

◀ MINISTRY MATTERS ▶

▶ Committee

Our ministry is committed to bringing like-minded mature believers from different denominations to serve in various capacities in this ministry. Pray for God's guidance and leading in the year 2005. If your church is interested in adopting our ministry or would like to partner with us, do get in touch with Jeffrey at jeffrey@2Tim2-2.com.

Chairman: Jeffrey Loh
Advisor: Cecilia Perh
Secretary: Suzanna Lim
Exco:: Lim Wei Teck
 Esther Goh
 Soon Soo Guan
 Kelly Nandar
Members: Hans & Serene
 May Tan
 Ruth Soon
 Susan Yee
 David A. Kriner
 Irene Goh
 Joshua Chua
 Irene & Helen Tan
 Joshua & Juliet Lim
 Koh Jean Shen
 Gladwin Lee
 Koh Chingay
 Florence Lim



▶ Donations & Love Offerings

Please make cheques payable to
2Tim2-2.com

Please include your name, church,
 contact numbers, e-mail address and
 mail to:

2Tim2-2.com
c/o Bukit Panjang Gospel Chapel;
12 Galistan Ave, Singapore 669686



▶ Administration

Our ministry is looking for volunteers to help us with burning CDs, teaching, 2 Tim2-2 website matters, general design, writing, admin matters and other ministry details.

If you like to help or serve in our ministry, us, write to us at administrator@2Tim2-2.com (admin).



▶ Newsletter

If you wish to contribute articles for the newsletter, kindly write in to Jeffrey for more details. The deadline for submission of articles for next issue will be *mid April* 2006.

If you have the ability to write or love to do research, and have a burden in assisting the ministry in the area of compiling or writing the workbooks, do drop **Cecilia** a note at cecilia@2Tim2-2.com

▶ Announcement

The Turkey Bible study tour 2006 will be postponed because of the bird flu. Thanks for your patience. We will be having our Inductive Bible study workshops instead. Watch out for details soon.



▶ Past Issues

Past issues of the newsletters are available on the website ☺

<http://www.2tim2-2.com/newsletters/newsletters.htm>



Entrusting the
 Word to the
 Faithful

MICA (P) 058/08/2005
 Issue: 0505 (Oct-Dec2005)

TIMOTHIAN
 TIMES



www.2Tim2-2.com

"IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MESSIAH" 2005



COMPILED BY KAREN GOH

On 25 September 2005, a group of 37 of us from various churches stepped onto the Promised Land at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport and embarked on the "In the Footsteps of Messiah" Bible study tour organized by 2Tim2-2.com.

Israel had this vastness of space as far as the eye could see – an endless undulating hilly terrain that merged into the brilliant blue, cloudless skies. Up in the north, we encountered lush green parks and fruitful kibbutzim on the Galilee; in the south, we were greeted by the rugged dry desert of the Negev and Dead Sea area. The scenes stirred up many memories of incidents in the Bible which we saw come to life before our eyes.

In Caesarea, we saw a stone plaque replica inscribed with references to Pilate and Emperor Tiberius, solid "concrete" proof that Pilate was not myth. This was where the Roman Centurion Cornelius was baptized (Acts 10), following Peter's first revelation that the message of the Messiah was not just for the Jews but also for the Gentiles, for this incident marked the beginning of the spreading of the gospel to the world.



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 LET THE DEAD BURY THE DEAD – PART 2

◀ EDITOR'S NOTE ▶



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DEAR FRIENDS AND CO-LABOURERS,

As I pondered the Word of God and contemplated world events over the past year, I sometimes wonder how much time we have left to do the Lord's work. Let us strive to work while there is light, for when darkness approaches, who can labor? While the Lord tarries, let us actively engage in the work of God and excel still more.

God has indeed blessed us with a wonderful working committee with each gifted member contributing in their special gifting, allowing us to catch a glimpse of what Paul meant by "the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love" (Eph 4:16).

Our ministry will be moving into exciting times in 2006. Starting with a workshop on 10th January, we hope to continue to equip believers with the basic skills of Inductive Bible Study. A skill is seldom learnt once and one needs to constantly practise the skill until it becomes yours. I do advocate repeating a workshop several times until it "clicks" in your head. This, I learnt from personal experience. God had me teach Jude about 10 times! It was a humbling experience for me, but when I humbled myself to learn, I saw new insights that God wanted me to learn. And this is the way God works, "precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little" (see Is. 28:10, 13)

When we think we know, we stop learning because our attitude prevents us from learning from God. We *must* come to Him as "little children" at all times! As we are in the ministry of equipping believers, we have tried to make the workshops affordable to all. Those who are not able to afford the nominal fee, please request sponsorship through any committee member.

We praise God for raising some young adults in our midst to be a part of our editorial team, writing and editing new workbooks. And this is what it should be, for Cecilia and I are bent on "entrusting the Word to the faithful". If you feel led to be a part of our discipleship team, feel free to write to us. Moses did the right thing when he groomed Joshua to take over him. However, Joshua did not do the same and as a result, Israel passed into the darkest period of its history in the days of the Judges.

