

# *The* BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

April 2023



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This month's cover features Peggy's Cove Lighthouse in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

The Purpose of the Berean Bible Society is to help you understand, enjoy, and apply 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" (2 Tim. 2:15), to energize the transformation of the Christian life, 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.

President: Kevin Sadler | Co-Editors: Ricky Kurth, Don Hosfeld | Layout/Design: Jessica Sadler

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The Berean Searchlight (ISSN 0005-8890), April 2023. Vol. 84, 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. Periodical postage paid at Germantown, WI. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Berean Searchlight, N112 W17761 Mequon Rd., PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022-0756 and additional mailing offices.



## *From the Editor to You*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Since accepting the position with the *Berean Bible Society*, many have chuckled at the idea of leaving the warmth of southwest Florida for the cold of Wisconsin. Needless to say, the weather was not in the “pros” column. But this ministry is special to me, and I count it an extreme honor to have been asked by the board to become the next editor of the *Berean Searchlight*.

Most people have experienced events so significant that, many years later, they recall precisely where they were. I can still remember reading my first publication from the *BBS*. I was a relatively new believer at a conference in Texas. I had recently been given a copy of Pastor Stam’s *Things That Differ*, and I found myself not wanting to leave my hotel room to attend the next speaker (or even dinner), because the information contained in that book was what I wanted to know as much as anything else in the world, *the truth!*

Once a believer, I realized that much of what I had been told had been wrong. My advance in ministry, as much as anything, has been a product of wanting to learn the truth, not striving to become something but rather to know something.

**“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:4).**

God wills not *only* that all people be saved but *also* that all come to know the truth. What an incredible privilege it is to live in the dispensation of grace, to have the complete revelation of God. And what a privilege it will be to stand on the shoulders of those who came before me as editor of the *Searchlight*: those men who were committed to bringing the truth of God’s Word; men like Pastors Stam, Sadler, and most recently, Pastor Ricky Kurth, whom I will look to extensively during this transition. I hardly seem qualified, but I am ready! Like those men before me, this editor will be committed to proclaiming Paul’s gospel and “...*the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery...*” (Rom. 16:25).

It is doubtful I would ever have become your editor if not for my wonderful and supportive wife, Valerie. It was through *her* encouragement that I took my first step into a teaching ministry. She has always been my constant companion and help in the ministry.

I ask for your prayers for us both as I step into this position.

By His Grace,  
Pastor Don Hosfeld



## Two Searching Questions

There are two questions frequently asked by those who are pondering the validity of the *Grace Message*. First, if our position is true, then why has the Church largely failed to see it? Secondly, why doesn't the Grace Movement have large numbers, if this is truly God's message for today?

These are indeed legitimate questions that deserve thoughtful consideration. There are numerous reasons as to why believers have been so reluctant to acknowledge Paul's gospel. *Tradition* ranks high on the list. Many are satisfied to simply attend church every Sunday and accept what is being taught without ever searching the Scriptures for themselves. In defense of their church tradition we often hear: "If it was good enough for my grandfather and my father, it's good enough for me!"

*Fear* runs a close second to tradition. Sometime ago we heard from a Godly father who had given a set of our books to his son, who was a pastor of a large denominational assembly out west. Lo and behold, if the son didn't come to rejoice in the *Mystery!* When the father inquired as to when he was going to preach it, the son replied, "I can't, Dad—the church would never accept it." When positions, salaries, and retirement plans are at stake, the truth many times is swept aside.

Even many of the well-known Fundamentalist leaders of the past, some of whom we have good reason to believe knew about the *Mystery*, were *silent* because of the fear of men. In fact, it is amazing when reading their writings how they followed one another through the labyrinth of God's now dormant Prophetic program, leaving their hearers both past and present destitute of the *Unsearchable Riches of Christ*. But they forgot one thing in their haste to remain accepted by the mainstream of Christendom—the Judgment Seat of Christ, where every man will give an account of himself.

In the meantime, there are multitudes who have never even heard about the *Mystery*. And the sad part about this is, many of these dear saints sense that something is missing in their understanding of the Scriptures. They are diligently searching for the *key* that unlocks the Word, rightly divided.

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler



# FORTY ANGRY MEN

PASTOR DON HOSFELD  
*Berean Searchlight Co-Editor*

**“When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise” (Prov. 21:11).**

## History Matters

I grew up as the youngest child, and though I got into my fair share of trouble, I am sure I avoided some punishment along the way simply by learning from my older sister’s mistakes. The best mistakes to learn lessons from are somebody else’s. Why repeat the mistakes others have already made and learn the hard way? This is true from the smallest of issues to those of profound importance.

Imagine the pitcher on a baseball team that refused to look at how other pitchers had success or failure against the same batters. Personally, I would think that to be foolish unless that pitcher was facing *my team!*

Have you ever considered how America became a constitutional republic? Admittedly, this is a bit of a trick question. It wasn’t

because we won the revolutionary war against England; that could have led to various types of government. America became a constitutional republic because the founding fathers were students of history and knew very well the historical disasters of democracy and other forms of government. The founding fathers looked at all the types of government and set up, not a perfect system, but a system that best gave us the opportunity to avoid failure and find success.

*“Men often learn by example what they would not learn by precept...”<sup>1</sup>*

But if these examples demonstrate how practical this principle of studying what produces success and failure is when it pertains to the “*things of man,*” how much more must this be true when it concerns “*the things of God*” (1 Cor. 2:11)?

Arguably, the best place for believers to look for mistakes made by others is in the history

of the nation Israel. This is not to suggest they made any mistakes we would not have. Rather, we have the extraordinary privilege of being able to look back and learn from their actions so we do not repeat their mistakes. The study of history is an opportunity for us to learn, not an occasion to criticize.

*“History is not a burden on the memory but an illumination of the soul.”* Lord Acton

Romans 15:4 tells us *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning...”* This is also expressed in 1 Corinthians 10:11 when Paul, speaking of those who left Egypt and *opposed God* in the wilderness, said, *“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for **our** admonition....”*

### **A Plot to Kill Paul**

**“And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.**

**“And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy.**

**“And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.**

**“Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to morrow, as though ye would enquire something more perfectly concerning him: and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him” (Acts 23:12-15).**

There have been many foolish instances of Jews killing or trying to kill those whom God sent, but this just might take the cake. Pun intended! The fact is, Paul’s life had been threatened and in danger throughout his ministry. Upon returning to Damascus after meeting the risen Lord, *“the Jews took counsel to kill him”* (Acts 9:23). Once he reached Jerusalem, there too, *“they went about to slay him”* (v. 29). He was *persecuted* and expelled from Antioch in Pisidia (Acts 13:50), threatened to be stoned at Iconium (Acts 14:5), was stoned at Lystra (Acts 14:19), and in Greece, the Jews *“laid wait”* for him (Acts 20:3). I’m not thinking they had good intentions. In Acts 21, as *“they [the Jews (v. 27)] went about to kill him,”* (v. 31) he had to be arrested by the Romans for his own protection. We are told that when the people saw the Roman guards coming, *“they left beating of Paul”* (v. 32).

