

The BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

March 2025



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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.

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A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

As parents, sometimes it's good for our children *not* to follow in our footsteps. My wife, Jessica, and I noted examples of this of late with a few of our grown children.

I am terrible at hunting. For the past seven deer hunting seasons, I have been trying to get my son, Tyler, his first deer. We played a lot of games, ate many snacks, and took a lot of naps in the deer stand over that time. I have no understanding of how to mask scent for deer hunting. After many years of trying, it became a running joke in our family that "This is the year of the deer!" One season, when we went to a Thanksgiving evening service after hunting that afternoon, one of the men from church who was hunting nearby asked why we didn't shoot at the big buck that walked by our stand. Tyler and I looked at each other and said, "We never saw it." Then we had to admit that it was likely because we were both sound asleep! Finally, this past season, Tyler got his first deer. He was thrilled.

My father used to call my mother "The Terminator" because she terminated the life of plants and flowers. My wife could be called "The Terminator 2" because she does the same thing. Our daughter, Carissa, has chosen to study horticulture in school to learn how to keep plants and trees alive and help them grow. We're hoping that she breaks the family curse. Carissa works at a greenhouse and applies many of the things she is learning at school. She also brings home many plants that she says, "need a home," which my wife is not permitted to touch!

Neither my wife nor I are naturally early risers. However, our daughter, Katelyn, is always up early with energy and enthusiasm. She likes to take our dogs for a walk, brew some coffee, and get ready for her classes. Katelyn is going to school to be a physical therapy assistant. Jessica and I are selfishly happy about this because she'll be able to apply what she has learned to our aches and pains as we age. We already ask her for advice when this or that hurts!

God has made our children all uniquely wonderful. And they all have their own strengths and abilities which differ from ours, for which we are grateful to the Lord.

Grace and Peace,

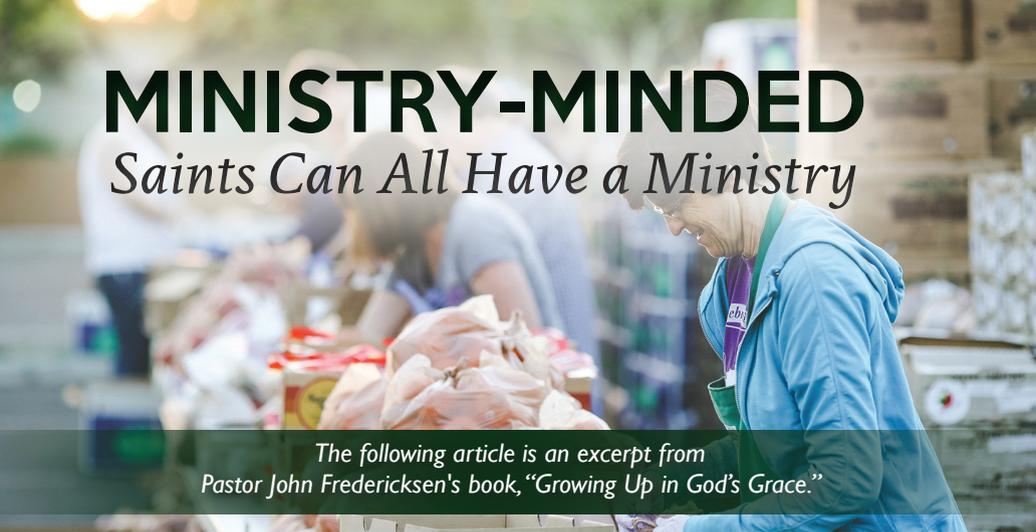
Pastor Kevin J. Sadler, President



Pastor Kevin J. Sadler has been serving as president of the *Berean Bible Society* since 2016. He speaks on "Transformed by Grace," a daily television program that airs nationally. In addition, he speaks at Bible conferences and authors Grace literature.

MINISTRY-MINDED

Saints Can All Have a Ministry



*The following article is an excerpt from
Pastor John Fredericksen's book, "Growing Up in God's Grace."*

God never intended for only pastors or missionaries to be “in the ministry.” All believers can have a meaningful ministry. As members of the Body of Christ, God has designed us so that we are “fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working...of every part...” (Eph. 4:16). Just as we need every joint of our body to work effectively, or we suffer, so each of us needs to be working for the Lord, or the cause of Christ suffers.

It doesn't matter if we feel inadequate to minister. A sense of our own insufficiency is actually the first qualification for ministry. We learn from 1 Peter 5:5 that “God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” Recognizing our weakness puts us in the position of relying on God's strength, as He provides us with the power needed in ministry. Moreover, God prefers to use regular saints instead of superstars. Paul told the Corinthians, “Ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty...are called, but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise...that no flesh should glory in His presence” (1 Cor. 1:26-31). Paul continued to press this principle home to these saints in three other passages. Those who properly minister for the Lord realize “not that we are sufficient of ourselves...but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers...[because] God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” (2 Cor. 3:5; 9:8; 12:9).

God has always used imperfect people to accomplish His purposes. Abraham lacked courage, Moses thought himself unqualified because he was slow of speech, Gideon lacked faith, Peter was impetuous, Paul had a violent past, and Timothy was full of fear and struggled with physical infirmity. Yet, these and many more were greatly used of the Lord, sometimes in spite of themselves. The greatest ability for ministry is availability wrapped in a constant dependence on the Lord. If you will meet this qualification, God will continually put ministry opportunities in your path. Be ready, looking, and willing.



The Twofold PLAN and PURPOSE of GOD

PASTOR DON HOSFELD
Berean Searchlight Editor

“In the opening pages of his autobiography, ‘An American Life,’ Ronald Reagan writes, I was raised to believe that God had a plan for everyone and that seemingly random twists of fate are all a part of His plan. My mother—a small woman with auburn hair and a sense of optimism that ran as deep as the cosmos—told me that everything in life happened for a purpose. She said all things were part of God’s plan....”¹

Many earnest Christians wonder what God’s plan is for them. Go to a Christian bookstore, and you’ll find one book after another on how to learn, discern, and know God’s plan for you. It is an important question, and the answer to which is something that God does not hide, nor do the Scriptures fail to teach clearly; however, one should ask if it is truly possible to know God’s plan for our lives without first simply understanding *God’s plan*.

Is it possible that many people are “putting the cart before the horse?” How can we, or any pastor, elder, preacher, teacher, or author, know God’s plan for ourselves or another if we don’t first sufficiently comprehend God’s plan? Is it possible for someone to provide sound counsel on finances if they don’t first understand the math necessary to make such calculations? Likewise, can someone discern God’s plan for a person if they have yet to discern God’s plan for the heavens and the earth? Is this not a prerequisite?

Some may argue that the private does not need to understand the plans of the general, only the orders given to him. This may be somewhat true, but how is that private to interpret different orders from the same commanding officer? Is he to pick the ones he likes or prefers to do—the ones that stir his heart? Is he to follow

what everyone else is doing even though it is pretty clear that not everybody is on the same page?

In reality, even the lowest-ranking soldier will almost always know the overall objective of any mission. In those cases where they don't, the likelihood of success will be significantly diminished because, in every battle, the enemy introduces chaos, and having a clear understanding of the objective becomes vital for soldiers to work in unity to achieve the desired outcome.



