he is God, the Father. He accomplishes this by raising the Anti-Christ from the dead after he is assassinated (Rev. 13:3,14). We are not told how the Devil achieves this miraculous feat, given that he is unable to

impart life. Thus, this could be some type of an elaborate form of illusion. There is also the possibility that God allows Satan to raise the Man of Sin since mankind will *refuse* to receive the love of the truth that they might be saved. Consequently, He sends them strong delusion that they might believe a *lie*, that is, the Anti-Christ is God (II Thes. 2:9).

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” (Rev. 13:3,4).

As we established earlier, each head on the beast is a king. We now learn that one of these heads is none other than the Anti-Christ himself. He was one of the seven original kings, but after he returns from the dead he is called the *eighth* simply because he is unlike anything this world has ever seen (Rev. 17:11). He will literally be the very personification of evil. The Man of Sin will declare himself to be God and the true Messiah who has conquered death. But this is a blatant lie; he is not God, but rather the false Christ. Nevertheless, the world will pay homage to him as the son of God. “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him.” This is the *one world religion* that unregenerate men will follow with undying devotion. As the Lord said:

“I am come in My Father’s name, and ye receive Me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive” (John 5:43).

At that day, the world will marvel at the Anti-Christ. “Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” He is all-powerful. He is almighty. If his enemies kill him he returns from the dead to execute them. Thus, the world will reason, let us make peace with this man that we might live in peace and safety. Peace will be uttermost in the mind of the world, with one nation rising up against another, and the escalation of terrorism (Matt. 24:6,7). Mankind will look upon this man as the answer to the world’s problems. He will be the prince of peace in their eyes. To which the apostle says:

“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (I Thes. 5:3).

The Devil will also impersonate the person and work of the Holy Spirit by raising up a false prophet. According to the Scriptures, the role of the Holy Spirit is to guide the believer into all truth. He bears witness of the Son and always glorifies Him. In similar fashion John states:

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed” (Rev. 13:11,12).

The third member of the satanic trinity is called “another beast.” That is, one like in kind as the first beast. He is identified as a false prophet (Rev. 16:13) who will

cause the world to worship the Anti-Christ. This beast rises out of the earth, which seems to indicate that he has no regard for the God of heaven. This is confirmed by the fact that he is said to be “like a lamb,” which has religious overtones. Apparently the false prophet is the head of the apostate religious system he will help to create.

In time past, miraculous manifestations were the hallmark of the Holy Spirit’s ministry. When Elijah called fire down from heaven it was to demonstrate that there is only one true and living God. The God of Israel is God! The Anti-Spirit will perform this same miracle in the sight of men as a deception. He will persuade men through these wonders that the Man of Sin is God and should be worshipped as God (Rev. 13:12-14).

The prefix “anti” can mean “to oppose” or “instead of” (I John 2:18). Here in the Book of Revelation both connotations are true in connection with Satan’s diabolical plan. He will oppose the Almighty and attempt to enthrone himself as God. So then, at the beginning of the last forty-two months of the Tribulation, called the Great Tribulation, the satanic trinity will be the Anti-Father, the Anti-Christ, and the Anti-Spirit (Rev. 16:13; 20:10).

THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST

“Saying [the false prophet] to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not

worship the image of the beast should be killed” (Rev. 13:14,15).

Reminiscent of those that persuaded Aaron to make a molten image to guide Israel back to Egypt, the false prophet’s creation of the *image of the beast* will lead men to perdition. This is another act of defiance. If there is one thing that will rain down the judgment of God it is idol worship. Those who worship idols worship demons, something God doesn’t take lightly, as the latter half of the Tribulation will demonstrate.

But this image is unlike any of its predecessors. We must again remember that Satan is a created being and therefore cannot impart life. This is a prerogative of God alone. The image will be *life-like*, having the appearance of a human form—living, moving, and breathing, yet be nothing more than a tool of deception. The image is even said to speak. Those who refuse to worship the image of the beast will be put to death at *his* command.

Twenty years ago Bible teachers could have only imagined how Satan might pull off such an accomplishment. In today’s high tech world in which we live the possibilities are endless. The advanced “Virtual Reality” technology that is soon to be released is so life-like that it actually tricks the mind into thinking what is being seen is real. If one of the three unclean spirits was to pose as the human voice behind this technology, or something similar to it, we shudder to think how many will be led to perdition who worship this image (Rev. 16:13,14).

“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and

bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred three-score and six” (Rev. 13:16-18).

There seems to be one of three forms of identification required to buy or sell in the Great Tribulation—the mark, the name of the beast, or the number of the beast. Those who receive the mark are marked for eternal destruction by God and those who decline it are marked for death by the Anti-God. This will be the world’s Waterloo! Since the mark is placed *on* the forehead or *on* the right hand this is apparently some type of indelible impression that only appears

when exposed to an ultra-violet light. It could also be a micro chip that’s implanted underneath the skin. This technology has already been used in domestic pets for years. The chip contains the pet’s name, owner’s name, address, phone number, etc.

The number of the beast’s name is 666. Believers who live at that time will be able to identify the beast by these numbers, which are the numerical equivalent of the letters of his name. Six is the number of man. Man was created on the sixth day. His average height is six feet. His work week is six days. A one world government will undoubtedly require a *one world monetary system* controlled by the number of his name. Without this number it will be impossible to buy or sell. A frightening thought!

To Be Continued!



Question Box

“Should a church have one pastor, or be led by a group of elders?”

I Timothy 3:5 says: “...if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?”

