



Chapel in the Hills

About Us

Gippsland Christian Fellowship is a caring, friendly Church that has been holding meetings in Gippsland since the mid 1970's.

The Church adheres to sound Scriptural practise in all of its worship and teaching activities. The love of the Word of God is encouraged both publicly and in every household. Fellowship is a central value at GCF and is promoted in each aspect of its broad program, which cares for all ages.

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KNOW MORE...



Want to find out more or need a ride to church?

We have people living in locations right across Gippsland who would be happy to help:

Traralgon	Brad	0437 961 102
Mirboo North	Bob	0400 403 765
Korumburra	Joe	0403 006 096
Inverloch	David	0428 553 222

Chapel in the Hills

Come and
See *by Bob Stevens*

The way to fruitfulness.

Very recently I was doing some reading that prompted me to consider two events in the Bible that at first glance don't seem to be related.

The first of these is found in the Old Testament and relates to the journey of the fledgling Nation of Israel into Canaan (the Promised Land). The other event that I've been considering relates to the ministry of John the Baptist (New Testament). Specifically, I've been considering the difference between the baptism that John the Baptist taught and the one that would be brought by Jesus.

So how are these biblical episodes related?

The Israelites depended totally upon the miraculous intervention of God throughout their wilderness journey. In very simple terms they were living in a constant state of survival – waiting to be led into Canaan. If they made their obligatory sacrifices God would look after them.





Christians can live like this too. It is wonderful that we can depend on the supernatural intervention and provision of God...most Christians could attest to God's goodness to them in this way. But He doesn't want us to be living in a constant state of survival, waiting for something better that we know about but can't ever seem to access. When we live this way we seem (like the Israelites of old) to spend life going around in a frustrating parade of circles.

God has an inheritance for each one of us – a place here and now where we can sow our lives in the full assurance of fruitfulness. This is exactly what happened

to the Jews in Canaan; they started to sow into their inherited land and produced crops that supplied the needs of the entire nation. None went hungry because farmers gave to others freely from their produce. There was an economy of offering and Canaan was a rich and fruitful land. The Israelites had joined God's faith for boundless increase.

Many Christians become wearied and frustrated by holding on almost fearfully to their beliefs, knowing the whole time that God desires something far fuller for them, and from them.

God wants His people to live in this type of abundance; an abundance that is assured because we live in the generosity and faith to offer ourselves to one another and to the increase of His Kingdom. He offered Himself in exactly this way.

We could observe this isn't a 'natural' way to

live. How can we live this way? The answer is provided by our second consideration, one that has to do with the ministry of John the Baptist. John knew that he had come to point the way to Jesus, and knew that his baptism of belief and repentance would serve to be the groundwork for the baptism of Jesus which is with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Just as we can spend our lives in a mode of spiritual survival, waiting for the promise of heaven, we can spend our lives waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit to empower us to be fruitful within His Kingdom now. Many Christians become wearied and frustrated by holding on almost fearfully to their beliefs, knowing the whole time that God desires something far fuller for them, and from them. The power to live this way comes from the baptism that Jesus brings – baptism in the Holy Spirit. He, the Holy Spirit, is the Lord of the abundant harvest; the Lord who strengthens faith by the love that He distributes into every receptive heart.

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Consider the Matter

Anette Burkett.

Christ in You, the Hope of Glory



The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs of Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.... For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope, for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, then we eagerly wait for it with perseverance' (Romans 8:16-25)

These scriptures speak of our inheritance of glory as children of God and heirs with Christ. Our hope as Christians is that we would attain to everything God the Father has predestined for us as individuals. We start out by coming into Christ (the Body of Christ, the fellowship of His people) and then we are in a process together with others so that we as individuals can be changed to see Christ come



in us. 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' (Col 1:27). To see Christ formed in us....this is our hope, our glory, our inheritance, but how is this hope to become reality for us?

The journey begins here and now, on earth, in our daily lives, in our ordinary or extraordinary circumstances. We can see Christ being formed in us – this is the mystery of the gospel! He is changing us by the things that we go through and the decisions we make. Our willingness to hear a word of change personally and to deal with sin is vital. So it's not just a cruise, we have to persevere through some things! It's easy to get tangled up in the injustices of our daily life and the struggles that come our way, but these are nothing compared to the joy that is to come. It is said of Jesus that he endured the Cross for the joy set before Him. We can have the same joy!

In fellowship with other believers we find the joy and strength to keep going. We can encourage others, and be encouraged, as we journey together toward the fulfilment of this hope. The misconception that we can attain to our full sonship glory while not fellowshiping in our weakness or struggles, is a trap. The Scriptures call us to bring our life, our struggles and sin to the light of true fellowship where we can find truth and be changed from glory to glory (1 John 1:7).