While there may be reasons for a commanding officer and even God to keep certain details a mystery, the Scriptures do tell us God's plan and purpose. God *wants* us to know His plan.

THE END GAME

“Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are *in heaven*, and which are *on earth*; even in Him” (Eph. 1:9-10).

With Paul came the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret from *all* those who came before (Rom. 16:25-26; Eph. 3:1-5; Col. 1:25-26). The mystery concerns those things which Paul calls “the faith” (Rom. 1:5; 1 Cor. 16:13; Col. 2:7) and are the doctrines specific to the Body of Christ. Along with doctrines such as the Rapture (1 Cor. 15:51-52), the one spiritual baptism (Eph. 4:5 cf. 1 Cor. 12:13), ending the Mosaic Law (Rom. 6:14; 7:1-6), and many more, the mystery also reveals “the mystery of God's will” (Eph. 1:9)—the previously unrevealed part of His plan.

The word “will” (v. 9) is the Greek word *thelema* and sometimes refers to more than simply God's desire, but what He has *determined to be done*, His *decree*; this is the meaning here in Ephesians 1. We see this expressed when Christ told the people of Israel, “And this is the will [*thelema*] of Him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life” (John 6:40). It was more than simply the Father's *desire* that those who saw and believed in the Son have eternal life; it was His determination, God's *plan* that this be so.

Another aspect of God's *will* we need to understand is the difference between God's *commanded will* and His *sovereign will*. God “commands” everyone to repent (Acts 17:30), but not everyone will. Man can choose to disobey God's commands, just as Adam did in the Garden when he ate of the Tree (Gen. 3:6 cf. 2:17).



“Along with doctrines such as the Rapture, the one spiritual baptism...the mystery also reveals ‘the mystery of God’s will’—the previously unrevealed part of His plan.”

However, God’s “sovereign” will cannot be stopped or prevented: “There are many devices in a man’s heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, *that shall stand*” (Prov. 19:21 cf. Job 23:13; Isa. 14:27).

It is God’s sovereign will (His decree), which He “purposed in Himself” (Eph. 1:9 cf. Isa. 46:10; Jer. 4:28), that in the dispensation of the fullness of times, He will gather together in Christ those “which are in heaven, and which are on earth” (Eph. 1:10). This is God’s end game! Heaven and earth refer to the two domains that God created in the beginning. And God will magnify the praise of His glory (v. 12) by bringing together into Christ the redeemed that are in *heaven* and on *earth*.

HEAVEN AND EARTH

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).

While God created a wonderful and vast universe, His focus is on “*the heaven*” and “*the earth*.” From the opening verse and throughout all of Scripture, it is clear that heaven and earth are unique from the rest of the universe and that God has a special purpose for both.

Heaven

“Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts.

“Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the LORD: for He commanded, and they were created.

“He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: He hath made a decree which shall not pass” (Psa. 148:1-2,4-6).

When Satan sinned, he not only corrupted himself and the angels that followed him, but in so doing, he also brought corruption to heaven. Heaven, and the heaven of heavens, is to be a place of praise to the Lord. Any rebellion against this is a violation of God’s sovereign will—His “decree”—and surely cannot and will not stand.

And while some have concluded that God responded by kicking the fallen heavenly hosts out of heaven, this is not the case. The expulsion of fallen angels from heaven is described in Revelation 12 and has yet to occur. God no more kicked the fallen angels out of heaven than He kicked fallen man off the earth.

The Apostle Paul says that our spiritual enemies are “in high places” (Eph. 6:12). The word “high” means *above the sky, celestial, or heaven* (cf. 1:3,20; 1 Cor. 15:40). However, God has a plan to remove all unrighteousness from heaven and replace it with righteousness; thus, putting down the rebellion in heaven and restoring its divine purpose.

Earth

“Praise the LORD from the earth...Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth: Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: “Let them praise the name of the LORD: for His name alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth and heaven” (Psa. 148:7,11-13).

With Adam’s sin came the fall of mankind (Rom. 5:12). It was a willful act of rebellion by the one to whom God gave dominion over all the earth (Gen. 1:26,28). Adam perverted his purpose and corrupted the earth (Gen. 6:11). All the children of Adam would be born in sin and rebellion. Instead of the earth being a place that praised the Lord, it became

a place that cursed Him. Instead of the men of the earth worshipping and exalting God, they worshipped and exalted themselves and “changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things” (Rom. 1:23).

Like heaven, God has a plan for the earth, a plan to restore His rightful place as the God of this world (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2). God’s sovereign will for both heaven and earth to be free from the presence and influence of sin, and be places that harmoniously lift praises to His name, requires that He restore both to their original purpose, and He will ensure that it happens.

The twofold plan and purpose of God refers to God’s distinct but interconnected plans for the restoration of both earth and heaven.

GOD’S PLAN FOR THE EARTH— HIS PROPHECY PROGRAM

God’s plan for the earth involves the establishment of God’s kingdom to rule and reign on earth. Immediately after Adam’s



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sin, God began a program of *prophecy* by telling of a coming Savior Who would bruise Satan's head (Gen. 3:15 cf. Acts 3:21) and the formation of the nation Israel to be His channel of blessing to the entire world (Gen. 12:2-3; Isa. 2:2).

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; 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. 8:23).

Israel would be God's nation of priests (Exod. 19:1-6), His instrument to reach the rest of the world. This priestly nation would have a King, chosen and sent by God to rule over His people (Psa. 2:6; Isa. 55:4; Mic. 5:2). He would be more than a King, but also a Messiah to save God's people from their sins (Isa. 53:1-10; Dan. 9:24-26) and establish the throne of God in Jerusalem forever (Jer. 33:14-18 cf. Luke 1:31-33).

The King and Messiah would be the Lord Himself come to sit upon the throne of David “to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever” (Isa. 9:6-7 cf. Mic. 4:7). “And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD” (Zech. 14:9), and He shall govern *all nations* (Psa. 2:8-9; 82:8).

God's presence as ruler in Jerusalem will bring the glory of the Lord, shining upon Israel and bringing light to the darkness of the world and Gentiles to the

brightness of Israel (Isa. 60:1-3). Through Israel's rise, the whole world will be blessed. And the saved shall find their inheritance *on earth* (Isa. 60:19-21; Jer. 23:5-8)—this is their *hope!*

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE HEAVENS—HIS MYSTERY PROGRAM

God's plan for heaven involves God ruling and reigning in heaven. Unlike the prophecy program, “which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:21; Luke 1:70), the mystery program was “hid in God” (Eph. 3:9) and “*kept secret since the world began*” (Rom. 16:25).

Due to Israel's disbelief and rejection of their Messiah, God temporarily set Israel aside (Rom. 11:11,20,25) in order to form a “new creature” (2 Cor. 5:17) called the “Body of Christ” (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:12). During this time, God ceased to deal with mankind as distinct nations. Instead of Israel, it is the Church, the Body of Christ, made up of both Jew and



Gentile (Gal. 3:28), that becomes His channel of blessing to the world (Phil. 2:12-15).



"We need to know how we fit into God's plan rather than trying to fit God into ours."