Here Paul compares the care of the local church to the ruling of a man’s house. In the home, God has ordained only one “head” (I Cor. 11:3). This comparison suggests there should similarly be only one “head” in the local church.

However, the husband is far from a one-man-show in the home. Husbands and wives work together to manage the home and govern the children, suggesting that pastors should likewise work with elders to care for the local assembly.

Our country is similarly governed by one president working with the Congress. Perhaps our system of government functions so well because it is based on this Biblical pattern.

—Pastor Kurth

This is the second of a series of articles that first appeared in 1950 in *Truth* magazine, published by *Milwaukee Bible Institute/Worldwide Grace Testimony*, now the *Grace Gospel Fellowship*. These articles have never before appeared in the *Searchlight*.

Abraham and the Hebrew Nation

By Cornelius R. Stam



To get the clearest understanding of God's purpose concerning Abraham and his seed, let us first imagine ourselves in the position of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and read carefully and prayerfully some of the promises made to them.

THE PROMISES TO ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB

"And I will make of thee a great nation...and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:2,3).

"...Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

"For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

"And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered" (Gen. 13:14-16).

"...Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, so shall thy seed be" (Gen. 15:5).

"And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God" (Gen. 17:8).

"...In blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.

"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed..." (Gen. 22:17,18).

"And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 26:4).

"And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 28:14).

A PERPLEXING PROBLEM

A simple reading of the above passages must convince the unbiased reader that the Hebrew

fathers to whom these promises were originally made could understand them in no other way than that God was to bless and multiply their offspring, give both them and their offspring the land of Canaan and make them a blessing to all the world.

But approximately two millenniums later Paul, by the Spirit, wrote concerning these promises:

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ” (Gal. 3:16).

This statement from the pen of Paul has caused theologians no end of trouble. Elmer Barnes says of it:

“Now no one ever probably read this passage without feeling a difficulty, and without asking himself whether this argument is sound, and is worthy of a man of candour, and especially of an inspired man. Some of the difficulties in the passage are these. (1). The promise referred to the posterity of Abraham at large, without *any* particular reference to an individual. It is to his seed; his descendants; to all his seed or posterity. Such would be the fair and natural interpretation should it be read by hundreds or thousands of persons who had never heard of the interpretation here put upon it by Paul. (2). The argument of the apostle seems to proceed on the supposition that the word “seed” i.e. posterity, here cannot refer to more than one person. If it had, says he, it would have been in the plural number. But the fact is, that the word *is* often used to denote

posterity at large; to refer to descendants without limitation, just as the word posterity is with us; and it is a fact, moreover, that the word is not used in the plural at all to denote a posterity, the singular form being constantly employed for that purpose....Indeed the *plural* form of the word is *never* used except in this place in Galatians. The difficulty, therefore, is that the remark here of Paul appears to be a *trick* argument, or a *quibble* more worthy of a trifling Jewish Rabbi, than a grave reasoner or an inspired man. I have stated this difficulty freely just as I suppose it has struck hundreds of minds, because I do not wish to shrink from the difficulty in examining the Bible, but to see whether it can be fairly met.”

This difficulty, stated so candidly by Barnes, has induced many to adopt a system of interpretation which is called the “spiritualization” of the Scriptures. Under this system, for example, the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are reconciled with Galatians 3:16 by giving the former a “spiritual” interpretation, thus changing their obvious meaning altogether. By Abraham’s seed the Church, the Body of Christ, was meant; Canaan refers to heaven, etc.

One outstanding Bible teacher who partially adopts this system boldly states that Galatians 3:16 is “a very simple and direct exegesis of the text in Genesis” and contends that the promises in Genesis predicted the coming of Christ, Abraham’s single Seed! Still, wavering a little, he also

“...why change any part of the Word of God to make it harmonize with another? It is all perfectly harmonious as it is.”

says: “In regard to the prophecies of Abraham’s seed, it does seem to me that the Old Testament leaves plenty of room for Paul’s interpretation!”

But one thing should be clearly understood: that if Paul’s words in Galatians 3:16 are an exegesis or interpretation of the text in Genesis then Genesis does *not* teach the blessing of the world through the nation Israel.

RECOGNIZE THE MYSTERY OR ALTER PROPHECY?

But why change any part of the Word of God to make it harmonize with another? It is all perfectly harmonious as it is. The key to the difficulty is to be found, not in the alteration of *prophecy* but in a recognition of the *mystery* revealed through Paul.

Galatians 3:16 is *not* an exegesis or an interpretation of the promises in Genesis at all, but a *commentary on the Holy Spirit’s use of a word*, and part of the revelation of the mystery.

Paul writes by revelation, pointing out that in speaking of Abraham’s descendants, God passed over all those words in which the singular and plural forms differ, and chose the word

seed which, while singular in *form*, is used to denote many as well as one.¹ He did this because He knew that Abraham’s multiplied seed could never prove a blessing to the world except *in Christ*. Indeed, the spiritual bankruptcy of the multiplied seed is now being demonstrated while the blessing of the world is wrapped up in Christ. The world will be blessed through the multiplied seed of Abraham, to be sure, but it will be the *regenerate* seed of the future. Thus the world will be blessed through Israel when she finds her place in Christ. Meantime the blessing is vested in Christ *alone* and we are called the seed of Abraham only because we are in *Christ*, who is Abraham’s Seed. And we received this position, not by promise, but by grace. Thus the apostle says:

“But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise, by faith of² Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe” (Gal. 3:22).

“That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ: that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Gal. 3:14).