We also thank God for opening a door of opportunity for us to start a ministry in India and we are grateful to God that He worked on the hearts of the pastors who attended the Pastor's Conference in November-December 2005 to excite them concerning the Inductive method of study which was received with much enthusiasm.

Do pray along with us as we seek to explore other areas in SEA - Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. Part of our ministry policy is that we do not charge any fees for developing countries. We only ask them to provide food and lodging. As such, we are grateful for the many "love gifts" that God has prompted many of you to give so that you can co-labour with us in this way. May God provide richly for you as well (Phil. 4:19).

His bondservant,
Jeffrey Loh

◀ TEACHING MATERIALS ▶

NEW WORKBOOKS



DIVING INTO JONAH

Running away from God! Would you? Could you? Dare you? Yet Jonah did! What would God do in the light of such rebellion and blatant disobedience in one who should have known better?

This 6-lesson workbook is now on sale for **\$25** @ Cecilia's classes!

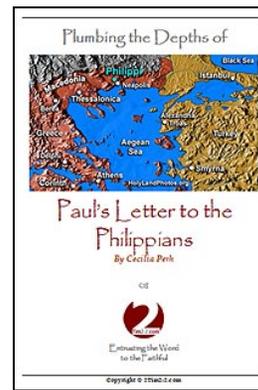
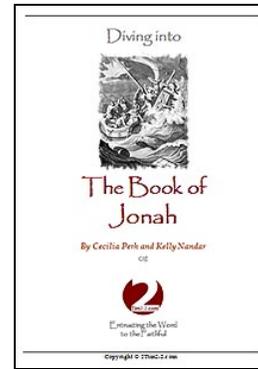


PLUMBING THE DEPTHS OF PHILIPPIANS

Philippians is one of Paul's most personal letters. This church that he planted gave him much consistent pleasure and joy. When he wrote this letter to them, his heart brimmed over with love and he openly shares with them his deepest yearnings and passion for the One they both adored.

How to love our Lord Christ and to live for Him will be one of many lessons we'll learn. Philippians has many truths that will transform you from the inside out as you focus on the spiritual gems that are to be found in this epistle.

Get this 14-lesson workbook now! On sale for **\$25** during Cecilia's classes!



SEMINAR CDs



URGENCY OF THE TIMES AT RIVER VIEW HOTEL DECEMBER 2005

How is one to view the disasters that occur in our days? How is one to prepare oneself spiritually, emotionally, mentally, financially, and physically? Discover some ways in the "Urgency of the Times" CD.



What is the Jewish perspective of the End Times? What is Israel's place in God's Plan for the Ages? Who will be ready for Jesus when He comes? Jacob Prasch speaks to address these issues and more in the "Urgency of the Times" CD.

Now on sale for **\$15** in Cecilia's classes! *For mail orders, remember to add \$1.50 for postage.*



*To order a copy, write to
administrator@
2Tim2-2.com*

◀ H1, 2006 ~ TEACHING SCHEDULE ▶



Cecilia's Schedule

MONDAY EVENINGS:

- ⌚ Time: 7:45 pm to 9:45 pm
- Bethesda Bedok Tampines Church
- 300 Bedok North Ave 3, Singapore 469717
- Plumbing the Depths of Revelation (Part 4)**
- Date: Commencing 13 February, 2006

TUESDAY EVENINGS:

- ⌚ Time: 7:45 pm to 10:00 pm
- Hakka Methodist Church
- 1B Evelyn Road, S309298
- Plumbing the Depths of Philippians**
- Date: Commencing 17 January 2006

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS:

- ⌚ Time: 9:15 am to 12:15 pm
- Hakka Methodist Church
- 1B Evelyn Road S309298
- Plumbing the Depths of Philippians**
- Date: Commencing 18 January 2006

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS:

- ⌚ Time: 8:00 Pm to 9:45 pm
- Joy Fellowship Church
- Keong Saik Road
- Meandering through Leviticus**
- Date: Commencing February 15, 2006

FRIDAY MORNINGS:

- ⌚ Time: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
- Bukit Panjang Gospel Chapel,
- 12 Galistan Ave, S669686
- Plumbing the Depths of Revelation (Part 3)**
- Date: Commencing 17 February 2006

Jeffrey's Schedule

TUESDAY EVENINGS

- ⌚ Time: 8 pm to 10 pm
- Barker Road Methodist Church (Conf. Room)
- 48 Barker Road Singapore 309917
- Dipping into the book of Haggai (4 weeks)
- January 17 and 24; Feb 7 and 14 2006

OVERSEAS ENGAGEMENTS

Cecilia is planning to teach a series of workshops in Bangalore (India) in early February 2006. Do pray for God's hand in this.



Cecilia and Jeffrey are planning to go to the Philippines in October 2006 to teach a series of workshops. Do pray for God's leading as we plan for the workshops.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

The ministry will be planning Inductive Bible Study (IBS) workshops during public holidays and weekends. If your church is interested in hosting, kindly get in touch with us through Jeffrey.