Rather than having twelve apostles representing the twelve tribes of Israel, God calls *one* man, Paul, to be His Apostle (Eph. 3:1-9; Col. 1:25-27). Having one apostle is fitting for a couple of reasons. Firstly, God now sees Jews and Gentiles alike. There is no favored nation today, and no matter a person's heritage, everyone is either *in Christ* or *in Adam* (Rom. 5:12-19). By setting Israel's favored position and the prophecy program aside, God included Israel with the Gentiles in unbelief (Rom. 11:32)—thus, they are one in their disobedience. Secondly, the one apostle reflects the oneness of Christ's church (Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:12; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 4:4).

Paul's salvation marked a new beginning—a new dispensation—and a new pattern of salvation (1 Tim. 1:16). While the gospel of the kingdom required believing in *who* Jesus was to be saved, i.e., "the Christ, the Son of God" (cf. John 20:31), the gospel of the grace of God that the risen Lord gave to Paul required believing in *what* Jesus had done; Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are

above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory" (Col. 3:1-4).

Under the mystery *heavenly* program, as soon as we believe the gospel (the correct gospel), our position changes from being in Adam to being in Christ. Literally and instantly, we become citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20-21). Our *hope* and inheritance "is in heaven" (Col. 1:5) and culminates when the Lord receives His saints to rule and reign with Him in heavenly places forever (1 Thes. 4:16-17).

It is this church with its heavenly calling that God will use to stomp out Satan (Rom. 16:20) and replace the unrighteous fallen heavenly host with the righteousness of God in His saints.

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

Rightly Dividing

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17).

Recognizing God's twofold plan and purpose is more than merely beneficial for today's believers; it is necessary if we are to understand God's will for our lives. We need to know how we fit into God's plan rather than trying to fit God into ours.

We must "rightly divide" (2 Tim. 2:15) between God's *prophecy program for the earth*, and His *mystery program for the heavenlies* if we are going to know God's plan, and ultimately His plan for ourselves. We must

distinguish between the two programs, or we will certainly find ourselves believing doctrines and instructions that are not meant for us.

"Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine; Thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and Thou art exalted as Head above all" (1 Chron. 29:11).

1. <https://sermoncentral.com/sermon-illustrations/72185/all-part-of-god-s-plan-by-sermon-central>



This issue marks the 85th year of the Berean Searchlight.

The first published edition of the *Berean Searchlight* was March 1940. March 2025 is the 935th edition of *the Berean Searchlight*.

- Sent to 11,502 U.S. addresses monthly
- Sent to 608 prisoners monthly
- Sent to 762 international addresses
- Sent to 68 differing countries
- Packages of Searchlights are sent to churches/ministries all over the world
- Online readership of 10,534

Sent 85 years free of charge thanks to the gifts of Christian friends like you. Thank you!

Question Box



“Is 1 Peter 4:5-6 Jesus telling the lost at the Great White Throne why they are condemned?”

“Who shall give account to Him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit” (1 Pet. 4:5-6).

In verses 3-4, Peter reminded his believing countrymen that, after they were saved and no longer behaved as the world, the world thought them to be “strange” and mad, and then spoke “evil of you” (v. 4). Peter assures us that the unbelievers who did so would answer to God for every sinful word and deed, and would “give account to Him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead” (v. 5), Who is the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 17:31).

In verse 5, Peter pointed out that the unsaved will one day be judged for how they treated believers, and then in verse 6, he vindicates and defends the saved. He stated that the gospel of the kingdom was “preached also to them that are dead,” meaning “to them that are [now] dead,” that is, to people who were alive, but later died. At the time when Peter wrote this, they were dead as far as their physical bodies were concerned.

When they were still living, these people had responded to the gospel of the kingdom, believed in the Lord, and were saved. They were saved, Peter wrote, “that they might be judged according to men in the flesh,” as believers are often judged as strange and spoken evil of (v. 4) by men after they “find religion” and take a stand for what is right and live separate from the world. Because the application of this passage will be in the future Tribulation period, it refers to the mocking, suffering, and, in many cases, the martyrdom of future kingdom believers (Rev. 6:9-11; 20:4) who will reject the Anti-Christ as a fraud and stand for the truth that Jesus of Nazareth is the true Messiah.

These kingdom believers, although judged by men in the flesh and having died, will be vindicated by God, as they will “live according to God in the spirit,” and will be alive and well, enjoying life eternal with God in His very presence. Although the world judged them mad, God will honor them, and their spirits will be in glory forever.

—*Pastor Kevin Sadler*



That I May KNOW THEE

*(Taken from episode #167
of Transformed by Grace)*

PASTOR KEVIN J. SADLER
Berean Bible Society President

“James Denney, the Scotch preacher and theologian, used to warn his students against thinking they could learn all there was to know about God during their university and seminary studies. ‘Gentlemen,’ he would say, ‘to study infinity requires eternity.’”¹ In Exodus 33, Moses asked God for the blessed privilege of “that I may know Thee.” We will be growing in our knowledge of God throughout eternity, but God would have us start now. In doing so, we will experience the joy, peace, and strength that comes from an increasing knowledge of Him.

FACE TO FACE

“And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp.

“And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle.

“And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.

“And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door.

“And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle” (Exod. 33:7-11).

The “tabernacle” (v. 7) mentioned here is not the tabernacle with the brazen altar, the ark of the covenant, and the other furnishings, where God’s glorious presence resided and where the people brought their offerings and sacrifices. That tabernacle had not yet been constructed. Before the construction of that tabernacle, Moses pitched a tent outside the camp of Israel that he used to meet with God.

“...sometimes it is good to go outside the camp, outside the normal routine and busyness of our lives, to get away to spend time with the Lord alone...”



Since it was the “Tabernacle of the congregation” (v. 7), anyone in the congregation of Israel could go to this tent to seek, pray, and worship the Lord. Meeting with God at this tent outside the camp teaches us a principle that sometimes it is good to go outside the camp, outside the normal routine and busyness of our lives, to get away to spend time with the Lord alone, just Him and you.

When Moses headed for this tent, verse 8 tells us that everyone stopped and dropped what they were doing so they could all watch an amazing scene. When Moses entered it, “the cloudy pillar,” the glory cloud of God’s presence that led the nation on their journey, would descend on the tent and stand at the door of the tent. And the Lord would then talk with Moses (v. 9). As the children of Israel witnessed this supernatural sight, they were awestruck, and it moved them to worship God at the doors of their own tents.

As the Lord conversed with Moses, He “spoke unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend” (v. 11). God spoke with Moses in the way friends talk together. When we read that the Lord spoke unto Moses “face to face,” it does not mean that Moses saw God’s face, because it was impossible to survive this (v. 20). Rather, God speaking with Moses face to face means that He spoke with Moses in a one-on-one meeting. And God appeared to Moses in a way in which human frailty could bear. Moses’s face-to-face meeting with God, however, makes us think about the remarkable blessing awaiting the redeemed one day in heaven, when the Lord will speak unto us “face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.”

When Moses returned to his home within the camp after communing with the Lord, verse 11 notes that Moses’s servant Joshua stayed behind at this tent. Joshua did not want to leave this special place of meeting with God. His desire to be near the Lord was so strong that he remained and stayed there longer.

