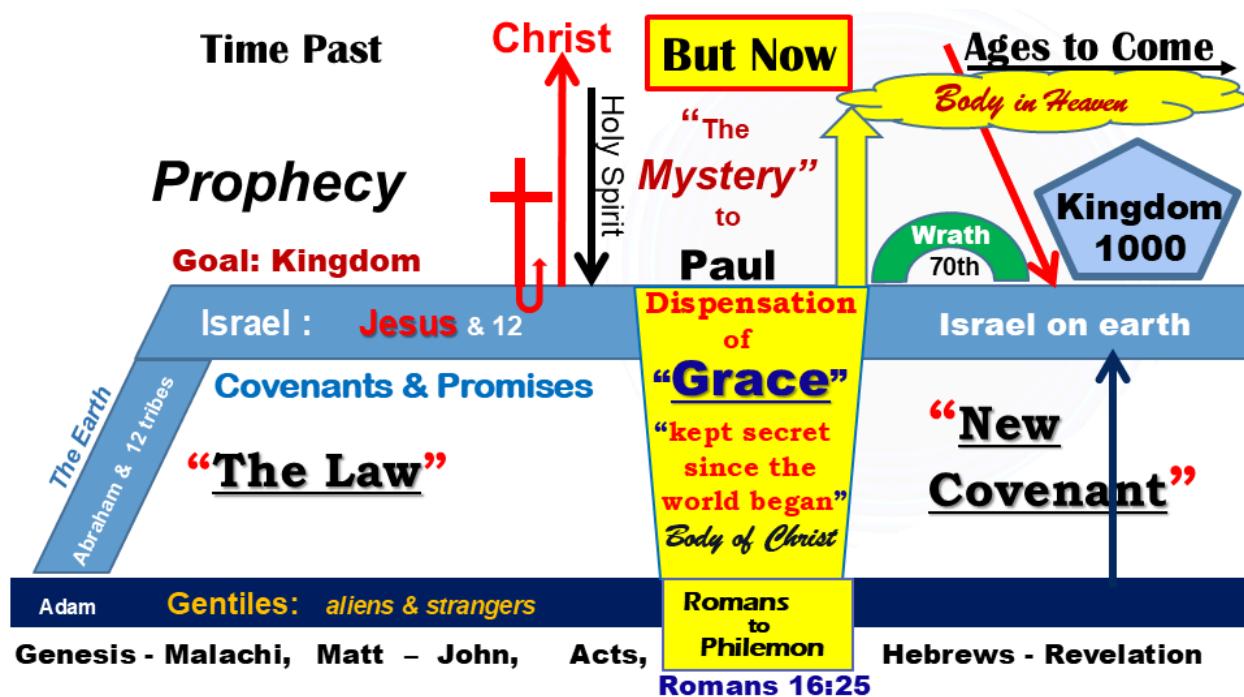


Through The Bible In Seven Hours



By Pastor Ted Fellows

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Ohio

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Introduction:

Welcome to *Through the Bible In Seven Hours*. This booklet was first printed as study notes for a series of seven weekly special meetings held at Berean Bible Church of Louisville, Ohio in the winter of 2014. We borrowed the concept and the title from the series by the same name, aired on the TV program, *Forgotten Truths*, a ministry of Pastor Richard Jordan of Shorewood Bible Church, Rolling Meadows, IL. The material, however, is our presentation. It has been a great blessing to our local church family and to those who visited as we have taught these lessons.

The apostle Paul affirms the inspiration and profit of all of God's Word in II Timothy 3:16-17. Paul, in the book of Romans, gives unique perspective and insight of all God's dealings with man all the way back to Adam, including Abraham's justification, the history and the future of Israel, as well as the law of Moses and the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. That is why we have headed each section of our study guide with verses from the book of Romans.

Paul, in II Timothy 2:15, tells us to study and the method to study God's Word by *rightly dividing the word of truth*. There are natural divisions and distinctions to recognize. Paul lays out in Ephesians 2 a simple three-fold outline (see the chart in Week 1, Session 2) and adds basic and wonderful perspective in the book of Romans. God's Word is its own best commentary, so we endeavor to let it be our guide and give us the method and basic outline to follow.

This booklet is a basic outline that can be read directly through or used to lay the framework to study the sections of the Bible they cover. We at Grace Heritage Bible Church hope these studies prove a rich blessing and great help to you in gaining further light and understanding of God's Word!

- Ted Fellows, December 23, 2015

These studies, as taught in 2014, can be found on Youtube in the Through The Bible In Seven Hours playlist: www.youtube.com/@graceheritagebiblechurch

A link is also available on our website under Video Bible Studies:
www.graceheritagebiblechurch.org

Booklets/tracts mentioned in this study can be obtained by calling the Grace School of the Bible office at 888-535-2300.

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The Gospel & The Bible

Week 1 - Session 1

The Gospel: Ephesians 2:1-10, *God's plan in a nutshell!*

Man's Problem: He is a sinner separated from God in a fallen universe!

Ephesians 2:1-3, Man is a sinner *by nature* and *by action*.

- 1 And you hath he quickened, who were **dead in trespasses and sins**;
- 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to **the course of this world**, according to the prince of **the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
- 3 Among whom also **we all** had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and **were by nature the children of wrath**, even as others.

God's Provision: A plan of redemption for man through His Son Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:4-7, The crosswork pays for sin and provides new life!

- 4 **But God**, who is rich in mercy, **for his great love wherewith he loved us**,
- 5 **Even when we were dead in sins**, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Ephesians 1:7, In whom we have **redemption through his blood**,
the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

- 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together *in heavenly places* in Christ Jesus:
- 7 That **in the ages to come** he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

His plan included restoring the fallen creation in the heaven and the earth!

Man's Responsibility: Respond *in faith alone* to receive eternal life.

Ephesians 2:8-9, Salvation is a free gift received by faith without works!

- 8 **For by grace** are ye saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is **the gift of God**:
- 9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

Man's Opportunity: Trust Him, and then participate in his plan!

Ephesians 2:10, As a new creature we can serve him, for he has revealed his plan in his word!

- 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that **we should walk in them**.

God has good works ordained for us to walk in, so we need to understand the Bible!

Week 1 - Session 1 (Continued)

The Bible: II Timothy 3:16-17, All of the Bible is God's inspired word.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

All Bibles are not created equal!

Colossians 1:14 KJV

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Colossians 1:14 NIV

14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (through his blood omitted)

John 6:47 KJV

47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

John 6:47 NIV

47 I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. (on me omitted)

Luke 4:4 KJV

4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Luke 4:4 NIV

4 And Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Man does not live on bread alone.' (What's missing?)

Mark 1:2 KJV (Quotes two Old Testament Prophets.)

2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. (Malachi 3:1) 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight (Isaiah 40:3)

Mark 1:2 NIV

2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"-- (from Malachi,3:1, not in the book of Isaiah) 3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' (Isaiah 40:3)

Week 1 - Session 1 - **The Bible:** Continued

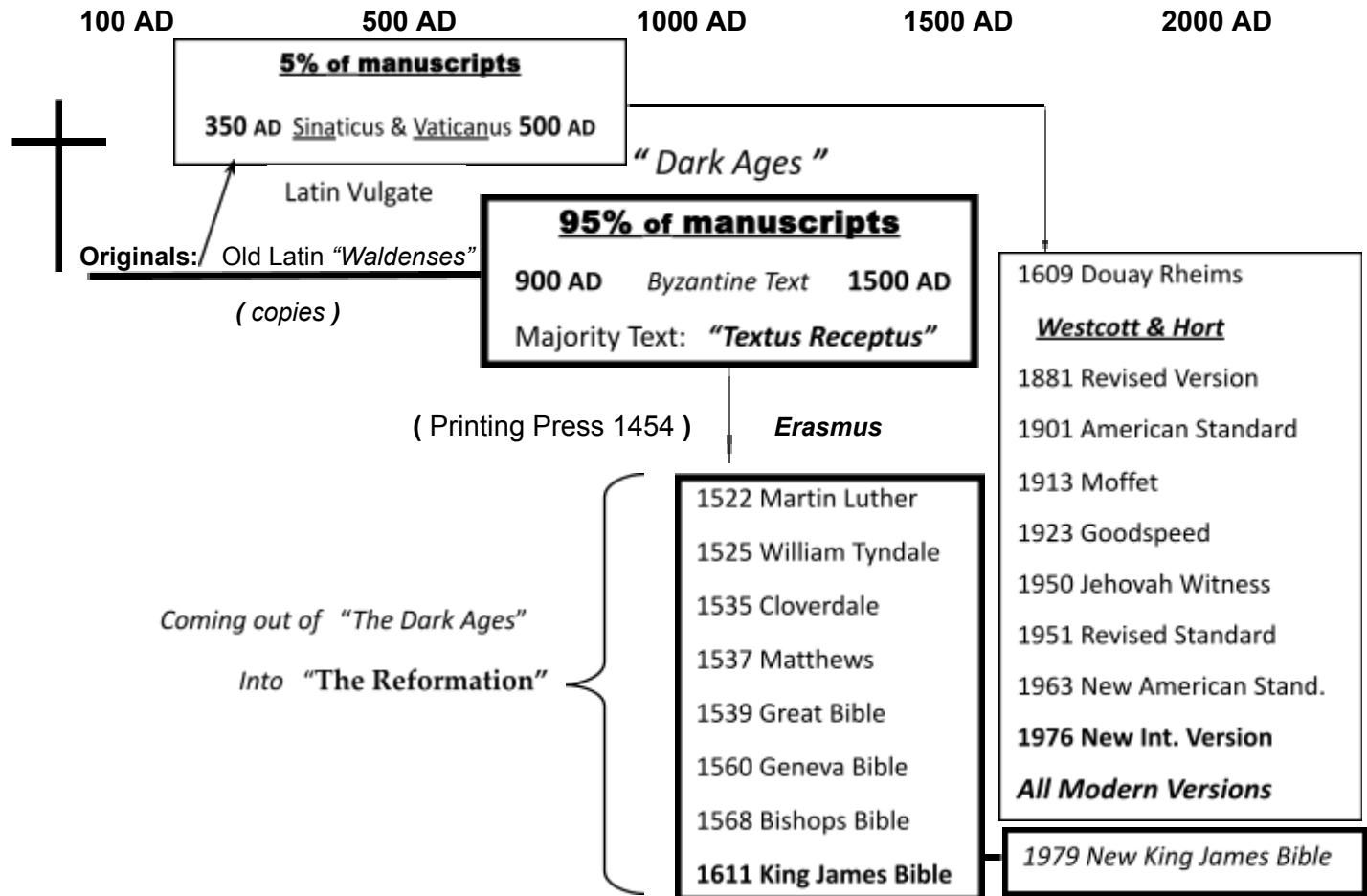
All Bibles are not created equal!

The **King James Bible** is based on what is called; The Received Text or “**Textus Receptus**” Greek New Testament. It is the text that was commonly used by the church for 1500 years, and is based upon **95% of the manuscript evidence**. This was the Bible of *Martin Luther, William Tyndale*, and the protestant reformation.

All of the modern translations are based on a different Greek text (*Westcott & Hort*) of the New Testament supported by a few older manuscripts. The differences noted on the previous page are just a small sample of the hundreds of differences between the two lines of manuscripts. This is the text behind the Douay Rheims (Roman Catholic Version), the New World Translation of the Jehovah's Witnesses, and **all the newer versions** published after the Revised Version of 1881.

For more information see the tract entitled; “Is Your Bible the Right One?” Also available is the tract “New Eye Opener” with 200 examples from the New Testament.

New Testament: English Bible Time Line



Week 1 - Session 2 - **The Bible At A Glance**

II Timothy 3:16,17, All of the Bible is God's inspired word, and is profitable **for us**.

16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable **for** doctrine, **for** reproof, **for** correction, **for** instruction in righteousness: **17** That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. **"The Apostle Paul"**

II Timothy 2:15, The Bible's **own instruction** about *how* it is to be studied.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.** **"The Apostle Paul"**

All of the Bible is **for us**, but it is **not all to or specifically to or about us today**. To be approved unto God we must "**rightly divide**" the word of truth. There are natural divisions God has in His word for us to recognize. Both of these verses were given by God to the same man; **Paul**, in the same book; **II Timothy**. II Timothy is one of the epistles specifically given to instruct how the local church is to function and the Bible be taught. The Bible is its own commentary. In the book of Ephesians, God gives, **through Paul**, a simple **3 point outline** of how God looks at His dealings with man.

#1 "Time Past" Ephesians 2:11 & 12, A division between Jew & Gentile!

11 Wherefore remember, that ye *being in time past Gentiles in the flesh*, who are called *Uncircumcision* by that which is called *the Circumcision in the flesh* made by hands;

12 That *at that time* ye were without Christ, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of *Israel*, and **strangers** from *the covenants of promise*, having no hope, and *without God* in the world:

In **Time Past** there was division within the human race between the **Gentiles**, called the *uncircumcision*, and the *circumcision*, referring to the **Nation Israel**. God gave Israel **covenants and promises** and the **Law of Moses**, and the Gentiles were **aliens and strangers** from those promises.

#2 "But Now" Ephesians 2:13-16, A change: the division removed & the Law is abolished.

13 But **now** in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes **were far off are made nigh** by the blood of Christ.