INTRODUCTION TO IBS SKILLS

Those with no knowledge of IBS

- 101 Psalm 1 (1.5 hr)
- 102 1 Thessalonians 1 (2 hr)
- 103 Matthew 6:24-34 (2 hr)
- 104 1 Corinthians 12 (2 hr)

BASIC IBS SKILLS

Those with some knowledge of IBS

- 201 Overview of Haggai (5 hrs)
- 202 Overview of Obadiah (4 hr)
- 203 Overview of Philemon (4 hr)
- 211 Overview of Jude (1.5 days)
- 212 Overview of 2 Peter (2 days)

INTERMEDIATE IBS SKILLS

Those proficient with basic IBS skills

- 301 Structuring Philippians (2 days)
- 302 Structuring Colossians (2 days)

ADVANCED IBS SKILLS

Handling controversial passages and topics - teachers and leaders

** Mandatory homework to be submitted 1 month prior to course*

- 401 Handling a Controversial Passage - Hebrews 6:4-8
- 402 Handling a Controversial Passage - Romans 7
- 411 Handling a Controversial Topic - Once saved, Always saved?
- 412 Handling a Controversial Topic - What Rapture? Which Rapture?

DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS,

My thanks for your prayers for me during my trip to Bangalore and Madras. Only in eternity will we know the result of our spiritual labour in this part of God's vineyard.

There were about 20 pastors in Bangalore with whom I had the pleasure of teaching how to study inductively from the simple introductory workshop to the complex one of handling controversial passages and topics.

They were particularly interested in the End Times and the question of the Rapture, so I did some impromptu sessions with them. I was told that some theological colleges refuse to teach the book of Revelation and that to some pastors this is the first time they have ever heard about the Second Coming (they probably have a general idea but no clear specific teaching from the Scriptures).

The end result of which was that I gave them my PowerPoint notes and messages so that they can do their own further studies. Some were enthralled with how much they could glean from this inductive handling of God's Word. Please pray that God would grant them time to study His Word this way. Most pastors have to do administrative tasks which take them away from the Word. They took all my name cards so that I had none left for Madras!

I also spoke to about 500 people at a local church on the Significance of Prophecy for Today. Many people came up to tell me how blessed they were.

TRIP TO INDIA

By Cecilia Perh

The pastor also told me many others had come to say the same thing. One result was that one of the leaders of FEBA asked me if I could come and do a weekend seminar on the End Times in Jan-Feb 2006 (during Chinese New Year holidays) as interest level on the End Times is very high. I need prayers for strength to finish writing my books and getting ready for lessons first before considering this invitation.

It was a similar case in Madras with about 30-50 pastors and leaders. The idea of being able to prepare their messages as they feed their souls with God's Word was revolutionary to most. This will be so helpful to them, as they also have so little time for study. Since they were also interested in the Rapture, I thank God for the time to prepare the message and to deliver it as well. Invitations to teach at some of their churches also came. Pray that God will raise up others who can go and train at these more outlying areas of India.

Right now I'm very conscious that I'm just planting seeds. May God grant that it be fertile soil so that it will bring forth fruit to His glory as it did before.

Let me elaborate. In October 2004, I went to Bangalore to speak at their Women's Festival to about 400 women pastors and leaders. About 8 ladies had the time and were so keen that they asked me to do an extra session with them in the morning. Most had already left. I taught them Structuring using Psalm 1.

Continued on next page

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This time I met one of them, Sujata who is the principal of a Christian college and learnt what fruit it bore. She has taught her staff Structuring, uses the method to prepare her Bible lessons, and teaches it to the students as well! They teach students from 3-18 years of age in English.

She asked me to teach all her 70 teachers the Basic IBS method in the afternoon, my sessions with the pastors being ended. More than 50 of them appeared in this unexpected opportunity that the Lord opened up. Some of the teachers were unbelievers but were willing to listen and learn. I used 1 Thessalonians 1 which has quite a bit about the Gospel. Do pray that God may cause the seeds planted to grow and bear fruit in their lives.

Her Heads of Department were so keen that they asked for an extra session the next day. One lady was so excited by what she learnt from 1 Thessalonians that she told her husband who then cancelled his appointments so as to be able to attend the morning session. At the end of the session on Obadiah, he told his wife that we must look to God's Word and not to men and that from now on, he's going to study God's Word this way.

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These 10 ladies were so eager that they asked for an extra afternoon session on the Rapture since they don't have much or any teaching about the End Times.

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These 10 ladies were so eager that they asked for an extra afternoon session on the Rapture since they don't have much or any teaching about the End Times. How could I refuse when people are so eager and hungry? They got a marathon 2 3/4 hours of it! One lady told me she forgot the time and was just hungering for more!

My grateful thanks to God for all of you and the way you stood with me in prayer. My thanks to Esther as well for being there for me and giving me more impetus to do the work through her presence, prayers and encouragement.