“And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Gal. 3:29).

But this is a revelation of the *mystery*, not of *prophecy*, nor does it for one moment invalidate the plain promises made to the Hebrew fathers.

When a promise, however gratuitous, is made, the promiser has at least one moral obligation toward the promisee: he, the

promiser, does not intend to give, of the promise. If he knowingly misleads the promisee to expect something he, the promiser, does not intend to give, he commits an injustice. And thus it is with the promises in Genesis. Surely Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were given to understand that God would bless the world through their *multiplied* seed,³ and if God did not intend to do this was He not misleading them? He used the word “seed” simply because He knew that all was bound up in one Seed—Christ; that the multiplied seed would some day become a blessing to the world through the single Seed.

That God intends to keep the original promise just as it stands is clear from many passages in both the Old Testament and the New. We quote a few of these, entreating the reader to examine them as prayerfully and carefully as the original promises in Genesis:

“But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

“And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed” (Isa. 61:6,9).

“And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.

“In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold

out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you” (Zech. 8:13,23).

“And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the Lord of hosts” (Mal. 3:12).

“And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt. 19:28).

“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

“For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

“As touching the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes”⁴ (Rom. 11:25-28).

Endnotes

1. In the original as well as in English.
2. Or, the *fidelity* of.
3. The following passages show how Israelites down through the centuries *did* understand it in this way: Gen. 32:12; 48:3,4,19; Ex. 32:13; 33:1; Deut. 1:8,11; 9:28; 11:9; 19:8; 27:3; II Chron. 20:7; Luke 1:72-74; Acts 3:25,26.
4. Note: Not “for the Father’s sake” but “for the fathers’ sakes,” i.e. the Hebrew fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Pastor Penney is the pastor of *Falls Bible Church* in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin (see Page 21), and teaches Greek at *Berean Bible Institute*.

A Stranger in a Strange Land

By Pastor James T. Penney, Jr.

In 1961, Robert A. Heinlein published his best selling science fiction novel, *STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND*.¹ The premise of this fictional and highly allegorical work is this: A young man, born on Mars and raised by Martians, suddenly is thrust into a society that is foreign. Heinlein paints a picture of someone struggling to find himself among a race of people with whom he shares little except a physical resemblance.

As believers, we may rightly dismiss the flights of fancy of science fiction writers; however, there are times in every believer's life when he or she is overwhelmed by the world in which they live. We truly are strangers in a strange land. Our values, ethics, concerns, and general worldview are inimical to that of the world. This was recently brought to prominence by the shocking, in your face half time show during the Super Bowl. What was once a family activity—watching the culmination of the football season on television—has turned into an opportunity for purveyors of pollution to contaminate the airwaves.

This perverted media deluge is not limited to broadcast media, although it is the most pervasive. Time Magazine's² recent sensationalist reporting on the so-called Lost Gospels attempts to cast doubts on the Bible that we hold so dear. Many a parent has found himself in the uncomfortable position of explaining a suggestive billboard to a child because of the intrusive nature of the medium.

This raises the question: *What is a believer to do? What is a proper Grace response in the face of this cultural onslaught?*

Historically, evangelicals in general and dispensationalists in particular have taken a "head in the sand" separatist attitude. This may have worked during a previous generation, but in the culture in which we live, isolationism is practically impossible, unless you choose to withdraw completely from society, vis-à-vis the Amish.

Dispensational eschatology *expects* that a society composed of fallen men and women will continue in moral decay until God intervenes after removing the Church. The fact that sinners behave as heathens should come as no surprise: It has been so since the Fall. What has changed in recent history is the open aggression demonstrated by neo-paganism against the Body of Christ. It is one thing when men and women live in sin among their fellow sinners, sad as that may be.

It is quite another when they want to soil us with their muck by forcing it upon us.

Witness the recent decision by activist judges in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Unelected officials decided that they know what is best over the will of the elected legislators. The residents of these states are now forced to deal with the prospect of same gender marriage.

“May I suggest that if we take a page from Paul’s book and resist the evil in our society, we too will have an impact on the life of the unbeliever who is among us?”

Lest we think this is simply the agenda of a small left wing group, remember the words of the Apostle Paul: *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places”* (Eph. 6:12). There is method to the madness behind this spiritual attack.

Thus we see that withdrawing from the world, as desirable as that may be, is not a viable option. We must also consider our responsibility as members of the Body of Christ. Again, Paul puts it well: *“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God”* (II Cor. 5:20). An ambassador is a representative from one country to another. As ambassadors of Christ, we are His representatives to a fallen world, a position that requires that we live among strangers.

We are then left with the unanswered question: How shall we respond in the face of such overwhelming evil in our society? If isolation is not an option, nor is it a proper response for ambassadors, *how shall we then live?*⁸

As in all things moral, the Bible has much to say about the believer’s response and responsibility to a lost world. In the Book of Acts, Dr. Luke affords us ample opportunity to study Paul’s response to the evil world to which he was sent. Acts 13:4-11 records an event that occurred at the very beginning of Paul’s ministry. When confronted by the evil sorcerer Elymas, who was *“seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith”* (13:8), Paul did not shy away, nor did he try to compromise with this evil. The stakes were eternal and Paul did not suffer fools lightly. He did not mince words: *“O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?”* (Acts 13:10). Verse 11 records that Paul struck Elymas blind. Granted, we should not expect to likewise experience such a charismatic display; we do not hold the

office of apostle. The point is that Paul was confronted by evil at the onset of his ministry and he did not shy from the confrontation.

