

THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE

Last night, by means of the radio, one of our outstanding newscasters made a very earnest appeal for donations to a very worthy cause, a united, determined, enthusiastic effort to broadcast the 'TRUTH' to the poor captives behind the iron curtain. The movement is called 'The Crusade For Freedom'. This crusade for freedom with 'TRUTH' is now being advertised in public places on bill-boards.

We refer to this as a worthy cause. Surely every effort should be made to free the people who have been kept in ignorance and darkness and bondage by lying tyrants. Listening to the most interesting and convincing arguments of the newscaster, as he described the pitiful condition of the captives and presented the reason why only 'TRUTH' could set them free, those of us who read our Bibles might have thought of the words of the Lord Jesus, recorded in John 8:32, "ye shall know the 'TRUTH', and the 'TRUTH' shall make you free." This eternal, omnipotent, Divine, sinless Saviour, Who had glory with the Father before the world was (John 17:5), said; "I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." (John 6:38). The visit of the Lord of Glory to this earth was indeed a 'crusade for freedom'. Christ came to bear witness of the 'TRUTH'. (John 18:37).

Concerning this crusade, another real crusader for freedom, the apostle Paul, testified, "this is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." (I Timothy 1:15). In the next chapter he added, "God will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the 'TRUTH' . . . There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself a ransom for all." (I Timothy 2:4 to 7). Because sinners were helpless, guilty, condemned captives, behind something far worse than Russia's iron-curtain, God required a ransom for their freedom. So the Lord Jesus testified in very simple language that He came to preach deliverance to the captives. (Luke 4:18 to 22). Preaching deliverance was not enough to deliver the captives, so the Lord Jesus testified that He came to give His life a ransom for sinners. (Matthew 20:28). Christ was delivered for our sins and He was raised again for our justification. (Romans 4:25).

THE BONDAGE OF SIN

At the time the Lord Jesus said, "ye shall know the 'TRUTH' and the 'TRUTH' shall make you free" (John 8:32), the religious sinners to whom He spoke protested, saying, "we were never in bondage." (8:33). Note Christ's response, "whosoever committed sin is the servant of sin." (8:34). "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (8:36). What 'TRUTH' sets the captive free?

There is 'TRUTH' in the Bible that sets the unsaved person free from the penalty of sin, from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2), even Jesus Who delivered us from the wrath to come. (I Thessalonians 1:9 and 10 and John 3:36). Then there is Bible 'TRUTH' which delivers the saved person from bondage.

Undoubtedly you have read Paul's question recorded in Galatians 4:9; "after ye have known God, how turn you again to the weak and beggarly elements whereunto you desire again to be in bondage?" Then Paul added in Galatians 5:1; "stand fast therefore in the liberty

(freedom) wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”

How foolish would a person be who would not be satisfied with being freed from captivity behind the iron curtain of Russia, preferring to go back into captivity? How foolish were those ‘bewitched’ Christians who tempted God to put the yoke of bondage on their necks? (Galatians 3:1 to 6 . . . Acts 15:10)? Note God’s emancipation declaration in Romans 7:6; “now we are delivered from the law, having been dead wherein we were ‘held’. The Greek translated ‘held’ means ‘held down fast’. Christians need to know the ‘TRUTH’ that will make them free. Christians will not be free indeed unless and until they obey II Timothy 2:15, “study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of ‘TRUTH’.”

FREE FROM TWO LAWS

The apostle Peter wrote that in all of Paul’s Epistles there were some things hard to be understood. (II Peter 3:15 and 16). But it seems that any and every Christian, who studies the Bible, should understand Romans 6:14, “ye are not under the law, but under grace”; and Colossians 2:16; “let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holyday, or of the new moon or of the Sabbath.” For more than fifteen hundred years Israel was judged by these religious observances. (Hebrews 9:10). The Lord Himself, as Jesus of Nazareth, was made under the law and lived with Israel under the law. (Galatians 4:4 . . . Matthew 23:1 to 3 . . . 5:17 and 18 . . . 8:1 to 4) (Luke 4:16).

By the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus believing Israelites were delivered from two laws, “the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2), and “the law that was given by Moses.” (Galatians 3:13).

The believing Gentiles, or heathen, who had not been under the law given at Sinai, were saved by grace through faith in the crucified and resurrected Son of God, and were thus delivered from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2). The Holy Spirit led the apostle Paul to tell the saved Gentiles, who permitted Satan and his religious servants to impose upon them Israel’s yoke of bondage and religious ceremonies, that they were ‘foolish’. (Galatians 3:1). Satan controlled the religious messengers who bewitched the foolish Galatians.

THE GREAT DECEIVER

In Revelation 12:9 Satan is accused of the crime of deceiving the whole world. According to I John 5:19, the whole world lieth in Satan. Through his subtilty Satan beguiled Eve in the Garden of Eden. (II Corinthians 11:1 to 4). In this same eleventh chapter of Second Corinthians we learn that Satan can and does transform himself into an angel of light, and sends forth his preachers as apostles of Christ preaching ‘a’ Jesus and ‘a’ gospel; but another Jesus and another gospel. (II Corinthians 11:13 to 15). In Ephesians 4:14 we learn that Satan so bewilders Christians that they are children tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine. In II Corinthians 4:3 and 4 we learn that Satan blinds unbelievers doing all in his power to hinder them from believing the gospel of glory. Yes, Satan blinds, bewilders, bewitches and beguiles. Note what

he does, by his human agents, to silly women, according to II Timothy 3:6 and 7: “they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the ‘TRUTH’.” Remember that God wants all men to come to the knowledge of the ‘TRUTH’ and this includes the women. (I Timothy 2:4 and 5).