One of the great evidences for the truth of Paul’s message and



**“The study of history is an opportunity for us to learn, not an occasion to criticize.”**

ministry was his willingness to give up honor, power, authority, and certainly wealth for a life of

threats, beatings, stonings, and what would lead to his eventual killing. Paul summarizes his sufferings well for the grace message in 2 Corinthians 11:23-33. Nothing but meeting Jesus alive could explain Paul's conversion.

The forty-plus men from Acts 23 didn't just seek to kill Paul, though. They made the highly foolish decision to "bound themselves under a curse" (v. 12) not to eat or drink until they killed Paul. This may be the most successful diet plan ever conceived; don't eat or drink until you've killed someone God is protecting.

These forty angry men were likely of the Sadducees sect since Paul had already convinced the Pharisees to let him go (vv. 6-9). They may not have believed that Paul was a true representative of God, but they sure should have known that what they were doing was wrong. Note carefully that they bound themselves under this curse before ever speaking to the chief priests (v. 14). They didn't go to the priests seeking permission or even guidance on whether killing Paul could be done lawfully; they went with a plan to commit murder. That they made their oath before going to the priests might make one wonder if this speaks of their confidence that the priests would participate or their disregard for what the priests and the Law said. Probably both.

These men were hypocrites; for they sought to kill Paul because they thought he was guilty of breaking the Law (v. 29), yet they were ready to murder him

behind the scenes and outside of the trial and without a guilty verdict, which is entirely contrary to the Law. Theirs was not the only hypocrisy Paul was facing. To the high priest, Ananias, Paul said, "*God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law*" (v. 3).

Believers today should guard themselves against and reject hypocrisy from both the non-believer and the believer. In his final epistle, Paul warns that some shall "*depart from the faith.... Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.*" The church is to be the "*pillar and ground of the truth.*" We shouldn't be accepting of the world's wisdom that the end justifies the means.

### **Secret Things Revealed**

**"And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul" (Acts 23:16).**

What a turn of events in the life of Paul. As Paul's nephew told him about what he had heard, it must have been a reminder that he had once gone to the high priest with a plan to arrest the kingdom saints. And just like Paul's plans were interrupted, so too would this plan be interrupted.

**"The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: He maketh the devices of the people of none effect" (Psa. 33:10).**

The day before this plan was to be executed, Paul was on trial before the council (v. 1);

the Pharisees wanted to let Paul loose, while the Sadducees had other ideas (vv. 6-9). Seeing the commotion, the chief captain ordered soldiers to go down and bring Paul to the safety of the castle (Antonia Fortress) (v. 10). That night, the Lord appeared to Paul, and we are told He “*stood by him.*” What a remarkable image these three words present. Christ doesn’t just send a message that says, “*Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome*” (v. 11). Christ came Himself to comfort and encourage Paul. With this declaration of going to Rome, is it any wonder, then, that Paul’s nephew would *happen* to hear of the plans to kill Paul?



“...curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter” (Eccl. 10:20).

This was no lucky break. Paul may not have known that that very evening forty plus men were conspiring to kill him; (add that to the list of questions I want to ask Paul someday—did Christ tell him that night of the plans of

these forty *fasters*), but the Lord knew, “*For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD*” (Prov. 5:21). The Lord appeared to Paul to strengthen him. The phrase “*Be of good cheer*” means to *take courage* and was used often by Christ during His earthly ministry (cf. Matt. 9:2; 14:27; John 16:33). If the Lord has purposed that Paul was going to Rome, to Rome he will go. No scheme of man could prevent this from happening.

**“The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand” (Isa. 14:24).**

### **Good and Acceptable in the Sight of God Our Savior**

“Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

“So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain....

“Then the chief captain... asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me?

“And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow into the council, as though they would enquire somewhat of him more perfectly.

“...there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

“So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, See thou tell no



**man that thou hast shewed these things to me” (Acts 23:17-22).**

When Paul gets word from his nephew of the plan, he calls for a centurion and tells him to take him to the chief captain so he might be told of the scheme. We shouldn't let it escape us that Paul was able to get this centurion to do what he wished. A centurion isn't an ordinary guard but a man with command authority. It's hard to imagine any centurion being willing to help Paul had he been a problematic prisoner. It is possible to exercise civil rights without being rebellious or insulting. Paul's willingness to submit to authority is a demonstration of greater concern than himself: God's desire for *“all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Tim. 2:4), which is why Paul said in the proceeding verses *“I exhort therefore, that...supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority”* (vv. 1-2).

**“Are we more willing to be wronged than to do wrong?”**



How often do we Christians fail to follow Paul to this extent, especially those of us who recognize Paul as our apostle and our example in following Christ (cf.

1 Cor. 11:1)? Are we more willing to be wronged than to do wrong?

### **A Sad State of Affairs**

**“And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night;**

**“And provide them beasts, that they may set Paul on, and bring him safe unto Felix the governor” (Acts 23:23-24).**

When the chief of the captains was told of this plan, he could have allowed Paul to fall victim to the conspiracy, but he chose to ensure Paul's safety. This is the same man who ordered Paul to be *“examined by scourging”* and *“was afraid”* upon finding out Paul was a Roman citizen (cf. Acts 22:24-29).

Herein lies another lesson for the believer from these events; for it is with the non-believing Gentiles that Paul found safety from oppression. How far Israel had fallen! To Israel, God said:

**“Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy” (Psa. 82:3).**

The nation which had been given every *“advantage”* because *“unto them were committed the oracles of God”* (Rom. 3:1-2) was not the one ensuring a fair trial, but it was they who sought to pervert justice. Paul would have greater protection from wrong by the Roman army and Felix than he would from Ananias, the high priest.

**“Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their**

**beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand” (Mic. 2:1).**

Are we, the Body of Christ, the world’s best example of truth and justice, or do people find it more abundantly from the unbeliever? Have we learned from Israel’s mistakes, or are we, like they, ready to set aside truth for what benefits us or is convenient?

### Opposing God

These forty angry men may not have realized it, but they weren’t opposing Paul; they were opposing God. Ignorance wouldn’t be an excuse for them. Certainly, their guilt was as great as Ananias’, whom Paul said God would smite for his acts of hypocrisy and injustice (Acts 23:3). We aren’t told what happened to these men, but we can be sure, like all opposition to God, failure is its destiny.

Even we believers should never assume we aren’t standing in opposition to God. It’s easy to be fooled into serving ourselves while thinking we’re serving God. Fighting against God is not only like what we see in our example or the Book of Revelation, where man forms an army to face off against God. Often, we are fighting against God in ways much more subtle. Many of the things that stand in the way of God are our everyday decisions—yes, believers, our everyday choices.