This earth and our time on it is such a small part of God's eternal plan but His kingdom in the new heavens, will increase and increase, never ceasing. He wants you to join with Him in making that happen. However it won't happen if we just sit and wait for it to come to us. We are called to walk worthy of this inheritance. Colossians 1:10 says '....that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God'. He has done more than we can ask or think (Eph 3:20) yet He does still require us to be active in our participation with Him towards our inheritance. We are to be laying up treasures in Heaven (Matt 6:20) by the way we live now.

My shout for coffee!

Present this voucher at the GCF Mirboo North market stall for a FREE espresso coffee (or Hot Chocolate).

Books ● Face Painting for the kids ● ~~Good~~ Coffee

Great



Low and Behold

by Dan Burkett



AN INTRODUCTION TO BIBLE PROPHECY...

Over the next six editions of the Magazine we will be running a special series on Biblical Prophecy.

The Bible has much to say about the events of the future. Interestingly however, it is many of the literal events of the biblical past that provide us with a context to understand the symbolism of the Scriptures by which things yet to come can be deciphered.

Our Series relates to one of the most far-reaching prophecies of Scripture – it is referred to as the 'Seven Times Prophecy' and encompasses the period from the Egyptian Empire right through to the end of time as we know it. We will see that the 'times' of the prophecy includes seven literal kingdoms of Gentile dominion over the people of God, thus the biblical expression 'the times of the Gentiles' (Luke 21:24). Six of these kingdoms have occurred historically and one is yet to come.



This fascinating series is written by Daniel Burkett, a noted teacher of Bible Prophecy. We trust that you will enjoy it and that its content will illuminate this most precious area of God's Word to you.

The Meaning of the 'Seven Times'

There are a number of occasions in the Bible where the term 'Seven Times' appears in connection with key personalities and significant events. No doubt you will recall some of the following examples: the bowing of Jacob to Esau seven times; the sprinkling of blood seven times; the seven times curse of Israel; the fall of the walls of Jericho as the children of Israel marched around them seven times; Elijah's seven times prayer for rain and the deluge that followed; the seven times baptism of Naaman and the seven times heated furnace¹. Such repeated and prominent usage of this phrase draws our attention to the study of the 'Seven Times' and provokes the following questions. What does the number 'seven' mean? Why is it linked with the above events and people? Does it have a symbolic meaning with important implications? What is the connection between the occurrences of the number 'seven', and the expression 'Seven Times'?

From these various and seemingly disconnected readings, we can see that we are being directed to a pattern which connects these references in a common symbolic theme. This theme is rich with prophetic 'pictures' of what is to take place in the time of the end and has profound implications for all people in the turbulent times in which we live.

A theme in the Bible is a recurring statement, that with each usage, builds in 'type' and/or 'shadow' the understanding of a truth being conveyed. An example of a prominent biblical theme is that of 'The Rock'. This theme (which points to Christ the Rock) begins in Genesis with the 'rock' or 'stone' that Jacob used for a pillow, and is further referred to by Jacob in reference to the 'Shepherd Stone'. Gen 28:10-22. Gen 49:24. The theme continues with the rock that Moses smote in the wilderness. Num 20:11.

Further development comes in the book of Daniel with the stone that smites Nebuchadnezzar's image in the feet. Dan 2:34-35. The New Testament continues the theme and declares the Rock to be Christ, in whom we participate together as lively stones. 1 Cor 10:4, 1 Pet 2:5. Therefore, it can be seen that this is a consistent theme running through Scripture, developed by many authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit over thousands of years. It is a useful illustration of how God uses themes in His word.

Similarly, symbols like the number 'seven', form prophetic language in the Scriptures. And in turn, this prophetic language develops into a theme. We shall see that this is indeed the case with the 'Seven Times'. It is what we might term a prophetic theme. In this regard, it is somewhat different from what might be commonly expected in scriptural prophecy, for it is not presented in a clear, single prophetic statement. Why then should we view this theme as prophetic? Our answer is that the 'Seven Times' directs us to some end point, some finale or completion. Further, the seemingly

¹ Gen 33:3; Lev 16:14; 26:18,21,14,28; Josh 6:4,15; 1 Kgs 18:43; 2 Kgs 5:10; Dan. 3:19.

random, yet symbolic occurrences of the phrase 'seven times', do link with clear prophetic statements in Scripture, which together provide us with new and amazing insights.

In exploring the 'Seven Times', it is possible to unveil the overall pattern that is concealed, thus understanding the hidden message contained within it, for: 'It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter'. Prov 25:2 KJV.