Even before Paul departed to be with Christ many were giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, and they turned from the ‘TRUTH’. (Titus 1:14). From the days of Paul to the present time there has been the fulfillment of II Timothy 4:3 and 4 . . . “they will not endure sound doctrine” . . . “they shall turn away their ears from the ‘TRUTH’, and shall be turned unto fables.”

Surely II Peter 2:1 to 3 is having a wholesale fulfillment at this present time, when religious leaders, who call themselves Modernists or Liberals, are propagating ‘christianized agnosticism’ in the name of Bible Christianity and using Bible phraseology, preaching the damnable heresy. They deny that the sinless, omnipotent, Divine Christ was eternal God in human form. They deny that faith in His eternal Deity, His vicarious death on the cross and His bodily resurrection, is God’s ‘MUST’ for the salvation of any and all human beings. Behold all around us how II Peter 2:2 is being fulfilled: “many shall follow their pernicious ways: by reason of whom the way of ‘TRUTH’ shall be evil spoken of.” No one need be unusually intelligent to know that a ‘Christian-infidel’ is an impossible paradox. In Jude 12 these false preachers are said to be “twice dead plucked up by the roots,” “to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.” (Jude 13). We are told in verse 23 that some of these can be pulled out of the fire.

NOT IGNORANT OF SATAN’S DEVICES

Every person on this earth should be able to say with a deep-rooted conviction, intelligently and honestly, concerning Satan, what Paul said in II Corinthians 2:11, “we are not ignorant of his devices.” This same apostle, in Ephesians 6:11 to 20, warns us of the tricks of Satan, telling us that we wrestle not against flesh and blood.

The Lord Jesus, in Matthew 12:29, told us that only He can bind the strong man and set the captive free. Christ was made flesh and blood to destroy Satan’s death Power. (Hebrews 2:14 and 15). “For this purpose was the Son of God manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil.” (I John 3:8).

Again we think of Christ’s words spoken to some very, very religious men, who thought they were the sons of God (John 8:41) when they were indeed the children of the devil (John 8:44), “if the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36) . . . “ye shall know the ‘TRUTH’, and the TRUTH shall make you free.” (John 8:32).

There are many, many church-members who deliberately and willfully receive error in preference to the ‘TRUTH’. On the other hand there are millions of religious church-members, sincere, zealous and conscientious men and women, who cannot truthfully say, “hereby know we the Spirit of ‘TRUTH’, and the spirit of error.” (I John 4:6). The great majority of these frustrate the grace of God (Galatians 2:21), and pervert the gospel of grace (Galatians 1:6 to 9), not knowing the difference between the gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 4:23 . . . 10:5 to 8) and the gospel of the grace of God. (Acts 20:24 . . . II Timothy 1:9),

As we read Romans 4:4 and 5 and Titus 3:5 to 8 and Romans 11:6 and II Timothy 1:9 and 10 with the “TRUTH” of Ephesians 2:10, “we are Gods workmanship created in Christ Jesus ‘unto’ good works, which God hath ordained that we should walk in them,” saved by grace through faith, ‘not of works’ (Ephesians 2:8 and 9), it would seem that men and women, who have assumed the responsibility of spiritual leadership, would positively and clearly teach that a dead sinner does not become a living saint by what he does for God or Christ, but by the supernatural work of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Note what we are told in II Thessalonians 2:13: “God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the ‘TRUTH’.” Here we have ‘TRUTH’ in action setting the captive free. In the third chapter of Colossians we learn that ‘TRUTH’ should be in action in the life and behaviour of the living saint.

Only spiritual leaders, who qualify as faithful stewards of the mysteries of God (I Corinthians 4:1 to 4), can do the all-important work of II Timothy 2:23 and 24: “in meekness instructing those who oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the ‘TRUTH’, that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” Never discount the power of the prince of this world, the god of this age, the ruler of world darkness, the head of spiritual wickedness in the heavenlies. (Ephesians 6:11 to 13). Satan causes Christians to lie (Acts 5:3). Satan causes spiritual leaders to fall into his condemnation through pride. (I Timothy 3:6). Satan desires to be worshipped (Luke 4:5 to 8), and will yet indwell and completely control ‘the man of sin’ who will be worshipped as God. (II Thessalonians 2:3 to 11).

Perhaps you have observed that the demons under Satan knew ‘TRUTH’ concerning Christ that many deluded or self-righteous, unsaved church-members today do not know. Note in Mark 1:24 and Luke 4:34 what the demons said to Christ; “I know Thee Who Thou art, the Holy One Of God.” Note how this same truth is recorded in Matthew 8:29: “what have we to do with Thee, Jesus. Thou Son of God? Art Thou come hither to torment us before the time?”

PAUL’S CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM

Aside from the Lord Jesus the apostle Paul headed up the greatest crusade for freedom of all times. He first experienced that freedom for himself. When he learned that the law of Sinai, by which he thought he could find eternal life, was ordained unto death (Romans 7:9 and 10) and learned that the law was his schoolmaster to bring him to Christ for justification by faith (Galatians 3:24 and 25), he cried out in agony, “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 7:24 and 25 and Philippians 3:3 to 12).