It’s not easy to accept the idea that we could be opposing God, but this is the kind of warning Paul gives the Corinthians. To those *believers*, he speaks of the

need for “*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*” (2 Cor. 10:5).

It’s in verse 4 that Paul mentions tearing down strongholds. Large cities, like Corinth, would have a fortress high up on a hill if



they could, and Corinth did. These are places to hide when under attack (being confronted). Paul was using imagery that was easy for people to see. They could see the fortress and know how it was used, and Paul used this imagery to describe the arguments, thoughts, and plans he, through God’s Word, was tearing down.


Today, the fortresses people hide in and Jesus Christ is tearing down are the strongholds of philosophies, thoughts, reasonings, ideas, and false religions—all the ideological forts that people use to barricade themselves against God.

How do you tear down these things standing in opposition to God? As verse 5 says, “*bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*”

Paul didn't try and win arguments; he tried to win people to Christ. Paul didn't try and force believers to do what he thought was right; he wanted to get them to take captive every thought to the obedience of Christ. Renewing your mind was a constant theme.

Could you be fighting against God all the while thinking you were in the right? That is a serious question and one we all would

do well to ask ourselves and ask regularly. Especially since we have the means to verify every thought, every position, and every doctrine with the full and final authority: the Word of God.

Let us learn from the mistakes of others and not oppose God. Let us take our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ. 

1. *The Preacher's Complete Homiletical Commentary.*

## Question Box

*“In Mark 6:7, Christ sends the apostles out to preach two by two. Was Judas involved? If so, with whom was he paired?”*

If the Lord *didn't* send Judas out to preach, the other apostles would have been suspicious of him. That suspicion would certainly have manifested itself at the last supper, when the Lord said, “One of you which eateth with Me shall betray Me” (Mark 14:18). If they had any reservations about Judas at all, they would have asked, “Is it Judas?” Instead, “they began... to say unto Him one by one, *Is it I?* and another said, *Is it I?*” (v. 19), “*doubting of whom He spake*” (John 13:22).

So it seems clear that Judas preached the gospel. If he *believed* the gospel, he must have believed it in the shallow sense in which others in Scripture are said to have believed (John 2:23,24; 8:30 cf. 31-44; Acts 8:13-23). That is, he didn't “*believe to the saving of the soul*” (Heb. 10:39).

We're not told who he was paired with, but if the apostles got to choose, you would think he'd have chosen Doubting Thomas. If he was already showing signs of the doubt he expressed later (John 20:25), then Judas would no doubt have felt most comfortable with him.

—Pastor Kurth

A black and white photograph showing three men from the chest up, sitting at a table and reading open books. They are looking down at their books with concentration. The lighting is soft, and the background is slightly blurred.

# MAN *to* MAN

**“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up” (Dan. 3:16-18).**

The Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, had set up a golden image and required all to bow down and worship it under the penalty of death in the fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego refused. After summoning these three faithful men, the king asked them, “Is it true?” (v. 14), and Nebuchadnezzar even gave them a second chance to obey (v. 15). Then, in his pride, Nebuchadnezzar went so far as to say, “who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?” (v. 15).

God’s Word strictly forbids idolatry, prohibiting the creation of “any graven image” and stating clearly, “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them” (Ex. 20:4-5). Knowing this, and because of the authority of God’s Word over their lives, disobeying the king was the only option for these men.

Thus, their response to Nebuchadnezzar’s second chance was “we are not careful to answer thee in this matter,” or “We don’t have anything to say.” They didn’t deny their guilt, and they would not try to raise a defense. And there was no request for a compromise, asking if they could bend down only halfway. It was just, “We’re not bowing, and that’s the way it is.” They had faithfully served Nebuchadnezzar as far as they could. This was too far.

Then, in verses 17 and 18, these men gave a sublime statement of faith in God. They had nothing to say *except* that their God Whom they served “is able” to deliver them from the fiery furnace and that “He will” deliver them out of Nebuchadnezzar’s hands. “But if not”—even if it was not God’s will to deliver them—“we will not”—they still weren’t going to bow. In other words, “But if not,” God is still good, and He is the One we obey.

That’s courageous faith! Obeying God was more important than life to them. Their faith held true in the toughest moment. Their conviction, based on the truth of God’s Word, led to a decisive response. And they would not change their internal convictions in the face of external pressure. Like these men, God calls us to an uncompromising faith in Him and the truth of His Word.

—Pastor Kevin Sadler

# The Brazen Serpent



(Taken from episode 104  
of *Transformed by Grace*)

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER  
Berean Bible Society President

## Murmuring and Muttering

**“And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.**

**“And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread” (Num. 21:4-5).**

During Israel’s 40-year wandering in the wilderness, they traveled from Mount Hor close to the Red Sea and around the borders of Edom. At this time, the people became discouraged and began murmuring against Moses because of the difficulty of the long journey and its terrain.

The people spoke “against God, and against Moses” (v. 5), muttering that God had taken them out of Egypt just to die in the wilderness. They complained about the scarcity of food and water, and they also grumbled about the manna. They were tired of the manna. God had provided the manna, bread from heaven, in bountiful supply each morning for years so the Israelites would not starve.

When it first started coming, the Israelites were grateful for it and gladly gathered and ate it. But over time, they grew tired of it to the point that now they were murmuring about it.

Theologian Keith Drury has compared manna to oatmeal: “I generally like oatmeal. In fact, I could eat it just about every day, at least for a while.



“But I think I’d get tired of it if that’s all I got for every meal every day for years and years.

“What’s for breakfast, Ma?” ‘Oatmeal.’ ‘What’s for lunch, Ma?’ ‘Oatmeal.’ ‘What’s for supper, Ma?’ ‘Oatmeal.’ ‘Hey Ma, what’s for Thanksgiving dinner?’ ‘Oatmeal.’ ‘Christmas dinner?’ ‘Oatmeal.’”<sup>1</sup>

The Israelites are a picture of mankind as a whole. What they did is often exactly what we would have done if we were in their situation. And it’s more than likely that we would have been just like the Israelites and started complaining about the manna instead of being grateful for it.

In 1 Corinthians 10:9, Paul wrote to the Body of Christ about this episode: “Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.” In both their attitudes and their words, the Israelites tempted the Lord; that is, they tried His patience and provoked His anger by their dissatisfaction with His gracious provision.

### Fiery Serpents

**“And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.**

**“Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that He take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.**

**“And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.**

**“And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived” (Num. 21:6-9).**

In response to their incessant murmuring, we read that “the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people” (Num. 21:6). Suddenly, fiery, deadly, poisonous serpents were everywhere among the people in the camp. The venomous bites from these snakes inflicted a fiery inflammation and a burning sensation. Many were bitten. The people were suffering. Many died or were dying. They were helpless and unable to save themselves from this lethal plague.