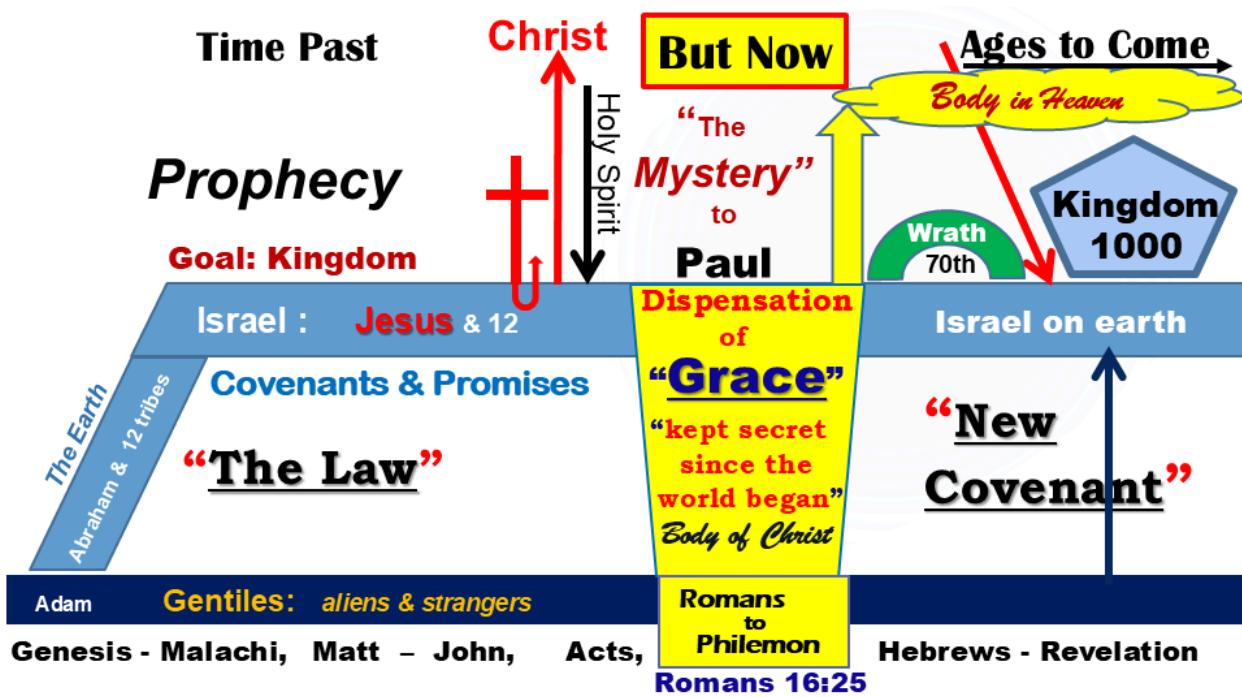
14 For he is **our** peace, who hath **made both one**, and hath **broken down the middle wall of partition** *between us*;

15 **Having abolished** in his flesh the enmity, even **the law** of commandments *contained in ordinances*; for to make in himself **of twain one new man**, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile **both** unto God in **one body** by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

But Now there is no distinction between Jew & Gentile, and there is **a new people** called **one body**. There has been a change in God's dealing with man. There are different people, (**Israel & Gentiles**) and different truths (**the Law & covenants**) at different times, **time past** and **but now**. All of God's word is the truth! Recognizing these *changes* and *natural distinctions* is **rightly dividing the word of truth!**

The Bible At A Glance



Week 1 - Session 2 - **The Bible At A Glance:** Continued

#3 “The Ages To Come” Ephesians 2:7, Fulfillment of God’s plan in Heaven & Earth.

7 That in **the ages to come** he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

God is always faithful to his word! He will fulfill his covenants and promises given to **the Nation Israel**, redeeming them and **restoring this world** back unto Himself. He will fulfill His word to us, **the one body**, by ultimately **restoring the heavenly places** and glorifying *us* together with His Son there. Fulfillment of God’s purpose in these two realms is the subject of **the ages to come**.

Rightly dividing the word of truth is recognizing the natural divisions and distinctions God has placed in His word. The Bible lays itself out in Ephesians chapter 2 in 3 simple natural divisions according to: **Time Past, But Now, and The Ages To Come.**

Time Past: Ephesians 2:11,12, A division in humanity.

Israel: The Circumcision, had the covenants & promises as God’s special separate Nation. **Genesis 12:1-3**, The Abrahamic Covenant promised him a *land*, a *seed* and a *blessing*. **Exodus 19:4-6**, The Law of Moses was added to the promise and it *fortified the middle wall of partition*. Israel was to be a kingdom of priests between God and the Gentile nations.

Gentiles: The Uncircumcision are *aliens & strangers* from Israel’s covenants and promises. **Genesis 17:13, 14**, The Uncircumcised (other Gentile nations) are *cut off*, separate from Israel. **Leviticus 20:25, 26**, The law **severed** and separated Israel from *other people*. **Numbers 23:8, 9**, Israel was a separated people from the nations (*a middle wall of partition*).

The Old Testament: Genesis to Malachi The Goal: A Kingdom on earth.

Matthew 25:34, A kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world.
Jeremiah 23:5, A coming king! **Daniel 2:44**, A coming kingdom!

The New Testament: Matthew to John, Still is **Time Past** for the division remains.

Romans 15:8, Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision confirming the promises.
Matthew 1:21, 15:24, John 1:11, Israel is still God’s special people separate from the Gentiles.
Matthew 3:1,2, & 7, 4:17 & 23, The kingdom is *at hand*. There is also **wrath to come!**

The Book of Acts, Opens; still is **Time Past**. The focus is still Israel and her covenants.

Acts 1:6-12, Restore *again* the *kingdom to Israel*. Jesus Christ will return to the earth.
Acts 3:19-21, The return of Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of prophecy is still in view.
Acts 3:24-26, Israel and the fulfillment of the covenant to Abraham is still the goal.

The subject of “**Prophecy**” is God’s program for the earth, and is based upon the covenants and promises made to the nation Israel. This has been **spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began**. **Time Past** and the prophetic program covers the (O.T.) books of Genesis – Malachi, and the (N.T.) books of Matthew – John, as well as the *early chapters* of the book of Acts. The goal is the Messianic kingdom promised to *Israel on earth*, and God blessing the Gentiles *through them*.

Week 1 - Session 2 - **The Bible At A Glance:** Continued

Compare: The *most basic division* in God's word is between **prophecy** and **the mystery!**

Acts 3:21, Prophecy: God's program for *Israel*, "hath spoken ... since the world began."
Romans 16:25, Mystery: God's program for the *body of Christ*, "kept secret since the world began."

But Now Ephesians 2:13-16, No distinction.

"... ye (Gentiles) were afar off, are made nigh by the blood of Christ".

"... hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;"

"...to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace."

"...reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross,"

Romans 3:22, "...for there is no difference,"

Romans 10:12-13 "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek ... "

Galatians 3:28, "There is **neither Jew nor Greek**, ... for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

We move to **But Now** in the epistles of Paul, **Romans – Philemon**, where the **Time Past** distinction between Jew and Gentile is no longer in effect. Today there is **no difference** between Israel and the Gentiles, and God is forming a **new** agency according to **the mystery** that has been *kept secret since the world began*. The goal and hope becomes the rapture for the **body of Christ** and its' home in the heavenly places in **the ages to come**. After the rapture God then turns back and completes Israel's program.

II Corinthians 5:1, For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, **eternal in the heavens**.

Ages to Come Ephesians 2:7, The distinction reestablished. Fulfillment!

God will then turn back to the prophetic program and fulfill the **covenants and promises** he made to the nation Israel. In the books of **Hebrews – Revelation** the subject is the earthly kingdom program of prophecy, and Israel again is God's covenant people.

Hebrews 2:3 & 5, " so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, ... For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the **world to come**, whereof we speak.

James 1:1, "James, a servant of God ... **to the twelve tribes** which are scattered abroad ..."

II Peter 3:1-2, "...I now write unto you; **in both** which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be **mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets**, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: **Revelation 19:11-15**, Jesus Christ returns in power and glory to rule in His kingdom on earth.

God's simple 3 fold outline in Ephesians 2.

Time Past: God's covenant program of prophecy with the nation Israel for the earth.

But Now: God's mystery program with the Body of Christ for the heavens,

The Ages To Come: God will fulfill his plan of redemption and restoration in both realms. Israel will be God's redeemed people over the earth, and the Body of Christ his people in the heavens.

Rightly dividing the word of truth is simply recognizing the distinctions God himself has made in his word between those two purposes. *The previous chart on page 5 shows The Bible at a Glance!*

Suggested Bible reading: **Ephesians chapters 2 & 3** Also booklet: The Key To Understanding The Bible

Week 2

The Old Testament

Session 1 The Goal & The Covenants.

Romans 15:4, For whatsoever things were written **aforetime** were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Matthew 25:31, 34, When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, **then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:**

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

The goal of the O.T. and prophecy was **Messiah's kingdom on earth**. Jesus Christ will return **to earth** in power and glory and sit on **the throne of His father David**, and be Israel's king and they reign with Him over the Gentiles. (See **Matthew 24:30, 31**). This kingdom was the goal of **the covenants made with the Nation Israel**. This is the subject of **prophecy, Acts 3:21**, and was **spoken since the world began**. The Gentiles in **time past were aliens and strangers** from the covenants, **Ephesians 2:11, 12**.

The 4 main covenants God made with the Israel: “*Unconditional*”

1. The Abrahamic Covenant:	Genesis 12:1-3,	(Foundation)	“I will ...”
“The Law”	<i>conditional “added” Exodus & Leviticus to prove them</i>	<i>“if you will”</i>	
2. The Palestinian Covenant:	Deuteronomy 29 & 30,	(The Land)	“I will ...”
3. The Davidic Covenant:	II Samuel 7:16,	(Great Nation)	“I will ...”
4. The New Covenant:	Jeremiah 31:31-34,	(Spiritual Blessing)	“I will ...”

1. The Abrahamic Covenant: God erects *the middle wall of partition!*

Genesis 12:1-3, The Promise: 3 parts: 1. A Land, 2. A Great Nation, 3. A Blessing

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto (1) **a land** that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee (2) **a great nation**, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will (3) **bless them that bless thee**, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.** (From here on God will deal with the world through Israel.)

Genesis 17:8-14, **8** And I will give unto thee (grace!), and to thy seed after thee, **the land** wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

11 And ye shall **circumcise the flesh** of your foreskin; and it shall be a **token** of the covenant betwixt me and you. (This is where the designation: *the Circumcision* begins)

13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and **my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.**

14 And **the uncircumcised man** child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be **cut off from his people**; he hath broken my covenant. (*The Uncircumcision*).

The Law was different! “*added*” to the promise, **Galatians 3:19.**

The Law was a *conditional “If / Then” performance based* covenant, added (because of transgressions) to *the promise* made to Abraham. It would prove (or *test*) the nation’s heart and obedience. There was *blessing* promised for obedience, and *judgment* for disobedience, directly from God! This “**Old Covenant**” also taught Israel about the function and role of the priesthood. **The Law** made Israel a different people and *fortified the middle wall of partition*.

Exodus 19:4-6, “If you will obey my voice... **then** ye shall be... unto me **a kingdom of priests**”.

They were to be a **kingdom of priests** to all families of the earth. This will be ultimately fulfilled in the millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ, **Isaiah 61:6**, **Zechariah 8:22,23**, **Revelation 1:5,6, 5:10, 20:4-6**.

Galatians 3:17-19, “... **the law** which was 430 years *after* cannot disannul...the promise...” **Exodus 20:20 & Deuteronomy 8:1-2**, “prove you...his fear before your face..that ye sin not” **Deuteronomy 28:1-14**, “**If thou...hearken diligently...to do...all these blessings** shall come...” **Deuteronomy 28:15-68**, “**But ...if thou wilt not** hearken...that **all these curses** shall come...”

The final curse was expulsion from the land, and captivity and abuse at the hand of the nations. The curse brought judgment and wrath, and withdrawal of blessing from God “...**because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.**” **Deuteronomy 28:62-64**, (**Deuteronomy 7:12-16, 11:13-28**)

The Law was separate and different from the “covenants of promise.”

Romans 9:4 Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and *the covenants, and* the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

The Law was conditional, *performance based*, and temporary. **It would be replaced by the New Covenant!** It was *added* as a “schoolmaster” to teach Israel (and us too) about sin, and our inability to please God on our own! The Law was given to instruct Israel **how to walk** as a holy people.

Hebrews 8:13, In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old **is ready to vanish away.**

Galatians 3:19-24, We are not under the Law.

19 Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was **added** because of transgressions, **till** the seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

24 Wherefore the law was **our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ**, that we might be **justified by faith.**

25 But after that faith is come, **we are no longer** under a schoolmaster.

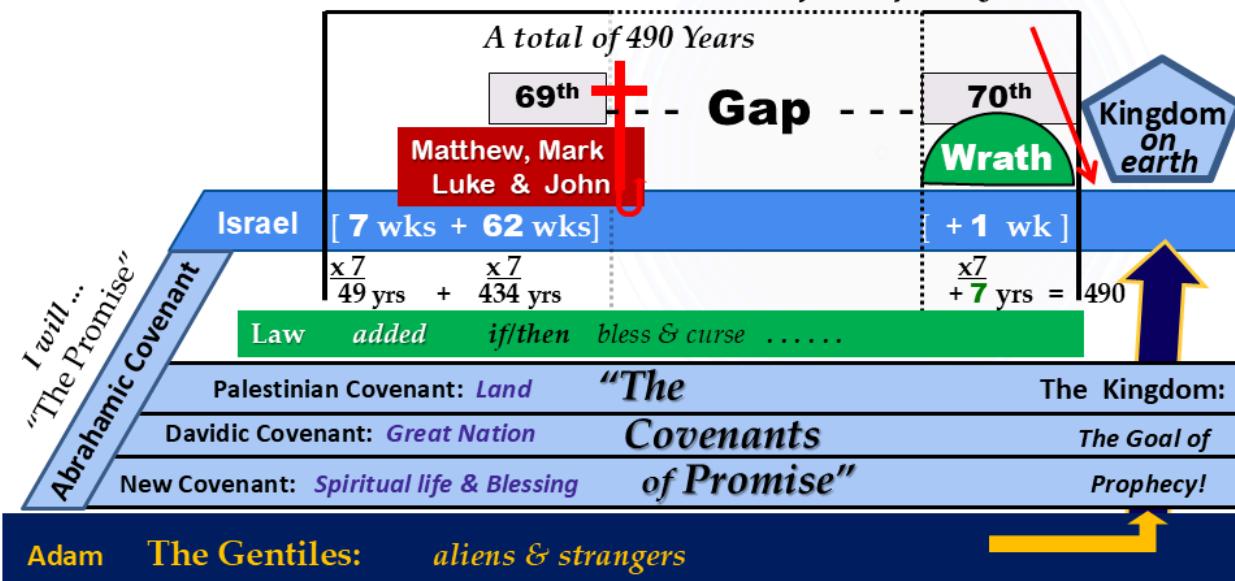
Romans 3:19-20,

19 Now we know that what things so ever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that **every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty** before God.

20 Therefore **by the deeds of the law** there shall **no flesh be justified** in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

The Covenants Of Promise & The 70 Weeks of Prophecy

70 Weeks: The Time Schedule Of Prophecy:



The Abrahamic Covenant: The Foundation. Others flow out of & expand the promise.

The 3 parts: 1. ***The Land*** >> Palestinian, 2. ***The Nation*** >> Davidic, 3. ***The Blessing*** >> New.

#1. The Land: >> Palestinian Covenant Guarantees the land after the nation fails!