When Paul (Saul) gave up his religion and religious traditions and found righteousness and peace in the Lord Jesus he was immediately instructed by Christ Himself as to one of his principal missions; “to open their eyes to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God.” (Acts 26:18). Note his testimony in the next verse; “I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.”

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY LIFE OR DEATH

As we study the activities of Satan in the Bible, his devices, his wives, we can well believe that he is guilty of the crime with which he is charged in Revelation 12:9, “who deceiveth the whole world.” Who can begin to count all of Satan’s iron curtains ?

Hear the words of the Lord Jesus recorded in Matthew 10:28: “fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both body and soul in hell.” This is indeed a serious warning and it behooves every person on this earth to seriously consider it.

As our hearts go out in genuine sympathy to the poor captives behind Russia’s iron curtain we should join in “the crusade for freedom” with the ‘TRUTH’. However let us keep in mind that these children of Adam may be delivered from the tyrannical rule of Satan’s political rulers in Russia and still be the strong man’s (Satan’s) house. Christ alone can deliver them. (Matthew 12:29).

Every American cherishes religious freedom under our Bill of Rights. But we also know that this liberty under our constitution gives the citizens of this great land the right to go to hell or to go to heaven. In the Bill of Rights we think of the words which the Lord spake by the mouth of His servant, as recorded in Deuteronomy 30:19: “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, therefore choose life.”

No citizen of this great land of ours is going to heaven because he or she is a good loyal, patriotic American, or even a moral, religious, sincere, zealous worker in some church-organization. There are many, many splendid, religious, unsaved people who eulogize Jesus, the Master, and claim to accept His ethical teaching, earnestly endeavoring to measure up to the high standard in His sermon on the mount. But they are not saved. Because they are unwilling to acknowledge that they are condemned, ruined, hell-deserving sinners. Therefore they are unwilling to meet God at Calvary and really trust in the perfect Christ and His perfect redemptive work, “in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of God’s grace.” (Ephesians 1:6 and 7).

The Church of God is the Pillar and Ground of the ‘TRUTH’. The members of this one true Bible Church (during this age and dispensation of grace) should know that God expects them to be “blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world, holding forth the Word of life.” (Philippians 2:15 and 16).

Thus we see while our government is making efforts to get the ‘TRUTH’ behind Russia’s iron curtain, in their “crusade for freedom,” to set the political captives free, the Church of God should be on the alert to get God’s ‘TRUTH’ concerning salvation by grace to those poor lost sinners. These poor sinners do not need a complicated, corrupt system of religion, which will keep them in religious bondage, but they need to hear and believe the unadulterated gospel of the grace of God, as presented in Romans 4:4 and 5, Romans 3:24 to 28 . . . II Timothy 1:9 and 10 Ephesians 2:8 to 10 . . . and Titus 3:5 to 8. “Chosen to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the ‘TRUTH’. (II Thessalonians 2:13).

WHAT IS TRUTH?

In Isaiah 65:16 God is called the God of 'TRUTH'. In John 14:6, the Lord Jesus said "I am the 'TRUTH'." In John 16:7 to 13 the Holy Spirit is called "The Spirit of 'TRUTH';" In John 17:17 the Lord Jesus, in praying to His Father, said, "Thy Word is 'TRUTH'." These statements answer in part Pilate's question in John 18:38, "what is 'TRUTH'?" But as we think of the 'TRUTH', the whole 'TRUTH', and nothing but the 'TRUTH', we think of Christ's Words in John 16:12 and 13: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. However when He, the Spirit of 'TRUTH' is come, He will guide you into all 'TRUTH'."

When we read Peter's statement concerning the 'TRUTH' in all of Paul's Epistles, in which there are some things hard to be understood (II Peter 3:15 and 16), and the something extra special, "the Spirit of wisdom and revelation," needed to understand some very profound spiritual truths (Ephesians 1:15 to 23), we know that only the Spirit of 'TRUTH' can guide us in all 'TRUTH'.

The first great need is to receive the Holy Spirit. Every believer who meets God at Calvary and receives Christ as Saviour, receives the Holy Spirit, "the Spirit of 'TRUTH'"; and all of the Holy Spirit.

When the believer receives Christ as Saviour he is saved by the gospel of his salvation. (Ephesians 1:13 and 14). That believer immediately receives the Holy Spirit, all of the Holy Spirit, by faith. (Galatians 3:14). "After that ye believed," in Ephesians 1:13 and 14, is the Greek 'PISTEUSANTES' and should be translated "when ye believed," which means "at the time you believed." When the believer believes the gospel of salvation and receives Christ, he is immediately indwelt by the Holy Spirit, anointed, sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption, and baptized by One Spirit into the One Body of Ephesians 2:15 and 16 and I Corinthians 12:13. (Ephesians 4:30). "Since ye believed" in Acts 19:2 and 3 is likewise 'PISTEUSANTES'." In this age and dispensation of grace Holy Spirit baptism is never the future experience of a saved person.