THE GRACE OF KNOWING GOD

“And Moses said unto the LORD, See, Thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and Thou hast not let me know whom Thou wilt send with me. Yet Thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in My sight.

“Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in Thy sight, shew me now Thy way, that I may know Thee, that I may find grace in Thy sight: and consider that this nation is Thy people” (Exod. 33:12-13).

Here, we are given access to one of the face-to-face meetings. Earlier, the Lord told Moses that He was going to send “an angel” to go before Israel on their journey to the Promised Land (32:34; 33:2); God said, “for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way” (33:3).

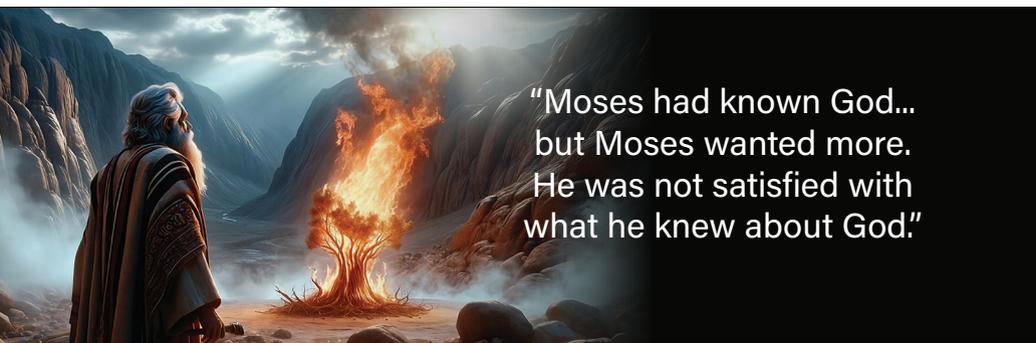
The Lord instructed Moses to bring up this people from Egypt, but now Moses wants to know “whom Thou wilt send with me” to show the way to the Promised Land. Moses wanted more information about this angel who was to go before them on their journey. However, Moses’s real concern was that he didn’t want to go anywhere or do anything if the Lord was not with him (v. 15).

Moses reminded the Lord that He had said that He knew him by name and that Moses had found grace in the Lord’s sight (v. 12). Having found grace in being Israel’s chosen deliverer and leader, Moses appealed to the Lord that he needed more grace at that moment. And in knowing Moses by name and everything about him, then the Lord knew that Moses could not do this alone and that he needed Him.

Thus, Moses made a specific request for God to “shew me now Thy way” (v. 13) to let Moses know God’s will, intention, and plan. Moses was asking to know God’s will about how they should proceed to the Promised Land and the way He intended to help Moses lead Israel there.

Moses desired to know God’s way, and his further and greater desire was “that I may *know Thee*.” The Lord knew Moses (v. 12), and Moses wanted to know the Lord. And knowing God was a request based on grace. Moses knew he did not deserve the privilege and gift of knowing God; and neither do we.

God would have us model Moses’s desire to know Him. And God’s Word challenges us to know Him and His Son (Jer. 9:23-24; John 17:3; Phil. 3:10; 2 Pet. 3:18). The most meaningful benefit to understanding the Word, rightly divided, and the revelation of the mystery that was committed to the Apostle Paul, is that by it, we gain a fuller “knowledge of Him” (Eph. 1:17); and to a greater degree, we can be “increasing in the knowledge of God” (Col. 1:10).



**“Moses had known God...
but Moses wanted more.
He was not satisfied with
what he knew about God.”**

Moses had knowledge of a great many things. As a result of the first 40 years of his life in Egypt, “Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds” (Acts 7:22). He spent the next 40 years in the land of Midian, where he came to know the desert and how to tend a flock ably. But what Moses most desired to know was God.

Up until this point, Moses had known God by the burning bush, the forty days and forty nights he spent with Him on Mount Sinai, and the cloudy-pillar meetings with Him at the tent, but Moses wanted *more*. He was not satisfied with what he knew about God. Moses wanted more insight into Him, His will, and His ways. Moses desired a deeper, fuller, richer knowledge of God.

Knowing God is not a mere gaining of information and collecting of facts. It is only true knowledge when it changes the heart and translates into a life that imitates God. In knowing God more, Moses would learn how to lead God’s people as God would lead them, and so Moses could model God’s mercy, wisdom, and love before Israel.

As in any relationship, knowing someone is a result of spending time with that person, and that knowledge takes time to develop. This is why Joshua stayed behind at the tabernacle after Moses left. Likewise, by grace, we know God more as we spend time with Him in the Scriptures and by prayer, and it takes time and faithfulness for Him to deepen our knowledge.



“[Harry] Fosdick compared our understanding of God with our understanding of the sea. He said, ‘I know the sea but I don’t know the vastness of the sea. There is a part of the sea that washes up on the sands of my life...And yet, I know only a very little part of the sea.’”²

It’s the same way with our knowledge of God. In life, we only gain a partial knowledge of Him Who is infinitely majestic and great. But as we remain open to what God reveals of Himself and as we give ourselves to the pursuit of knowing God more, we find it is worth doing so, and we can then experience the truth of Daniel 11:32, “the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.” 

1. Justin Imek, Sr., “Sermons on the Godhead | God is Spirit,” accessed January 30, 2025, <https://drjustinimelsr.com/sermons-on-the-godhead-god-is-spirit/>.

2. Melvin Newland (contributor), “Fosdick Compared Our Understanding of God With...” Sermon Central, July 2, 2002, <https://sermoncentral.com/sermon-illustrations/8558/fosdick-compared-our-understanding-of-god-with-by-melvin-newland>.



WOMAN *to* WOMAN

HAVE YOU PRAYED ABOUT IT?

You will find a small desk plaque in the BBS offices saying, “Have you prayed about it?” This plaque used to sit on the desk of the late BBS President, Pastor Paul Sadler, and I understand it was somewhat of his motto, as he often asked those he met with if they had prayed about it.

God Himself wants us to “pray about it” too and gives many instructions about our prayer life. We are to pray for spiritual and physical needs (cf. 2 Thes. 3:1; Phil. 2:25-27). We should pray for both the saved and the lost, including our leaders, our children, our ministries, our personal needs, and especially our walk (cf. 1 Tim. 2:1-4; Col. 1:9-12). Wives, most importantly, we should pray for our husbands daily, without ceasing. We know our spouses best and we should be their biggest prayer warriors as they face the difficulties of this world. Scripture instructs us to pray without ceasing, pray for everything with supplication and thanksgiving, and pray without doubting (1 Thes. 5:17; Phil. 4:6; 1 Tim. 2:8). Simple, right? So, the question is, do we? Do we pray for all things? Do we have a continuous spirit of prayer? Do we offer thanks in our prayers?

Although prayer is complex, it is also simplistic. Consider the heart of a child. Jesus highly valued children and thought their hearts more humble and greater to believe than even the learned leaders of Israel (cf. Matt. 18:1-4)! Just listen to a child pray!



Our eleven-year-old grandson, Liam, sent a photo (pictured) of our little Stevi at two weeks old. He was excited to share it with everyone, saying, “Look, she is praying!” Oh, the instant connection Liam felt to God and Stevi as she clasped her hands together! Prayer connects us in spirit and communion with each other and God.