Notice next the effect this display had upon the unbeliever: *“Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord”* (Acts 13:12). May I suggest that if we take a page from Paul’s book and resist the evil in our society, we too will have an impact on the life of the unbeliever who is among us?

Acts 15, along with the book of Galatians, records Paul’s response to the efforts of the Jews to force the Gentiles to submit to the Mosaic Law. Some of the harshest language used by Paul is found in Galatians 5:12: *“I would they were even cut off which trouble you.”* The force of this statement is greatly softened by the King James translators. In the Greek, Paul’s anger is apparent: He is suggesting that these Jews perform a bit of surgery on themselves. Thus, we again see that Paul is not afraid to engage the society in which he lives. Brethren who were trying to add to the Gospel of Grace were leading believers astray, in this case by requiring circumcision. Imagine his response to the siren’s song of secularism seducing our young people today?

Another example from the Book of Acts is found in 17:22. Paul finds himself on Mars’ Hill surrounded by the leading philosophers of the day. He was certainly troubled by the rampant idol worship that he observed. Perhaps one could excuse him if he turned tail and fled, not only from the pagan worship, but also from the challenge of confronting the intellectual giants who daily gathered to debate. Far from fleeing, Paul engages these pagans. Luke has preserved the confrontation in Acts 17:22-32. Paul confronts the evil of idolatry, in this case in a more subtle way than that which he demonstrated toward the Galatians. He even quotes from their own philosophers in 17:28.



Mars’ Hill, Athens, Greece

Further examples may be found in the epistles. Paul advises the believers at Rome to *“be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good”* (Rom. 12:21). The Greek word translated overcome twice in this verse is *nikao*.⁴ It means to conquer. Both are in the imperative or command mood. The first is in the passive voice and the second in the active. Paul is saying, “Do not be conquered by evil, instead, conquer evil with good.” The word “good” in the Greek is an adjective used as a noun in the instrumental case. The instrument for overcoming evil is the good. The word refers to that which is morally right, that which edifies. Paul uses a martial term to describe his reaction to evil: conquer evil with the antithesis of evil—moral goodness.

That there was considerable evil to be resisted is beyond a doubt. Paul's description of the evil state of man up to his day is graphically portrayed in Romans 1:18-32. Anyone who tours the ruins of Pompeii will be confronted by a plethora of pornographic paintings, depicting



Ruins of Pompeii, Italy

such debauchery as to make a harlot blush. Romans 1:32 could easily be a description of our society: *“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”* The Greek word behind the translation *“have pleasure”* is *suneudokeo*. It means to

agree with, to approve, or consent to something. Picture the man trapped in sin, observing the sinful behavior of others, and not only agreeing with the behavior, but giving active consent or approval. Misery loves company, does it not?

Conquering evil requires a conscious effort to confront those who practice evil. This may seem like simple advice, but recall the moral atmosphere of Rome. The capital of the Empire was also the capital of debauchery and confronting those who practiced evil, many of whom were those in power, was risky business. John the baptizer comes to mind. Paul also counsels the saints in Corinth to deal with immorality in the church by delivering *“such an one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus”* (I Cor. 5:5). It is safe to say that Paul did not tolerate immorality in the church; I seriously doubt that he would have tolerated evil doers who were attacking the local body, knocking on the very doors of the church.

From the few examples above, the case may be made that if Paul were ministering today, he would not shy away from the evil in society. The apostle of Grace was well equipped to engage the battle for men's souls; and from that battle, he did not shrink. Is it much of a stretch to say that we too have a responsibility to fight for the souls of men today?

The stakes in this battle are far greater than the souls of strangers, as precious as they are; the souls of our children are at stake. Few families today can afford private school, even if they may find one to whom they may entrust their children. Far fewer can or are able to home school. The only choice for the majority of families is public school. Need I go into detail about the corruption in public education today?

What then are our options as we seek to protect our children, be faithful ambassadors, and try to function in a dysfunctional world? May I suggest the following options?

1. Be aware: Many Christians, in an effort to protect themselves from the onslaught of worldly influences, have become isolationists. The world has fallen apart around them and they are oblivious to the effect that this is having on them and their children; they fiddle while Rome burns.

While standing before Agrippa, Paul recounts the events that have led to his imprisonment. When he relates the story of his conversion, Paul repeats what he has heard directly from the Lord concerning his mission: “*Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, **and to turn them from darkness to light**, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me*” (Acts 26:17,18). Evil cannot stand before the Light of the Gospel. The best way to expose the false promises of the evil in our society is by shining the light of the truth upon them. *Overcome evil with good*, not force. You do not need to study evil to identify it, becoming well grounded in Biblical truth will suffice.

2. Be Proactive: Few of us would wait until we were robbed to consider locking our doors at night. We proactively take measures to protect our property. If we take such pains to keep our material goods safe, is it wrong to be proactive in protecting our children?



Many a pastor has had the experience of a parent seeking help with a youngster who is out of control. In a short time, he can determine that the parent is *reacting* to a problem that was long in the making. Instead of wringing our hands after the fact and wondering where we have gone wrong, we need to protect our children before trouble surfaces. Few parents would leave their children with a stranger of dubious character; fewer still would think twice about leaving their children unsupervised while watching television.


When I was a child, we had an old black and white television. The most exciting program was Bonanza. I remember, while watching this program with my parents, a short public service message that scrolled on the bottom of the screen: *It's ten o'clock. Do you know where your children are?* The hour of history is late. Do you know where your children are spiritually? Do not wait until they are in trouble to discover that they are involved with the things of the world. If you have a child who is old enough to understand salvation, and you do not know where they stand regarding salvation, you are guilty of spiritual child neglect.