The 'Seven Times Prophecy' is a supreme example of one such glorious matter concealed, yet it presents a key of inestimable value. This precious key unlocks the mystery of God's dealings with mankind throughout history. It is truly a benchmark upon which to base much other prophetic understanding. Indeed, the 'Seven Times' prophetic theme integrates a number of prophecies, perhaps previously thought to be separate and unrelated, providing a more precise overall picture.

The Number Seven

An important key to understanding the meaning of the 'Seven Times' is the significance of the number 'seven'.

It is most certainly true, that when it comes to the use of numbers in Scripture, a pattern or consistency of use often emerges. A study of the significance of numbers in the Bible highlights this truth. Without going into detail on this topic here, we can say that some numbers appear to be linked symbolically with specific things. For example, we may associate the number 'three' with the Godhead, the number 'six' with mankind,² and the number 'seventy' with eldership.³ In a similar fashion, God's use of the number 'seven' is consistently linked throughout Scripture with the themes of perfection, fullness or completeness.

The book of Revelation is filled with 'sevens' as it portrays the events that are to take place in the time of the end. This is that period when the plan and purpose of God throughout history is brought to a conclusion. Surely God is drawing something to our attention with this number, and especially so, in the book that declares the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ in the end times. There, the number 'seven' has to do with the completion or fulfilment of God's plan and purpose - the perfection of the church which is the body of Christ, to be manifested in its fullness on the earth in the last days. The significance of the number 'seven' in the 'Seven Times' is that this prophetic theme comprehends the complete plan and purpose of God amongst the nations of the earth throughout history. God's initiatives in promoting various nations at different times, serve His purpose and dealings amongst His people. They are instrumental in ultimately bringing forth Jew and Gentile in the one glorious body of Christ. Eph 2:11-16. As such, these initiatives are closely linked with the prophecies of Revelation and Daniel. The books of Daniel and Revelation together bring us amazing insight into end-time events. They shed light on the 'Seven Times' theme, bringing understanding in much the same way as the exciting discovery of a missing piece makes sense of a jigsaw puzzle. Yes, the number 'seven' does have a meaning in Scripture, and God

² Created on the sixth day. Rev 13:18 – 666, the number of a man in opposition to God.

³ Ex 24:1; Num 11:16-25; Lk 10:1, 17.



uses it intentionally in reference to seven times to alert us to things that are important to our understanding.

Brief Overview

It is beyond the scope of this publication to give a detailed study of the 'Seven Times'. However, we can give a brief overview that should put the reader 'in the ballpark', so to speak.

The primary meaning and content of the 'Seven Times Prophecy' is this: throughout human history God has, and will, allow seven specific times of Gentile dominion on earth; that is, seven kingdoms or ruling world orders. These kingdoms are carefully identified in the Scriptures and can be distinguished from all the other kingdoms of history. It is clear that the first six kingdoms are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. The seventh is yet to arise. Some of these kingdoms are mentioned in the book of Daniel, and the overall picture is presented by John in the book of Revelation when he describes 'MYSTERY, BABYLON' riding on a 'beast' with 'seven heads'. Rev 17:5. A further connection is given in the biblical term, 'the times of the Gentiles'. Luke 21:24. This term refers to the 'seven times' the Gentiles are allowed to dominate in the kingdoms of the world.

A further example illustrating this truth is found in the incident where Jacob bowed seven times to Esau. Gen 33:3. Esau can be clearly linked with the seven ungodly kingdoms, and Jacob with the godly nations and peoples who are forced to bow seven times to the oppression brought upon them by those kingdoms. These oppressive, ungodly kingdoms are likened to 'beasts'. They share one thing in common; all govern with the ruling principle of Satan's kingdom, understood as 'Babylon' in Scripture. This accords with God's plan and purpose throughout the ages, as intimated in the following verse:

'I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.' Eccl 3:18 KJV.

A Fresh Approach

It is clear then, that we are approaching the 'Seven Times' in an entirely fresh way. In the past, there have been attempts to apply a prophetic time scale to this theme. This is generally done in an endeavour to understand its meaning, and to see if elements of the prophecy carry a symbolic message that corresponds with the passage of a definable period of time. From that point onwards, the usual approach is to find the starting date of the prophecy by associating it with an historical event.

The ultimate intention is then to identify a date of fulfilment or conclusion. This approach has been used by some groups to predict dates for future events, to give validity to dates in the past, or in some cases, to support an ideology. Whilst it is true that in some biblical prophecies a prophetic time scale does apply, the meaning of the 'Seven Times' is primarily the understanding that there are seven specific scriptural occasions of Gentile domination in the earth.



Snapshot s

Little things that mean more:

Hear, Believe and Receive.

?