Our daughter, Caitlyn, told us that four-year-old Emmie prayed, “Dear God, thank you that all the dinosaurs are dead so that I don’t have to be afraid....Lord, when I die, I will draw a picture of my family and put it in my pocket so I can bring it to heaven and show you.” Emmie has the right idea in communicating with God. She thanked him, prayed about all things on her mind, and trusted God with her future.

How about you? What is on your mind? Have you prayed about it?

—Valerie Hosfeld



Northeast Ohio Grace Conference

April 25-27, 2025

Speaker:

Pastor Kevin Sadler
Berean Bible Society President

Theme:

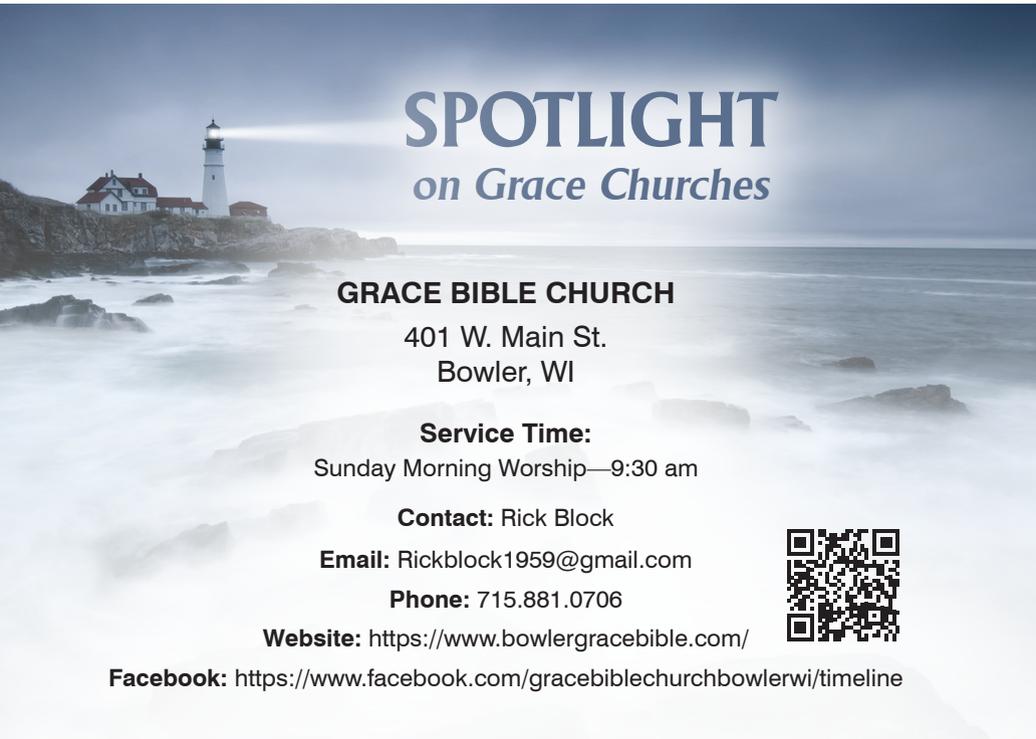
"The Local Church and You"

Location:

First Grace Gospel Church
5730 Adams Ave., Ashtabula, Ohio

Contact:

Pastor Michael Morris
at 440.997.8191



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A Repeated Cycle of **UNBELIEF**

(Summary of Judges from the upcoming *Grace Study Bible*.)

PASTOR JIM TOLLAR
BBS Business Manager

It was Joshua's godly leadership that guided Israel to many victories that are recorded in the book named after him, Joshua. However, the next book in the Bible, Judges, paints an entirely different picture. Once in the Promised Land, Judges records Israel's disobedience to God, their cries for help, and deliverance from their enemies by those judges empowered with the Spirit of God.

Even though there's only one dispensation of grace (Eph. 3:1-12), this *repeated cycle* illustrates God's grace under the kingdom program. Time after time, God heard their cries and answered their call for deliverance from their enemies. This should remind us of the words of the Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry where, when asked by Peter about forgiveness, the Lord's response was, "...I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven" (Matt. 18:22).

The LORD, because of His graciousness, forgave and delivered Israel over and over again. That's a lot of forgiveness under any program of God and should serve as an example to us about forgiving others as the Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven believers (Eph. 4:32), though we fail often in our walk.

FEAR AND FAILURE

Following the death of Moses (Deut. 34:7), Israel was allowed to enter the Promised Land under Joshua's leadership. Many nations were defeated, and the people were given rest by the LORD (Josh. 23:1-3). However, following Joshua's death (Josh. 24:29), the victory was not yet complete (Josh. 23:4-5), and the children of Israel continued to battle the Canaanites,

"Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them" (Judg. 1:1)?

d. I Kings 11:1-7;
Psa. 106:36.

e. *Weeping.*

f. Josh. 22:6;
24:28.

Sacrifices for Sin

g. Josh. 24:31.

h. Josh. 24:29-30.

i. *Portion of the sun.*
A city given to
Joshua as an
inheritance
(Josh. 19:49-50).

j. The hill
country of
Ephraim
(cf. II Chron.
13:4).

not obeyed my voice:² why
have ye done this?

3 Wherefore I also said, I
will not drive them out from
before you; but they shall be
as thorns in your sides, and
their gods shall be a snare
unto you.^d

4 And it came to pass, when
the angel of the LORD spake
these words unto all the chil-
dren of Israel, that the people
lifted up their voice, and wept.

5 And they called the name
of that place Bochim:^e and
they sacrificed there unto the
LORD.

Death of Joshua

6 ¶ And when Joshua had
let the people go, the children
of Israel went every man unto
his inheritance to possess the
land.^f

7 And the people served the
LORD all the days of Joshua,
and all the days of the elders
that outlived Joshua, who had
seen all the great works of the
LORD, that he did for Israel.^g

8 And Joshua the son
of Nun, the servant of the
LORD, died, *being* an hun-
dred and ten years old.^h

9 And they buried him in
the border of his inheritance
in Timnath-heres,ⁱ in the
mount of Ephraim,^j on the
north side of the hill Gaash.

Disobedient Generation

10 And also all that genera-
tion were gathered unto their

fathers: and there arose an-
other generation after them,
which knew not the LORD,
nor yet the works which he
had done for Israel.

11 ¶ And the children of
Israel did evil^k in the sight
of the LORD, and served
Baalim.^l

12 And they forsook the
LORD God of their fa-
thers, which brought them
out of the land of Egypt,
and followed other gods,^m
of the gods of the people
that *were* round about them,
and bowed themselves unto
them, and provoked the
LORD to anger.³

13 And they forsook the
LORD, and served Baal and
Ashtaroth.ⁿ

14 ¶ And the anger of
the LORD was hot^o against
Israel, and he delivered them
into the hands of spoilers
that spoiled^p them, and he
sold them into the hands of
their enemies^q round about,
so that they could not any
longer stand before their en-
emies.

15 Whithersoever they
went out, the hand of the
LORD was against them for
evil, as the LORD had said,
and as the LORD had sworn^r
unto them: and they were
greatly distressed.

