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287 Beulah Road; Dripping Springs, TX 78620

## Dear supporters and friends,

The temple Jesus knew was one of the great engineering marvels of the ancient world, but in 70 AD the Roman army of Flavius Titus destroyed both the city and the beloved temple of the Jews, leaving only traces of its former glory. Only its foundation and the rubble scattered at its base remain, but its stones are crying out and revealing important answers as to its location, size, and design. These stones, along with the writings of Josephus, the Mishnah, and the Bible give us the needed data to better understand the past, and the stories they are telling about the temple are enthralling. Its archaeological remains tell the story of a prophecy about its fall, the final days of Christ, and God's desire to dwell among His people. For these and many other reasons, we have been working off and on over the last two years on a video series called "The Temple: Then and Now." In cooperation with Mat Cain, Patrick Hammack and World Video Bible School, it is our privilege to announce the completion of this monumental project. Our aim above all is to glorify God and to help viewers better understand the importance of the tabernacle and temple in the lives of God's people, both then and now. Through the use of 3D digital models, viewers will have the opportunity to see the temple as it stood during the time of Jesus. The entire series, along with all of our Bible Land Passages videos, can be seen on several different platforms including youtube.com.

During the last few months, many hours were spent on directing and proofing the Temple project, but we also were extremely busy in our work at the Bear Valley Bible Institute. The last three months have been some of the busiest in our lives. At Bear Valley, I taught three full length courses, taught a Sunday morning class on biblical parenting, and prepared for the two-week long Bible lands studies program to Turkey and Greece. Carla and I also conducted a weekend marriage seminar for the Bear Valley students, and then spent the last few days of the quarter grading papers and exams, calculating grades, and seeing to all the last-minute details for the trip. Upon our return, we packed up our things and headed to Burns Flat, Oklahoma, where I conducted a weekend family seminar. It was our privilege and blessing to stay with Brad and Glenda Whinery, whom we have come to love and admire for all their hard work in the Kingdom, and for their constant encouragement in our work.

As we led the group of 36 through the Bible lands, we were privileged to give numerous lectures, make Bible connections, as well as to capture additional film footage for future Bible Land Passages films. We even included some of this footage into the last episode of the Temple project. Overall, it was a very productive trip with our colleague and Bible Passages coworker, Brian Ketchem, capturing both important film and photographic data for our repository of Bible lands documentation and articles. We have a lot of work ahead of us as we seek to categorize, label, and utilize what we captured and researched.



Our 2024 Bear Valley/Bible Passages group at Pergamum in Turkey

(continued from page 1) Finally, as we settle back into our home in Texas and prepare for the series of speaking engagements and responsibilities ahead, we covet your prayers. Also, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you. Because of supporters like you God has enabled us to accomplish many tasks. Your fellowship with us in these works makes all of this possible. We also pray that you will pass this newsletter along to others, asking them to consider supporting as well. Bible Passages continues to grow, and as you will see in the remarks below, our work and needs are changing. God bless you all. Thanks again for all you do in working with us to guide people to Jesus! *John*

### Exciting New Changes for Bible Passages!

As our Bible Passages ministry began nearly eight years ago, we could not have known then the many people God would place in our paths nor the many opportunities that would develop. Spending six months each year working with Bear Valley has been one of the greatest joys of our life. However, beginning this year, we have decided to reduce some of our teaching responsibilities and refocus our efforts on other aspects of our ministry. Carla’s “Write on My Heart Every Word” ministry, her “Looking Up” podcast with Kathy Pollard, and our Bible Lands projects have continued to grow and expand. Each of these works require more attention as the participants of these works continue to grow. We also long to be at home in Texas nearer to our family. Needs change over time and we look forward to being more present in the lives of Carla’s mother and our children and grandchildren. Our work will continue in training preachers for ministry as we plan to travel to Denver each fall quarter beginning in 2025. As opportunities arise, I will be teaching short courses at Bear Valley.

As Bible Passages continues to grow, we are excited about adding additional team members to help us with many tasks and to plan for the long-term future. From the beginning, our aim has always been to glorify God, guide people to Jesus, edify the church, and provide the church with resources and biblical content that can be used for generations of believers. To help us with these important tasks, we are blessed to add Brian Ketchem as an official part of the Bible Passages ministry. Brian has already been working tirelessly on a number of projects for Bible Passages, and he will take a more official role upon his graduation in December from Bear Valley Bible Institute. We are also hoping to eventually add part-time clerical support to our team, and other part-time volunteer workers as well. We are in the process of forming an advisory board with a scheduled first meeting later this year.