3. Be Engaged: We in the United States are blessed to live in a country that continues to value liberty. We are enfranchised and empowered to decide who our leaders are going to be. Engage the society in which you live by knowing the candidates and the issues and then vote according to your values. You may be assured that the undesirable elements in our society will be at the polls. *If you fail to have a voice in the society in which you live, you must live in that society without a voice against evil and injustice.*

4. Be an Evangelist: Remember that our first responsibility to society is to be ambassadors for Christ. Even a morally repugnant and corrupt person needs a Savior. Jesus observed, *“But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick”* (Matt. 9:12). A gardener gets soil on his hands when he plants and reaps. An evangelist or ambassador may have to roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty to minister to the lost. In doing so he must be cautious to prevent soiling his own heart.

Evangelizing the lost has the added benefit of a positive influence on the society in which we live. To be sure, not everyone will receive the Gospel, but for those who do, the Grace of God through the ministry of the Spirit can work wonders on the heart. People who were once devoted to debauchery may become servants to Christ and seek practical sanctification.

Conclusion: If the above sounds a bit radical and reactionary, perhaps it is. Drastic times call for drastic measures. We are engaged in a cultural battle for the minds and hearts of our children, families and society at large. We are fully aware that only Divine intervention will win the day. Until then, we must be willing to contest each and every soul that the enemy seeks.

Members of the Body of Christ may find themselves in strange territory when deciding to confront the issues and engage the evil in our society. Being an ambassador in wartime is not for the squeamish, but confront we must. Otherwise, we concede what is left of civility in our society and, like the survivors of the Titanic disaster, leave men to drown in their sins with our lifeboat half full. 

Endnotes

1. Stranger in a Strange Land. Robert A. Heinlein, Ace Books, August 1995. Originally published 1961.
2. Time Magazine, December 22, 2003, Time Inc. New York, New York, p54. The Lost Gospels.
3. I refer the reader to a book that asks the same question. THE COMPLETE WORKS OF FRANCIS A. SCHAEFFER, A Christian Worldview. Volume 5 A Christian View of the West Book Two. HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE (Westchester, IL) Crossway Books 1982.
4. All Greek references from A Shorter Lexicon of the Greek New Testament, F. Wilbur Gingrich, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, and London. 1957.



Spotlight on Grace Churches

This month's church is:

Falls Bible Church

Location: W156 N7527 Pilgrim Road, Menononee Falls, Wisconsin

Pastor(s): James T. Penney—Senior Pastor
Dean Reinheimer—Asst. Pastor

Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
7:00 p.m. Evening Service
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study

Other ministries: Youth ministries, Senior visitation,
Tract ministry, Evangelistic outreach, Internet website

Contact information: Parsonage: (262) 532-0169
E-mail: PastorPenney@aol.com

Purpose Statement: The purpose of our church is the salvation of precious souls, the edification of believers through the teaching of God's Word, the proclamation of God's saving Grace expressed in the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, the promotion of godly worship, and the defense of the gospel of the grace of God that was delivered unto the Apostle Paul by the glorified Lord of heaven.

www.fallsbiblechurch.org

Berean Bible Institute **Graduation and Awards Ceremony**

Date: Friday, May 21, 2004

Location: *Berean Bible Institute*
116 S. Kettle Moraine Drive
Slinger, Wisconsin

Contact Person:
Dr. W. Edward Bedore at (262) 644-5504

Northern Indiana Regional Meetings

Date: Saturday, May 1, 2004

Location: *Holiday Inn*
I-94 & US 421
Michigan City, Indiana

Guest Speakers:

Ricky Kurth, Pastor of *Faith Bible Church*, Steger, IL
Casey Groeneveld of *Have Bible Will Travel*, Muskegon, MI
Paul M. Sadler, President of *Berean Bible Society*, Milwaukee, WI
Joe Watkins, Director of *Things to Come Mission*, Indianapolis, IN

For directions and additional information, please contact:

Mr. Jerry Sterchi at (219) 326-8705
or e-mail: firstlight@csinet.net

***If you enjoy studying the Word, rightly divided,
then these meetings are for you!***

Buckeye State Meetings

Date: Sunday, May 9, 2004

Location: *Grace Bible Ministries*
120 Woodbine Avenue
East Liverpool, Ohio

Guest Speaker:

Paul M. Sadler
President of *Berean Bible Society*

For more information and directions, please contact:

Pastor Tom Schneidmiller
(330) 385-3777 or (330) 368-0134

***May God richly bless these meetings
to the praise of His glory in Christ Jesus!***

Celebrate Grace Camp

Dates: July 25-30, 2004

Location: Near Montrose, Colorado

Guest Speaker:

Pastor John Fredericksen
Grace Bible Church of the Black Hills, Rockerville, SD

For reservations and additional information, please contact:
Jerry & Judy Worthley, 0627 CR 3, Canon City, CO 81212, or phone:
(719) 276-2469, e-mail: JerNJudy@hotmail.com.

Happy Camping!
Don't forget to bring a friend!

Grace Cruise Conference

October 2-9, 2004

Guest Speaker:

Pastor Curt Crist
Grace Bible Church, Hendersonville, NC

**7-day Caribbean Cruise departing
from Port Canaveral, Florida**

*Join Pastor Curt Crist for seven days of
grace teaching and enjoyable fellowship!*

For prices, brochures, and further details about
this grand event, please contact:

Curt and Debbie Crist
PO Box 568
Edneyville, NC 28727
Phone: (828) 685-2243
E-mail: gracecruise@bellsouth.net

***God's very best to these seafaring saints
as they sail with the Apostle Paul!***

Controversies Confronted!