Judges Raised Up

16 ¶ Nevertheless the
LORD raised up judges,⁴

k. Judg. 4:1;
6:1; 13:1;
II Chron. 33:2.

Punishment

l. The plural
form of Baal
(son of El), the
false god of the
Canaanites and
Moabites;
worshipped for
prosperity
and riches.

m. Deut. 6:14-15.

n. The Canaanite
goddess of fertility,
love, and war
(I Sam. 7:3-4;
12:10).

o. Judg. 2:20;
3:7-8; 10:7;
II Kings 13:3.

p. *Plunder, rob.*

q. Judg. 3:8; 4:2;
I Sam. 12:9.

r. Deut. 4:25-28;
Josh. 23:15-16.

2. (2:2) Israel was instructed not to form alliances with other nations or worship the gods of those nations, but they repeatedly disobeyed the LORD God (Ex. 23:32-33; 34:12-17; Deut. 7:2-4,16; Jer. 7:23-28).

3. (2:12) The remaining verses of chapter 2 summarize the Book of Judges. Israel forsook the LORD God by serving the pagan gods of the nations around them, the anger of the LORD was kindled, Israel was conquered by their enemies, the LORD heard their cries, and He sent a judge to deliver them.

4. (2:16) Following the death of Joshua, Israel was ruled by judges who served as military and civil leaders. These Spirit-filled individuals delivered the nation from their enemies and continued to lead the people in times of peace. This form of leadership continued until Israel demanded a king to rule over them (I Sam. 8:1-22).

s. II Chron. 36:15-16; Psa. 106:43.

which delivered them⁵ out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

17 And yet they would not hearken^t unto their judges, but they went a whoring^t after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; *but* they did not so.

18 And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented^u the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.

19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, *that* they returned, and corrupted^v *themselves* more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.^w

Canaanites in the Land

20 ¶ And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant^x which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice;

21 I also will not henceforth drive out^y any from before

them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:

22 That through them I may prove^z Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep *it*, or not.

23 Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.

CHAPTER 3

Nations Left to Test Israel

Now these *are* the nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, *even* as many of *Israel* as had not known all the wars of Canaan;^a

2 Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof;

3 *Notably*, five lords^a of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baal-hermon^b unto the entering in of Hamath. ^{*Josh. 13:3}

4 And they were to prove^{*test} Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

5 ¶ And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites:

z. *Test* (Gen. 22:1; Deut. 8:2,16; Mal. 3:2-3).

a. Judg. 2:10.

b. *Lord of destruction* (I Chron. 5:23).

t. *Spiritual fornication* (Ex. 34:15-16; Hos. 2:2).

u. The Lord felt sorry for Israel because of the oppression from their enemies.

v. Deut. 31:29.

w. Deut. 9:6,27; Josh. 22:16; I Sam. 15:23; Psa. 78:8; Col. 3:5.

x. Ex. 24:3-8; Josh. 23:16.

y. Josh. 23:12-13; Judg. 2:3.

5. (2:16) The mercy of the LORD God is seen over and over again in the Book of Judges. Mercy is defined as *not receiving what is deserved*, and the nation of Israel did not deserve deliverance from her enemies. Throughout Israel's history, God gave them chance after chance to be faithful to Him, before finally setting the nation aside in unbelief at the stoning of Stephen (Lk. 12:10; Acts 7:54-60). Today, in the Dispensation of Grace, we thank God for His mercy towards the Body of Christ (Rom. 11:30-31; Eph. 2:4-10; I Tim. 1:2; II Tim. 1:2; Tit. 1:4).



"That's a lot of forgiveness
under any program of God..."

The Canaanites lived along the coastal plain near the Mediterranean Sea and consisted of more than one people group. They were descendants of Noah's grandson (Canaan), through the line of Ham (Gen. 10:15-20; 1 Chron. 1:13-16). The land of Canaan was part of the Promised Land given by the LORD to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as an inheritance (Deut. 30:20; 34:4; Psa. 105:9-11). The Canaanites were known for their worship of Baal and Ashtaroah (Judg. 2:13). The worship of these and other false gods was a constant stumbling block for Israel throughout the Book of Judges and the entire Old Testament (Num. 22:41; 25:3; Josh. 24:14-15; Judg. 2:11-13, 17, 19; 1 Kings 11:4; 16:31-32; Jer. 11:13; 23:13).

Chapter one continues with Israel's victories over the Canaanites, Perizzites, and other nations (Judg. 1:9-20). Judah, for example, was victorious over Adonibezek (vv. 5-7). In this battle, the men of Judah captured the "Lord of Bezek" and cut off his thumbs and big toes. Not only would this be painful, but it guaranteed he would not fight again. But even with their victories, Israel did

not completely trust and obey the LORD, therefore, their victories were incomplete (vv. 19-36).

"And the LORD was with Judah; and he drove out *the inhabitants of the mountain*; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron" (Judg. 1:19).

Judah could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley because of fear, which stemmed from their lack of trust in the Lord. As in the time of Moses, they looked at their enemies (chariots of iron) and were afraid even though the Lord had commanded them to "fear not" (Num. 13:1-33; 32:9; Deut. 1:26-28; 20:1). Today, believers should not look fearfully at the troubles and trials that will surely come our way (1 Thes. 3:3; 2 Tim. 3:12), and remember, God has "*not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*" (2 Tim. 1:7). We can trust the Lord in all of life's challenges!

While chapter 1 summarizes events after Joshua's death, chapter 2 takes us back to a time before his death when the LORD addressed their fear and unfaithfulness by sending His Angel to them.

The appearance of the Angel of the LORD (Judg. 2:1-10) was a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was He Who led them through the wilderness (Exod. 23:20), where the LORD had instructed Israel not to form alliances with other nations or worship their gods (Exod. 23:32-33; 34:12-17; Deut. 7:2-4). The LORD knew of the bad influence those nations would have on them. Since Israel did not obey the LORD, He did not completely drive out the inhabitants of the Promised Land.

Judges 2:1-4 should remind us of what Paul wrote to the Galatians, *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”* (Gal. 6:7), and to follow his advice to *“...abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good”* (Rom. 12:9) and *“...let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity”* (2 Tim. 2:19). As members of the Body of Christ, we must be careful about our walk in the Lord (Eph. 5:15-16)!

After the Angel’s appearance, Joshua sent the people home to their inheritance (2:6). Shortly thereafter, Joshua and his generation died and the next generation did not know the LORD (v. 10). Why wouldn’t they know the LORD? The answer, it was a choice. They chose to follow the false gods and forgot about the LORD as Joshua had warned them (Josh. 24:14-27). Sad to say, even today, many make the wrong choice, and choose not to believe the good news, that Christ died for their sins and rose again (1 Cor.

15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9). If you’re reading this article and you haven’t trusted Christ alone, please do before you die (Heb. 9:27)! It’s also sad that many believers “forget” God’s Word that tells us of our position in Christ and what our walk in Him should be.

“And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers... and followed other gods...and provoked the LORD to anger...And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them...” (Judg. 2:11-15).

It is repeated throughout Judges in some fashion about the evil they committed. In 4:1, we read, *“And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD,”* in 6:1 we read, *“And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD,”* and in 13:1, *“And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD,”* and this is not even an exhaustive list for the book!