Deuteronomy 29:1, These are the words of **the covenant**, which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, **beside the covenant which he made with them in Horeb.**

Deuteronomy 30:1-5, And it shall come to pass, **when** all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse ... and thou shalt call them to mind **among all the nations**, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,

- 2 And shalt return unto the LORD thy God... with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;
- 3 That **then** the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.
- 5 And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land ... and he will do thee good ... (grace!).

#2. Great Nation: >> Davidic Covenant Guarantees the throne after David's seed fails!

II Samuel 7:12-16, (:18-29) And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels ..."

- 13 ... and I will establish the throne of his kingdom **forever**.
- 14 ... If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:
- 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul ...
- 16 And **thine house and thy kingdom** shall be established **for ever** before thee: **thy throne shall be established for ever** (grace!).

David's lineage failed as well as David himself, a man after God's own heart, yet **the promise to him** and to the nation was unconditional and eternal! God will make Israel a truly **great nation** through **David's seed**, sitting **on David's throne**. This is fulfilled in **Jesus Christ's earthly kingdom!**

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 For **unto us** a child is born, **unto us** a son is given: and **the government** shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of **his** government and peace **there shall be** no end, **upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom**, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice **from henceforth even forever**. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. See also **Jeremiah 23:5, 6**.

#3. The Blessing: >> New Covenant Guarantees the blessing after their heart fails!

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a **new covenant with the house of Israel**, and **with the house of Judah**: (*not with the Gentiles!*)

32 Not according to the covenant (**the Law**) that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which **my** (old) **covenant they brake**, although I was an husband unto **them**, saith the LORD:

33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with **the house of Israel**; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law **in their inward parts**, and write it **in their hearts**; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: **for they shall all know me**, from the least **of them** unto the greatest **of them**, saith the LORD: **for I will forgive their iniquity**, and I will remember their sin no more (*grace!*).

The New Covenant provided full forgiveness and spiritual life and **blessing for Israel**, to make them a holy nation, and empower them **to be a blessing** to “all families of the earth.” As a kingdom of priests in the future kingdom, **Isaiah 61:5,6**, God gives them a new heart, putting His Spirit **within** and **upon** them.

Deuteronomy 30:6, Isaiah 44:1-4, Ezekiel 36:26-28, Joel 2:28-29

Summary: The Covenants of Promise: “unconditional”

1. The Abrahamic Covenant:	(Foundation)	Genesis 12:1-3,
2. The Palestinian Covenant:	>> <i>The Land,</i>	Deuteronomy 29 & 30,
3. The Davidic Covenant:	>> <i>The Great Nation,</i>	II Samuel 7:16,
4. The New Covenant:	>> <i>The Blessing,</i>	Jeremiah 31:31-34,

These are the *covenants of promise* made with the nation Israel and are **unconditional** and **eternal**. God says: “*I will...*” **give** Abraham’s seed **their own land**, make of them **a great nation** through a king from David’s seed, and **bless them** according to a New Covenant. The Gentiles in **time past** were “*aliens and strangers from the covenants of promise*”, *on the other side of the middle wall of partition*, **Ephesians 2:12**. **The Law** was separate and different. It was temporary and a conditional performance based covenant that was to instruct them *how to walk* as God’s holy nation.

There was provision for Gentiles! (Grace through Israel!!)

Genesis 12:3 And I will **bless them that bless thee**, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

Exodus 12:48-49 And when a **stranger** shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, **let all his males be circumcised**, and **then let him come near** and keep it; and **he shall be as one that is born in the land**: for **no uncircumcised** person shall eat thereof.

A Gentile had 2 options: Join and submit to the Nation as a proselyte, or bless the Nation.

Joshua 2:13-14, Rahab did both! Also **Ruth 1:16-17, 2:10-12, & II Kings 5** (Naaman)

The Old Testament

Week 2 - Session 2 - The Goal & The Structure

Genesis 1 - 11, 2000 years of history of the human race from Adam to Abram.

Matthew 25:34, Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit ***the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world***:

4 great events: The goal is a *kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world*.

1. **Creation:** “God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good,”
2. **The Fall:** Man fails in a perfect environment. ***The curse.***
3. **The Flood:** Man fails under human government. ***The human race destroyed.***
4. **Tower of Babel:** Man sets up a false religion. ***Nations scattered (languages).***

4 institutions: To preserve order and stabilize the human race.

1. **Volition:** Personal freedom & responsibility. (conscience) **Genesis 2**
2. **Marriage:** The foundation of the home. (husband & wife) **Genesis 2**
3. **Family:** The foundation of society. (parents & children) **Genesis 4**
4. **Nationalism:** To maintain order in society. (bounds & law enforcement) **Genesis 9**

Adam was commissioned to have **dominion over the earth and subdue it**. He fails to walk in faith and fulfill God's purpose for him in the earth, and **Lucifer** becomes ***the god and prince of this world***. God promises the **“seed of the woman”** (Jesus Christ) will bruise the serpent's head. God's goal is to redeem and reclaim the earth for himself through *a kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world*. God then **gave up** the nations, **Romans 1:24-28**, to form one nation and make them ***His people***.

Genesis 12 - Malachi 4, 2000 years of history from Abraham to Jesus Christ.

God changes his dealing with the world and selects **Abram**, **separates him** from the nations, and makes a covenant (**Abrahamic Covenant**) with him. He promises to make him a **great nation**, give them **their own land**, and **bless the world** through **blessing his multiplied seed**. The promise is expanded from **seed of the woman** to **the seed of Abraham**. He makes additional covenants (**Palestinian, Davidic & New Covenants**) with Israel, expanding the original promise to **the seed of David!** The goal is still a kingdom on earth through **his separate and favored nation**, and the covenants he made with them.

1. **The Abrahamic Covenant:** (Foundation) A division between ***the Circumcision & Uncircumcision.***
2. **The Palestinian Covenant:** (Land) The place of the kingdom. The Land promised to Abram.
3. **The Davidic Covenant:** (Great Nation) The government. The King & his throne.
4. **The New Covenant:** (Blessing) The Spiritual life. God & His holy nation.

The Mosaic Law was added to the promise to prove and chasten Israel, showing them their inability to perform the righteousness of the law, yet teaching them the function and role of the priesthood. **The law** and its curse brought wrath and judgment upon the nation because of their disobedience.

This is God's **Prophetic Program** for the earth and Israel, “***spoken since the world began***” (**Acts 3:21**).

The Old Testament

The 3 sections:

1. 17 Books of History: Genesis through Esther.

5 Books: Genesis through Deuteronomy. *The Foundation*

Israel is formed, called out of Egypt, and prepare to enter the Land. They learn that God is faithful to bless when they are obedient, and faithful to judge when they are disobedient. God reaffirms the promises to them **as the law brings wrath and judgment.** Through the *unconditional* Abrahamic **Covenant** Israel is God's peculiar people, above and **separate** from the nations.

Deuteronomy 26:18-19, And the LORD hath avouched thee this day **to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee**, and that *thou* shouldest keep all his commandments; **19** And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made ...

+ 12 Books: (9 + 3) Joshua through II Chronicles, & Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther

Israel enters into and overcomes the land, but ultimately fails under the curse of the law. This results in their political fall and their captivity. They failed to heed the words Moses and the prophets.

Daniel 9:11-12, Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; **therefore the curse is poured upon us**, and the oath that *is written in the law of Moses* the servant of God, **because we have sinned against him.** **12** ... by bringing upon us a great evil ... as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther. The Remnant returns after the 70 year captivity.

2. 5 Books: The Heart of Israel, Job through Song of Solomon.

These books are prophetic and personal. They look at Israel's future suffering in the tribulation, desire for deliverance, and the coming Messiah's (**Psalm 22**, is Jesus Christ!) suffering and glory. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and S.O.S present wisdom for that future evil day. Of course they help us too!

Psalms 79:5-6, *How long, LORD?* wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire? **6 Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen** that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name.

Psalms 89:34-37, My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. **35** Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will **not lie unto David.** **36 His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me.** **37 It shall be established for ever** as the moon, and [as] a faithful witness in heaven. Selah

Psalms 102:16-20, When the LORD shall build up Zion, **he shall appear in his glory.** **17** He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. **18 This shall be written for the generation to come:** and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD.

Psalms 105:7-11, He *is* the LORD our God: his judgments are in all the earth. **8** He hath remembered his covenant for ever ... **9 Which covenant he made with Abraham,** and his oath unto Isaac; **10 And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant:** **11 Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan,** the lot of your inheritance:

James 5:11, Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen *the end of the Lord...*

The Old Testament: 3 Sections, 39 books

1. History

17 Books

(5 + 9 + 3)

2. Heart

5 Books

3. Hope!

17 Books = 39

(5 + 9 + 3)

5 The Foundation

Pentateuch

Genesis beginnings

Exodus redemption

Leviticus the Law

Numbers journey

Deuteronomy 2nd law

5 Feeling & Heart

of Israel

Job suffering

Psalms song

Proverbs wisdom

Ecclesiastes vanity

Song Of Solomon 1st love

5 The Foundation

Major Prophets

Isaiah S

Jeremiah S

Lamentations S

Ezekiel S

Daniel (in Babylon)

+ 9 Israel in the Land ----- (failure under the Law) --- + 9 --- Israel in the Land

Enter, Overcome & Occupy

The Minor Prophets

Joshua conquer

"The curse"

Hosea N

Judges failure

Joel S

Ruth redemption

Amos N

I Samuel Saul & David

Obadiah S

II Samuel David

North: *"Israel"* 10 tribes

Jonah N

I Kings Solomon >> *split*

apostate

Micah S

II Kings divided history

South: *"Judah"* 2 tribes

Nahum S

I Chronicles David's goodness!

"Jerusalem"

Habakkuk S

II Chronicles goodness in Judah

Zephaniah S

+ 3 Expelled & Return! ----- + 3 --- Expelled & Return!

17 **Ezra** Rebuild Temple

17 **Haggai** S

Nehemiah Rebuild City

Zechariah S

Esther Retribution

Malachi S

3. 17 books of Hope! Isaiah through Malachi, *The Prophets.*

5 Major Prophets: Isaiah through Daniel. *The Foundation of Prophecy.*

These are books of hope and restoration, pointing to the promises of the coming Messiah, his deliverance, and Israel's future glory and blessing in the kingdom on earth, **Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7, 35:1-10. The goal and hope is a literal kingdom on earth. Jerusalem is the capital city, Jeremiah 3:17-18.** Also the coming **time of Jacob's trouble and Day of the LORD, Isaiah 2:10-22, Jeremiah 30:6-8.**

Isaiah 40:10, Behold, **the Lord GOD will come** with strong *hand*, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward *is* with him, and his work before him.

Isaiah 61:6-7, But **ye** shall be named **the Priests of the LORD:** *men shall call you* the

Ministers of our God: **ye** shall eat the riches of the Gentiles ...

7 For your shame **ye shall have** double ... in their land ... everlasting joy shall be unto them.

Jeremiah 23:5, Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will **raise unto David** a righteous Branch, and **King** shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice **in the earth.**

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make **a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:** (*not with the Gentiles!*)

33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel ... I will put my law **in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts** ... and they shall be my people.

34 ... they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Ezekiel 36:26-27, **A new heart** also will I give you, and **a new spirit will I put within you** ...
27 And I will put **my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes** ...

Daniel 2:44, And in the days of these kings shall **the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed:** and the kingdom shall **not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.**

+12 Minor prophets: (9 + 3) Hosea through Zephaniah, & Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi.

These 12 books are the framework of prophecy. The **first 9, Hosea through Zephaniah**, coincide with the **9 historical books, (Joshua through II Chronicles)** in that they address *Israel in the land before the captivity.* The **last 3, Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi**, coincide with the **final 3 historical books (Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther)** as they address *Israel expelled from the land during the captivity*, (see page 15).

Hosea 6:4-5, For the children of Israel shall **abide many days without a king**, ... a prince ...

5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness **in the latter days** ...

Malachi 3:6, For I am the LORD, **I change not;** therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Suggested Reading: I Corinthians 10:1-13, Romans 15:1-13

Week 3 **The Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke & John**

Session 1 - The Focus & Goal

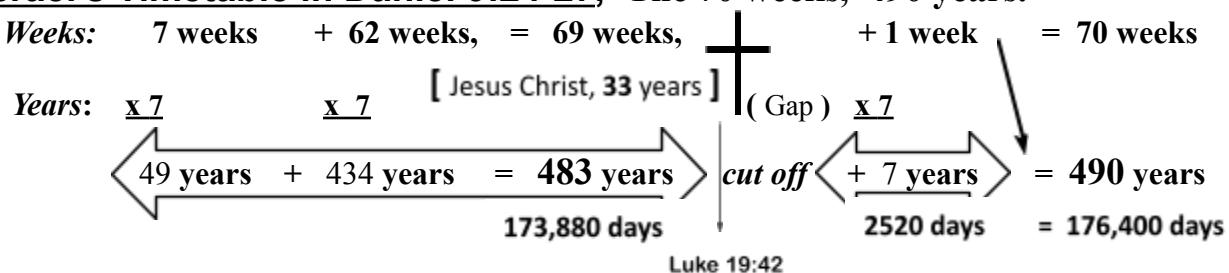
Romans 15:8, Now I say that Jesus Christ **was a minister of the circumcision** for the truth of God, to confirm the promises **made unto the fathers:**

9 And that the **Gentiles** might glorify God for *his* mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, **with his people.**

The Four gospels are still in what the Bible calls “**time past**” (**Ephesians 2:11,12**), for the division remains between the **Circumcision & Uncircumcision**, and God is **still** dealing with the world on the basis of the **Abrahamic Covenant & promises with Israel**. Israel **still** has *their special status*, and God is dealing with the Nations *through them!* The goal is the establishment of *their Messiah’s kingdom on the earth*. The time had come for prophecy to be fulfilled! **The kingdom of heaven is now at hand!**

Israel’s Timetable in Daniel 9:24-27, The 70 weeks, 490 years.



In Each Book:

“in this thy day”

1. The goal is the fulfillment of prophecy and Israel’s *literal kingdom on the earth*.

Matthew 1:1, :21-23,

1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, **the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**: for he shall **save his people** from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be **fulfilled** which was spoken of the lord ...

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Matthew 8:11, Geographic terms, and the resurrection of the Old Testament saints.

