

# Diakonos

[danlewis@dkonos.org](mailto:danlewis@dkonos.org)

May 2021

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I'm sure is true for most of you, spring was a welcome change from winter. It marks a transition between Zoom lectures, of which I have done many in the past year, to travel and on-site lectures once more. Peggy and I are well, and we are happy to see some reprieve from the lock-downs we've all experienced.



*Here, as you can seem, I'm "Zooming" to my "Light on the Bible" group in England.*

In April, I was privileged to give a 5-hour Zoom lecture on the Divided Kingdom of Israel to a group in England in a program called "Light on the Bible," a series of seminars sponsored by The King's Lodge in Nuneaton and linked with the University of the Nations. The series is comprised of twelve seminars over a two-year period, and participants are drawn from local English churches. I had about 20 participants in this seminar.

We had a delightful day together with a "tea break" in the middle. In past years, Peggy and I always were able to be in England in

the Spring for on-site lectures (I've lectured in England every year from 1991 through 2019). However, 2020 was the first year we were unable to travel across "the pond," due to the pandemic.

A week and a half later, I was back (virtually) at U. of N. Cambridge for lectures in 2 Corinthians. I've visited this campus in England several times previously as well

as lectured by Zoom, and this presentation was one of the latter, a two-day lecture covering the background and exegetical issues of this Pauline letter. I always find 2 Corinthians to be fascinating correspondence, a church with which Paul had what can only be called a “rocky” relationship. In this letter, Paul opens



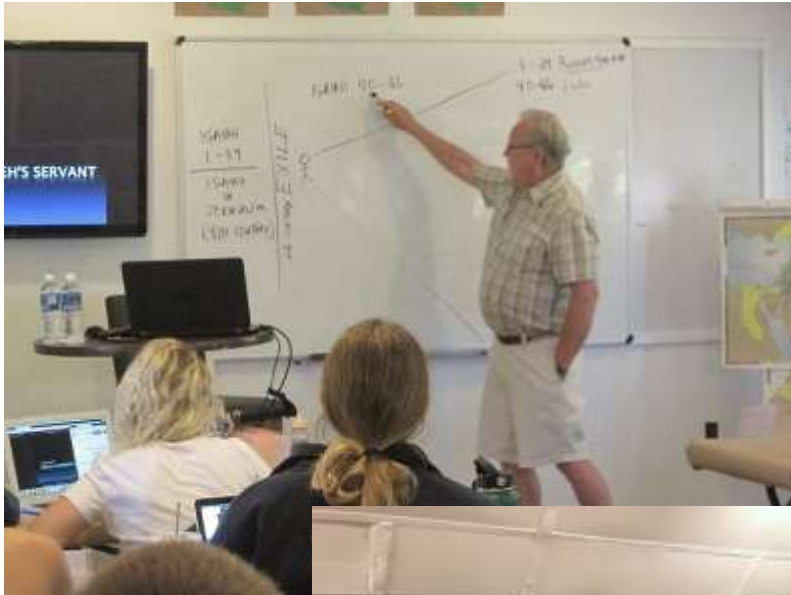
*What scholars call p46 is the earliest existing copy of Paul's letters, dating to about AD 200. Written on papyrus sheets and bound into a codex, this portion of the text is housed at the University of Michigan's Hatcher Library, and it contains 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:11 (of course, there were no chapters or verses at this early period).*

his heart more fully than in any other letter as he deals with misunderstanding, rumor, and rejection, all of which are features of Christian ministry often missed by modern readers and as present in the modern world as in the ancient one. Technology changes, but people don't change very much.

With respect to my Greek and Hebrew students, Dave Ko from Paris, France has just completed his course in Basic New Testament Greek. I have two new students as well, Jolien Wolfson, a young Dutch woman serving in South Africa, who is taking NT Greek, and Snezhina Yankova, a young Bulgarian woman serving in Los Angeles who is taking OT Hebrew. They both are excellent students and a delight to work with!

In May I was finally able to travel once more, this time to a U. of N. campus in Honolulu, Hawaii, where I taught the Book of Isaiah. The small campus in Honolulu (technically, the Manoa Valley if you are familiar with the island of Oahu) is one that both Chad, my son,

and I visit regularly for lectures. (Chad already has lectured there this spring via



Zoom, and he is scheduled to lecture there later this year in person. I will have one more trip there a well before 2021 is over.) It was a delightful group of students, and amazingly, two of them were from Michigan. Isaiah is a big book, always listed first among the prophets (due to

*Here I'm beginning to outline the major themes in Isaiah 40-66, the area of the book addressing the Servant of the LORD.*



*One of the highlights is always Q/A, an evening when students can ask any question about the Bible or faith that they wish to explore. Some of them are biblical questions, some ministry questions, and some moral questions, but they always result in engaging dialogue!*

size, not chronology), and in addition to its primary focus on the ancient world, it has many messianic prophecies and allusions that are referenced in the

New Testament. Isaiah also introduces us to one of the most important figures that anticipate the coming of Christ Jesus, the figure of the Perfect Servant who suffered unto death. Initially, the “servant” of Yahweh was the nation Israel herself. However, she turned out to be a failed servant, breaking covenant and stubbornly going her own way. Hence, God determined that there would be a

Perfect Servant, one who would rescue Israel, the failed servant, cleanse her from her sins, bring her back, and open the door of salvation to the nations of the world. About this Perfect Servant Christians have never been in doubt. As Philip told the Ethiopian in the Gaza strip who was reading about the Servant of Yahweh in Isaiah 53, "He opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus" (Ac. 8:35).

So, there you have it for Spring 2021. The summer will include both Zoom and in-person lectures. I will conduct two Zoom lectures to a School of Biblical Studies in Norway (Zechariah; Matthew), in-person lectures in Kona, Hawaii (John; the Letters of John; the Apocalypse of Jon), in-person lectures in Medellin, Colombia, South America (Luke; Acts). In the Fall, I'll be doing lectures in Russia and elsewhere in Europe.

I especially want to say a heartfelt thanks to those who support this ministry. Your gifts are deeply valued and make possible these trips, many to mission schools that do not have the resources to bring in good teachers from the outside. And to all of you who follow our adventures in retirement, we extend our love and appreciation.

In God's grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan and Peggy Lewis". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dan and Peggy Lewis