The people panicked and began admitting, “We have sinned” (v. 7). They knew their suffering and dying were due to God’s judgment of their sin of ingratitude and because they had “spoken against the LORD” and Moses. The people of Israel therefore begged Moses to intercede for them. They knew their only hope was for God to show mercy and save them. And Moses, their faithful intercessor, “prayed for the people.”

God in His mercy responded to their need and provided a remedy. But He didn’t do it in the way the people might have expected. He didn’t just supernaturally remove the snakes and automatically heal the ones who had been bitten. Instead, God made a provision for those who were bitten by the snakes, a provision that was dependent upon their faith in order that they might be delivered from death.

The Lord commanded Moses to “Make thee a fiery serpent” (v. 8). Moses was to construct a serpent out of brass in the likeness of the snakes that were attacking and biting the people. Brass is a symbol of divine judgment in Scripture (Ex. 38:1-2; Deut. 28:23). The Lord instructed Moses to put the brass serpent on a pole so it could be lifted up for all to see.

The Lord then told Moses that any bitten person who looked at the brazen serpent on the pole would be healed and would live. They would be saved by their faith and obedience in responding to God’s provision of salvation.

Moses did as the Lord commanded; he made a serpent of brass, put it on the pole, lifted it up, and told the people what the Lord told him: “that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live” (Num. 21:8). And verse 9 tells us that, for all who had been bitten and took God at His word and looked at the fiery, brass serpent, immediately death was defeated and they “lived.”

### Lifted Up

**“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up” (John 3:14).**



Fast forward from this episode to about 1500 years later, when the Lord was approached under the cover of darkness by a high-profile religious leader named Nicodemus. In His conversation with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21), the Lord likened His death to the biblical record in Numbers, chapter 21, of Moses and the children of Israel in the wilderness.

Our Lord stated that, just like Moses lifted up that serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of Man was going to be lifted up. Christ used the brazen serpent to illustrate His own death on a cross.

Those fiery serpents in the wilderness were a picture of sin and its curse. Sin originally entered the world through the influence of “the serpent” in the Garden (Gen. 3:1-5; 2 Cor. 11:3). All mankind has been bitten by the serpent of sin (Rom. 3:23; 5:12), and we are all dying spiritually as a result of this deadly snakebite.

My wife, Jessica, hates snakes. I mean she *really* hates them. She is deathly afraid of them. Snakes are scary and scary looking. Imagine thousands of poisonous snakes slithering around at the same time, biting people with a fiery venom. That’s a frightening thought. Sin and its consequences are likewise frightening. Sin has the fearsome consequence of eternal death in the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8).

The fiery, deadly serpents were a picture of the curse of sin which has bitten all of us. Moses creating a brazen serpent that was put on a pole and “lifted up” points to the Cross of Christ when He was “lifted up” (John 3:14). At the Cross, Christ was made like unto the brazen serpent. The brazen serpent points us to the fact that Christ took all our sins upon Himself and was made sin for us, becoming a curse for us.

**“For He [God] hath made Him [Christ] to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21).**

**“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree” (Gal. 3:13).**



The serpent was made of brass because the *judgment* of God fell on Christ, our sin-bearing Substitute, at the Cross. And the reason it was a “fiery” serpent is that it pictured Christ facing the *fire* of God’s wrath for us. He took the wrath and judgment of God that our sins deserved. God’s fury against our sins was unleashed on Christ, and He made full payment for them which satisfied God’s wrath. Now, we who have placed our faith in the finished work of Christ are safe from God’s judgment and wrath.

As a poet wrote, “The flames of God’s judgment can never touch me, / For Jesus has borne all God’s wrath on the tree; / I now stand secure in the burned-over place, / A sinner, unworthy, yet saved by His grace.”<sup>22</sup>

### Looking by Faith

Right after telling Nicodemus that the Son of man must be lifted up at the Cross, the Lord told him this was the case so

**“That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:15).**

The brazen serpent provided *physical* healing and life to Israelites dying of snakebite in the wilderness, whereas, through the Cross, Christ provides *spiritual* healing and eternal life to those dying in their sins. Israel in the wilderness was told to look upon the brazen serpent that they might *live*. Likewise, by looking to Christ we receive *life eternal*. However, Scripture shows us two different ways to look at the Cross.

In the days of Nicodemus, under the law, belief in Christ for eternal life was about trusting “that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name” (John 20:31 cf. Matt. 16:15-18). The Cross and the Resurrection proved that Jesus of Nazareth is Israel’s Messiah (Acts 2:22-24). It was prophesied that the Messiah would suffer and die (Isa. 53:1-12), and rise again (Psa. 16:10). Looking at the Cross in relation to Christ’s *identity* according to prophecy is how Israel looked at the Cross. Under the terms of the gospel of the kingdom, one would receive everlasting life by belief in Christ as the Messiah, along with repentance, water baptism, keeping the commandments, forgiving others, confessing their sins, and selling all one’s possessions (Matt. 6:14-15; 19:16-21; Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:9).

However, today, under the terms of the gospel of the grace of God, we look at the Cross in relation to what Christ did for us there, that Christ died for our sins and rose again the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-4). And we are saved and are given eternal life through faith *plus nothing*. It’s the answer the Apostle Paul and Silas gave to the Philippian jailer’s question,

**“Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:30-31).**

Those carrying the deadly poison of the bite from the fiery serpents in the days of Moses were delivered from death by looking up by faith at a brazen serpent. And today, all sinners can be delivered from eternal death by looking to the Cross by faith alone. We look to the One Who was made a curse for us, the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose death for our sins sets us free from sin and death. We have life by looking to His Cross.

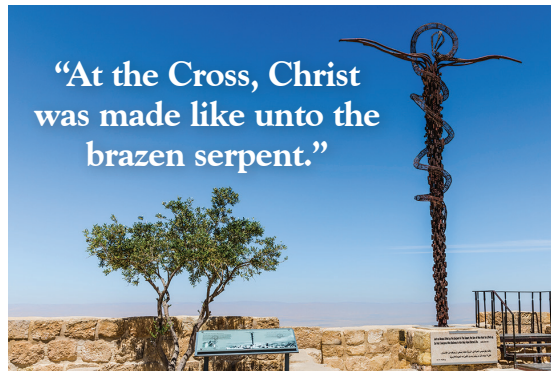
In the days of Moses, it was such a simple thing to be delivered from death by the snakebite: just look at the fiery, brass serpent. But the provision and cure offered by God was a test of the faith for the Israelites. The provision was for everyone, but not everyone was automatically healed. They had to look.

The provision was made. The opportunity for life was there. Then each of the snakebitten Israelites were confronted with a decision: to look up and live, or to not look up and die. The decision was theirs; God would not force Himself on anyone. It seems like an easy decision, and we might think, “I know what I would do if I were there! I’d for sure be looking up at the brazen serpent on the pole.” But if their stubbornness, pride, or unbelief got in the way and they didn’t look, it cost them their lives, needlessly.