Besides the spiritual needs, there were lots of physical needs. God, in particular, highlighted to us the Opportunity School where 160 intellectually disabled children from 3-18 years old were taught basic skills to survive in their difficult world. Despite the lack of facilities, the school is well organized and makes the best of the little they have. Kashturi, who is in charge of fund raising, has been likened to a second Mother Theresa. God has also given her a burden for Intellectually Disabled Mature Women and she has opened a home for 12 of them. The school and home need many things, especially since the recent flood has destroyed much of their furniture and things. Any help offered would be greatly appreciated. Let me know.

Continued from previous page

In the next session on "Survival in the last Days", we learnt of the possibility of escape in the Great Tribulation promised to Messianic believers in Israel, and the church in the Great Tribulation. Cecilia also gave us Biblical examples of people who escaped as a pattern for us. Do we want to be like Noah who was righteous and thoroughly prepared for the flood, and escaped with everything he had and everyone he loved? Or are we going to be like Lot, a carnal believer, who lost everything he had and also some of his family? What about Joseph who was used by God - given favor with governing authorities and being forewarned, prepared the nation for 7 years of famine? Then there was Daniel and his friends who were given the choice - bow or burn. They did not bow and God in His grace kept them from burning. Even if we were to burn in the Great Tribulation, would we choose not to deny Christ? Indeed, our preparation begins even now, with repentance, prayer and intercession. Luke 21:34-36 exhorts us to be on guard, so that our hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will not come on us suddenly like a trap. Our preparation is also to include preaching the gospel worldwide and guarding against false teaching.

Would we be the remnant, ready for His Coming?

Jacob Prasch then taught us on "Hanukkah and the Nativity" and "One Messiah, 2 comings and the Return of Christ" with an eschatological emphasis.



As Jacob recapitulated the events occurring both in Hanukkah and the Nativity (what we celebrate as Christmas), he enlightened us on the same symbols that we see in both (e.g., the Antichrist wanting to keep power, the Davidic expectation of the Messiah, etc) and our need to understand Hanukkah and Nativity in the light of each other. Moving forward from that, we also learnt that the symbols that we see at Christ's First Coming - the Antichrist, the explosion of false religions, false messiahs, the ministry of Elijah, a famine for the Word of God and people believing in false prophets, and only a remnant of Jews and Gentiles who were ready for His coming - would be present at His Second Coming.

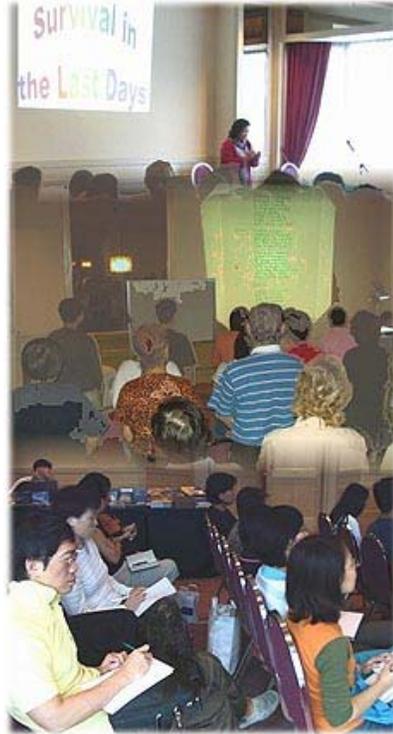
Would we be the remnant, ready for His Coming?

As I contemplated all these teachings, I had a greater appreciation that even as God spoke of old through the prophets' word, that Word speaks still. As the year draws to a close with our celebration of Christmas and the coming of a new year, I am challenged to study the Word more, to become more Christ-like and to share the gospel, in the coming new year. ■

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Hence, from Passover to Pentecost, we describe the spiritual journey of believers to a greater revelation of God. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, fulfilled the first 4 Feasts (Spring feasts) at His First Coming. The autumn feasts - Rosh Hashanah (Trumpets), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) and Tabernacles will be fulfilled at His Second Coming when He comes to judge. Numbers reminds us to be faithful and warns of the perils of unbelief and disobeying God and missing entering the Promised Land. Deuteronomy comforts with a chance offered to an obedient, purged and judged nation. It amazed me to see so much revelation even in the Old Testament and I was spurred to study the Bible, including the Feasts Days, in a more in-depth way and also, to re-evaluate how I ought to live my life now in the light of His Second Coming, in this season of summer, of waiting for the harvest in autumn.

Continuing with the book of Daniel, the spine of biblical prophecy, we learnt that there will be 4 kingdoms before the Antichrist comes during the Great Tribulation. Jesus in the Olivet discourse discloses to us the signs of the end of the age before His Second Coming at the end of the Great Tribulation. Thessalonians and Revelation provide yet further details on what to expect in the End times. We had already studied some of these in Cecilia's regular classes so although there was insufficient time to go into the details, I now had a good overview of the big picture and it was like seeing pieces of jigsaw from different parts of the Bible falling into place. Having this overarching vision of what is happening in our day and what is to come, impressed on me the need to get my priorities right, to discern the signs of the times and to know how to live in our troubled days.