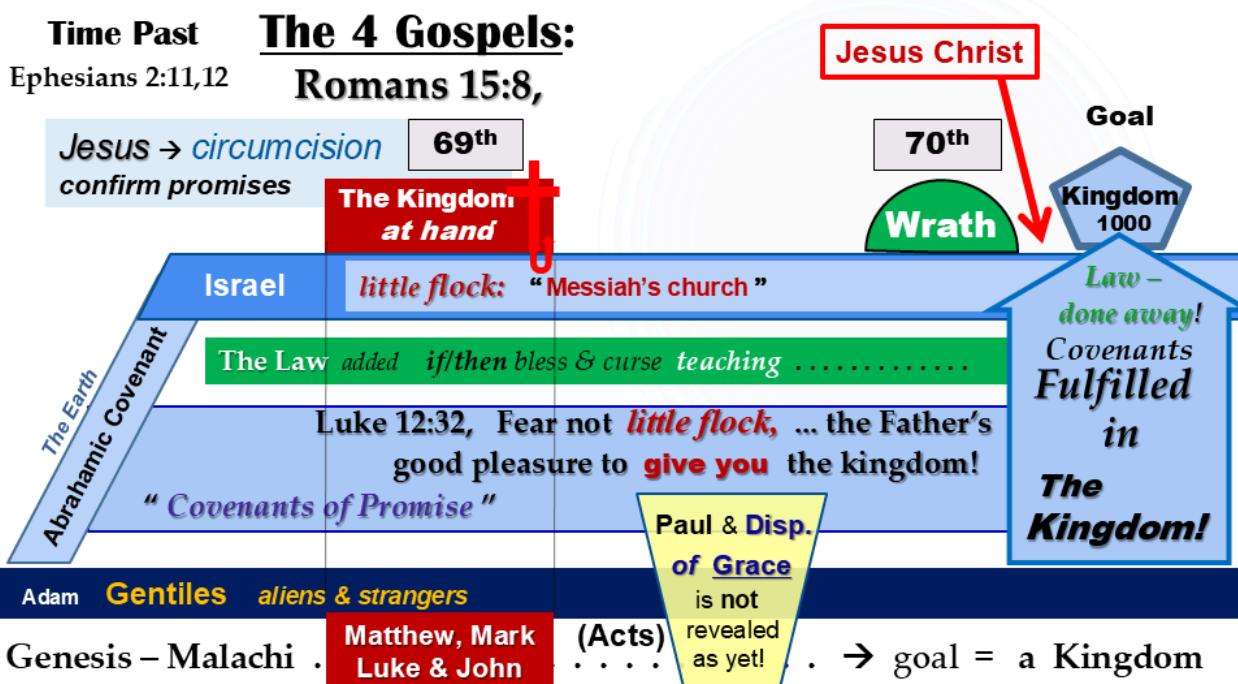
And I say unto you, That many shall come from *the east and west*, and shall sit down *with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven*

Matthew 25:31-34, The coming is his return to earth, not the rapture!

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

The 4 Gospels



In Each Book: continued, (The goal is still prophecy & the kingdom)

Mark 1:1-3,

- 1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;
- 2 As it is **written in the prophets**, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. **Malachi 3:1**
- 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. **Isaiah 40:3**

Mark 13:24-27, The coming: His **visible return** to the earth *after* the tribulation.



- 24 But in those days, **after** that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,
- 25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.
- 26 And then shall they **see** the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.
- 27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

Luke 1:31-33,

- 31 ... thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.
- 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall **give unto him the throne of his father David:**
- 33 ...he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; ... **his kingdom there shall be no end.**

Luke 1:68-73,

- 68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed **his people**,
- 69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation **for us in the house of his servant David**;
- 70 As **he spake** by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:
- 71 That **we** should be saved from **our** enemies, and from the hand of all that hate **us**;
- 72 To perform the mercy **promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant**;
- 73 The oath which **he sware to our father Abraham**,

John 1:41 & 45,

- 41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, **We have found the Messias**, which is, being interpreted, **the Christ**. ...
- 45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, **We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write**, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

John 18:36,

Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world**: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom **not from hence**.

2. The division remains between Jew & Gentile. Gentiles blessed under Israel's table.

Matthew 15:22-28, A Gentile woman takes her place beneath Israel's table and is blessed!

- 24 But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**
- 25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.
- 26 But he answered and said, It is **not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.**
- 27 And she said, **Truth**, Lord: **yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.**

In Each Book: continued, (There is till the division in humanity)

Mark 7:25-30,

25 For a *certain* woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

26 The woman was a **Greek**, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

27 But Jesus said unto her, **Let the children first be filled**: for it is not meet to take **the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs**.

Luke 7:1-10, A Gentile who blessed Israel gets a blessing!

2 And a **certain centurion's** servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

4 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That **he was worthy** for whom he should do this:

5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

John 1:11, He came unto **his own**, and **his own received him not.**

John 3:16, **For God so loved the world ...**

John 4:22, ... **for salvation is of the Jews.**

3. They are still under the Law. Galatians 4:4

Matthew 23:1-3,

1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit **in Moses' seat**:

3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, **that observe and do**; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

Mark 14:1,

After two days was **the feast of the passover**, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put **him** to death.

Luke 22:1, John 13:1, They are still observing circumcision, the passover, and the sabbath.

4. The New Covenant Spiritual blessing is yet *future*.

Matthew 26:28, also **Mark 14:24 & Luke 22:19, 20,** **He has not died yet!**

28 For this is my blood of **the new testament**, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

John 7:38 & 39,

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this **spake he of the Spirit**, which they that believe on him should receive: **for the Holy Ghost was not yet given**; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 16:7, 13 & 14,

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, **I will send him** unto you. ...

13 Howbeit **when he, the Spirit of truth, is come**, he will guide you into all truth:

In Each Book: continued,

5. Jesus Christ's death & resurrection not understood or preached as good news.

Matthew 16:21-22, (also Mark 9:9,10)

21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and **be killed**, and **be raised again the third day**.

22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: **this shall not be unto thee.**

Luke 9:44 & 45,

44 Let these sayings sink down into your ears: **for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.**

45 But they understood not this saying ... it was hid from them ... they perceived it not:

Message: “The Gospel of the Kingdom”. The King & The Kingdom!

Matthew 3:2 & 7 *John the Baptist*

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the **kingdom of heaven is at hand**. & “*the wrath to come*”

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from **the wrath to come?** ...

Matthew 3:11,12, Foretells of **Pentecost**, the **second coming** in wrath, & **the kingdom**.

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:**

12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly **purge** his floor, and **gather his wheat into the garner**; but he will **burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire**.

Matthew 4:17 & 23, *The Lord Jesus*

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, ... Repent: for the **kingdom of heaven is at hand** ...

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching **the gospel of the kingdom**, and **healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease** ...

Matthew 10:5-7, *The 12 Apostles*

5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles**, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

6 But **go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

7 And as ye go, preach, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

Matthew 16:13-18, Whom do men say that I the son of man am? “**Believe!**”

16 ...Peter answered and said, Thou art **the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and **upon this rock I will build my church;**

Eternal Life Is Through believing Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!

John 3:16, Whosoever **believeth in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life ...

John 20:31, But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that **believing** ye might have life **through his name.**

Week 3

The Four Gospels:

Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

Session 2 The Focus (Messiah's church!) & Structure.

What Church? Messiah's "church" (*eklesiae*) a called out assembly.

Matthew 16:18, "thou (Jesus of Nazareth) art the Christ, the Son of the living God .
18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon **this rock** I will build **my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. *(The confession of faith Peter just made.)*

The middle wall of partition is still up! (Even in the book of Acts after the resurrection, Acts 3:24-26) This is **not** a Jew & Gentile "one body" church. Jesus Christ, John the Baptist, and the 12 apostles were sent to Israel because they were "*his people*" (the Gentiles were aliens & strangers on the other side of that wall). God is *calling out a remnant* from **within the nation itself**, and called the "**little flock**" from **within** the "lost sheep of the house of Israel".

Matthew 21:42-46, ("He came unto his own, and his own received him not." **John 1:11**)
43 Therefore say I unto you, (*Pharisees & chief priests: unbelieving nation*) The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and **given to a nation** bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Luke 12:32, ("But as many that received him ... " **John 1:12**), The 12 & His followers. Fear not, **little flock**; for it is your Father's good pleasure to **give you the kingdom**.

The Old Testament: Prophesied of a future remnant within the nation.

Isaiah 65:9, And I will bring forth **a seed out of Jacob**, and **out of Judah** an inheritor of my mountains: and **mine elect** shall inherit it, and **my servants shall dwell there**. Also **Joel 2:32**

The 4 gospels: a four-fold picture of Jesus as Israel's Messiah.

Matthew: As King, Matthew was a tax collector. **Matthew 9:9**, **Jeremiah 23:5**, **Behold**, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous **BRANCH**, and **a King** shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Mark: As Servant, Mark was a worker. **II Timothy 4:11 & Philemon 24**, **Zechariah 3:8**, Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, **behold**, I will bring forth **my servant the BRANCH**.

Luke: As Man, Luke was a physician. **Colossians 4:10**, **Zechariah 6:12**, And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, **Behold the man** whose name is **The BRANCH**; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

John: As God, "John" the disciple Jesus loved. **John 21:20 & 24**, **Isaiah 4:2** In that day shall the **BRANCH of the LORD** be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth *shall be* excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Israel, Behold your King! Jeremiah 23:5, Matthew is the book of the king!

Matthew 1:1,

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, **the son of David**, (1st) the son of Abraham.

Chapter 1:2-17, The royal line from Abraham to David, through the kings to Joseph.

Chapter 2, Herod the king tries to kill him. Wise men present gifts to a king!

Chapter 3:17, At his baptism, the Father speaks to the people, **This is my beloved Son** ...

Mark & Luke, He speaks to him, **Thou are my beloved Son** ...

Jesus teaches with authority! Several long discourses! The parables!

Chapter 5-7, Goes up into a mountain and sits down like a king on his throne, and teaches!

Supersedes Moses authority, **5:21**, Ye have heard it said; (quotes Moses), **but I say unto you!**

Establishes the "**Messianic Law**" going beyond the issue of outward behavior, to the heart (**5:28**)!

Matthew 6:13, Adds Solomon's words to the Lord's prayer, Words of a king's authority!

I Chronicles 29:11, Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; thine *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Matthew 10:5-7, The disciples made apostles (sent ones) **Cp. 10:1 & 2.**

5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and **commanded them**, saying, **Go not** into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 20:30, 2 men healed representing his kingship over both houses of Israel.

And, behold, **two blind** men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy **on us**, O Lord, *thou* Son of David. (Mark & Luke only one)

Matthew 22:17-22, He calls them hypocrites! (Mark & Luke, perceives but does not rebuke.)

Also only in Matthew:

The term "*the kingdom of heaven*" **Deuteronomy 11:21**, days of heaven on earth.

Matthew 26:53, "He could have called 10,000 angels."

Matthew 27:66, Sealed the tomb and set a watch to make it sure!

Matthew 28:18-20, All power is given unto me! The commission of a king!

Israel, Behold, my servant! Zechariah 3:8, Mark presents the wonderful worker!

"His hands ..." & **"His touch ..."** & **"He took him by the hand"**

No genealogy: No one cares where a servant comes from. Can He work?

Action! And ..., Immediately ..., Straightway ... Now after that ... and less teaching.

24 miracles in only 16 chapters.

Mark 1:13, Only one verse on the temptation, then right to work doing the ministry!

Mark 1:21, ... he entered into the synagogue and taught ... **2:13**, No discourses!

2 extended discourses: Chapter 4, 2 Parables, & Ch. 13, Destruction & 2nd coming.

Behold, my servant! (The book of Mark continued)

Only in Mark:

Mark 13:29, The Son does not know ... **John 15:15**, servant doesn't know his lord's business.

Mark 14:36, The Son has intimacy even as a servant, "**Abba Father**"

Mark 15:21, It took two men to bear the cross.

Mark 16:16-18, The working commission, the signs will follow!!

Mark 16:19,20, After the Lord ascends, the Lord was still working, *with them* signs following!

Israel, Behold, the man! **Zechariah 6:12**, **Luke** presents his humanity.

Luke records a great deal of historical data and detail; dates and times. The days of Herod & the course of Abia (**1:5**), the taxing in Caesar's day (**2:1**), the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar (**3:1**). The 5th month of Elizabeth, and 6th month of Mary (**1:24,26**) etc. Jesus at 12 (**2:42**), and at 30 (**3:23**). Luke emphasizes the very day (*chart page 17*) the 69 weeks expire, (**Luke 19:42**). Also many personal details of his conception; Mary's trip to see Elizabeth, and the details of his birth and presentation at the temple according to the Law. He also tells us there were those expecting the Messiah (**2:25 & 38**). Luke's genealogy traces his human origin (through Mary) all the way back to the 1st *man* Adam.

Luke shows Jesus as a man, was *a man* of prayer! (**6:12,13**, as he chose the 12)

Luke 3:21,22, The Fathers love! (His human genealogy) □ 4:1,2, His temptation!

21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and **praying**, the heaven was opened,

22 And the Holy Ghost descended ... upon him ... **Thou art my beloved Son ...**

Luke 4:1-2,

1 And Jesus **being full of the Holy Ghost** returned from Jordan, and was **led by the Spirit**...

2 Being forty days tempted of the devil. (He rested in Father's love & had the scripture on his mind!)

Luke 23:34, His first words from the cross were a prayer! (Last words too! **23:46**)

34 Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them**; for they know not what they do. (only in Luke)

Luke records a long methodical trek toward Jerusalem toward the cross!

Luke 9:51,52, □ 19:42, = 10 chapters! (Matthew = 5, Mark = 2) Ministry in the meantime!

51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

52 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.

Luke 19:42, A deadline to meet! The *very day* the 69 weeks end, then *cut off*!

42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least **in this thy day**, the things *which belong* unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

Only in Luke:

Saviour (2), **1:47**, God & **2:11**, Christ the Lord, Calvary, **23:33** (only in a KJV)

Rich; over & over, **12:15-21**, Can't take it with you, **16:19-31**! Rich man & Lazarus, **18:18 & 23**,

An Extra year, **13:6-9**, The prodigal son, **15:11-32**, The Pharisee & the publican, **18:9-14**,

Repentant thief, **23:42**, Appears on the road to Emmaus, **24:15-31**,

Ate in upper room, **24:42, 43**, The promise of the Spirit & power, **24:49**.

Israel, Behold, Your God! **Isaiah 4:2** **John** presents Jesus Christ as God!

Isaiah 35:4,5,

4 Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: **behold, your God will come with** vengeance, even **God with** a recompence; **he will come and save you.** Second coming!