Baptism and the Bible

By C. R. Stam

There is no other subject that has caused more confusion in the Church than "water baptism." Since God is not the author of confusion, the problem unquestionably lies with a faulty system of interpretation. Pastor Stam isolates the problem in this work and presents a simple solution to the matter that the Church has overlooked for generations.

HARDCOVER 133 PAGES

SPECIAL PRICE: \$7.00

Divine Election and Human Responsibility

By C. R. Stam

The contents of this volume were written by Brother Stam in the early 1940's when the battle over divine election was raging. We pray that with the subject of election again on the rise, this book may be used for the salvation of many, as well as for a clearer understanding of the doctrine of *Divine Election and Human Responsibility*.

HARDCOVER 96 PAGES

SPECIAL PRICE: \$7.00



THESE OFFERS END APRIL 30, 2004

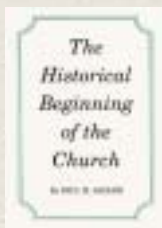
(Extended 21 days for all foreign orders)

Orders up to \$20.00, please add \$3.00 for postage and handling.

Orders over \$20.00, please add 15% for postage and handling.

**Foreign orders must be remitted in U. S. currency!*

Booklets by Paul M. Sadler

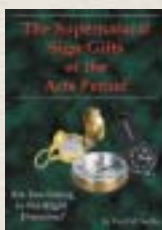


The Historical Beginning of the Church

This 60-page booklet journeys through Acts to determine when the Body of Christ began *historically*. Christendom for the most part believes Pentecost to be “the birthday of the Church.” As you will see, this view is weighed in the balance and found wanting!

The Institution of Marriage

A 70-page handbook on how to live happily ever after in spite of two fallen natures living under the same roof. Furthermore, it is until “death do us part,” not ’til “debt do us part.” Young and old alike should be interested to know more about God’s original *blueprint* for marriage.



The Supernatural Sign Gifts of the Acts Period

Many are crying “*Back to Pentecost!*” with its signs and wonders. This unsound teaching has so swept the Church that for many, “speaking in tongues” has become the standard of true spirituality. This 65-page booklet shows how Paul’s gospel is the answer to this delusion.

The Water Rite

In the Apostle Paul’s day the “Bone of Contention” was circumcision, however, in our day it is *water baptism*. May the message of this little 9-page booklet be used of the Lord to help bring order out of chaos. Our prayer is that all believers everywhere may be of one mind.



Trials and Temptations

This handy 20-page booklet is a *practical* guide that gives many helpful guidelines on how to avoid the most common pitfalls of life. As they say: “*An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.*”

All 5 booklets for \$10.00

THIS OFFER ENDS APRIL 30, 2004

(Extended 21 days for all foreign orders)

Orders up to \$20.00, please add **\$3.00** for postage and handling.

Orders over \$20.00, please add **15%** for postage and handling.

**Foreign orders must be remitted in U. S. currency!*



From South Carolina:

“Before I knew Christ, I had this emptiness in my life that I couldn't explain. Even after I accepted Christ, I still wanted to know more. I would listen to what people would teach and then read what the Bible said. Many times what I read and what was taught were two different things. Then recently someone let me read this book called *Paul: His Apostleship and Message*. This is what I needed, what I had been searching for. This book has shown me the truth and I want more.”

From Washington D.C.:

“I cannot express enough the impact that BBS has had upon my life and ministry. At this particular seminary, they are (thankfully!) dispensational, but I have met strong opposition, obviously, to the 'mid-Acts' position. May God keep His message pure, and allow the truth of God's grace to shine forth!”

From Ontario:

“Thank you for all that BBS is doing to get the message out. Canada really is a hinterland of ignorance when it comes to the mystery that the Apostle Paul speaks about, and the majority of Canadians you speak to about it haven't a clue what this Mystery is. You can tell by the way their eyes glaze over, and all you get in response is a blank stare.” (This response is not limited to Canada!—R.K.).

From Indiana:

“I am presently working on my bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies from *Moody Bible Institute*. It was through the book *Things That Differ* by C. R. Stam that God opened my eyes to this precious truth. Since 1991 I have shared dispensational truth with others and I look forward to using your materials to continue doing so.”

From Thailand:

“I'm writing to you from a prison in Bangkok. I correspond with Christians in many countries, exchanging Bible thoughts. Recently a man in Florida sent me an issue of the *Searchlight*, which I liked very much. He suggested I ask you for the book, *The Mystery* by Joel Finck, which he says will help me to understand God's plan for us.”

From Texas:

“I appreciate Brother Stam's books; one in particular is the book *Things That Differ*. I have given 25 or 30 away to people in my church and others.... This check isn't much, but until more comes in, it is all I have to send.” (We offer 33% off on any order of 5 or more books of the same title by Pastor Stam or Pastor Sadler.—R.K.).

From Washington:

“Thank you for sending a copy of *We Know A Secret* by Pastor Stam. It is a gem! I shall purchase a few copies to have on hand for distribution.” (We offer 20% off on any order of 25 or more of Pastor Stam's booklets of the same title.—R.K.).