It amazed me to see so much revelation even in the Old Testament and I was spurred to study the Bible...

One lady was so excited by what she learnt from 1 Thessalonians that she told her husband who then cancelled his appointments so as to be able to attend the morning session

In Chennai, we lived in a Methodist compound which has 3 schools - English, Vernacular and the Opportunity School. They have several programs to help the poor, one of which was to feed 600 slum children a meal every day and then teach them and play with them in the 2 1/2 hours they spend with them. To most this would be the only meal they have. The recent flood also destroyed 30,000 rupees worth of rice and lentils as they had little or no warning.

Needs are present everywhere but the greatest need India and the world have is a need for our Lord Jesus Christ. That is why teaching people to study God's Word and making disciples who would obey our Lord (Matthew 28:18-20) is our goal and Entrusting God's Word to Faithful Believers (2 Tim 2:2) is priority as we strive to bring the gospel to more and more people. ■

Blessings and love.,
Cecilia

E-MAIL EPISTOLE

We had our National Pastors Seminar in Bangalore from November 24 to 27 at Bangalore India. There Ms Cecilia Perh taught us certain lessons on Rightly Preaching the word of God, and certain lessons on Second Coming, then I came to know about your ministry and wanted to learn more. So I send this mail to you. I found it very useful in my Ministry. So I thank God for this opportunity and also my loving and kind regards to Cecilia.

Rev. S. Vinodh Rajan Joseph,
Annal Memorial Methodist Tamil Church

E-MAIL EPISTOLE

I came to know your ministry through the National Popad Seminar in Bangalore. I found that seminar to very helpful for my preaching ministry; specially the talk on second coming of Christ, Obadiah, and 1 Thessalonians, and certain samples from Daniel. Therefore I humbly request Miss Cecilia Perh to send me teachers' notes on Daniel, Revelation Second Coming of Christ, End-times, synoptic Gospels and India Conference. Also elements for basic expository preaching methods for which I would be ever thankful to you.

Pastor Vinu, Annal Memorial Methodist Tamil Church

Continued from cover page

God's faithfulness is everywhere demonstrated as we saw the land and in particular the return of the Jews not just to the land, but also to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. At the Mount Carmel School of Ministry, Pastor Peter Tsukahira shared with us about God's work in their congregation of Messianic Jews, Arab and Gentile believers who worship the Lord together as "one new man" (Ephesians 2). We went to their underground prayer cave and prayed for Israel, the peace of Jerusalem, for revival in the land and the salvation of the Jews, Palestinians and Arabs.



Remnants of a Synagogue at Korazim.



St Peter's Fish.... Bon Appetite!



Oh Deer!

Journeying through the rest of the Galilee area, we traced the footsteps of our Messiah in such places as Capernaum, Chorazin, Bethsaida, the Sea of Galilee and Caesarea Philippi. The ancient stones which survived the ravages of time shed light on how life was lived in Jesus' time. It's amazing how a mill-stone, a stone wall, ruins of a synagogue, a village, could broaden our perspective of God's Word, for we stood on the actual ruins and had Cecilia or D'vora teaching us truths that pertain to that site. At Mount Precipice, traditionally believed to be the site where the townsfolk wanted to throw Jesus off the cliff after they rejected Him, we paused for a moment to pray for our loved ones and families with the strong wind threatening to blow us off if we go too near the edge!

Moving south, we marveled at the austere beauty of the arid Judean Desert as we traversed the Dead Sea area. We went to Ein Gedi, where David hid during his wanderings in the desert after fleeing from King Saul. Here we understood David's very real yearning for the Lord for we really yearned for water. Thank God for plastic bottles!



Karen Goh (Middle) with sister and Karen Poh (right).

"URGENCY OF THE TIMES" SEMINAR

By Karen Goh

SARS, an epidemic that broke out across the world causing global panic. The tsunami caused by a giant earthquake that swept Asia by surprise and killed hundreds of thousands. The hurricanes that cleaned out an entire city in the United States and destroyed all in its wake. The threat of an Avian flu pandemic still lingering in the air. Why are all these happening? Is God speaking to us? What does He want of us? How should we live in the light of His coming?

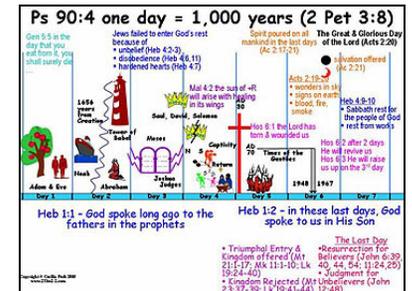
Luke 21:9-11 (NAS) - "When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately... Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven."

December 8th-10th, 2005, saw some of us seeking answers to these questions from a Biblical perspective at the Urgency of the Times seminar organized by 2 Tim2-2.com.

