

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



International Bible Teaching Ministry Update 2009 Issue 1 BOSTON, O.T. PODCASTS, NEW STUDY GROUP

"Challenging men and women of faith to think"

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16 January 2009

Dear Friends & Supporters,

Greetings from chilly Atlanta! 12 degrees F this morning when I got up (11 degrees below zero C)! Mistakenly I'd thought spring was about to arrive. Yet the ice and chill are welcome, reminders of visits to the more frigid parts of the planet, as well as of years past living in Scandinavia and even Boston.

BOSTON

I've just returned from a terrific time in New England, the first trip of the New Year. I was in Boston four nights, staying in the homes of four great families. One evening I spoke to a local chapter of *Reasons to Believe* (www.reasons.org). My topic: Islam. Toney Mulhollan, my publisher at IPI, introduced me to one of the RTB leaders a few years ago, which led to the invitation. Speaking of which, the new book *Jesus and Islam* will go to the publisher in a few days, and should be out in late March!

Another evening, two regions of the Boston Church of Christ came together for an evidences presentation, with many guests in attendance, and quite a few teens. (I love it when the younger set come; they have such good questions, and often appreciate evidences just as much as older folks do.) Another interesting part of this trip was a morning spent over coffee with Randy Isaac and Jack Haas of the American Scientific Affiliation (www.asa3.org). Brilliant minds, and they seem to know so many of the scientists, apologists, and professors whose works I've been reading and with whom I'm corresponding more and more.

In a few weeks I'll return to the Boston area to speak at Harvard University on the theme *The Biblical Manuscripts: A Perfect Record?* I received an M.T.S. in New Testament from Harvard Divinity School back in 1982, yet since then have only returned to stroll through the campus. I've never taught there. This will certainly be an honor and a treat.

GOING DEEPER

In 2009 I've been recording weekly **podcasts** on Old Testament characters. You can listen to these lessons online or, if you prefer, download them and take them with you. Access to these studies, as well as to the 400 pages of N.T. studies created in 2008, are for premium subscribers. You can become a premium subscriber for 10 cents a day -- \$36.50 per year. Sign up [here](#). Not only are you gaining access to hundreds of pages of N.T. studies and to the O.T. podcasts, but you are also supporting the International Teaching Ministry. And for that I am grateful.

The first O.T. podcast is on Adam & Eve (free to all). The second is on Cain & Abel, and the third on Noah. This weekend I will record the fourth, on Abraham. Each is about 25-35 minutes in length, and comes with notes and ideas for further study; thoughts on what the texts teach us about God; how to break down the passages for children (e.g. in a family devotional); etc.

How's your Bible study going in the New Year? Please check out the [premium site](#).

THE JACOBY'S BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP

Vicki and I are very excited about our new Bible study. Though we have been in many stimulating discussion groups through the years, this time we're hoping for a different kind of forum (more thought-provoking).

There is certainly no shortage of topics of global import and spiritual significance. Many of these subjects come up during my worldwide travels, and yet some are seldom addressed at the local church level. Our angle: *What does the Bible say about this?* Christians need to be informed about the issues, not just parrot "politically correct" positions. To go back 2400 years, if "the *unexamined life* is not worth living" (Socrates), is it not also true that the *unexamined faith* is hardly worth having? Combining faith with knowledge is not only vital. It is interesting!

Topics we're considering include:

- * What the Bible says about wealth ("prosperity," charity, the current financial crisis...)
- * What happens after death? (paradise, out-of-body experiences...)
- * Ecology (Christian responsibility for the environment, global warming...)
- * Islam and the future.
- * Sex and the Bible (sexual ethics, homosexuality, genetics...)
- * Politics (Would Jesus vote? Is the U.S. a "Christian nation"?...)
- * Can Christians kill? (the military issue; the death penalty...)
- * Medical ethics (stem-cell research; euthanasia; abortion...)
- * Other paths to God (world religions, those who have never heard...)

Already many have indicated interest in the Friday evening sessions, including spouses of believers, teens, and many people we have been reaching out to since we moved to Atlanta. We are very encouraged.

All for now...

Thanks for your prayers for this ministry, and even for our local discussion group. Please also remember my colleague John Oakes, who is currently teaching in the Philippines and Korea.

Until next time,

Douglas

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