As we look to the future and seek to establish a ministry that will serve others and glorify God for generations to come, we humbly ask for your support. Thank you so much for all you have done already. But now, our work and our financial needs have grown. To our supporters, we pray that you might consider our greater needs for the future. We would be so humbled if you could join us in reaching more souls and providing greater content for the Kingdom.



### 2024 Schedule:

- April 18-20  
Equipped Workshop  
Bowling Green, KY
- April 21-25  
Gospel Meeting  
Ooltewah, TN
- April 27  
Ladies Day Weber Rd  
Corpus Christi, TX
- May 11-16  
Gospel Meeting  
Kimberley, ID
- May 17-19  
Graduation Exercises BVBI
- May 22-June 8  
PTP Bible Lands Study  
Tour
- August-October  
Bear Valley Bible Institute
- August 16-22  
Polishing the Pulpit
- September 19-22  
BVBI Lectureship
- October 17-20  
Linder Rd (ID) Lectureship
- October 25-27  
Marriage Seminar  
Brown Trail, Bedford TX
- November-December 2023  
WVBS and other TX  
projects
- Ongoing / Weekly  
Commitments:  
Looking Up Podcast  
Write On My Heart Every  
Word (Scripture Writing)  
WVBS Temple Project

## Carla's Comments

Dear friends,

Home! There are a lot of feelings wrapped up in the word “home”: relief, comfort, peace, happiness, safety and joy, among others (like the feeling of urgency to unpack and clean house - but I’ll think about that feeling later!) I can’t help imagining that we will have these same beautiful feelings—but on such a grand scale—when we go home to heaven. This week in my Bible writing, God told Abram, “you will go to your fathers in peace...” and I thought it was such a comforting, beautiful thought to know that God had already seen the peaceful day of Abram’s death.



At the highest overlook in Athens, a huge city!

We are grateful to be in the comfort of home and nearer to our family. As John mentioned, the last three months were so busy...last week, I actually counted that we had been in fifteen different beds over the previous 25 nights. We are so, so very blessed in with what God has allowed us to do, but we have had to make some difficult decisions over the last several months regarding our schedule. We now have peace in our decision to reduce the amount of time that we spend in Colorado and in certain speaking engagements for the sake of our family as well as for our physical, mental, and emotional health. We are healthy, but we want to stay that way - ha! We have a solid two months of remaining commitments to wrap up before we get to take a little breather, but I am excited about those commitments as well as the people we will be with. God is so good.

We are also so very excited to soon have Brian joining Bible Passages. He and Shannon have become dear friends, and I feel beyond confident about Brian’s understanding and knowledge of how we are trying to honor God and serve others in our ministry. Brian and John can talk archaeology and geography and Bible history all day long, but what Brian brings to the table is so much more than facts - he is a true, genuine man who loves and honors the Lord, loves people and interacts so well with those of all ages and backgrounds, and he is one we trust implicitly. We always enjoy being with he and Shannon, and they’ve both been so helpful on a volunteer basis. We can’t wait to introduce them to all of you and we truly thank God for them! We will have more to say about Brian’s resumé and qualifications in the near future.

We thank God for you all, too. We thank you for believing in what we are trying to do together, and we thank you for helping us accomplish it together. Please continue to pray for us! Love, *Carla*

## The Temple Project is finally here!



We are proud to announce that the long awaited Temple project is now available for viewing. Experience the splendor of Herod's Temple in Jerusalem through a stunning high-quality 3D restoration. Immerse yourself in these great historical places and learn about the theology and importance of the glorious temple of the Jews. The entire series is designed to help you grow closer to God. This five part mini-series can be seen by going to [www.biblepassages.net](http://www.biblepassages.net), Youtube and VidAngel. Please share this information with others.



(L-R) First and second year classes at BVBI...

Mat puts the microphone on John in preparation

for some filming in Turkey...Friday night dinner at the Bear Valley students' marriage weekend in February...Our group at the theater in Hieropolis...Bear Valley seniors!...John was asked to preach for the Greek speaking congregation in Athens - translated by Dino Roussos...Finishing up the "Women of the Bible" class taught by Teri Autrey...dear friends Brad and Glenda Whinery of Elk City, Oklahoma...Saying goodbye and praying with some of the Bear Valley students as we were about to leave Denver.