Cecilia's slides are available at the URL:
http://public.fotki.com/2tim22/workshops_and_confe/urgency_of_the_time-1/

As an introduction, Cecilia gave us an "Overview of prophecy", beginning from the foundation - the Pentateuch, which contains Truth for all time. In Genesis, the plan of God for mankind was declared with the promise of Messiah that came following the fall of Adam and Eve. In Exodus, we see the power of God displayed and a picture of our own Exodus and escape from the judgment of God through the blood of the Passover Lamb Jesus. In Leviticus, we learn of the significance of the Jewish Feast days and that these are not mere annual festivals, but holy rehearsals delineating the program of God for the ages.

Passover is a memorial of Jesus the Passover lamb slain for our sins, and of God's protection in the midst of judgment. The Feast of Unleavened Bread calls us as believers to live holy lives, without the leaven of malice and wickedness but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. The Feast of First-fruits speaks of the resurrection, of Christ, the first fruits raised from dead; and of those who are His at His second coming. Pentecost marks the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on believers to empower us to live as Christ has called us.



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"Their fathers had died, been placed in the family burial cave, and the sons had sat *shiv'ah* and most likely also shloshim. They then requested anywhere from a few weeks to up to 11 months to finish the ritual of *ossilegium* before they returned to Jesus" (Archaeology and Biblical Research, Spring 1992. P. 55).

Once the flesh decayed, the bones were gathered into a small box, usually made of soft stone, called an *ossuary*. Ossuaries were decorated boxes about 2 feet (in length), 18 inches (wide), and a little over 1 foot (deep). They came in many versions of the same style. The *ossuary* was placed in a small niche cut into the rock on the side of the chamber or in another area of the same tomb. In many cases, the family name would be inscribed on the side. Over time, several people from the same family would be placed in the same ossuary or sometimes an ossuary could be used for a single individual and additional details might be included, such as the person's accomplishments or status.

The Jerusalem Talmud explains:

"When the flesh had wasted away, the bones were collected and placed in chests (ossuaries). On that day (the son) mourned, but the following day he was glad, because his forebears rested from judgment (Moed Qatan 1:5)."

We can see that Jesus' rebuke fits well with the "ossilegium" or "second burial". ■

🔗 Resources:

<http://community.gospelcom.net/Brix?pageID=1965>

◀ EPISTOLE ▶

✎

Dear Suzanne, Jeffrey and Cecilia,

Thank you for your generosity in allowing me to attend the 15th Aug 05 Basic IBS Workshop without additional payment.

I attended it fully this time and I would like you to know that it was really very good. Finally..., after months of trying, I can embark on studying the Bible the IBS way. When I missed the last workshop, I continued by reading the book on the method, but I couldn't use the method. After this Basic hands-on Workshop, I am able to move on now. Thank you Jeffrey, for your dedication and enthusiasm and for teaching us.

I couldn't get leave to attend on 16th and 17th but I will make it there one day. Meanwhile I am going to use skills and perhaps one day will be able to contribute more.

Thank you once again and keep on your good work



Lim Hui Chuan

Woodlands Evangelical Church

Qumran was where the Dead Sea Scrolls, were first discovered in 1947 by a Bedouin shepherd boy. All of the books of the Old Testament Bible are represented in the Dead Sea Scroll collection except Esther. They are thought to belong to the Essenes, a community that lived in seclusion away from the mainstream Jewish Society. They practised communal living, led ascetic lifestyles and strictly observed the laws of ritual purity as they waited in anticipation of the coming of Messiah, the destruction of the wicked and the freeing of Israel. Ironically, though these men sought to be ritually pure and to prepare for the coming of the Messiah by their own efforts, they missed the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, when He finally did come.



The Masada National Park, located on the eastern fringe of the Judean Desert near the shore of the Dead Sea, was a poignant highlight. Masada was the last bastion of Jewish freedom fighters against the Romans. Our guide related to us the last moments before Masada fell, where the people would rather kill themselves than fall into the hands of the Romans. Before they died, they read Ezekiel 37:1-9, the vision of the valley of the dry bones, where the Lord promised to bring Israel back to the land. As our guide read the passage, she wept and we wept with her for that bittersweet reminder of the suffering we all go through until our Messiah comes.

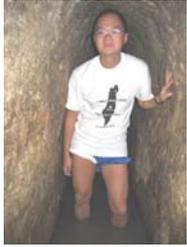
Entering Jerusalem, we could sense the spiritual struggle, as many strive to lay claim to various places in the holy city. The Jews, Moslems, and Catholics all want a piece of it. And so did we, only what we took back were celluloid pieces! Jerusalem, the prophets spoke of her, the psalmists sung about her and so much is written and will be done in her before her King returns. What a wonderful glorious destiny she has and how we all yearn to have a part as well.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, we understood more of the cost to our Lord Himself as He wrestled with the Father's will and bowed to His sovereignty. Here we have the prime obedience to God and here, we have on display, for eternity, the love of our Lord for His Father.