Likewise, under grace, it is a simple thing to be delivered from the eternal death caused by the poison of sin: just look at the Cross and believe. Because it’s so simple, you’d think everyone would want to believe to have eternal life. But we know that’s not the case. For many, the Cross is foolishness (1 Cor. 1:18) and, to them, it’s utterly absurd to think that they can have the free gift of

eternal life just by faith in One man’s death on a cross. They refuse to come to God in God’s way. Stubbornness and pride and unbelief get in the way. And it will cost them their lives, needlessly and eternally.

Like those in the days of Moses, however, the ones who obeyed by faith—admitting that they needed God’s healing and deliverance, and acknowledging that they must do what God said by looking at the brazen serpent—when they looked, they lived. And for those today who submit to God’s provision for sin and look to the Cross of Christ by faith to be saved, they live, and live forever.



**“At the Cross, Christ  
was made like unto the  
brazen serpent.”**

1. Contributed by Brian La Croix, “Jesus Was Lifted Up,” Sermon Central, April 14, 2003, <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/jesus-was-lifted-up-brian-la-croix-sermon-on-easter-resurrection-57212>.

2. Bosch, contributed by Dennis Davidson, “Some Early Settlers Were Traveling Together...,” Sermon Central, July 14, 2008, <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon-illustrations/67832/some-early-settlers-were-traveling-together-by-dennis-davidson>.

# The King Had a Dream

(An article based on studies that will be reflected in our upcoming *Grace Study Bible*)

PASTOR RICKY KURTH  
Berean Searchlight Co-Editor

Over 2500 years ago, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had conquered all the kings of the known world. But he went to bed one night wondering if some *other* king might come along and conquer *him* (Dan. 2:29). As he slept, God gave him a dream in which He not only told him which king would conquer Babylon, He went on to predict which king would conquer *that* king, and which king would conquer *him* after that. You couldn't predict the next three superpowers that will dominate the world over the next 500 years if you tried, but God could—and *did*.

But God revealed the future to Nebuchadnezzar in the form of a cryptic vision that was going to need some interpreting (Dan. 2:31-35). He had a staff of advisors who had interpreted dreams for him in the past, but he suspected that they just made stuff up that they knew he wanted to hear. So this time, this crafty sovereign insisted that his wise men tell him *what* he dreamed *before*

interpreting it (vv. 1-5). He knew that only a man in touch with the *true* God could tell him that, and that he could then trust the interpretation that such a man of God could give.

None of the king's pagan wise men could tell Nebuchadnezzar what he dreamed, of course (vv. 6-11). But the prophet Daniel could, and *did* (vv. 31-35)! Then he added,

**“This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king” (Dan. 2:36).**

Now even though Daniel is the one who goes on to tell Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of his dream, he begins by saying that “*we* will tell the interpretation.” He wanted to be sure to associate himself with Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego, his Hebrew associates on the king's advisory staff (Dan. 1:6-21), because the king was about to *kill* his wise men because they *couldn't* interpret his dream (2:12,13), and Daniel wanted to make sure that *their* lives were spared as well as his own.

The prophet then began his interpretation in verse 37:

**“Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.”**

Now if “king of kings” sounds familiar, it should! That’s what the Lord Jesus will be called when He comes to establish the kingdom of heaven on earth. Speaking of Him, Paul said that

**“...in His times He shall shew, who is...the King of kings...”**  
(1 Tim. 6:15).

Prior to Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, *God Himself* was King of the world’s kings, and the people of Israel were His regents. But when they broke the covenant of the law that God made with them, He allowed the king of Babylon to conquer them, along with the rest of the world’s kingdoms, thus making *Nebuchadnezzar* “king of kings.”

And I bet the king didn’t like hearing that *Israel’s God* had given him his kingdom, for he was probably thoroughly convinced he’d been able to conquer the world because of his own military prowess! But he couldn’t very well argue the point, for it was being made by a man who’d been able to tell him what he dreamt!

### **The King of Beasts**

God *also* claimed credit for giving Nebuchadnezzar his kingdom in Jeremiah 27:5-7, where the prophet quoted God as saying:

**“I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground...and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto Me. And now have I given all**

**these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar...and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. And all nations shall serve him...”** (Jer. 27:5-7).

For a while, it “seemed” good to God to give *Israel* the rule of the earth. But “now” that His favored nation had broken His covenant, He gave *Nebuchadnezzar* dominion over the world, right down to the beasts of the field.



**“You couldn’t predict the next three superpowers that will dominate the world over the next 500 years...but God could—and did.”**

And as Daniel continues to explain the king’s dream, he too notes that the lion-like king of Babylon was king of the beasts:

**“And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath He given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold”** (Dan. 2:38).

The “head of gold” Daniel mentions here is a reference to the dream God gave Nebuchadnezzar. The dream featured the image of a man with a head of gold, breast and arms of silver, a belly and thighs of brass, and legs and feet of iron and clay (Dan. 2:32,33). So Daniel is beginning his interpretation by explaining that this golden head represented Nebuchadnezzar himself.

Now here you may be thinking that Nebuchadnezzar might have been a mighty king, but he certainly wasn't king of "the children of men" in *Australia*, or on other continents "wheresoever" men dwell. But that's not what God meant! He meant that nobody in Australia, or anywhere else in the world, could come along and *conquer* Nebuchadnezzar, because *God* had made him king of the world. It's kind of like what God told Adam and Eve when He made *Adam* king of the world:

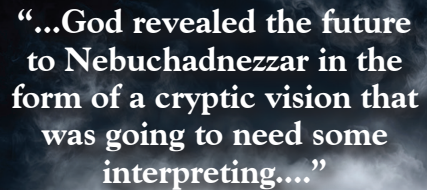
**"...God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (Gen. 1:28).**

Did you ever wonder why God told Adam to "subdue" the earth? The beasts over which God made Adam king were not yet aggressively carnivorous, and needed no subduing. But Satan's fallen angels were running around on the earth and *they* needed subduing. And if Adam hadn't sinned, they wouldn't have been able to conquer *him*, because God made him the king of the world when He gave him "dominion" over every living thing. And that's the sense in which Nebuchadnezzar was made king of the world as well.

God eventually told *Abraham* that if his multiplied seed behaved, *they* would be head of the world, as we read in Deuteronomy 28, where God told his seed in Israel:

**"...if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the**

**LORD...God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth... And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail... But...if thou wilt not hearken... the stranger...shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail" (Deut. 28:1,13,15,43,44).**



**"...God revealed the future to Nebuchadnezzar in the form of a cryptic vision that was going to need some interpreting..."**

Later, Abraham's seed in *Israel* became head of the world under Solomon. But when they *quit* hearkening to His voice, He made a Gentile stranger named Nebuchadnezzar the new head of the world. That's why he's pictured as the "head" of gold in this image.