They forsook the Lord by choosing to serve Baalim (v. 11), the false god of the Canaanites and Moabites who was worshipped for prosperity and riches, and Ashtaroth, the Canaanite goddess of fertility, love, and war (1 Sam. 7:3-4; 12:10). Due to their rebellious ways, the anger of the LORD was *“hot against Israel”* (v. 14). In other words, He was furious with them! As punishment, He sent other nations to raid and plunder their wealth (Judg. 3:8; 10:7), and the people suffered (10:9).

But the LORD is a God of second chances and many more (Matt. 18:22) as we see in the next verses!

JUDGES RAISED UP

“Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them” (Judg. 2:16).

The LORD God is forever faithful and His mercy is seen repeatedly in the Book of Judges. Mercy is defined as *not receiving what is deserved*, and the nation of Israel did not deserve deliverance from her enemies. Throughout Israel’s history, God gave them chance after chance to be faithful to Him before finally setting the nation aside in unbelief at the stoning of Stephen (Luke 12:10; Acts 7:54-60).

Today, in the dispensation of grace, we thank God for His grace and mercy towards the Body of Christ (Rom. 11:30-31; Eph. 2:4-10; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2; Titus 1:4).

The Book of Judges gives the names of eleven men and one woman who delivered Israel. Establishing a timeline is difficult, however, because when the years of oppression and rest are added together, the total is 410 years, but the book covers approximately 336 years. This is explained by the fact that some of the judges were active at the same time, but in different locations. Some of the judges are not well-known, men like Ibzan and Elon (Judg. 12:8-12). Some are very well known in Christian circles, men like Gideon (6:1-9:57), Jephthah (10:6-12:7), and Samson (13:1-16:31). Let’s also not forget Deborah (4:1-5:31)

the prophetess, who encouraged Barak to lead Israel’s armies against Jabin king of Canaan.



“...like Samson, believers can still live in the flesh.”

We can learn much from the lives of the judges. For example, from Judges 4:8 we see that Barak would not go fight against Jabin unless Deborah accompanied him. From that request, it may appear his faith in the LORD was not strong. Yet the writer of Hebrews included him in the list of those with great faith (Heb. 11:32). This should encourage believers today and help us understand that even in our imperfections, God can use each of us! In the same way, God used Samson. He was far from “perfect.” Judges 16:1 tells us that he “...saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.” Yet he was empowered by the Spirit of God as we see in verse 3.

Today, the Spirit of God **permanently** lives in the believer (Rom. 8:9-11), but like Samson, believers can still live in the flesh (Rom. 6:1-14). Thankfully, the Apostle Paul addresses his own struggle with sin and how believers can have victory over it (Rom. 7:7-8:13).

Even though God was faithful to Israel, they were not faithful to Him.

REPEATED CYCLE

**“And yet they would not hear-
ken unto their judges, but they
went a whoring after other gods,
and bowed themselves unto them;
they turned quickly out of the
way which their fathers walked
in, obeying the commandments
of the LORD; *but* they did not so.**

**“And when the LORD raised
them up judges, then the LORD
was with the judge, and delivered
them out of the hand of their
enemies all the days of the judge:
for it repented the LORD because
of their groanings by reason of
them that oppressed them and
vexed them.**

**“And it came to pass, when
the judge was dead, *that* they re-
turned, and corrupted *themselves*
more than their fathers, in fol-
lowing other gods to serve them,
and to bow down unto them; they
ceased not from their own doings,
nor from their stubborn way”
(Judg. 2:17-19).**

The above verses really summarize the entire book of Judges. Once delivered (v. 16), Israel again went after the other gods of the land and worshipped them. Still, despite their *“stubborn way,”* the LORD felt sorry for them (repent- ed—v. 18) because of the oppres- sion from their enemies. So, God

would raise up a judge and deliver them, but once that judge died, they corrupted themselves even more than before (v. 19).

Examples of their stubbornness and corruption are given in the last five chapters (17-21), with the common theme being, *“...every man did that which was right in his own eyes”* (Judg. 17:6; 21:25). These examples illustrate the spiritual confusion that existed. In chapter 17, we are introduced to Micah from Mount Ephraim, who set up an idol in his house and hired a Levite to be his priest. In chapter 18, the tribe of Dan sought counsel from an ungodly Levite priest. Chapters 19-21 show how the tribe of Benjamin was almost destroyed (Judg. 21:3), because of civil war due to the wickedness of the men of Gibeah (19:22-30).

Israel failed to follow the Word of God, and it caused many problems. When we believers are stub- born and don't follow the Word of God, our lives become confused and problems arise. We already know that we will experience tri- als and tribulations (Rom. 5:3; 1 Thes. 3:4; 2 Tim. 3:12), because we live in a sin-cursed, fallen world. So, let's not make it more difficult by following the wis- dom of man. Instead, follow the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:18-2:16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)! 



**“As members of the Body of
Christ we must be careful
about our walk in the Lord.”**

BBS

Letter

Excerpts



From Michigan:

“Thank you for sending the *Searchlight* to our son in prison. They use it as Bible study there. He is born again and enjoys discerning the Word and the grace message. We are grateful.”

From Facebook:

“Thank you all for establishing me and my family in the faith!”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “The Cross in Prophecy—Pt. 9 | Bitter Waters Made Sweet”) “All these teachings are simply incredible and beautiful. We learn so much that we didn’t really understand before with every single lesson. Thank you so much for edifying us in Christ, dear Brother Kevin! Lord bless you always!”

From Our Inbox:

(Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible*—“Let Him Be Accursed”) “Thank you for explaining that; you just made my day. My dad got saved on his deathbed, and the Church of Christ [where I go] says he’s not saved because he didn’t get baptized. I believe he is saved and with my mother in heaven.” (Thankfully, in this day of grace, the gospel saves *all* who believe. —Ed.)

From Our Inbox:

“I watched [*Transformed by Grace*] number 318 on Genesis 1:1.... It moved me, and it gives great glory to our Lord and Savior, as Creator.”

From Our Mailbox:

“Dear BBS staff, we are sincerely grateful to each one of you for your diligence in living ‘2 Timothy 2:15’ and never compromising the truth, rightly divided. We feel so blessed and privileged to have understood dispensational truth for many years now as our guide through the Scriptures, understanding our place as the Church Body, where we fit in through right division, ending confusion. What a marvelous truth! P.S. We love the *Berean Searchlight*.”

From Facebook:

(Responding to *Daily Transformation*—“Resisting God”) “Thank you for these daily morning devotions. They are a huge blessing to me.”

From Kenya:

“I am a pastor from Kisumu in Kenya. I say thank you so much for the books I just received yesterday, and may God bless you abundantly and increase your ministry and work.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “The 144,000”) “Such a great explanation of such a confusing time. Thank you so much for your studying! This was so helpful!”

From Mississippi:

“We watch Pastor Kevin Sadler every day on CTN. We discovered his teaching not long ago, and now we are faithful watchers of his program every day. Thank you.”