The Medic says:
While there is life,
there is hope.

Faith comes by hearing a word from God.
Rejecting what God is saying prevents FAITH.
Without FAITH we have no HOPE.
Without HOPE we perish.

**God says: Put your
hope(trust)in me and I will
give you Life.**

// Fear, is the enemy of Faith. //

"Before you go to bed, give your troubles to God.
He'll be up all night anyway."

Thinking about the
future can be
frightening....
I know that God has the
future in control
He will direct my
path.....I need not fear.

Wondering- Who? What? When? How?
**Jesus said: I am the Way, The
Truth, The Life, No-one comes to
the Father but by me...Jesus -the
perfect person to talk to.**

I sometimes feel that life is a battle, that there is an enemy out to get me. God is...A shelter, a strong tower, a refuge from the enemy.
When I am overwhelmed, I cry out to God - and he helps me.

About Life

*A sample of the daily devotional
available online*



Finding Fellowship

Finding fellowship is perhaps the most important way of stating the aim of the Christian faith.

Whether we are talking personally, or as families, churches and whole movements, the question is the same. Have we found fellowship? While there are many important subjects – faith, redemption, church life, eschatology – we could rightly say that fellowship with God and others is the context in which all these are outworked. What do faith, gifts, sound doctrine and prophecy mean if they do not arise from fellowship, function in fellowship, and lead to fellowship? As Paul said in his famous chapter on love, if we have gifts without love, we are nothing.

It appears that the disciple John, the Gospel writer, was right there, on the spot, when John the Baptist cried out, 'Behold the Lamb!' So John began with the Lamb, in chapter one, and ended with the words to Peter about feeding the sheep. In the book of Revelation, we read that 'the Lamb ... will shepherd them and lead [multitudes] to living fountains of waters'. This is the theme of the book of Revelation: the Lamb in the midst of the throne, the triumph of the Lamb, the bride as the Lamb's wife, the ultimate fellowship of the Lamb and His people, the Lamb as the light of the temple, and the water of life proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Further to this, according to Peter, the Lamb was 'foreordained before the foundation of the world'. Before looking further into this vast subject, we'll just take one simple point from Peter's words. The Lamb was 'before' – before the beginning! Clearly, God's purpose for you and me began before we began. Accordingly, the Lamb is to be our beginning point.

References:

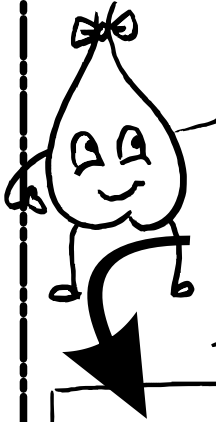
Cor 13:2
Rev 7:17
1 Pet 1:20
Rev 21:9, 22-23

Further Study:

1 Cor 13

Daily Proverb:

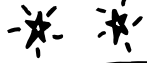
Proverbs 1



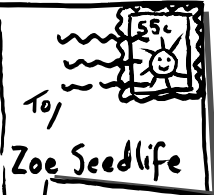
ZOE'S PAGE

My name is Zoe Seedlife
and this is my page just for kids!!

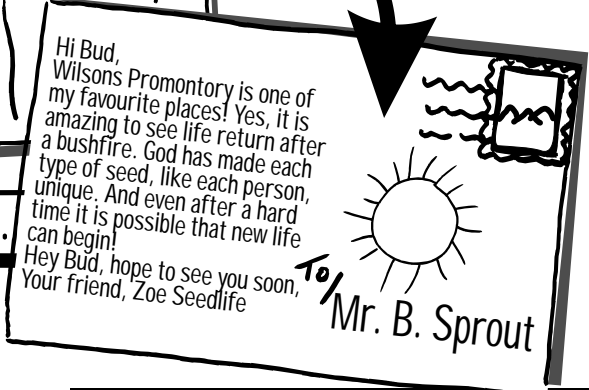
Hi Kids, Brrrrr...!!! Its cold in July!
My friend Bud is Wilsons Promontory where it has
been very wet. He sent me this postcard....



Hi Zoe,
I am at Wilsons Promontory!
Just over a year ago, a big fire
burnt much of the Prom, but
plants have begun to grow
back. I found out that some
seeds need fire to sprout! Hey
Zoe - how can new life come
out of a fire.
See you real soon Zoe,
Your friend Bud Sprout



So I sent him back
another one!



Did you know...

Wilsons Promontory is
Victoria's oldest
national Park!



Zoe says - Its nearly
Springtime - time to
plant _ _ _ _ _ !
(Can you fill in the gaps?)

Word Puzzle.

How many new words can you make from

WILSONS PROMONTORY

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(You'll need more paper....there are more than 30!)