### **Armed and Dangerous**

But there was more to this image than just a head, and Daniel went on to tell the king the meaning of the breast and arms of silver, and the thighs of brass, in verse 39:

**"And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth."**

Now if the king was listening carefully here, he probably liked what he heard, for Daniel told him that the *next* world empire wouldn't arise until "after" him—in other words, *after he was dead*. If that's not clear to you,

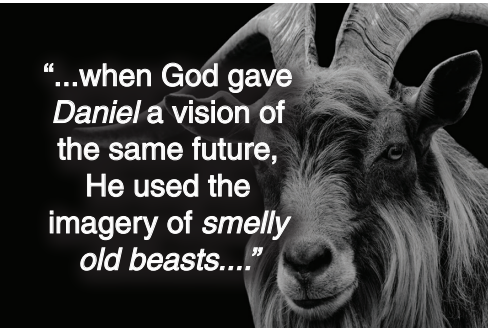
God says pretty much the same thing in Jeremiah 27:6,7, where the prophet quotes God as saying,

**“And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar...And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son’s son...”**

God predicted that all nations would serve Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar, then under his son after Nebuchadnezzar died, and then under his grandson Belshazzar when his son died.

“Then what?” you ask? Then God said to his grandson,

**“Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians... In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom...” (Dan. 5:28-31).**



**“...when God gave Daniel a vision of the same future, He used the imagery of smelly old beasts...”**

The reason Belshazzar’s kingdom is said to have been “divided” is that it was conquered by the *combined* kingdom of the Medes and the Persians, who divided up the spoils of war after conquering Babylon. That’s why this second kingdom was represented by a breast and arms. It was *two kingdoms*, represented by the two arms of the image, but it was two kingdoms *joined into one*, represented by the one breast.

Now when Daniel told the king that this next kingdom would be “inferior” to him, that was God’s way of saying that the world was going to keep getting worse and worse, something that has *continued* to be the case throughout the history of mankind. Things are getting more and more *inferior* as the centuries roll on, at least in God’s eyes.

Now verse 39 mentions a third kingdom of brass, and we learn the identity of *that* kingdom in Daniel 8, where *Daniel* sees a vision of all these same kingdoms portrayed in a different way:

**“...a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel...I saw...a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last... And...an he goat...came to the ram that had two horns...and smote the ram, and brake his two horns...And I heard a man’s voice...which...said...Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision...So he...said...The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia...” (Dan. 8:1-21).**

Here Media-Persia is represented by a ram with two horns, the two horns representing the Medes and the Persians, and the ram itself represented their combined kingdom. The higher horn represented Persia, the nation that “came up last” of the two kingdoms, but ended up being the dominant of the two. The he-goat that “brake” the combined kingdom was the kingdom of Greece, the *next* kingdom to rule

the world after Media-Persia. That means the third kingdom of brass in Daniel 2 represented Greece as well.

I pause here to remind you that Daniel 2 was written *centuries* before those podunk nations rose to power. Only the God who is the *true* God could have predicted the rise and fall of the world's next superpowers.

### God's Point of View

I *also* pause to ask you a question: Why would God predict the rise and fall of these nations *twice*, once in chapter 2 and again in chapter 8? Well, who had the dream in Daniel 2? Nebuchadnezzar, right? Who had the dream vision in chapter 8? Daniel himself. So the difference was a matter of perspective.

That is, when God gave a vision of the future to *an unsaved man like Nebuchadnezzar*, He showed it to him the way *he* would see the future: as the bright shining image of a man. Unsaved men think the world is getting better and better! But when God gave *Daniel* a vision of the same future, He used the imagery of *smelly old beasts*, because that's how *God* saw the future nations of the world. He saw them as smelling bad, and getting worse. A ram smells bad, but not as bad as a goat, as the man in my church who grew up on a farm can testify.

But before we read on in Daniel 2, did you notice that the silver and brass represented the *nations* of Media-Persia and Greece, while the gold represented the *king* of a nation? God couldn't say that the nation of *Babylon* was the head

of gold, because Nebuchadnezzar wasn't the first king of Babylon. A century earlier, the Bible spoke about "*Baladan, king of Babylon*" (2 Kings 20:12), and there were other kings of Babylon between him and Nebuchadnezzar. But God didn't make Babylon the head of the world until *Nebuchadnezzar* was Babylon's king. That's why *he himself* is said to be represented by the head of gold, not his nation.

But Nebuchadnezzar didn't assume the throne of the world when he ascended to the throne of Babylon. He didn't assume the throne of the world until a year *after* he became Babylon's king. That's because that's when something happened that made God decide to let Babylon replace Israel as the head of the world, something we read about in Jeremiah 36:9-23, where it says,



**“...in the fifth year of Jehoia-kim...king of Judah...Michaiah... heard...all the words of the LORD...in...the roll...So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll: and...when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire....”**

Israel's king didn't like something he heard in his Bible, so *he burned it*. And what year did that happen? "In the fifth year of Jehoiakim." Do you know what happened in the *fourth* year of Jehoiakim? *Nebuchadnezzar became king of Babylon*. How do I know? I know because Jeremiah 25:1 says,

**"...the fourth year of Jehoiakim...was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon."**

And God made Nebuchadnezzar the world's king in that dream in his *second* year:

**"...in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams..." (Dan. 2:1).**

In other words, it was only after the king of Israel *burned*

*his Bible* that God gave Nebuchadnezzar this dream, notifying him that he'd replaced Israel as the new head of the world. That was the final straw that proved to be Israel's undoing.

Now you might never burn *your* Bible after reading something you don't like in it. But in the measure you put God's Word on the pay-no-mind list, it will prove to be *your* undoing, spiritually speaking. Any God that could direct the path of kings, and nations, and even the course of *history itself* has proved Himself infinitely proficient to direct *your* path in life as well, and you need to pay scrupulously close attention to everything He says and apply it to literally every detail of your life.



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# Risen in Christ



**T**he resurrection of 1 Thessalonians 4:16 is only for the Body. The only ones who will take part in the raising of these select dead are those who have already been placed in Christ by the baptism of the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 12:13). To be IN CHRIST is to immediately partake of the Life of God: that is eternal life. The body may become dust before God's program is ready for the spirit and soul to be re-united.

At this resurrection, the spirit of those who experienced what Paul spoke of as—"absent from the body, present with the Lord"—(No soul sleep there!) will return to earth to see that pile of dust be raised so they can now be once again in the body now made new, and be present with the Lord in their new body.