5 **Then** the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

John 1:14, (**15 different titles** of Jesus Christ in chapter 1. Count them for yourself!)

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory ...

John is unique in many ways. There is no genealogy as "God" has no beginning! Jesus is the creator and He was in the beginning with God, and was God, **1:1-5**. No temptation by the devil as God cannot be tempted, **James 1:13**. No agony in the garden. No kiss of betrayal. Thomas' confession, **20:28**!

John 18:3-12, Jesus goes to meet Judas & the soldiers in power **at his arrest** & secures their safety!

4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, **went forth**, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am *he*. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.

6 As soon ... said unto them, I am *he*, **they went backward, and fell to the ground.**

John presents Jesus mainly ministering in Judea and Jerusalem (the capital), with occasional trips up into Galilee. Matthew, Mark & Luke have Jesus north in Galilee with occasional trips south into Judea.

John 6:1, (**Chapter 1-5** record an early public ministry in Judea. Jerusalem rejects God!)

After these things Jesus went over the sea of **Galilee**, which is *the sea of Tiberias*.

At this point the other accounts begin his public ministry in Galilee. **Matt. 4:12, Mark 1:14, Luke 4:14**

John has 8 private encounters, not extended public ministry. God is personal!

John 1:35-42, John: Andrew & Peter, **1:43-51**, Philip & Nathaniel, **3:1-21**, Nicodemus, **4:7-26**, Woman at the well, **9:1-38**, Blind man, **11:20-35**, Martha & Mary, **20:14-18**, Mary, **21:15-22**, Peter

John has 8 I am's. **Exodus 3:14, ... I AM hath sent thee.** Jesus is **the I AM** of the Old Testament.

John 6:35, I am the bread of life: **8:12**, the light. Also: **8:58, 10:7, 10:11, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1.**

John has 8 Miracles! 8 special miracles selected for a specific purpose! **Faith in His name!**

John 20:30 & 31,

30 And **many other signs** truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 **But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;** and that **believing ye might have life through his name.**

Some form of the word; believe, (ed & ing) **73 times**. Faith and eternal life in believing who *the man, Jesus of Nazareth*, was! He was "**The Christ, the Son of the living God.**"

Matthew 16:18, The confession of faith that forms the "little flock" within Israel!

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and **upon this rock** I will build **my church** ...

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life. Ultimately fulfilled in his kingdom!

Week 4

The Book of Acts:

Session 1

The Kingdom Re-offered to Israel.

Review: The Natural 3-fold division in God's Word: See pages Week 1, Session 2

Time Past: A division in humanity, Ephesians 2:11,12, “the middle wall of partition” (:14)
The Circumcision: Israel had the covenants & promises. Israel's prophesied kingdom program.
The Uncircumcision: Gentiles were aliens and strangers from the covenants of promise.

The **goal** has been **a kingdom** prepared **from the foundation of the world**, (Matthew 25:34). From the calling out of Abraham, God has been dealing with the world through the Nation Israel because they had a special covenant relationship with Him. The Gentiles had to approach God through that favored nation. We have seen this division and distinction In the O.T. (Genesis – Malachi), and **the 4 gospels**.

Romans 15:8, The 4 gospels are still in what the Bible calls “time past”.

Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of **the circumcision** for the truth of God, **to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:**

But Now: No division and no difference, **Ephesians 2:13-16, “the wall broken down”**
Equality today. God is forming the body of Christ among the Gentiles. There is no special status for Israel.

The Ages to Come: Fulfillment! **Ephesians 2:7,**

God will bring to fruition his purposes in both the heaven and the earth.

Acts continues God's prophetic program with the Nation of Israel!

Acts 1:3-5, The Lord's 40 day post resurrection ministry with His apostles:

3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

4 ... commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost ...

Luke 24:44-49, 40 days of prophetic study of their Old Testament prophetic program!

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might **understand the scriptures**,

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: (*Now they understand that the cross was a necessity!*)

Luke 24:44-49, The Lord's 40 day post-resurrection ministry (continued),

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning **at Jerusalem**. (Jerusalem was to be the capital of the kingdom, **Matt. 5:35**)

48 And ye are witnesses of these things. (His 3 year ministry to them.)

49 And, behold, I send **the promise** of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued **with power from on high**. (Wait for “**the comforter**” to come!)

Acts 1:6, The apostles' question after 40 days of O.T. study!

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time **restore again the kingdom to Israel**?

3 Things: (We are still in “**time past**”) See accompanying chart page 28.

1. Clearly the issue is still **the continuation and fulfillment of prophecy, not** a new program!
2. Clearly the goal and hope is still **a literal, physical, earthly, Davidic kingdom** for Israel!
3. Clearly **Israel has not fallen** and is **still** God’s covenant people! *The division of “time past” remains!*

Romans 11:11, Israel **stumbled** at the cross, but is **not set aside** in favor of a new program!

11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid ...

Acts 1:8, The fulfillment of prophecy is still in view! New Covenant Spiritual Life!

8 But ye shall receive power, **after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you**: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Isaiah 44:1-3, The promise of the Spirit *upon* Israel! (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

1 Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen:

2 Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, *which* will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: **I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon** thine offspring:

Ezekiel 36:24-28, The promise of the Spirit *within* Israel! (filling them! Acts 2, day of Pentecost)

26 A new heart also will I give you, and **a new spirit will I put within you**: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put **my spirit within you**, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.

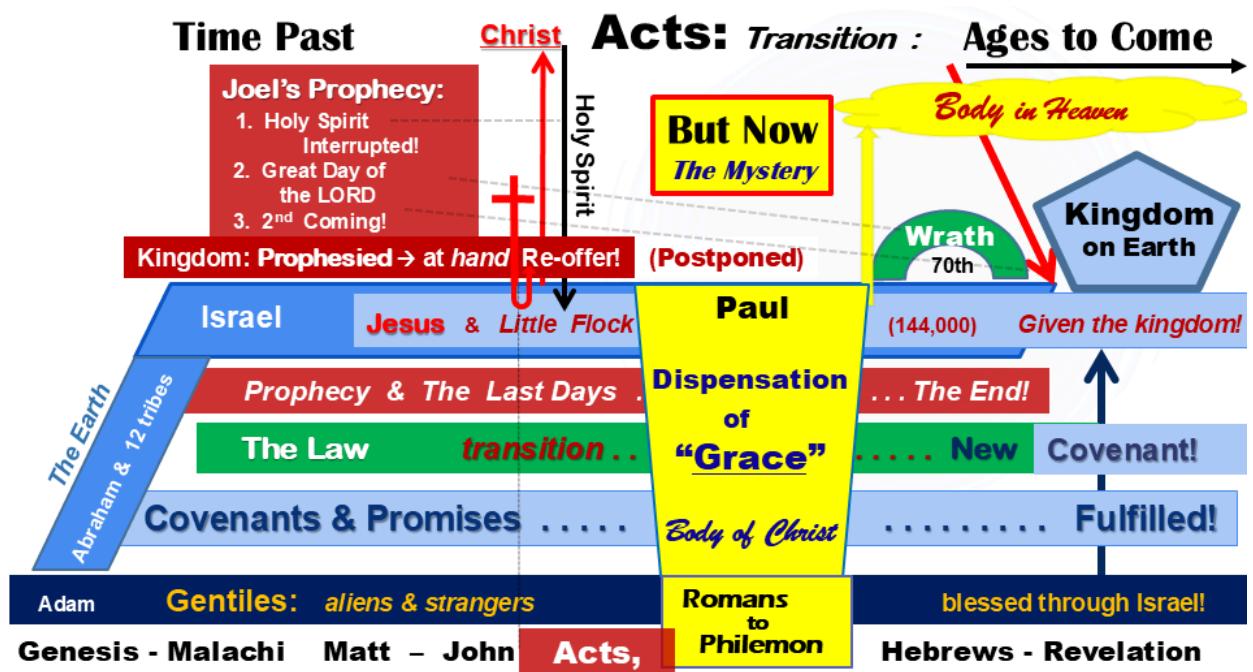
28 And **ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers**; and **ye shall be my people**, and I will be your God. **The Palestinian (land) and Abrahamic Covenants fulfilled!**

Acts: “A Transition”

The Re-offer Of The Kingdom To Israel!

And then, The Fall of Israel, and

Salvation To The Gentiles Through Paul!



Acts 1, (continued), The fulfillment of prophecy is still in view.

Acts 1:9-12, The promise of the Lord's return to earth to reign! (Not the rapture!)

9 And... while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked ... behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, **shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.** (*This is his return to earth, not a coming in the air to take believers to heaven!*)

12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem **from the mount called Olivet,**

Zechariah 14:1-4, The day of the LORD & return to earth to judge & reign! (14:5-21)

1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh ... (**Psalms 110**, a day of wrath, power & vengeance!)

3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations ...

4 And **his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives ... and the mount of Olives** shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west ...

Acts 1:15-26, Some unfinished business! They must replace Judas.

Matthew 19:28, The “12” apostles will sit upon 12 thrones in the kingdom!

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, **ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones**, judging the **twelve tribes of Israel.**

The replacement of Judas must be a follower of Jesus throughout his earthly ministry (**:21 & 22**). Paul was not even saved yet and would not have qualified had they waited for him, for he was part of the unbelieving nation. They selected two, and the Lord, by lot, (**:24**) chose Matthias.

Acts 2, The Day of Pentecost. The Prophetic program coming to a climax!

Acts 2:1-12, The coming of the Holy Spirit, by promise, not prayer!

The Spirit *came upon them*, (power from on high): *The Baptism with the Holy Ghost*,
The Spirit *filled them within*, (their conversion): *regeneration & spiritual life*,
To become the sons of God, (**John 1:12**),

To overcome and endure (*to the end*) *the wrath to come!* (**Matthew 10:19-23, 24:13-15**)
To confirm the gospel of the kingdom with signs & wonders, (**Mark 16:16-18, Heb. 2:3-5**)

Acts 2:1-14, (continued), The Day of Pentecost.

Tongues on the Day of Pentecost:

To speak with **other tongues** (known languages, :4,:6, :8, & :11). A sign, **Mark 16:17, Tongues:** An enablement to take blessing to the Nations in the kingdom!

Zechariah 8:23, Miraculously enabled to communicate with "**all families of the earth!**"

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days *it shall come to pass*, that ten men shall take hold **out of all languages of the nations**, even shall take hold of the skirt of him **that is a Jew**, saying, We will go with **you**: for we have heard **that God is with you**.

Acts 2:16-40, Peter's "last days" Pentecostal Sermon. 3 points:

Acts 2:12, "What meaneth this?"

1. The Big Picture! Acts 2:16-21, *This is that*, Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-32, 3 parts)

A. Spirit poured out, Acts 2:17-18 = Joel 2:28-29

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, *that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh*; and **your sons and your daughters shall prophesy**, **your old men shall dream dreams**, **your young men shall see visions**:

29 Also **upon the servants & upon the handmaids** in those days **will I pour out my spirit**.

B. Day of the LORD, Acts 2:19-20 = Joel 2:30-31

30 And I will **shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth**, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come**. (The Day of the Lord, the book of Revelation)

C. Salvation at the 2nd coming, Acts 2:21 = Joel 2:32

32 And it shall come to pass, *that whosoever shall call on the name* of the LORD shall **be delivered**: for in mount Zion (the land) and **in Jerusalem** (the capital) shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and **in the remnant** whom the LORD **shall call**. (Little Flock church!)

Peter & Joel explain the meaning of Pentecost! Israel, here is where you are at! These are the **last days** before the **day of the Lord**, & the salvation of the remnant (*Messiah's church, the little flock*) the Lord shall call! ***This is not the beginning of a new Jew & Gentile dispensation of grace!***

Acts 2:16-40 - Peter's Pentecostal Sermon (concluded)

2. Israel's Problem! Acts 2:22-36, They killed God's Son, the Christ!

Acts 2:23, Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, **ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:**

3. The Remedy: 2:37-39, **Repent!** Change their mind, believe in his name & join the Little Flock!

Acts 2:38-39, Join the Little Flock & save yourselves from the unbelieving generation!

38 Then Peter said unto them, *Repent, and be baptized* every one of you in **the name** of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

39 For the promise is **unto you, and to your children**, and to all that are afar off, (*scattered among the nations, Daniel 9:7*) even as many as the Lord our God **shall call.**

Acts 2:41-47, Messiah's church (*the Little flock*) grows!

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were **added unto them** about three thousand souls.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord **added to the church** daily such as should be saved.

This is **not the beginning of a new church**, but **adding** to the Jewish remnant that already existed! This the Messianic Church of Christ of Bible prophecy, the true nation bringing forth the fruits of the kingdom, **Matthew 21:43**. God was taking authority away from the untoward generation and giving the kingdom to the **Little Flock, Luke 12:32**. These are Israel's last days, the climax of their program!

Acts 3, A gracious re-offer to Israel! They are still God's covenant people!

Acts 3:14,15, Their crime: You killed your Messiah!

Acts 3:19-21, Their conversion: Repent, and receive the Holy Ghost & the times of refreshing!

Acts 3:25,26, Their Covenant: Made with Abraham, Unto you first ... sent him to bless you!

Romans 11:11a, Israel stumbled, but did not fall at the cross!

I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid:

Israel receives a gracious re-offer of her Messiah and their kingdom hope in response to the prayer of the Lord Jesus on the cross!

Luke 23:34, Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them;** for they know not what they do.

Week 4

The Book of Acts:

Session 2

The Fall of Israel & Salvation Goes To The Gentiles!

Romans 11:11-12 - 3 Key Terms: Stumble, Fall, & Diminishing

11 I say then, Have they **stumbled** that they should **fall**? God forbid: but *rather* through their **fall** salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

12 Now if **the fall of them** be the riches of the world, and **the diminishing of them** the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness?

Israel **stumbles** at the cross, but has **not fallen**, so we are still in *Time Past* as the book of Acts begins. They receive a gracious reoffer of their king and kingdom. They are still God's chosen people and salvation is to the Gentiles through them according to the Abrahamic Covenant, **Acts 3:24-26**.

Jesus is the **stumbling stone** rejected of the builders **Acts 4:11**, but is also the **foundation stone** as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God", **Matthew 16:18**. Eternal life for Israel (*and for the world too, but they must come through Israel*) is through believing that He is the Christ, and they have **life through his name**, **John 20:31**. The issue is his identity and title as the Christ, the Son of God.

Peter & Little Flock are now holding Israel accountable for the murder of their Messiah! They are putting them on trial! Anger and opposition is also growing by Israel's apostate leaders! Israel's *national salvation* is now being offered to them through the Little Flock.