On the day of Pentecost when Peter and the Eleven were preaching to devout Jews (Acts 2:5), to "ye men of Israel" (Acts 2:22), the penitent Jews had to do something besides believe, something in addition to faith, to receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38 . . . 8:14 to 16). On the day of Pentecost believing Jews and Gentiles were not reconciled in One Body by the cross (Ephesians 2:14 to 16), believing Jews and Gentiles were not baptized by One Spirit into the 'JOINT-BODY' (not 'same' Body) of Ephesians 3:6. At that time it was unlawful for the twelve apostles to go to Gentiles. (Acts 10:28). At that time the Holy Spirit was witnessing to Israel, that Christ was raised up 'twice' to be Israel's Saviour, first in incarnation before His death on the cross, and second in resurrection after He was raised from the dead. (Acts 5:29 to 32). This is one of the most important truths in all the Bible, which Christians must learn to begin to obey II Timothy 2:15.

If you have carefully and prayerfully compared Acts 2:38 with Titus 3:5 to 8, you have found almost as great a difference between 'the gospel of the kingdom' in Acts 2:38 and 'the gospel of the grace of God' in Titus 3:5 to 8 as there is between law and grace. Compare them again: "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 Spirit." . . . "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy God saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour,

that being justified by His grace.” Those justified by God’s grace in Paul’s ‘grace’ gospel are justified ‘without a cause’ (‘dorian’) through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24 to 28).

Presently we shall answer ‘why’, ‘why’ the difference between Acts 2:38 and Titus 3:5 to 8, in obedience to II Timothy 2:15, “rightly dividing the Word of ‘TRUTH’”. But here we state that Acts 2:38 was preached ‘before the FALL of Israel’ (Romans 11:11); and Titus 3:5 to 8, ‘after the FALL of Israel’.

WHAT IS TRUTH FOR THIS AGE?

Pilate certainly asked an important question, “what is ‘TRUTH’? Not only should every person ask this question, but should diligently seek for the correct answer. The Lord Jesus Christ, in His prayer to His Father, said “Thy Word is ‘TRUTH’.” (John 17:17). The Psalmist, who lived under the reign of law and not during this present dispensation and age of grace, said unto God, “Thy Law is ‘TRUTH’.” . . . “Thy Commandments are ‘TRUTH’.” (Psalm 119:142-151).

Of course every genuine Christian is a ‘Bible’ Christian, and all such Christians believe that all of the Bible is the inspired Word of the true and living God. But every intelligent, spiritual student of the Bible, in applying the principle of II Timothy 2:15, “rightly dividing the Word of ‘TRUTH’,” knows that during this age and dispensation of grace the Church of the Living God is not ‘Israel’ worshipping in a portable tabernacle in the wilderness, with a hundred or more religious ceremonies to be observed. (Hebrews 9:10). The Church of this age is not ‘Israel’ worshipping in a temple in Jerusalem, with a holy place and a most holy place, with priests and Levites and meat offerings, peace offerings, burnt offerings, trespass offerings and sin offerings. The religious lives of the Israelites, under the reign of law, were not only regulated by many religious ceremonies, but they received the spirit of bondage unto fear (Romans 8:15 . . . Hebrews 12:20). It was not optional with them whether or not they obeyed many more than one hundred commands under which they served and worshipped God. It was mandatory. We read, in Hebrews 10:28, “he that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses.”

THE SON OF GOD UNDER THE LAW

As we think of the spirit of bondage unto fear, under the law, let us remember that the Lord Jesus Himself was made under the law, lived under the law and died under the law and under two or three witnesses (false witnesses). (Galatians 4:4). Christ told His apostles to respect the authority of those who sat in Moses’ seat (Matthew 23:1 to 3). He told those whom He blessed and healed to respect and obey the law of Moses (Matthew 8:1 to 4 . . . 5:17 and 18). During the years that Jesus of Nazareth was in the midst of Israel (Acts 2:22 . . . Matthew 15:24) He lived under the Old Testament, but He taught the principles of the New Testament. On the cross He blotted out the handwriting of ordinances (Colossians 2:14 to 16), thereby becoming the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. (Romans 10:4). Members of the Church of the Living God now are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14).

Thus we see that the Lord Jesus Christ by His life and death and resurrection brought an end to the reign of law that began at Sinai. Christ established a new law, the law of the Spirit of life. (Romans 8:2 . . . Colossians 2:13 to 16). The great blunder of the foolish, bewitched Galatians was, that they thought they had to supplement the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus with the law of Sinai to make God's grace more efficacious and their salvation more certain and secure. They followed in the footsteps of the self-righteous Israelites, who sought righteousness, not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law and stumbled at that stumblingstone. (Romans 9:30 to 33). The Lord's warning in Galatians 5:9. "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump," has not been heeded by the great majority of church members. Comparatively few of them can honestly say, "I do not frustrate the grace of God." (Galatians 2:21). "If righteousness is by the law, Christ has died in vain." "The law entered that sin might abound; but where sin abounded grace did much more abound." (Romans 5:20).