Resurrection for the members of the Body of Christ has already happened—IN CHRIST (Col. 2:12)! Because He lives, we too shall live! Those who are born once will die twice. Those who are born twice will die once. Eternal life is experienced in the Spirit, at the moment of salvation. Eternal life will be experienced *by the mortal body* at the moment of translation. We shall not all sleep, and perhaps this generation will be the one to see this glorious thing happen. Not death, but translation!

IN CHRIST, we have died, we have been buried, and we have been raised from the dead. Our whole life is now on the resurrection side of the grave. Resurrection is just one more benefit of being IN CHRIST.

—Harold Steinbron

## The following are some important facts about the resurrection of Christ:

- Declares Him to be the Son of God—Romans 1:4
- Death is defeated—Romans 6:9
- Proof of our justification—Romans 4:25
- Proof our sins have been paid for—1 Corinthians 15:17,20
- Provides for forgiveness of our sins—Colossians 2:12-13
- Assures our resurrection—1 Corinthians 15:20-23, Romans 8:11, 2 Corinthians 4:14
- Imparts power to the believer—Ephesians 1:19,20

—John Baker

# BBS Letter Excerpts



## **From the Philippines:**

“I read a lot of your teachings and I’m blessed. I use these teaching materials in my ministries. They are a great help for me and for others in our spiritual maturity.”

## **From Wyoming:**

“As you have stepped up to the plate and produced *Transformed by Grace*, and are working on a study Bible, it is only proper to start stepping up my part in making funds flow to produce the Lord’s work....I won’t ever forget what you did for me.... Like one of the astronauts on the Apollo space program said, ‘It won’t fail because of me.’”

## **From Kenya:**

“I’m sincerely grateful for the ministry of the Word of God from the *Berean Bible Society*. It has really helped me understand the Bible dispensationally, and with right division of the Word of truth.”

## **From California:**

“Good *Two Minutes* [“Eye Hath Not Seen”]. Context is king! I saw this years ago when I read the context. Unfortunately, people yet think this verse is referencing heaven.”

## **From Wisconsin:**

“I have just started watching Kevin Sadler on BBS Roku. I heard about him from my sister. I love his way of teaching God’s Word. He makes it so I can understand and remember.”

## **From our Inbox:**

“Tell Pastor Kurth that I really enjoy his writing style. His humor injected into study material is a positive motivator—for me, anyway. Thank you for all you do....Your *Two Minutes with the Bible* starts my day out right every day!” (We birds of a funny bone feather have to stick together.—Ed.)

## **From Minnesota:**

“I have so enjoyed the *Searchlight* through the many years. I’m wondering if you would add my nephew’s name to the mailing list. I know the articles would be refreshing to him as a ‘rightly dividing’ student of Scripture.”

## **From Kenya:**

“I would like to take this special time to thank BBS for the great ministry of sharing the gospel of the grace of God to the regions beyond...I thank the Lord for the many years that I have been receiving *Berean Searchlight* magazines. I have personally grown from one level to another in my spiritual life.”

## **From Guam:**

“*Transformed by Grace* has truly blessed me.”

## **From Missouri:**

“I want to express my deepest gratitude for what you are teaching....Raised an Orthodox Jew, now I am truly a grace believer...I am grateful to sit under teaching that is the truth.”

**From Tennessee:**

“Here is a donation to help pay for mailing out so many *Berean Searchlights*. It’s such a wonderful little booklet.”

**From North Dakota:**

“We have been watching your program, *Transformed by Grace*, which has been such a blessing to us. Pastor Kevin Sadler has such a gift of explaining God’s Word in such a simple way....We have also greatly appreciated the *Berean Searchlight* which we read from cover to cover. An added blessing is the daily email, *Two Minutes with the Bible*, that we also cherish.”

**From Texas:**

“I have just recently discovered your website and I am really enjoying the teachings....2 Timothy 2:15 is my life Scripture....I have lots of questions that I pray you will help me with. I am 64 and I love the Lord and His Word.” (There’s an “Ask a Question” link featured prominently on our website home page.—Ed.)

**From Oklahoma:**

“I was so excited to learn that a Grace Reference Bible is in the works. Without a doubt, it is something that right dividers have been needing for a very long time.”

**From Minnesota:**

“I read your Question Box answer about vain repetitions of prayers in the December issue. Your answer was for me, as I’ve been questioning my prayer life, hoping I was complete enough. You answered by citing three Bible verses, and the light came on. Just what I needed.”

**From Pennsylvania:**

“Thank you for making it possible to have the daily email devotional sent to me. I look forward to them arriving in my email box. It is a wonderful help to me, and encourages me every day.”

**From Alabama:**

“I wish to commend the quality of discernment and charity found in the *Searchlight* article entitled ‘Ultra-dispensationalism.’ It was well written and timely. Thanks for including it.”

**From Illinois:**

“When I first listened to you teach, your style opened my eyes to so much. As I like to put it, you have a way of ‘putting the jelly on the bottom shelf’ where I understand so much. I also appreciate you answering my periodic questions as I continue to grow in so many new thought patterns.” (Bottom shelf jelly helps avoid Scriptural jams. Ba da bum.—Ed.)

**From Virginia:**

“I watch your program on TV and just want you to know how much I gain from it.”

**From our Inbox:**

“...you have no idea how much you’ve educated me on this subject. My uncle...told me in 1969, when he introduced me to the Apostle Paul, that Pastor Stam ‘got it’. I know he was referring to the Apostle Paul, and the teaching of the Mystery. Since then, I’ve become a student of Paul....I’ve bought all of Pastor Stam’s published works from the Bereans, and I intend to buy others written by the Berean staff as time goes along....”

**“BBS is a work of faith supported by the gifts of Christian friends.”**

—C. R. Stam, BBS Founder



# April

## Book Sale



### ROMANS



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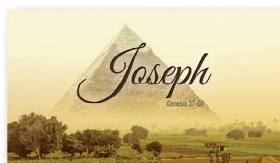
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### A Resurrection Day Special!

Paul opens Romans by noting that Christ was...“declared to be the Son of God...by the resurrection of the dead” (1:4), and later explains how we can be saved “if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus” (4:24; 10:9). The foundational doctrine of His resurrection is frequently referenced in this foundational book of salvation (6:4,5,9; 7:4; 8:11).

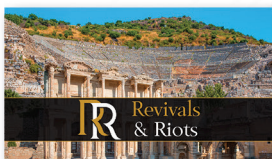
# DVD

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*Transformed by Grace*  
now available!



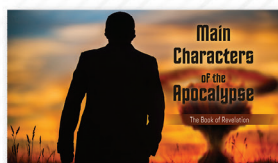
Joseph

\$18.00 (9 DVD set) reg. \$22



Revivals & Riots

\$12.00 (6 DVD set) reg. \$15



Main Characters  
of the Apocalypse

\$10.00 (5 DVD set) reg. \$12



Chariots of Fire

\$6.00 (3 DVD set) reg. \$8



Better Together

\$16.00 (8 DVD set) reg. \$20



The Seven Sayings  
of the Cross

\$14.00 (7 DVD set) reg. \$17

Watch *Transformed by Grace* on the **BBS NETWORK** 24/7 streaming channel on **Roku** and on **Apple TV**. It is also available on **Facebook**, **YouTube**, and the **BBS website** at: [bereabiblesociety.org](http://bereabiblesociety.org). Now an **audio podcast**!