Acts 4:10-12, Jesus is both a stone of stumbling, and foundation stone!

10 Be it known unto **you all, and to all the people of Israel**, that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom **ye crucified**, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 **This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders**, which is become the head of the corner.

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: **for there is none other name** under heaven given among men, **whereby we** must be saved. *Israel's national hope is acknowledging who He is!*

Personal individual salvation is also in him, believing in **the man Jesus**, that he **is the Messiah and the Son of God!** It is important to remember, the cross is **still not** being proclaimed as good news! The cross is Israel's **great crime** that they must acknowledge that, and turn to Him as their Messiah!

Acts 2:21,

And it shall come to pass, *that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord* shall be saved.

John 3:16,

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Acts 4, The leaders continue to oppose and persecute the Little Flock!

Acts 4:16-18, “Don’t teach in this name!”

16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle (*ch.3:1-10*) hath been done by them *is* manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny *it*.

17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, **that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.**

18 And they ... commanded them **not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.**

Acts 4:25-28, A key passage in early Acts! Quotation of Psalms 2:1-2

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said,
Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

Psalms 2:1-2 The writer of Psalms looks *forward* to the book of Acts.

1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD, (The Father) and against his anointed, (The Son) *saying,*

3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

The Crucifixion: Peter’s explanation!

27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

Psalms 2:5, 8-9 Prophetically, God’s wrath is next!

5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

8 Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the
uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession.

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a
potter’s vessel. (The time had come for the *wrath to come* – to come!)

Acts 7, The Fall of Israel!

Acts 2:34-35, Peter: Jesus “sitting” (as a royal exile) at God’s right hand!

34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, **Sit thou on my right hand,**

35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool. “Until” = *Psalms 110, the Day of his wrath!*

Acts 7:56, Stephen: Jesus now “standing” prepared to pour out his wrath!

And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man **standing** on the right hand of God.

Isaiah 3:13-14, See also Revelation 5:6-7

13 The LORD **standeth** up to plead, and **standeth to judge the people.**

14 The LORD will enter into judgment with the ancients of his people, and the princes thereof: for ye have eaten up the vineyard; the spoil of the poor *is* in your houses.

3 Murders: Israel’s heart hardens and their guilt increases with each one!

John the Baptist: Israel was indifferent! A man sent from

Jesus Christ: Israel demands it! God sent

Stephen: Israel commits it! A man filled with

God The Father!

His Own Son!

The Holy Spirit!

The unpardonable Sin! A sin committed by national Israel!

Matthew 12:31-32

31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: **but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.**

32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but **whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him**, neither in this world, neither in the *world* to come.

This is a sin committed within the context of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the last days of Joel’s prophecy in Israel’s prophetic program. Stephen in Acts 7 represents the 3rd member of the trinity, the **Holy Spirit**, rejected by the nation! We cannot and do not commit *this sin* today! The only unforgivable sin for us is unbelief and rejection of the gospel!

The time had come for the wrath to come!

But instead of wrath the world deserved, God had a secret!

Romans 5:20-21,

20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:**

21 That **as** sin hath reigned unto death, **even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.**

I Timothy 1:15-16, God saved Saul of Tarsus!

15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, **that in me first** Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, **for a pattern** to them which should **hereafter believe** on him to life everlasting.

Acts 9:15, God Gave him a ministry to all men! There is Now no difference!

But the Lord said unto him, (*Ananias*) Go thy way: for he (*Saul, later Paul*) is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name **before the Gentiles**, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Romans 11:11-13, Salvation goes to the Gentiles through a new apostle and message!

11 I say then, Have **they stumbled** that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through **their fall** salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

12 Now if **the fall of them** be the riches of the world, and **the diminishing of them** the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as **I am the apostle of the Gentiles**, I magnify mine office:

Israel falls in Mid Acts, and salvation goes to the Gentiles through Paul!

Paul preaches Jesus Christ to the Gentiles in a *new unprophesied way!*

Compare Paul in Romans, to Peter in the book of Acts. Paul's message was *unrevealed in time past*, while Peter's has been *spoken since the world began! They cannot be the same!*

Romans 16:25, Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to **my gospel**, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of **the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,**

Peter: The leader of the 12 apostles, preaching in Jerusalem to Israel.

Act 3:21, Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, **which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.**

Week 5

Why Paul?

Session 1 **“But Now”** A New Purpose Revealed!

Review: “*Time Past*” Genesis – Malachi, Matthew – John, & Early Acts.

A division in humanity, Ephesians 2:11,12, “*the middle wall of partition*”

Israel had the covenants & promises giving them a special favored nation status! The goal of the covenants and prophecy was a literal earthly kingdom on the earth, “**restored**” (Acts 1:6) to Israel! *Time Past* covers the **Old Testament**, and the **4 gospels**. In **early Acts** Israel has *not fallen* and God is *still* dealing with the world on the basis of the Abrahamic Covenant. The Gentiles were aliens and strangers from the covenants of promise. They had access to God only through the nation Israel according to the provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant. God is *calling out a remnant* (the Little Flock) from *within* the nation in the 4 gospels, and the early chapters of the book of Acts. The goal is still the kingdom restored, and it is being re-offered in answer to the Lord’s prayer on the cross!

Acts 3:25-26, See also **2:16-21 & 3:19-21**, This is prophecy, *spoken since the world began!*

25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, **sent him to bless you**, in turning away **every one of you** from his iniquities. See also **Acts 5:31**. God is still dealing with **Israel!**

Romans 11:11, I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather through their fall salvation is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Israel falls, not at the cross, or in early Acts, but with the stoning of Stephen. It is then that the ministry of the apostle Paul takes salvation to the Gentiles, and we move from *Time Past* to **But Now!**

“But Now” No difference! A change in God’s dealing with the world!

Ephesians 2:13-16, The middle wall is broken down & God is forming a **new people**!

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes **were far off** are **made nigh** by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is **our peace**, who hath **made both one**, and hath **broken down the middle wall of partition** *between us*;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make **in himself of twain** one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might **reconcile both** unto God **in one body** by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to **you** which **were afar off**, and to them that **were nigh**.

18 For through him **we both** have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

“But Now” Several things are very different!

1. The middle wall has fallen. ***Israel no longer has a special status***, (:17, were nigh).
2. The Law has been ***abolished***. The Law is no longer binding upon ***a new people***, (:15).
3. Jew & Gentile (believers) now united in “***one new man***”, called the ***body of Christ***, (:16).
4. Both Jew & Gentile now have equal access unto the Father, (:18) by one Spirit.
5. The new peace is ***by the cross***. ***That is how it's possible, but not when it's revealed.***

There has been a drastic change in God's dealing with the world! Israel has **fallen** from their special status and is now one of the nations! God sends a new apostle (**Paul**) to all the nations, calling out a new people (***the church which is his body***) according to a *previously unrevealed purpose* hidden in himself!

We learn of the **fall** of the Nation Israel, and a change to an *unprophesied* new purpose among the Gentiles occurs through the salvation & ministry of the apostle Paul in *the middle* of the book of Acts.

Romans 11:11-13, Salvation now through the fall of Israel, not through their rise!

11 I say then, Have they **stumbled** that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their **fall** salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

12 Now if the **fall** of them *be* the riches of the world, and the **diminishing** of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? (Their program is *temporarily* set aside.)

13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as **I am the apostle of the Gentiles**, I magnify mine office:

I Timothy 1:16, Something new begins with the ministry of Paul!

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that **in me first** Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, **for a pattern** to them which **should hereafter believe** on him to life everlasting. See also **Acts 11:25-26**, *The term “Christians” is first used in Antioch, not in Jerusalem!*

Acts 13:45-46, Israel has fallen, and now they diminish. Their program is interrupted!

45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, **lo, we turn to the Gentiles**.

Acts 26:16-18, Paul received this new message *progressively*, through a series of revelations.

16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which **I will appear unto thee**:

17 Delivering thee from the people, and *from* the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

18 To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

I. Paul's Distinctive Apostleship & Ministry.

1. Paul was not one of the 12 apostles.

I Corinthians 15:5-8,

5 And that he was seen of Cephas, **then of the twelve:** (Paul does not include himself with them.)

8 And last of all he was **seen of me also**, as of one born out of due time.

2. Paul labored under a *different commission* than the 12, *by special revelation!*

Galatians 1:11,12, See also **II Corinthians 12:1,7, & Acts 26:16**

11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me **is not after man.**

12 For **I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it**, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 1:17, (*The 12 sent to baptize & preach the gospel of the kingdom, Matt. 28 & Mark 16*)

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. (Paul proclaims the cross as *good news!*)

3. Paul preached a *new & different gospel* than the 12. See **Acts 20:24**

Galatians 2:1-3, 6-9, (*Peter: gospel of the circumcision, Paul: gospel of the uncircumcision*)

1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with *me* also.

2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them (*The 11*) that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

3 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

6 But of these who seemed to be somewhat (pillars :9) ... for they who seemed to be *somewhat* in conference **added nothing** to me: (*The 11 added no new information!*)

7 But contrariwise, (*Paul added new information to the 11!*) when they saw that **the gospel of the uncircumcision** was committed unto me, as **the gospel of the circumcision** was unto Peter; (*The good news preached by Peter and the 12 is based upon the Abrahamic Covenant.*)

8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)

9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, **perceived the grace that was given unto me**, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we *should go unto the heathen (Gentiles)*, and they unto the circumcision. (*The Little Flock!*)

II. Paul's Distinctive Gospel!

1. The cross is *now good news!* (Even to Israel!)

I Corinthians 15:1-4, The gospel of the grace of God! **Acts 20:24, II Corinthians 2:1,2**

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand...

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

2. Paul's new message & commission! Wrath delayed & sin not imputed!

II Corinthians 5:18-21, The ministry of reconciliation!

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us **the word of reconciliation.**

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God.**

21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

3. Justification by faith without the Law! See also **Galatians 2:16**

Acts 13:38-39, Now preached to all men! (Compare Peter's message in **Acts 2:36-38.**)

38 Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Romans 3:21-25, The cross is now fully explained! I Corinthians 1:18

21 But now the righteousness of God **without the law** is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ **unto all and upon all** them that believe: **for there is no difference:**

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace **through the redemption** that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth *to be a propitiation through faith in his blood*, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

III. The New Goal and Destiny for The Body of Christ!

1. A “heavenly” hope and inheritance!

II Corinthians 5:1, Our *eternal heavenly home* and hope!

For we know that if **our earthly house** of *this* tabernacle (earthly body) were dissolved, we have a building of God, an **house not made with hands**, (new body) **eternal in the heavens**.

Ephesians 2:4-7,

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* **sit together in heavenly places** in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

2. A new & different coming of the Lord Jesus Christ! See also Titus 2:13

I Thessalonians 4:16-17, A secret coming!

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain **shall be caught up** together with them in the clouds, to **meet the Lord in the air:** and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

3. A *mystery* resurrection!

I Corinthians 15:51-52,

51 Behold, I shew you **a mystery;** We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Summary: A new mystery gospel & program revealed to Paul!

Romans 16:25, The Mystery: “kept secret since the world began!” **Colossians 1:25-27,**

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to **my gospel**, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of *the mystery*, **which was kept secret since the world began**,

Compare: (II Timothy 2:15, “...rightly dividing the word of truth!”)

Acts 3:21, Prophecy: “spoken since the world began!” See also **Luke 1:68-72**

Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath **spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.**

Week 5 - Session 2 - Why Paul? Why The Mystery Was A Mystery!

God had a purpose concerning a kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world, **Matthew 25:34**, that He “hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.” The apostle Paul quotes and confirms the O.T. as God’s word, and yet repeatedly asserts the focus of his message and ministry was a purpose God had in Christ that was unrevealed in time past, see **Romans 16:25, Colossians 1:25-27 & II Timothy 1:9-11**. This is not only an interesting Bible fact, but an absolute necessity to understand and appreciate our privilege and responsibility is today in the dispensation of the grace of God. God had an unrevealed purpose and people, to bring glory to himself in the heavens too!

Ephesians 3:1-11, Presents this at length. (Paul is referred to **10 times** in these 11 verses!)

- 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me **the mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words,
- 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in **the mystery of Christ**)
- 5 Which in other ages was **not made known** unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed ...
- 8 ... that I should preach among the Gentiles the **unsearchable riches** of Christ;
- 9 ... the fellowship of **the mystery**, which from the beginning of the world hath been **hid in God**, (not in the types and shadows of the law) who created all things by Jesus Christ:

It is very important to keep this information separate from God’s prophetic program for the Nation Israel, as God kept it a mystery hidden in himself to *also keep it hidden from the adversary the devil*.

I Corinthians 2:7-8, Tells us why God kept it hidden! Some hidden wisdom to make known!

- 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in **a mystery, even the hidden wisdom**, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: (*Some glory he planned for us but did not reveal!*)
- 8 Which **none of the princes of this world knew**: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

God had some glory *ordained before the world for us* as the body of Christ that showed *his wisdom*. Had he revealed it, Satan would not have crucified Jesus Christ. The body of Christ was a *new people* with a *new hope and destiny in the heavenly places* (see page 40, #1). God did not reveal the full merits and meaning of the crosswork of Christ to deceive the prince of deception. This caused him to crucify Jesus Christ, thus bringing about the very thing that would cause his ultimate defeat! Satan knew the purpose for the earth for *God had spoken it since the world began*. He opposed Jesus Christ as the king to be- of this world, and Israel as his heirs to the earth. At the temptation, he tried to get Jesus to sin!

Matthew 4:8-9 - The devil offered Jesus Christ the earth, for he is the prince of this world.

- 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;
- 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

When this failed Satan’s only option was to kill him! In putting him to death, he could lay claim to this earth, and the heavens too, (*or so he thought!*) and fulfill his original boast and plan for supremacy, **Isaiah 14:13-14!** What a surprise for him when the Lord arose from the dead!

The cross is veiled in language the Old Testament prophets did not understand, yet is there in plain sight! The 12 apostles themselves did not foresee or understand it, yet rightfully saw Jesus as the Messiah king of Israel, but not as a sacrifice for sin! (**Matthew 16:22**, “Lord this shall not be unto thee ..”)

I Peter 1:8-13, The Old Testament spoke of *prophetic salvation*, but the cross was not clear!

10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come unto you*: (*Prophesied grace for Israel on the earth!*)

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when **it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ**, and the glory that should follow. (God had it in mind all the time, but veiled it so the great deceiver would deceive himself!)