THE LAW ENTERED THE LAW WAS GIVEN BY MOSES

By Adam sin entered into the world and death by sin. (Romans 5:12). "The law was given by Moses; but grace and 'TRUTH' came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17). The law entered by Moses when Moses was 80 years old. (Exodus 7:7). This was about 2500 years after sin entered by Adam. The law entered by Moses 430 years after Abram was declared righteous by faith without works. (Galatians 3:6 to 8 . . . 16 and 17 . . . Romans 4:1 to 4 . . . Genesis 15:6 to 8 . . . Exodus 12:41), About 1700 B.C. seventy Israelites, not under the law, were living in Egypt. (Exodus 1:5). About 1500 B.C. more than 600,000 Israelites, not under the law, were led by Moses out of Egypt. (Exodus 12:37). Within a few months thereafter they were under the law. If you had been an Israelite at that time, you would have realized that from 'not under the law' to 'under the law' was more than a radical change. As we think of this great change which occurred some weeks after the children of Israel were baptized unto Moses by the cloud and the Red Sea (I Corinthians 10:2 . . . Exodus 14:19 to 31), let us remember that Abraham, his son Isaac, his grandson Jacob, and Jacob's twelve sons had all died before the law was added at Sinai. (Galatians 3:19). Therefore, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Levi, Joseph and others never lived under the law, and their lives were not regulated by the religious program of Hebrews 9:10, "meats and drinks and carnal ordinances and divers baptisms."

The law was given by Moses. (John 1:17). But we read in Exodus 31:18, that the Lord gave unto Moses, upon Mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone written with the finger of God. So we read in Galatians 3:19, that the law was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

In Hebrews 8:6, 9:15 and 12:24 the Lord Jesus is called the Mediator of a better covenant, the New Testament. In Deuteronomy 18:15, 18 and 19 Israel was told by Jehovah, through Moses the mediator, that He would raise up a Prophet unto Israel like Moses. Both Peter and Stephen referred to this (Acts 3:22 and 23 and 7:37) testifying that Jesus Christ was that Prophet.

HE THAT SHOULD COME AND HE THAT SHALL COME

We are told in Hebrews 9:26 that Christ appeared once in the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. In 9:28 we are told that He will appear the second time. We are told this in different language many times in the Bible. John the Baptist's question was presented to Christ, "Art Thou He That Should Come?" (Luke 7:19 and 20). In Luke 7:21 to 23 the Lord Jesus proved that He was the God Who was to come down to earth. (Isaiah 35:3 to 8). In Hebrews 10:37 we read concerning Christ's second coming, "Yet a Little While And He That Shall Come Will Come."

When the Christian partakes of the broken bread and the cup, he shows forth the Lord's death 'TILL' He shall have come (elthe). (I Corinthians 11:26). In Acts 3:20 and 21 we learn that the heaven must hold the Lord Jesus 'UNTIL' the times of restitution of all things. In Luke 21:24 we learn that the Jews, scattered among all nations, will be captives 'UNTIL' the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. In the last two chapters of Jeremiah and II Kings we learn that 'the times of the Gentiles' began about 600 B.C., because of the great sins of the Jews. In Matthew 23:39 we read these words of the Lord Jesus concerning Israel: "ye shall not see Me henceforth, 'TILL' ye shall say, Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord." In Romans 11:25 and 26 we read that blindness in part is upon Israel 'UNTIL' the fulness of the Gentiles be come in . . . Then Israel shall be saved. In II Thessalonians 2:7 we read that the mystery of lawlessness doth work but will be hindered 'UNTIL' he who hindereth be taken out of the way. In Philippians 1:6 Christians are instructed to be confident that He who began the good work will perform it 'UNTIL' the day of Jesus Christ.

Thus we see that the little word 'TILL' or 'UNTIL' is a key word in understanding God's dealings with the nation Israel. Presently we shall prayerfully consider the significance of the 'TILL' in Galatians 3:19, with reference to the first advent of the a Lord Jesus and the 'UNTIL' in Romans 11:25 and 26 with reference to the second advent of Israel's Deliverer. The Christian, who obeys II Timothy 2:15, who rightly divides the Word of 'TRUTH', knows that the 'TRUTH' of the third chapter of Galatians and the 'TRUTH' of the eleventh chapter of Romans must be understood.

We must permit the Holy Spirit, 'The Spirit of TRUTH', to teach us the 'TRUTH' in these two chapters first, if we are to understand the meaning of 'the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles' (Ephesians 3:1 to 4), the 'TRUTH' of Colossians 1:24 to 27, if we are to obey Ephesians 3:9, "make all see what is 'the dispensation of the mystery'."

It is so important that spiritual leaders and Bible teachers, who are instructing other Christians, leaders who are expected to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God (I Corinthians 4:1 to 4), should explain clearly to those whom they teach the difference between 'grace in a other ages and generations', and 'the dispensation of grace in this present age', 'TRUTH' for this age which was 'hid from other ages and generations'. (Colossians 1:24 to 27).

God's way to establish Christians, so they will not be children tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine. (Ephesians 4:14), is "the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began," until revealed to and through the apostle Paul. (Romans 16:25). Note when and how the risen, glorified Christ, by special revelations, made known 'GRACE TRUTH' to the apostle Paul. (Galatians 1:11 and 12 . . . II Corinthians 12:1 to 12 . . . Ephesians 3:3). "Now is made manifest to His saints." (Colossians 1:26).

This ‘TRUTH’ was not made known unto the sons of men, ‘as’ it is now revealed to His Holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.” (Ephesians 3:5). The word ‘as’ here does not suggest comparative revelation, as we may learn by studying Colossians 1:21 to 27, Romans 16:25, Ephesians 3:8 to 11. If we search diligently the Scriptures from the very first verse of Genesis through Malachi (39 Books), then through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and through the first half of the Book of Acts, and even through the ‘writings of Peter, we will find that; the ‘TRUTH’ of the third chapter of Ephesians and the first chapter of Colossians is ‘PAST—TRACING—OUT’. Therefore this ‘TRUTH’ is called the ‘UNSEARCHABLE’ RICHES of Christ, which Paul proclaimed to the Gentiles. (Ephesians 3:8).