## Special Offers End April 30, 2023

**Free shipping!** (Wisconsin residents, please add 5.5% sales tax)

262-255-4750 or [bereabiblesociety.org](http://bereabiblesociety.org)



# News and Announcements

**Transformed by Grace Conference:** Chicago area TBG viewers who are used to seeing Pastor Kevin proclaim God's transforming grace on WJYS can now hear him teach up close and personal. On May 20, *Berean Bible Society* will host a regional conference at historic *Wheaton College*, where the Billy Graham Museum honors the college's most famous alum. To register for this free conference, go to our BBS website at [bereanbiblesociety.org](http://bereanbiblesociety.org), or ring us up at (262) 255-4750.

**New Daily Email Devotional:** The BBS board has decided to create a new daily devotional email in addition to *Two Minutes with the Bible*. Short articles from John Fredericksen's devotional book, *Daily Transformation*, will now be offered as a separate devotional you can receive each morning. These articles are also available in Spanish. You can sign up for the *Daily Transformation* devotional emails in English or Spanish by clicking on the Bible Study tab on the home page of our website.

**BBF Summer Conference:** It's time again for the annual conference of the *Berean Bible Fellowship*, which will meet again this year at the *Community Bible Church* in Tipp City, Ohio, June 18-22. Grace pastors from all over the country will meet to expound this year's theme of "God's Prophetic Promises" and our own BBS business manager Pastor Jim Tollar will bring four separate messages on *Answering God's Call* in the daily Bible Hour. For further information, call (937) 667-2710, email [cbctipp@gmail.com](mailto:cbctipp@gmail.com), or visit the new BBF website at [www.bbfnews.org](http://www.bbfnews.org). Just don't delay! The BBF conference is the most wonderful time of the year, I don't care what singer Andy Williams says about Christmas!

**Kentucky Church Startup:** When Pastor Vitis Bailey called to let us know he wants to start a new grace church in his new home town of Columbia, we weren't surprised in the least. He may be in his 80s, but his passion to teach God's rightly divided Word shows no signs of burning out any time soon. If you live close enough to help him found a fortress of Pauline faith in your neck of the central Kentucky woods, you can reach him at (270) 384-2731.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

**Northeast Ohio Bible Conference**, May 12-14, Ashtabula, Ohio

**Transformed by Grace Regional Conference**, May 20, Chicago, Illinois

**BBF Summer Conference**, June 18-22, Tipp City, Ohio

**Missouri Conference**, July 14-16, Salem, Missouri

# Media Price List

## POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

PowerPoint Presentations are digital downloads to view with a projector, computer or tablet.

- Basic Distinctions between
- Prophecy and the Mystery .....\$10.00
- The Key to Understanding the Scriptures . 10.00
- The Rapture vs. The Second Coming ...10.00

## AUDIO MESSAGES ON USB DRIVE

These USB drives can be plugged into your computer or vehicle for easy listening to grace messages.

- BBS (423 messages from various grace speakers)
- USB Flash Drive .....\$10.00
- Transformed by Grace (episodes 1-250)
- USB Flash Drive.....\$10.00

## E-BOOKS FROM BBS

(E-Books are digital files to read on your devices, not printed books.)

### C.R. STAM

- Acts Vol. I .....11.00
- Acts Vol. II .....11.00
- Memoirs of Cornelius R. Stam.....11.00
- Moses & Paul .....6.00
- Things That Differ .....10.00
- Two Minutes with the Bible.....10.00
- Twofold Purpose of God.....6.00

### PAUL M. SADLER

- Exploring the Unsearchable
- Riches of Christ .....11.00
- Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.....11.00
- Paul's Epistle to the Philippians .....11.00
- Revelation Vol. 1 .....11.00
- Revelation Vol. 2 .....11.00
- Revelation Vol. 3 .....11.00
- Studies in James.....8.00

### KEVIN J. SADLER

- Revelation Vol. 4 .....11.00
- Runaways, Running from God.....8.00

### RICKY KURTH

- Rightly Divided Answers
- to Frequently Asked Questions ..11.00
- More Rightly Divided Answers
- to Frequently Asked Questions ..11.00

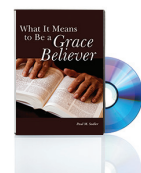
### JOHN FREDERICKSEN

- Growing in God's Grace .....\$6.00

## DVD SETS

### PAUL M. SADLER

- What It Means to Be A Grace
- Believer..... 18.00
- This series with Pastor Paul M. Sadler will take you through the Grace Message step by step!*



- The Miracles of Calvary..... 18.00
- These video messages from Pastor Paul M. Sadler will take you back in time to the day that Christ died.*

### KEVIN J. SADLER

*"Transformed by Grace" is a Bible study video broadcast with Pastor Kevin Sadler. Each DVD contains one 28-minute episode.*



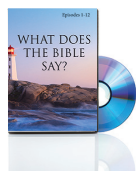
- Single Episode (more than 275 available) .....3.00

- Set of 12 DVDs (1-12, 13-24, 25-36, etc.)..... 29.00

- Series Set (more than 40 available)....Contact for Price

### KEN LAWSON

*"What Does the Bible Say?" is the Bible study video series with Pastor Ken Lawson.*



- Set of 12 DVDs (1-12, 13-24, 25-36, 37-48) .....\$29.00

**Free Shipping!** Wisconsin residents please add 5.5% sales tax

**BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY | PO Box 756, Germantown, WI 53022**

Phone: 262-255-4750 | Website: [bereanbiblesociety.org](http://bereanbiblesociety.org)

*This is only a partial price list. For a full price list please see our website or contact BBS. Prices and availability are subject to change without notice. For detailed descriptions of products, please visit our online store.*

THE BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT  
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PO Box 756  
GERMANTOWN, WI 53022-0756

PERIODICALS  
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AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES



*A Blessed Resurrection  
Day to All!*

**Death cannot keep his prey—Jesus my Savior!  
He tore the bars away—Jesus my Lord!**

—Robert Lowry

Transformed by  
*Grace*

Berean Bible Society  
TV Ministry

Sunday 9:00 am CT: WJYS Chicago  
Monday–Friday 6:00 pm ET:  
Christian Television Network (CTN)

- DirecTV: Channel 376
- Dish Network: Channel 262
- Glory Star Satellite: Channel 117

BBS Network 24/7 streaming channel Roku and Apple TV  
Also available on Facebook, YouTube, and the BBS website