From Our Inbox:

“I recently started a Bible study with my neighbor ladies in which I am teaching them to rightly divide God’s Word....There’s an article in the February 2024 *Searchlight* that I believe contains much that would benefit their understanding. It’s called ‘Established of God’ by Pastor Don Hosfeld. What a great article it is! I wonder if it’s possible to get 10 copies to give to the ladies. I’d also love for them to have something tangible to remind them of the great resources of the *Berean Bible Society*. Many thanks for all you do to provide sound Bible teaching in our day and age when so much confusion abounds.”

From Our Inbox:

(Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible*—“Choosing Commissions”)
“This really strikes at the heart of the message of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ and the unstable foundation of so many ‘denominations’.”

From Facebook:

“The very best source for teaching one to truly understand the Bible and where they fit into God’s great plan! A must-know for all Christians!”

From Facebook:

“I thank our God for *Berean Bible Society*. There’s no doubt in my mind that the Holy Spirit drew me to this site. God’s Word really opened up for me when I saw the writings of Paul through the eyes and heart of God. All of the doctrine, position, walk, and destiny of the Church, the Body of Christ, and the mysteries kept hidden are all found, revealed, and confirmed by Romans through Philemon. Thank you so much. God bless you all.”

From YouTube:

(Responding to *Transformed by Grace* “Why You Can Trust the Bible—Pt. 5 | Coins and Manuscripts”)
“Absolutely awesome truths.... Thank you, brother, for these wonderful teachings.”

From Our Inbox:

“Pastor Kevin Sadler has encouraged me greatly as far as the videos he has made and has pastored spiritually by making them. I am very grateful for those video teachings and lectures. They are incredibly blessed. Never stop!”

From Our Inbox:

“Thank you! I appreciate you making yourself so available to answer those questions that come up as I try to continue growing in my understanding of God’s Word rightly divided. What a great resource you are!” (Email anytime with your questions. —Ed.)

From Our Inbox:

(Responding to *Two Minutes with the Bible*—“Justified Freely”)
“Amen! We cannot even pretend to begin to fathom the One that calls the stars out by name, Who knows every hair on every head, Who sustains the universe and everything in it.”

From Michigan:

“May God continue to bless the great effort on the ‘Grace Study Bible!’ Many anxiously await its release. Such labor is priceless, but we want to keep giving as we can in hopes that it will happen while we are still alive [I’m 78 now].” (We’ll work hard to get that Bible to you, and thank you for the donation. —Ed.)

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“These [the 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—



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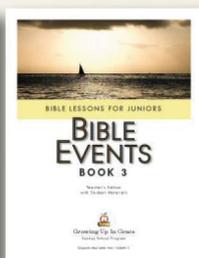
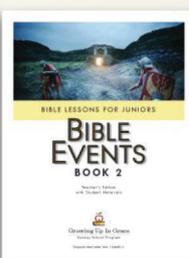
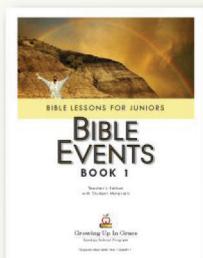
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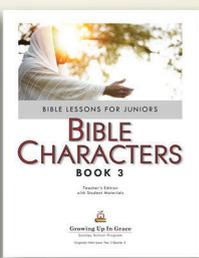
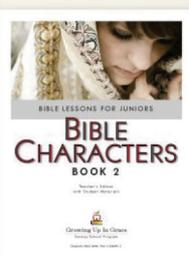
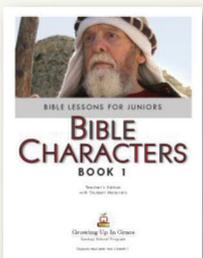
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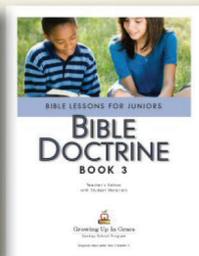
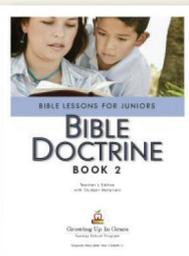
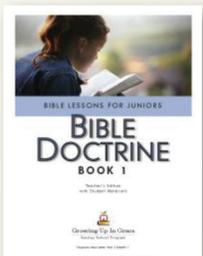
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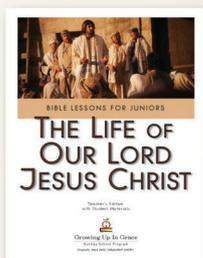
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News & Announcements



Arizona Bible Conference: Would you like to join Pastor Don Hosfeld, editor of the *Berean Searchlight*, at this year's *West Valley Grace Fellowship Conference* in Sun City West, Arizona, on March 22-24? Come and enjoy the warm weather and, most importantly, a time of fellowship and the opening of the Scriptures. To learn more, you can visit our *new and improved Bible Conferences* page at <https://bereanbiblesociety.org/conferences/> or reach out to BBS Board member and Pastor of WVGF David Havard at ppger@outlook.com or Jim Humphrey at 602.769.4262 or jhumph783@gmail.com.

Now Accepting Bitcoin Donations: As you probably know, *Berean Bible Society* is a faith-based ministry that depends on the gifts and support of God's people. So, when we were asked to consider accepting Bitcoin for donations, and after prayerful and careful consideration, the decision was made to move forward. If you would like more information on how to donate using Bitcoin, you can contact our Business Manager, Pastor Jim Tollar, at businessmanager@bereanbiblesociety.org or call us at 262.255.4750. We are very thankful to all those who help advance "the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery" by donating to BBS.



New Transformed by Grace Series: Pastor Kevin Sadler recently completed a nine-part series called "Esther: God Behind the Seen," which delves into the profound themes of faith, courage, and divine providence illustrated in the biblical events of Esther. It will begin airing this month on CTN and The Walk Television Network. You will also find it on the BBS website and the TBG YouTube channel. For more information about TBG and how to watch, visit <https://bereanbiblesociety.org/transformed/>.

Upcoming Conferences to put on your calendar!

West Valley Grace Fellowship Conference, March 22-24, Sun City West, AZ
Northeast Ohio Grace Conference, April 25-27, Ashtabula, OH
Oshkosh Grace Conference, May 10, Oshkosh, WI

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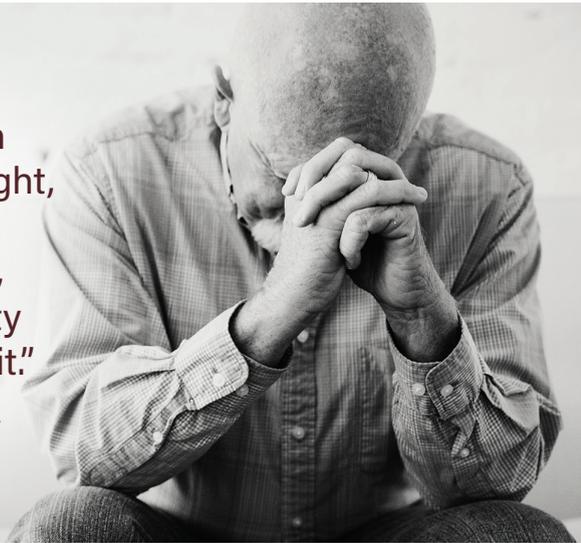
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that right makes might,
and, in that faith,
let us, to the end,
dare to do our duty
as we understand it.”

—Abraham Lincoln—



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