This ‘MYSTERY TRUTH’ is foreshadowed in Genesis 2:21 to 23, in the creation of Adam and Eve, in Adam’s words before sin entered the world. Compare Genesis 2:21 to 23 and 5:2 with Ephesians 5:31 and 32 and I Corinthians 12:12 and 13. Thus we learn how Adam and Eve, one flesh, foreshadowed Christ and the Church, One Flesh, ‘THE CHRIST’ of I Corinthians 12:12.

GALATIANS THREE AND ROMANS ELEVEN

Surely we must understand the ‘foundation’ ‘TRUTH’ of the third chapter of Galatians and the eleventh chapter of Romans, if we are to understand the wonderful, glorious ‘TRUTH’ of Ephesians 2:13 to 16: “But now in Christ Jesus ye (Gentiles) who were sometimes far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, Who hath made both ONE, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us, Having abolished in His flesh the law of commandments in ordinances: for to make in Himself of twain ‘ONE NEW MAN’, making peace; and that He might reconcile both unto God in ‘ONE BODY’ (ONE CHURCH) by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby (by the cross); and came and preached peace to you which were far off (Gentiles), and to them that were nigh (Jews).”

We note in Romans 11:15 when and why ‘reconciliation’ was sent to Gentiles. When and because God cast away Israel. Salvation was sent to Gentiles in a new message when and because of the FALL of Israel. (Romans 11:11). Then the Gentiles obtained Divine mercy because of Israel’s unbelief. (Romans 11:30). When Israel put God’s ‘TRUTH’ from them, Paul said some twelve years after God spared not His own Son on the cross, “Lo, we turn to the Gentiles.” (Acts 13:46). Then believing Jews and believing Gentiles were baptized by ONE SPIRIT into ONE BODY. They were reconciled to God in ONE BODY by the cross. (I Corinthians 12:13 and Ephesians 2:13 to 17). Thus we see that Gentiles were offered reconciliation for two reasons; first, because they were reconciled to God by the death of His Son (Romans 5:10); and second, when and because of the casting away of Israel. (Romans 11:15). For the same two reasons believing Gentiles became rich. (II Corinthians 8:9 and Romans 11:12). For the same two reasons believing Gentiles obtained Divine mercy. (I John 2:2 and Romans 11:30).

Inasmuch as we learn, in Acts 5:29 to 32, that Israel was given the opportunity to reject Christ both in incarnation and in resurrection before they were cast away, and that the first mission of the Holy Spirit was to witness that God raised Christ from the dead to be Israel’s Saviour (Acts 5:32), every Christian should believe what is written by Dr. H. A. Ironside in his

“Notes on Romans,” concerning Romans 16:25, namely that the “the dispensation of the mystery” for Gentiles did not begin historically until Israel had had every opportunity to receive Christ both in incarnation and in resurrection. We should not be surprised that spiritual leaders who teach that “the dispensation of the mystery” began with Peter and Pentecost, do not obey Ephesians 3:9.

THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Again we think of John 1:17, “Grace and ‘TRUTH’ came by Jesus Christ.” We also think of the words of Christ spoken to Pilate, “To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I might bear witness of the ‘TRUTH’. Every one that is of the ‘TRUTH’ heareth My voice.” (John 18:37). When we read that grace and ‘TRUTH’ came by Jesus Christ, we surely know that the full ‘TRUTH’ about grace was not taught by Jesus of Nazareth while He was on earth, sent only to Israel. (Matthew 15:24 . . . Acts 2:22 . . . Romans 15:8). The full ‘TRUTH’ about grace was revealed to members of the Body of Christ by the risen Christ through the apostle of the Gentiles who mentioned the word ‘GRACE’ more than one hundred times in His writings. This apostle Paul testified that he laboured more abundantly than they all, “yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.” (I Corinthians 15:10). He testified that that special grace was given him to be the chief masterbuilder (headcarpenter) to lay the foundation. (I Corinthians 3:10). He testified that special grace, by revelation, was given to him, that he might preach the unsearchable (past-tracing-out) riches of Christ among the Gentiles. (Ephesians 3:8).

The risen Lord revealed to and through the apostle Paul the most wonderful message ever revealed to the human race, a message which ninety-eight percent of the church-members will not believe or receive. They apparently do not want to even hear it. Will you hear it right now, as it is recorded in II Timothy 1:9, written about the time that Paul was ready to say ‘good-by’ to this world? “God, Who hath saved us, and called us with a 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.” Will you dare to believe this. Will you have the good judgment and wisdom to believe this? Or do you prefer the message of James and Peter to Israel, “ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” . . . “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 Spirit?”

Some years after God spared not His own Son He spared not His own nation. (Romans 8:32 and Romans 11:21). But for several years after God spared not His own Son, He did spare His own nation. (Luke 23:34 . . . Acts 3:12 to 26 . . . Acts 5:29 to 32 . . . Acts 13:24 to 46) Then God did something to His own nation. (I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16). So God spared not His own nation some years after He spared not His own Son.