Paul’s ministry opens up all of the magnificent details of all the cross accomplished according to a plan God had *before the foundation of the world*, but kept hidden as a *mystery*! This plan included not just a people for the earth, but for **the heavenly places too!** The body of Christ would be his agency to fill the heavens with a people to be glorified as joint heirs with his Son! Paul speaks of the exceeding riches of his grace, and *the unsearchable riches of Christ* to the Gentiles. (*Formerly aliens, strangers & the dogs!*)

Ephesians 2:4-7, For by grace ye are saved!

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and **made us sit together in heavenly places** in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (*Our eternal heavenly inheritance & home!*)

Ephesians 3:8-11, Why Paul?

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, **that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;**

9 And to **make all men see** what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

God through Paul makes known **the hidden wisdom**, ordained *before the world unto our glory*, to mankind, and to the angelic creation as well! God brought us into this grand eternal purpose, not on the basis of any revealed covenant or promise with Israel, but through a new message, revealed in due time through the apostle Paul. (See also **I Timothy 2:5-7 & Titus 1:2,3**)

II Timothy 1:9-11, God had a new purpose to reveal!

9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was **given us in Christ Jesus before the world began**,

10 **But is now made manifest** by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

What another shock it must have been for the devil, when the time had come for the wrath to come, (**Psalms 2**) and “the battle royal to begin”, God reached down and saved the leader of the world’s

rebellion, and revealed a message that totally embarrassed him and openly showed his defeat! God demonstrated his wisdom by merely keeping a secret, and took *the wise* in his own craftiness!

Colossians 2:14,15, He conquered sin & death, but is also victor over Satan & this world!

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (To the victor belong the spoils!)* He will take back what is rightfully his!

Colossians 1:16-20, Original positions of rank & authority, in heaven & earth were for him!

16 For by him were all things created, that are **in heaven**, and that are **in earth**,

visible (*in earth*) and invisible, (*in heaven*)

whether *they be thrones*, (*thrones*)

or **dominions**, (*dominions*)

or **principalities**, (*principalities*)

or **powers**: (*in earth*) (*powers in heaven*)

all things (positions in earth & heaven) were created by him, and for him: (The rightful heir!)

17 And he is before **all things**, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in **all things** (*in the heavens too!*) he might have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile **all things** unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be things in earth*, (*positions in the earth*) or **things in heaven** (*positions in the heavens*).

He will reclaim his universe, and re-establish it with redeemed mankind. Israel will inherit & rule the earth with him, and we (*the body of Christ*) will inherit & reign and share his glory in the heavenly places!

Ephesians 1:9-10, The mystery of his will. All things under the headship of Jesus Christ!

9 Having made known unto us **the mystery of his will**, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, **both** which are **in heaven**, and which are **on earth**; even in him:

Genesis 1:1, In the beginning God created **the heaven** and **the earth**.

God had a purpose to fulfill in both realms. A purpose for the earth he spoke from the foundation of the world, and a great mystery hidden in himself. It is now made known now to us through the apostle of the Gentiles, and exalts his Son in the heavens, and demonstrates the exceeding riches of his grace to us!

Week 6

The Pauline Epistles (1)

Session 1: The Spiritual Order And Design. Romans - Colossians

Romans 16:25 & 26, ... *of power to establish you according to ...*

my gospel, I Corinthians 15:1-4, Salvation & Newness of life!

Romans: Doctrine; The Cross and the foundation of grace!

I Corinthians: Reproof; “Babes” not spiritual, & carnal behavior.

II Corinthians: (Repentance) “Godly sorrow” & some growth & change!

Galatians: Correction; “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you ...?”

***and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to
the revelation of the mystery ... Ephesians 3:3-6, Glorification & Hope!***

Ephesians: Doctrine; The Church and the heavenly places!

Philippians: Reproof; “Be of the same mind, & fellowship in the gospel.”

Colossians: Correction; “Let no man spoil you, & holding the head.”

and by the scriptures of the prophets ... The rest of the word of God!

Thessalonians: Doctrine; The Comings of Jesus Christ!

I Thessalonians: Living with the Rapture in view, “delivered from the wrath!”

II Thessalonians: The Revelation, “Be not shaken, chosen to salvation!”

Pastoral Epistles: Doctrine; The Congregation, The local church!

I Timothy: Protect Sound Doctrine, “teach no other ... some have departed.”

II Timothy: Preach The Word! “Hold fast the form ... all have forsaken me!”

Titus: Practice The Doctrine! “Be careful to maintain good works!”

Philemon: Charity & Love! “I beseech thee for my son Onesimus.”

Romans, I & II Corinthians & Galatians; The Foundation, I Corinthians 3:10

The preaching of the cross! **I Corinthians 1:18,23, 2:2!** The gospel Paul preached among the Gentiles, **I Corinthians 15:1-4 & Galatians 2:1,2,** *These books are written early*, during the book of Acts. They are designed to orient us to the details of what the cross accomplishes for **us today**. They take us from *being in Adam*, dead in sin and under condemnation to *being in Christ* as Sons under grace.

Romans: Doctrine ; The Cross and the Foundation of grace!

Chapters 1-5 Salvation by grace, not by the works of the Law, to all mankind!

Romans 3:19-28, A **But Now** gospel. All the world is proven sinners and are guilty before God!

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
22 ...the righteousness of God unto **all** and upon **all** them that believe: for there is no difference:
23 For **all** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
24 Being **justified** freely by his grace through the **redemption (payment)** that is in Christ Jesus:
25 ... a **propitiation (satisfaction)** ... the **remission (passing over)** of sins that are past, through the **forbearance (extension of time because payment was coming!)** of God;
26 To declare, *I say, at this time* his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.
28 ... we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Chapters 6-8 Sanctification under grace. Not under the Law.

Romans 6, Dead to sin and walk in newness of life in Christ. **Know ... Reckon ... Yield ...**

Romans 7, Dead to the law and serve in newness of spirit! *Who shall deliver me from myself?*

Romans 8, Dead to the flesh & walk in the Spirit as Sons under grace! More than conquers!

Chapters 9-11 Dispensation of grace. What about Israel? Past, present & future!

Romans 9, Past: God chooses the channels through which He works! They Stumbled!

Romans 10, Present: disobedient & gainsaying! Now provoked by a *foolish nation* ("Little Flock").

Romans 11, Future: blind now until Gentile fullness comes in, (11:25-27). Beloved for **the fathers.**

Chapters 12-16 Application of grace. The Sonship walk with a renewed mind!

A living loving sacrifice! Toward one another, society, the weak & strong, & *other members of the family.*

I Corinthians: *Reproof;* "Babes" not spiritual, & carnal behavior.

Rebukes them because they are not living like saved people and **saints** in Christ! (1:2, 9)

II Corinthians: (*Repentance*) "Godly sorrow," some growth & change! (7:8-11)

A much different tone as they had responded to the rebuke! Grace, comfort & self examination, (13:5).

Galatians: *Correction;* "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you ...?"

No other Gospel than what I preached to you! (1:6-9), even Peter's (2:7-9). Stand fast in liberty in (5:1-2).

Romans, Corinthians & Galatians: A unit!

These books were written **early**, during Paul's ministry in the book of Acts when some unique things are happening. Paul *circumcises* Timothy, **Acts 16:3**, and *baptizes* at Philippi, **Acts 16:32**, and he is also *working miracles, wonders and signs* in his ministry, **Acts 14:8-10, 19:11,12**. The *Spiritual gifts* are also fully functioning. Why are these things happening? Do they continue today?

The signs, wonders and miracles validate his office as an apostle, **II Corinthians 12:12 & Romans 15:18,19**. He was claiming to have seen Jesus Christ, and was preaching a new and different message. He also was trying to reach those of his own nation with a *new unprophesied* message of "no difference" and "not under the Law of Moses any longer". The Jews require a sign, **I Corinthians 1:22**, and they proved to Israel he was an apostle.

Why the spiritual gifts? *Special abilities and men (apostles & prophets) to minister the word.*

Paul was receiving his new message *progressively in a series of personal revelations* and encounters with Jesus Christ during the book of Acts, **Acts 26:16**, **II Corinthians 12:1, 7**. During this time **he did not have full knowledge and understanding. Also his epistles were not yet written!** This is why he says in

I Corinthians 13:8-12, **The gifts will cease, why they will cease, and when they will cease.**

8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. Why? (For we...)

Why will they cease? *God has only partially revealed his new program.*

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, *(We now have partial knowledge & understanding)*

When they will cease?

10 But when that which is perfect (*complete*) is come, **then** that which is in part shall be done away. *When complete knowledge and understanding comes, then what we do in part will be done away.*

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: **but when** I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but **then** face to face: now I know in part; **but then** shall I know even as also I am known.

"Then," when the full and complete knowledge comes, I will no longer know and understand as a child, but will become a man and see clearly face to face. The spiritual gifts were a *necessity* because the mystery was not yet fully revealed and the written word was not yet available. The local churches needed ministry, local authority and edification. **Signs also bore witness to Israel of a new apostle & Gentile program, & they had been set aside!** The Corinthian church was next door to a synagogue, **Acts 18:7**.

Why circumcision? Not because circumcision *availeth anything*, but to avoid being a stumbling block.

Acts 16:3 tells us he *circumcised* Timothy because the Jews knew his father was a Greek. To the Jews Paul sought to become as a Jew, and to those under the law, as one under the Law, **I Corinthians 9:20**. He even took a Nazarite vow at Ephesus, **Acts 21:24**, to identify with those he was trying to reach. He had liberty to do that, not to compromise right or wrong, but to avoid offending another's conscience.

Romans, I & II Corinthians & Galatians, (and I & II Thessalonians) were written during the transition period during *the diminishing of Israel* in Acts. They had fallen and God was *no longer dealing through them* and the Abrahamic Covenant, but was *reaching out to them* through the new program. God sought to provoke them to jealousy and save some of them through Paul's Gentile ministry, **Romans 11:13 &14**.

Ephesians, Philippians & Colossians: The Framework upon the Foundation!

Doctrine of the church the body of Christ and its glory and hope in the heavenly places!

I Corinthians 2:2 & 3:10, Christ & him crucified was *the foundation* Paul had laid with the Corinthians, the grace which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, **I have laid the foundation**,

I Corinthians 3:1,2, He fed them *with milk* & not meat. There was *more* he wanted to teach them!

1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, **even as unto babes in Christ**.

2 I have fed you **with milk**, and **not with meat**: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

I Corinthians 2:6-7, Wisdom among them that are (*mature & spiritual*) perfect! **Advanced truth!**

6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect... (*mature & spiritual*)

7 But we speak the wisdom of God **in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom**, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

The books of **Ephesians Philippians & Colossians** focus on those in Christ, as fellow-heirs and members of the church, the one body, to share glory with him in the heavenly places in the ages to come!

Ephesians: Doctrine; The Church and The Heavenly Places!

Chapters 1-3, Our Wealth in Christ! Blessed; All spiritual blessings in heavenly places!

Redemption, **1:7** According to the riches of his grace,
Inheritance, **1:18**, **Know** the hope of his calling & riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
Seated in Him, **2:6,7** The exceeding riches of his grace and his kindness toward us!
Fellow-heirs, **3:5-8** Unsearchable (unprophesied) riches of Christ, now made known!
Inner man, **3:16,17**, Strengthened by his Spirit, Christ dwells in us!

Chapters 4-6, Our Walk! With all lowliness and meekness and forbearance!

Worthy **4:1,2** Of our vocation! Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit.
Not as other **4:17-20**, Gentiles in the vanity of their mind. Not so learned Christ!
In Love **5:1-2**, As Christ hath loved us!
As Children **5:8-10** Of Light, proving what is acceptable unto the Lord!
Circumspectly **5:15-20**, Not as fools but as wise, **understanding what the will of the Lord is!**
Warfare! **6:10-20**, Be strong in the Lord, and put on the whole armour of God!

Philippians: Reproof; “Be of the same mind, & (1:27) fellowship in the gospel.”

Abounding *agape* love in **all knowledge** & judgment, **1:9**. Nothing done through strife of vain glory!

Colossians: Correction; “Beware lest man spoil you...not holding the head.”

Warning & teaching in **all wisdom**, **1:25-29!** In him are **all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge**, **2:2!**

No longer seeing through a glass darkly with partial knowledge! **He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence**, having **made known** unto us the mystery of his will, **Ephesians 1:9,10**. The hidden wisdom ordained for us before the world is revealed! We are to walk in it, and make it known!

Week 6

The Pauline Epistles (2)

Session 2: The Order And Design. I & II Thessalonians & Pastoral Epistles.

Romans 16:25 & 26, “... *of power to establish you according to...*

***my gospel,* Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures...**

New details “But now” manifested about the prophesied event!

***The preaching of the cross!* Romans, Corinthians & Galatians**

and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, (:26) **But now is made manifest,**

The One New Man, made fellow-heirs in heavenly places!

Hid from ages and generations, “But now” is made manifest!

***Wisdom none of this world knew!* Ephesians, Philippians & Colossians.**

and by the scriptures of the prophets...” The rest of the word of God!

The next group is the **Thessalonian** epistles. The dispensation of the grace of God **began as a new program, separate and distinct** from Israel's covenant prophecy program, and **ends before** prophecy resumes. Jesus Christ comes *in the air* for the church the body of Christ **before** the wrath of God is poured out upon this world, and **before** Christ returns to set up his earthly kingdom. **I & II Thessalonians** clearly distinguish Paul's message and ministry as separate from the prophetic program. They knew and were taught the prophetic scriptures, **I Thess. 5:1 & II Thess. 2:5.**

Thessalonians: Doctrine: The Comings of Jesus Christ!

I Thessalonians: Living with the Rapture in View: all chapters end with the rapture!

1:9,10, Wait for his son from heaven, which **delivered us from the wrath to come**, Cp. **Matthew 3:7**

2:19,20, Joy and rejoicing, ye in the presence of the Lord at his coming.

3:12,13, Hearts unblameable before God at the coming of Jesus Christ with all his saints.

4:13-18, The actual event of the Lord's return in the air. *Caught up* = the rapture!

5:23, Wholly holy! spirit, soul & body ... blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5:1-4, They know *perfectly, the day of the Lord will not overtake them.*

5:8,9, The hope of *salvation*. They are not appointed unto wrath!

1:3, Faith, **hope & Love** abound! They are examples **1:7**, and the word is working in them, **2:13!**

II Thessalonians: Living with the Revelation in View.