At the Yad Vashem, we were confronted with the horrors of the Holocaust as the atrocious events from the annals of history unfolded before us. It chilled our hearts to realize that Hitler's plan to annihilate the Jews was a coldly calculated manipulation that began with subtle campaigns of discrimination, progressed to overt persecution and culminated in organized extermination without any protest from society! To think this would be a fore-shadow of the Great Tribulation where believers will be persecuted and exterminated just for believing in Jesus. What will our response be then? Will we deny Him to save our lives? Or will we continue to place our faith in Him and cling to Him? Will we also be willing to risk our lives for our brothers, as some of the Righteous Amongst the Nations did in the holocaust? (see Matthew 25:31-46)

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previous page



Inside Hezekiah's
tunnel with its
knee-deep waters.



Zechariah's tomb
in the Kidron
Valley.



Remnants of
Robinson's arch.

In the recently opened City of David with the Ophel (on which some believe the Temple was actually located), we saw computer simulations of what the Temple could have been. An unforgettable moment was when we waded through the dark thigh-high waters of Hezekiah's Tunnel in the City of David, singing songs of praise to God to keep our courage up. We took an hour to get through the dark cave with our torches and when we finally emerged, we were greeted with song by a group of Brazilian believers, who sung us out of the water in Portuguese! It was wonderful experiencing such unity as a body in Christ. We were blessed to worship with them again when we ran into them at St. Anne's Church. As each group sang in its native language, the wonderful acoustics of the church produced a reverberating euphony that sounded as though a myriad of angels had joined us in an unending hymn of praise as we worshipped our Messiah. This moment of unity in song surpassed many celluloid memories we have taken on the trip.



In the holocaust museum at Yad
Vashem.

Not unexpectedly, most places mentioned in the Bible could not be definitively identified after the vicissitudes of the centuries, the topographical changes of the land, and the frequent invasions by the Romans and Byzantine empires, the Muslims and the Crusaders, to name a few. Apart from the ruins and archaeological excavations, many churches (built in commemoration of Biblical events) now cover the land. But we learnt to look beyond the physical buildings, and focus instead on the Biblical events that occurred - what our Messiah taught or did at each place.

These tombs were usually found outside the village where people lived so that the living would not be defiled by the dead. One such example was Abraham who spent a great deal of money to purchase a burial place for Sarah and this cave later became the tomb in which he (Gen 23:1-20; 25:8-10), Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah were also buried (Gen 49:29-32).

Cremation is not specifically mentioned in the Bible. It was not generally practiced by the Jews or early Christians, because of the belief that the body must return to the dust of the earth. In the biblical period, it was clearly considered to be a humiliation inflicted on criminals (Josh. 7:15; Isa. 30:33), and burning was one of the four death penalties imposed by the biblical code for a number of offenses (Lev. 20:14; 21:9). It could also be associated with pagan practices.



During the first century, tombs consisted of two chambers which had a number of shelves or niches cut into the rock. The outer chamber was where the body was laid out and then prepared for burial with various spices and perfumes. This chamber may have even served as a place for mourning the deceased shortly after death. A second inner chamber provided the place for burial itself.

Once the body was wrapped in linen, it was carefully placed on one of the ledges in the burial cave and the tomb was sealed with a large disc-shaped stone that rolled in a trench in front of the tomb. The family separated itself from the community and mourned for seven days after the burial. This mourning period was known as "shiv'ah." It would not have been possible for Christ's disciple then, to request a leave of absence if his father had just died.

He would have been participating in this period of mourning and would not have been in Christ's entourage! If he were the eldest son, he was under obligation by Jewish custom and Torah to bury his father immediately. Jesus is definitely not referring to this part of the burial custom.

This initial mourning period was followed by a less intense 30-day period of mourning, called "shloshim". However, the entire mourning period was not fully over until the flesh of the deceased had decomposed, usually about a year later. (Archaeology and Biblical Research, Spring 1992. P. 55).

This final act of mourning, in which the fleshless bones were gathered and placed into the ossuary, was known as the "ossilegium" or "second burial."

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MANY SKEPTICS HAVE SHARPLY criticized Christ's response to one of His disciples' request to bury his father found in Matthew 8:22 and Luke 9:60.

MATTHEW 8:21-22 (NAS)

²¹ And another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."

²² But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me; and allow the dead to bury their own dead."

LUKE 9:60

⁵⁹ And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Permit me first to go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."

An understanding of the ancient Jewish burial customs would shed much light into this remark Jesus made. It should be noted that Jesus, being a Jew would have been observant in keeping the Torah, in particular the 5th commandment which clearly states that we are to honor our parents.

Most commentators suggest that Jesus meant: "Leave the (spiritually) dead to bury the (physically) dead". There is much to be said for this particular interpretation but a greater understanding would result from considering the ancient burial customs of the Jews.