From the Internet:

“Thank you for your answer. It means a lot to me. I am just a young Bible student trying to rightly divide God's Word, and I have trouble with some things; it sure isn't easy. But God has taught me a lot. *Things That Differ* helped me much. One more question....”

From Florida:

“I'm so very thankful for the coming publication of grace Sunday School materials. I have used *First Things First* in the past. It is so important to ground the children in the gospel of grace and show them progressive revelation from the very beginning.”

From the Internet:

"My copy of *Things That Differ* came yesterday. I have browsed through it already, and have so far been impressed with the logic behind the theology. It definitely deserves a closer read."

From England:

"The Bible Books puzzle caused some light-hearted controversy at the fellowship I attend. Comments have been made that *Preacher* is the writer and not the canonical title of a book. The general consensus is that, 'Wiv bin dun sir!' Anyway, it was good fun, after the eye strain and headaches ceased. When's the next one?" (We checked, and "Wiv bin dun sir!" can be loosely translated, "*We've been had!*"—R.K.).

From New York:

"I was so disappointed to not find my *Two Minutes With the Bible* in my mailbox this morning! :) I just thought I would let you know that I didn't receive it! Thanks again for sending them daily!"

From California:

"Thanks for helping me think this through. I save most of the *Two Minutes* articles for future reference, to have answers for my Christian buddies who don't know God's truth rightly divided."

From Missouri:

"We wish to help you with your new undertaking—the Sunday School Program. As Bible class teachers and Sunday school teachers for more than fifty years, we realize there is a great shortage of sound grace materials. Enclosed is our check, designated for the Sunday School Program."

From Kenya:

"I would like to thank you for your monthly *Berean Searchlight* magazine which I receive. It has brought more light to my life and ministry."

From Oregon:

"I'm getting a tad older and the eyes are getting dimmer, so I appreciate this website so-o-o very much!" (The *Searchlight* can be enlarged for easier reading on our website. See Page 30.—R.K.).

From Pennsylvania:

"I only wish I could give more. I am retired and the money larder is becoming like Mother Hubbard's cupboard. God bless your work!"

From Michigan:

"Love your site and I really love your daily Bible studies that you email to me. It has helped a lot in my walk with the Lord. God Bless."

From Texas:

"In the cocoon of Paul's gospel, it is as if I can see clearly now above the fog, observing the wonderful works of God as He develops His plan. I am a Southern Baptist from the age of 9 (now 75). I taught Sunday school for awhile, but in studying began to see conflicts. Until finding your web site, I was wondering if I was a lone wolf, trying to figure out why Law and Grace kept bumping together, but never connecting, as I tried to make the Scriptures fit, eliminating the contradictions. *Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ* got me on higher ground with a commanding view. It took about 30 years for me to move to Paul's gospel, the final connection being made when God led me to the *Berean Bible Society*."

"These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so." —Acts 17:11

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE TOUR

Tour England and Scotland
with the Berean Bible Society

September 9-20, 2004

The purpose of this tour is to encourage those who have come to rejoice in the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery and to explore our rich Christian heritage!

Guest Speaker:

Paul M. Sadler
President of the
Berean Bible Society



Scotland

We will be visiting the home of John Knox and John Wesley, Bede's Museum, Gainsborough Old Hall, the meeting place of the Pilgrims, Parish Church of Lutterworth where John Wycliffe, "the Morning Star of the Reformation," spent the last years of his life, Oxford, Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, and much, much more!

For a brochure or additional information, please contact the *Berean Bible Society* at: P.O. Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022, or phone: (262) 255-4750, or e-mail: berean@execpc.com.



Lendal Bridge, York, England

Dr. Henry Hudson has graciously agreed to be our tour guide. Brother Hudson has had a wide and varied career: born in England, served in the British Royal Military Police, missionary, pastor, and college professor. He is an experienced traveler, and has led many tours to Great Britain and Europe. If you have any questions about the tour, Dr. Hudson can be reached at: 850 Brook Village Drive, Holland, Michigan 49423, or phone: (616) 403-1438, or e-mail: drhth@juno.com.

Pastors Promoted to Glory



Pastor Jeff Farrell went home to be with the Lord on December 8th of last year at age 79. An excellent Bible teacher and a soul-winning pastor, he introduced many people to the Lord. Several of these he inspired to the ministry, including Pastors Don Webb and Ricky Kurth. Brother Farrell at one time conducted a pastor's training school as part of his local church ministry, a program that produced Grace pastors Russ Miller, Vern Simmons and Gail Harmon. He later introduced J. T. Price to the Grace message, and soon had him in the ministry too. Pastor Farrell was preceded in death four years ago by his faithful wife Laura, but he will be missed by his daughter Jeams, her husband Randy Cowser, their children and many others who are nonetheless comforted by the knowledge that he is now "with Christ" which is "*far better.*"

Pastor Clarence Ferwerda was promoted to glory on February 9th at age 94. A former Plymouth Brethren, when Brother Ferwerda became a Grace believer, he brought with him the rich knowledge of the Old Testament for which the Brethren are known. Your editor well remembers an excellent and enlightening series of messages he brought at the annual *Berean Bible Fellowship* conference on the Old Testament offerings and sacrifices. Pastor Ferwerda was also a soul-winner, and his funeral was conducted by Pastor Ken Lawson, whom he had personally led to the Lord many years earlier. He will be sorely missed by his wife Theda, his son Mark, daughter Cheryl and others, who nevertheless rejoice that he has now been ushered into the presence of the One he loved and served so faithfully for so many years.



Now that these faithful soldiers have laid down the Sword of the Spirit for the last time, may it not be said of us as it was said of God's people of old,

"Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord" (Ezek. 13:5).