1:6-8, Vengeance upon our enemies! We don't have to avenge ourselves, **Romans 12:19**
2:1, His coming & our gathering (*the rapture*) keeps us stable and confident! **I Thess. 1:9,10**
2:2-12, The description of the events following the rapture, the rise and career of anti-christ.
2:13-17, From the beginning, chosen to *salvation from the events in previous verses!*
3:5, Wait for his coming for you!

Pastoral Epistles: Doctrine; The Congregation The local church!

The final group of Paul's epistles are personal instructions given to leaders and overseers presenting the priorities and principles for the local church. The previous 9 epistles, Romans – II Thessalonians, were all written to established functioning local churches. The local church is a small scale model of the universal body in a local geographical area. The congregation (not the building) is the house of God and is to be *the pillar and ground of the truth!*

I Timothy 3:14-16,

14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself **in the house of God**, which is the church of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth.**

16 And without controversy **great is the mystery of godliness:** God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

I Timothy: Protect Sound Doctrine, "... some have departed."

I Timothy 1:3-7, 6:20,21, "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust ... "

3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they **teach no other doctrine,**

II Timothy: Preach The Word! 4:1,2 "... all men forsook me!" 4:16

II Timothy 1:13, "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me..."

Titus: Practice The Doctrine! "Be careful to maintain good works!" 3:8

Titus 2:7-12 "...that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."

11 For **the grace of God** that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Philemon: Charity & Love! "I beseech thee for my son Onesimus." :8-11

The pastoral epistles are handbooks for the functioning of the local church. The local church is a living laboratory where the doctrine living in the saints is to manifest the life of Christ. As Paul writes II Timothy, "All scripture is given ... that the man of God may be **perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.**" The written word of God is now complete, and we are complete in Christ, **Colossians 2:10.** We have the will of God completely revealed and **that which is perfect** has come, **Colossians 1:25-27.**

Week 7

The Hebrew Epistles

Session 1

What About The Little Flock?

Romans 11:26-27, Israel has a future!

26 And so all Israel **shall be saved**: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this *is my covenant unto them*, when I shall take away their sins.

God allows The Little Flock to continue for a time **to produce scripture** for Israel in ***the ages to come***. These books were by the Little Flock **before** they met with Paul (Acts 15) and understood his new Gentile ministry would **delay the fulfillment of prophecy**. Therefore the expectation and hope in **Hebrews to Revelation** is the fulfillment of the covenants and promises to Israel in Messiah's kingdom. Each of these books, **except II Peter**, presents an expectation of the soon return of Jesus Christ to reign on the earth and therefore also focus on ***being prepared to face the coming wrath and the tribulation (70th week of Daniel)***. Their hope is the goal of prophecy and the coming of Christ to earth to establish his millennial kingdom.

Hebrews to Revelation: James, Cephas (Peter) & John *unto the circumcision...* **Galatians 2:9**
These are "**circumcision**" epistles to Messiah's "scattered" church, **Acts 8:1-4**.

1. A division between the circumcision & uncircumcision again!

James 1:1, James, a servant of God...**to the twelve tribes** which are scattered abroad...

I Peter 1:1, Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, **to the strangers scattered** throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

I Peter 2:5-9, Ye are...royal priesthood, an holy nation... See also **Exodus 19:5,6**

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

7 Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence...

9 But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood, an holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

I John 1:1, That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, **which we have seen with our eyes**, which we have looked upon, and **our hands have handled**, of the Word of life; (*This refers back to the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*)

Revelation 1:6, And hath made us **kings and priests** unto God and his Father...

Revelation 5:10 ... made us unto our God **kings and priests**: and we shall reign on the earth.

2. The subject is “*Prophecy*” i.e. the goal is Israel’s kingdom!

Hebrews 2:3-9, Hebrews picks up where **the 4 gospels** and early **Acts** left off!

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect **so great salvation**; (*gospel of the kingdom*) **which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord**, (*Matt.–John*) and was confirmed unto us by them (*Little Flock*) that heard *him*; (**Mark 16:20**, “...confirming the word with signs following.”)

4 God also bearing **them** witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, (early *Acts*) according to his own will?

5 For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection **the world to come**, whereof we speak.

The gospel in the book of Hebrews is **the gospel of the kingdom**, and the salvation is that which Jesus Christ preached with the 12 apostles in the 4 gospels. The subject is all things put in subjection to Jesus Christ in **the world to come!** The writer of Hebrews points back to the early chapters of the book of *Acts*, and the ministry of the 12 and the **Little flock** offering the kingdom to Israel!

3. The Coming: The *Second Coming of the King!* *Not the rapture!*

James 5:8-9, (**Acts 7:55**, Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God.)

8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge **standeth before the door**.

I Peter 1:9-13, Old Testament prophetic salvation, not the mystery!

9 Receiving **the end** of your faith, even **the salvation** of your souls.

10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, **who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you**:

13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to **the end** for the grace that is to be brought unto you **at the revelation of Jesus Christ**;

II Peter 1:16, 17, *Eye witnesses of his majesty!* **II Peter 1:19-21**, *Prophecy of the scripture.*

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.**

17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Jude 14, 15

14 ...**Behold, the Lord cometh** with ten thousands of his saints,

15 **To execute judgment upon all,**

Revelation 1:7, Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him**, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Week 7

The Hebrew Epistles

Session 2 Hebrews to Revelation (the ages to come for Israel)

Hebrews 6:12, “Through faith and patience inherit the promises”
These books are very different from Paul’s epistles!

Review:

1. A division between the circumcision and uncircumcision!
2. The subject is “*Prophecy*” & the Old Testament, i.e. the goal is the kingdom!
3. The Second Coming of the King!

4. The Coming wrath: “endure to the end...and he that overcometh...”

Hebrews 8:13, The law is **ready (but not yet) to vanish away!**

In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old **is ready to vanish away**. The Old Covenant (Law) has *not* yet been set aside.

Hebrews 10:26, For if we sin wilfully ... there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain **fearful looking for of judgment** and **fiery indignation**, which shall devour the adversaries. Fiery indignation!

Hebrews 10:36-39, Also, **Hebrews 3:6,14**, *If we hold fast unto the end, 6:6, If they fall away ..*

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man draw back*, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who **draw back unto perdition**; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

I Peter 1:7, That the **trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be **tried with fire**, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ, :13, ... grace brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

I Peter 4:17, For the time *is come that judgment must begin at the house of God*: and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

II Peter 3:10-14,

10 *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night;*

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God,

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

The confusion about eternal security and the timing of the rapture is due to failing to rightly divide the word of truth, and applying these passages (*and others*) from Israel’s program to the body of Christ today!

Hebrews: Doctrine: The cross explained for Israel! The foundation.

Hebrews 9:13-15, Christ shed the blood of the New Covenant!

13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

14 How much more **shall the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 And for this cause he is the **mediator of the new testament**, that by means of death, for the **redemption of the transgressions** [that were] under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 10:9-10, One offering! Also **9:25-28, & 10:12-14**,

9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

10 By the which will we are sanctified through the **offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all**.

“Better” things in Hebrews: **1:4**, Christ is *better* than the angels. **7:19**, *better* hope, **8:6**, *better* covenant upon *better* promises, **11:16**, *better* country, **11:35**, *better* resurrection.

James: Reproof: Faith producing fruit! Faith without works is dead!

James 1:1-4, *To the 12 tribes scattered abroad, greeting.*

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into **divers temptations**;

3 Knowing *this*, that the **trying of your faith** worketh patience.

4 But let **patience** have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

I Peter: Correction: Hope beyond *the fiery trial.*

I Peter 1:4-7, also **I Peter 4:13-19**

4 ... inheritance incorruptible ... undefiled ... reserved in heaven for you,

5 ... kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice ...though now for a season in heaviness through **manifold temptations**:

7 That **the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be **tried with fire**, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

II Peter: *Diligence!* Be fruitful! Be sure! Be on guard! Beware!

II Peter 1:5-11, Also **II Peter 2:1, 3:1-3,** False teachers & scoffers!

5 And beside this, **giving all diligence**, add to your faith virtue ...

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence** to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

II Peter 1:16,17, Not followed “**devised fables**” when made known the coming!

The Book of II Peter is unique!

II Peter 3:9-10, 15-16, ***The Delay of his coming!*** Longsuffering according to Paul!

9 The Lord is **not slack** concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; **but is longsuffering** to us-ward, not willing that any should perish

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night ...

15 And account *that the longsuffering of our Lord is* salvation; even as our beloved brother **Paul** also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

II Peter is written later, after many of Paul's epistles are written! Peter now understands **the delay** of the Lord's coming to establish his kingdom on earth is not slackness, but is *longsuffering according to the wisdom given unto Paul*. These things were hard to be understood.

II Peter 3:1-2, Both epistles are based in the Old Testament prophecy program.

1 This **second epistle**, beloved, I now write unto you; **in both** which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 That ye may **be mindful** of the words which were **spoken before by the holy prophets**, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

The book of **II Peter** confirms the *Little Flock is still looking for the fulfillment of prophecy* and they are **not** part of a new mystery program. Peter (and Paul!) do not expect the delay will go on for 2000 years! Messiah's scattered church eventually passes off the scene, yet their writings remain for the future!

I, II, III John: Discernment: Several tests to detect error.

I John 2:1, 3, 9-10, 22,23

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. ... *reproof*

3 And hereby **we do know that we know him**, if we keep his commandments.

I John 3:14, We know that we have passed from death unto life, **because** we love the brethren

I John 4:13

13 **Hereby know we** that we dwell in him, and he in us ... **he hath given us of his Spirit.**

I John 5:1-2, Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God ...

2 By this **we know** that we love the children of God, **when we love God, and keep** his commandments.

Jude: Defend and contend for the faith.

Jude 1:3-4, Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation ... that ye should **earnestly contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints.

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness ...

Revelation: Doctrine: The day of the Lord.

John is transported by prophetic vision into the future day of the Lord to see the actual events of that time. *He writes to future churches* that will face the events of that day. The entire book is prophecy! The book was written **much earlier** than *the traditional date of 90 A.D.* It is written **before** John learns of the delay and the new Gentile program from Paul in **Acts 15** (*Galatians 2*), for he writes that these things *must shortly come to pass, 1:1, and the time is at hand, 1:3 & 22:10, and I come quickly, 22:7. This is the fiery trial which is to try the Little Flocks' faith.* They must *endure unto the end, or be faithful unto death, Revelation 2:10.* "To him that overcometh will I give power over the nations..." **Revelation 2:26.**

Revelation 1:3,10,11, The actual events of *the day of the Lord* and Joel's prophecy, (Acts 2:21).

3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words **of this prophecy**, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand.**

10 I was in the Spirit on **the Lord's day**, (*the day of the Lord*) and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet ...

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, **What thou seest, write in a book**, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia;

Hebrews to Revelation focus on the conclusion of Israel's program in ***the ages to come***. God allowed the Little Flock to continue for a time, during the early stages of the dispensation of grace, so these books could be produced for *the future remnant* (144,000+) raised up after the rapture. While these books are *not to or about us* today, they are *for us* and provide profit and learning about the fulfilment of God's purpose for Israel in ***the ages to come***.

Summary: The Bible At A Glance

II Timothy 3:16, All of the Bible is God's inspired word, and is profitable *for us*.

16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: "The Apostle Paul"

II Timothy 2:15, The Bible's own instruction about how it is to be studied. It is *not all to or about us*.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.** "The Apostle Paul"

The Natural 3 - fold division in God's Word. See chart in Week 1.

1. "Time Past" A division in humanity. Ephesians 2:11, 12, **Prophecy!**

The Old Testament: Genesis to Malachi, Romans 15:4, Looks forward to the King & Kingdom on earth.

The Circumcision: Israel had the covenants & promises. The Uncircumcision: Gentiles were aliens and strangers from the covenants of promise. The *goal is the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world*, (Matthew 25:34). From the calling out of Abraham, God has been dealing with the world through the Nation Israel because they had a special covenant relationship with Him. The Gentiles had to approach God through that favored nation for there was *a middle wall of partition*.

The 4 gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke & John, Romans 15:8, **Prophecy!**

The Four gospels are still in what the Bible calls "time past" for the division remains between the Circumcision & Uncircumcision, and God is *still* dealing with the world on the basis of the Abrahamic Covenant. Israel *still* has *their special status*, and God is dealing with the Nations *through them!* God is now calling out a remnant within the nation called the little flock (Luke 12:32). The goal is the establishment of *their Messiah's kingdom on the earth*. The time had come for prophecy to be fulfilled! The kingdom of heaven is at hand and Jesus Christ is in their midst.

The Book of Acts: Romans 11:11-13, **Prophecy: and then transition to the Mystery**

Israel *stumbles* at the cross, but *does not fall* in early Acts. They receive a gracious re-offer of their king and kingdom. God has not yet changed his dealing with the world. The focus is still the fulfillment of prophecy (Acts 3:19-21) and the covenants and promises to Israel. The goal is still the literal kingdom restored to Israel through their Messiah. They have not fallen and are still God's covenant people. Early Acts is *still in "Time Past!"*

We learn of the *fall* of the Nation Israel and that a change to an *unprophesied* new purpose among the Gentiles occurs through the salvation & ministry of the apostle Paul *in the middle* of the book of Acts, (I Timothy 1:16). We have salvation going to the Gentiles through the *fall* of Israel in the last half of Acts.

2. "But Now" No difference! Ephesians 2:13-16, & 3:1-11, **The Mystery!**

The Pauline Epistles: Romans to Philemon, Romans 16:25, 26, **The Body of Christ & the heavenly places.**

Paul's ministry opens up all of the magnificent details of what the cross accomplished according to God's purpose *before the foundation of the world that was hidden as a mystery!* God's plan included not just a people for the earth, but for the *heavenly places* as well! Paul speaks of the exceeding riches of his grace and the unsearchable riches of Christ to the Gentiles (*formerly aliens & strangers & the dogs!*). A *secret coming* ends the dispensation of grace and seats the body of Christ in heaven to rule in *the ages to come*, fulfilling God's purpose for the heavenly places.

3. "The Ages to Come" **Prophecy fulfilled!**

The Hebrew Epistles: Hebrews to Revelation, Romans 11:26-27, **Truth for Israel's future remnant.**

The Little Flock *remains separate* from the body of Christ and produces *these Hebrew Epistles*. They were written during the book of Acts and still have the expectation of the coming wrath and kingdom. These books will be very important when Israel's program resumes after the rapture! They present the fulfilment of God's prophesied purpose for Israel and the earth, and fit in *the ages to come!*