OLD TESTAMENT BURIAL CUSTOMS

Throughout Biblical times, a proper burial was considered an important event that warrants much attention. Not to be buried was feared by all in the ancient world and considered a punishment (Deut 28:26).

DEUTERONOMY 28:26

"And your carcasses shall be food to all birds of the sky and to the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away.

Most biblical accounts of a man's life end with the statement that the man died and that he was buried. Tombs were normally hewn out of bedrock with families buried in the same tombs for generations, with the bones of those who have died before being carefully piled in one section of the tomb to make space for the newly deceased.

HEBREW ROOTS

**LET THE DEAD
BURY THEIR
OWN DEAD
~ PART 2 ~**



By Jeffrey Loh



Entrance to the tunnels...

Our guide, D'vora, enlightened us about Jewish customs and feasts while another Messianic believer shared with us how to evangelize to the Jews. Cecilia also taught us daily from the Sermon on the Mount, exhorting us to live out the Beatitudes in our lives. Through the nightly debriefs, we learnt to pray corporately in the Spirit. The session on the last night was especially good and it was great to see that our group had bonded together as a family in Christ despite our being of diverse personalities and backgrounds. It was also heart-warming to have everyone so open to share what God had done for each of us and what we had learnt.



Group picture at the Golan heights....

We thank the Lord for all His many blessings and all that He has taught us during this trip, for meeting with us in such a special way...



Awaitin' entrance into Hezekiah's tunnel...

Indeed, the words of Wei Teck summed it all when he said, "The experience itself was vastly richer than anything I could possibly describe in this brief text or show you - it's literally something that you have to experience for yourself to understand it fully. If I were to sum up what Israel was, I would say it is where you will feel engulfed by a sense of awe and wonder across many levels. Either way, there is no place in the world that makes me feel the way Israel does."

We thank the Lord for all His many blessings and all that He has taught us during this trip, for meeting with us in such a special way, and for bringing us closer, and to a new level of faith in Him.

▲
**BONE OF
CONTENTION**

▼
**COPPER
SCROLLS**

By David A. Kriner



AMONG THE MANY DISCOVERIES in Qumran, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls, archaeologists uncovered a unique artifact in 1952. It was a scroll made of copper sheeting, inscribed by engraving it from the back in Hebrew. It bears the unglamorous name of 3Q15. The scroll was encased in clay, which prevented it from being oxidized and totally lost. It is written in Hebrew, but a Hebrew that cannot be understood without an in-depth knowledge of rabbinical usage of the language.

Unlike most of the other scrolls discovered in Qumran, which dealt with God's Word or were literary, it is a guide about how to find stores of gold and silver. It was written in a very different style of Hebrew from other documents. While scrolls on metal are not unknown, they are very rare and most have not survived the ravages of time. The writing styles in the scroll indicate that several were involved in its creation. Many have tried to dismiss the scroll as an ancient hoax, but this seems unlikely, given the precise language and the effort required producing it.

Apart from being difficult to read due to oxidization, difficult language in words not well understood and numerous mistakes in character formation, it describes the location of the treasure as references to internal geological features of the storage sites. Many of the place names mentioned are not known to us today.

☞
The scroll also points to the locations of other items, including pots of anointing oil, silver scrolls, and marble tablets. If these, pots of anointing oil were found concealed in one of the Qumran caves, exactly as described in the scroll, lending it credibility that others have tried to deny.

☞



The following is an example of a transcript of the treasure map:

COLUMN IX

Measure out thirteen cubits from the small opening at the edge of Nataf [21], and then dig down seven cubits there. Seven talents of silver and four stater coins lie there. Dig down eight cubits into the eastern-looking cellar of the second estate of Chasa to obtain twenty-three and a half talents of silver. Dig sixteen cubits into the narrow, seaward-facing part of the underground chambers of Horon [22] to discover twenty-two talents of silver. A sacred offering worth one mina of silver is located at the pass. Dig down seven cubits at the edge of the conduit on the eastern side inside the waterfall to locate nine talents of silver.

Chad Hack & Nathaniel Carley,

☞ <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/~hummm/Resources/StudTxts/3Q15.html>

The source of the treasure is unclear. Was it items from the second temple spirited away to Qumran before the destruction of the second temple in 70AD? Was it treasure owned by the Essenes at Qumran? Some references in the apocryphal book of 2 Maccabees have led many to the conclusion that the treasures mentioned were hidden by Jeremiah as the children of Israel were carried away to Babylon, thus dating the treasure to that of the first temple.

Many tantalizing clues are contained in the scroll itself and some have been traced to possible locations, but without finding any of the treasure so far. The scroll also points to the locations of other items, including pots of anointing oil, silver scrolls, and marble tablets. If these, pots of anointing oil were found concealed in one of the Qumran caves, exactly as described in the scroll, lending it credibility that others have tried to deny.

While the monetary value of the treasure would be immense, its value to mankind is incalculable. While 50 years have gone by, this treasure will continue to inspire treasure hunters, archaeologists, historians and many others to continue searching. ■