Young man, if your "desire" (I Tim. 3:1) to serve the Lord in the ministry just won't leave you alone, why not take action? *Berean Bible Institute* can train you to be "*a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*" The need for committed and dedicated men is urgent, and the time is *now*. Take the first step and contact BBI *today*.

Berean Bible Institute, PO Box 587, Slinger, WI 53086
Phone: (262) 644-5504; E-mail: bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GRACE CAMP is just around the corner! This ministry, by God's grace, has stood for over forty years without compromise for the Word of God, rightly divided and the gospel of Grace. Spiritual births and yielded lives testify to the value of this ministry. The dates this year are June 28th through July 3rd, 2004 at *Long's Peak Inn*, Estes Park, Colorado. The Family Hour Speaker will be Mike Keshan, pastor of *Kettle Moraine Bible Church* in West Bend, Wisconsin. For additional information, please contact: Pastor and Mrs. James Harley at: (920) 829-6021, or e-mail: rockymountaingracecamp@juno.com.



Long's Peak Inn, Alt. 9200 ft.

MIDWEST GRACE FELLOWSHIP's annual Spring Bible conference will be held at the *Miracle Hills Ranch* in Bethany, Missouri. This year's dates are June 4-6. Pastors Harold Collins, Kevin Heyle, Ric Jennings and Dan Wolgast are scheduled to speak, addressing this year's theme: "*Disciplined By Grace.*" For further information, contact MGF president Kevin Heyle at: (816) 520-3943. May God add His blessing to the teaching of His Word.

DID YOU KNOW you can enlarge each page of the *Berean Searchlight* on our website for easier reading? Just go to www.bereanbiblesociety.org, select "Berean Searchlight" and the particular month you would like to view, then zoom in to enlarge it on your computer screen. You may also print out an enlarged copy by selecting the necessary options on your printer settings.

START YOUR DAY OFF RIGHT by spending *Two Minutes With the Bible*. That's the name of our daily devotional messages, and you can have them e-mailed to you each morning. New messages by Pastor Paul M. Sadler and Pastor Russ Miller have recently joined old favorites by Pastor Stam in these mailings. To register, visit our website, click on "Two Minutes With the Bible," enter your e-mail address and press the "Subscribe Now!" button to be added to our e-mail list.

*The picture of the lighthouse that appears on the front cover was taken by Gail Wilver of Naples, Florida. *Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse*, located in Mackinaw City, Michigan, once marked the Straits of Mackinac (the passage between Lake Huron and Lake Michigan). It was taken out of commission when the lights of the newly completed Mackinac Bridge made it unnecessary.

PRICE LIST

BIBLE STUDY BOOKS BY CORNELIUS R. STAM—FOUNDER

(Hardcover—Gold Stamped)

Acts, (Commentary) Volumes I & II	\$20.00
Acts, (Commentary) Volumes III & IV (w/Bible Index)	20.00
Author's Choice, The	10.00
Baptism and the Bible	9.00
Colossians (Commentary, w/Bible Index)	13.00
I Corinthians (Commentary)	11.00
II Corinthians (Commentary)	11.00
Divine Election and Human Responsibility	9.00
Galatians (Commentary, w/Bible Index)	13.00
Hebrews, Who Wrote It and Why?	9.00
Holding Fast the Faithful Word (w/Bible Index)	13.00
Lord's Supper and the Bible, The	8.00
Man, His Nature and Destiny	11.00
Memoirs of Pastor Cornelius R. Stam, The	12.00
Moses and Paul (w/Bible Index)	8.00
Pastoral Epistles (Commentary)	11.00
Paul, His Apostleship and Message (w/Bible Index)	10.00
Romans (Commentary)	11.00
Satan In Derision	10.00
Sermon on the Mount, The	9.00
I & II Thessalonians (Commentary)	10.00
Things That Differ (w/Bible Index)	11.00
True Spirituality (w/Bible Index)	10.00
Two-Fold Purpose of God, The (w/Bible Index)	8.00
Two Minutes With the Bible	11.00

(Paperbacks)

No Other Doctrine	\$8.00
Our Great Commission (w/Bible Index)	8.00
Present Peril, The	8.00
Satan In Derision	8.00
Things That Differ (w/Bible Index)	9.00

WRITINGS BY PAUL M. SADLER—PRESIDENT

Exploring the Unsearchable Riches of Christ (HC, w/Bible Index)	\$11.00
Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (HC, Commentary, w/Bible Index)	15.00
Triumph of His Grace, The (HC, w/Bible Index)	12.00
Are You Secure? (Booklet)	1.00
Historical Beginning of the Church, The (Booklet)	3.00
Institution of Marriage, The (Booklet)	4.00
Supernatural Sign Gifts of the Acts Period, The (Booklet)	4.00
Trials and Temptations (Booklet)	2.00

SPECIAL OFFERS

26 Hardcover Books by C. R. Stam, Plus "No Other Doctrine," "Our Great Commission," and "The Present Peril"	\$240.00
Set of Current Booklets by C. R. Stam	40.00
Set by C. R. Stam (Books and Booklets)	280.00
Set on Acts by C. R. Stam (w/Bible Index)	35.00



**“We either grace the grace that saved us or
we disgrace the grace that saved us.”**

—Charles L. Feinberg

THE BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT
N112 W17761 MEQUON ROAD
PO Box 756
GERMANTOWN, WI 53022-0756

PERIODICALS
PAID AT GERMANTOWN, WI