So it was some years after Pentecost when God revealed to His apostle to the Gentiles His distinctive message and program for this age and dispensation of grace. Blindness was sent upon Israel for a season, “until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.” (Romans 11:25). Then Israel shall be saved. (Romans 11:26). As we receive this ‘TRUTH’, guided by the ‘SPIRIT OF

TRUTH', we join with Paul, saying, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past-tracing-out!" (Romans 11:33).

ALL TRUTH

In the light of what we have said, we think of John 16:12 and 13, the words of the Lord Jesus; "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. However When He, the Spirit of 'TRUTH' is come, He will guide you into all 'TRUTH'." Thus we see that the eternal, omnipotent, sinless, Divine Christ, Who came to bear witness of the 'TRUTH' (John 18:37), told the 'TRUTH' and nothing but the 'TRUTH', but He did not tell the 'WHOLE TRUTH'.

The 'TRUTH' for this age and dispensation concerning God's eternal purpose, His 'TRUTH' concerning "the CHURCH of the MYSTERY," the 'JOINT-BODY of Ephesians 3:6, was not revealed to and through the apostle Paul until Israel had the opportunity to reject their Messiah in resurrection as they had rejected Him in incarnation before His death. When we read that Christ came unto His own and His own received Him not (John 1:11), we should study this with Acts 3:12 to 26, 5:29 to 32, Acts 13:46, 18:6 and Romans 11:5 to 15 and I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16.

THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE

Sinners today need to be made free from sin, from the law of sin and death, from Satan. Jews need to be set free from dead Judaism. Christians need to be set free from legalism, from ritualism and from fanaticism. Unsaved church-members need to be set free from rationalism, Modernism, from the satanic vagaries propagated by the metaphysical cults. Sincere, spiritual, zealous, faithful Christians need to be set free from sectarianism, postmillennialism and thirty theories concerning water baptism. In our crusade for freedom we must 'rightly divide the Word of 'TRUTH'.

In rightly dividing the Word of 'TRUTH', Christians must recognize the principle of progressive revelation, confined of course to the limits of the Bible. When Peter received his housetop vision from the Lord (Acts 10:9 to 11:4), and told it to the other eleven apostles, they learned new 'TRUTH'. Then "they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life." (Acts 11:18). This was several years after Peter and the Eleven knew God's 'TRUTH' on the day of Pentecost. The twelve apostles received additional 'TRUTH' when Paul, by revelation, went up to Jerusalem and explained to them the difference between 'the gospel of the circumcision' and 'the gospel of the uncircumcision'. (Galatians 2:1 to 7). Paul testified in Acts 26:16 and II Corinthians 12:1 to 12 that he received 'TRUTH' from Christ on the installment plan.

The difficult task of the workman of God, who does not want to be ashamed, is to know what 'TRUTH' the risen Lord revealed to and through the apostle Paul supplemented 'TRUTH' revealed before the revelation of the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles (Ephesians 3:1 to 3), and what 'TRUTH' superseded the 'TRUTH' in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and in the

first eleven chapters of the Book of Acts. It should require no thorough theological training for a Christian to know that the risen Christ did not commission Paul to preach to heathen the message which He commanded the Twelve to preach on the day of Pentecost.

There are some fearless, courageous, sincere, devout preachers in the Church of Christ and in the Pentecostal Church, who are like Apollos, “an eloquent man, mighty in the Scriptures . . . instructed in the way of the Lord; fervent in the Spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.” (Acts 18:24 to 28). These Church of Christ and Pentecostal preachers will not permit ‘grace’ preachers to do for them what Aquila and Priscilla did for Apollos . . . They expounded unto Apollos the way of God more perfectly. They brought him up to date in ‘TRUTH’ concerning grace.

Thus we see that God uses human teachers as well as the Spirit of ‘TRUTH’ to guide Christians in all ‘TRUTH’. It is utterly impossible for ‘grace’ teachers, who have the Church of the Mystery, “the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles” begin with Peter and Pentecost, and have water in Romans 6:3 to 6, to lead the Church of Christ and Pentecostal preachers to see the error of their ‘kingdom’ teaching which is ‘TRUTH’ but not for this dispensation.

TWO PARENTHETICAL, TEMPORARY PERIODS

We have referred to the three very important verses in the Bible, to get Christians established in ‘foundation’ ‘TRUTH’, to be prepared for the profound ‘TRUTH’ revealed in Ephesians, Colossians and II Timothy, especially. These three verses are Galatians 3:19 and Romans 11:25 and 26. The two parenthetical periods in God’s dealings with Israel and the Gentiles are clearly defined in these three verses. We here quote these three verses:

“Wherefore then serveth the law? It (the law) was added because of transgressions ‘TILL’ the SEED should come to Whom the promise was made.” (Galatians 3:19).

“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery (secret), lest ye should be wise in your own conceits: that blindness in part is happened to Israel, ‘UNTIL’ the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 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 (Israel).”

When did the parenthetical period described in Galatians 3:19 begin? In other words when was ‘THE LAW ADDED’? And “TO WHAT WAS THE LAW ADDED?” And “FOR HOW LONG WAS THE LAW ADDED?” The word ‘THEN’ in Galatians 3:19 is most significant. This period was ‘TILL’ Christ came to Israel the first time. (Matthew 15:24—Acts 13:23).

When did the parenthetical period described in Romans 11:25 and 26 begin? How did it begin? Why did it begin? When will it end? Why did the Holy Spirit say to Christians, “I would not have you ignorant of this mystery?” Because He knew the great majority of them would be. Think of the folly of calling ‘The Church of the Mystery’, ‘ISRAEL’! Substitute the words, ‘BODY OF CHRIST’ for ‘Israel’, in Romans 11:25 and 26 and 11:7 to 11, and see the utter folly of calling the Body of Christ, ‘ISRAEL’. When will this present parenthetical, temporary period end? When the fulness of the Gentiles be come in, and Israel’s Messiah shall come the second time for Israel’s redemption. “Then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power

and great glory . . . your (Israel's) redemption draweth nigh . . . the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." (Luke 21:27 to 33).

Now let us carefully consider, in Galatians 3:8, the word 'BEFORE', and in Galatians 3:19 the word 'TILL'. This is answer to the very significant question, "to what was the law added?"

CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM
The Truth Shall Make You Free
CHRIST THE PROMISED SEED

We read in Galatians 3:19, "TILL the SEED should come"; that is, the SEED of Abraham. In Hebrews 2:16 we read concerning the Lord Jesus, "He took on Him the SEED of Abraham." In Genesis 17:5 we read that God changed the name of 'Abram' to 'Abraham'. In Genesis 12:4 we learn that Abram was 75 years old when He responded to God's call and left his home and parents to go to Canaan. God said to Abram, "in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." (Genesis 12:1 to 4). About 40 years later God said to Abraham, after Abraham had placed Isaac on the altar for sacrifice, "in thy SEED shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." (Genesis 22:18). To Abraham's SEED was the promise made, "thy SEED Which is Christ." (Galatians 3:16).

After God had told Abram what He was going to do for and through Abram and for the nation Israel, we read in Genesis 15:6, that Abram believed God, and the Lord counted it to Abram for righteousness. At the time Abram was circumcised, at the age of 99, his name was changed to 'Abraham'. (Genesis 17:24 and 17:5). So we read in Romans 4:3 and 4:10 that Abram believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness, that Abram was justified, or declared righteous, in uncircumcision. In Galatians 3:6 to 8 we learn the same truth. In Galatians 3:16 to 18 we learn that Abram was declared righteous by faith 430 years 'BEFORE' Moses received the LAW at Sinai for Israel (at the time Moses was 80 years old). (Exodus 7:7). So Abram was righteous by faith 430 years before the beginning of the Old Testament.

As we emphasize the word 'BEFORE' in Galatians 3:8, let us keep in mind that at the time God called Abram, he (Abram) was the uncircumcised son of an idolater, Terah (Joshua 24:2). The word 'JEW' occurs the first time in the Bible several centuries after God justified Abram, in uncircumcision. So Abram was not a Jew. Abram was not an Israelite. Abram lived and died long before God added the law at Sinai. Abraham was not an Old Testament character. Abraham died about 325 years before "the law was given by Moses." (John 1:17 . . . Exodus 20).

GOD PREACHED THE GOSPEL TO ABRAM

What God promised to Abram, in Genesis 12:1 to 3, in 13:14 to 17, in 15:5 and 6, is called in Galatians 3:17, "the covenant"; in Galatians 3:18, "the promise"; in Galatians 3:8, "the gospel." Therefore, as we read in Galatians 3:19, that the LAW was added 'TILL' Christ came the first time, we learn that the LAW was added to the 'GOSPEL', or to the 'Covenant of Promise'. Thus we learn that the LAW was added 430 years after Abram believed God and it was counted to Abram for righteousness.

At the time Abram, in uncircumcision, was justified by faith, by believing God, the Scriptures foresaw the truth of Romans 4:24 and 25 and Galatians 3:8; that believing heathen would be declared righteous without works or religious doings, if they believed God Who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, Who was delivered for our sins and was raised again for our justification. Justified freely by God's grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24).

Thus we have the answers to the questions; "to what was the LAW added? . . . "when was the LAW added?" . . . "For how long was the LAW added?"

And we know the limits of the parenthetical and temporary LAW dispensation and age, from Sinai 'TILL' Christ, Abraham's SEED, came. Then God blotted out the handwriting of ordinances, taking it out of the way, nailing it to His cross. (Colossians 2:16—Galatians 3:19).

THE 430 YEARS FROM GENESIS 15:6 TO 16 TO EXODUS 92:41 AND 20:2

It is more than noteworthy we are told in Exodus 12:41, that at the end of 430 years, on the selfsame day, Israel, under Moses, but not under the law, left Egypt, in fulfillment of Genesis 15:13 to 16. This was because God remembered His covenant with Abraham. (Exodus 2:24 and 25). It was at the time of this prophecy (Genesis 15:6 to 16), that God declared Abram to be a righteous man. (Genesis 15:6 to 8). God imputed His own righteousness to Abram. This was not because of works of righteousness which Abram had done. It was because Abram believed God. (Titus 3:5 to 8 . . . Romans 4:2 and 4:22 to 25). Abram was 75 years old when he responded to God's call. (Genesis 12:1 to 4). Abraham was 175 years old at the time of his death. (Genesis 25:7). So Abram (Abraham) lived 100 years after he responded to God's call. At the time Abram left home to go to Canaan, he was called 'the Hebrew'. (Genesis 14:13). Abram descended from Shem, whom God had blessed, and from Eber who lived to be 464 years of age. (Genesis 11:16 and 17). So Abram was a 'Shemite' and an 'Eberite'. It was after the death of Abraham that God changed Jacob's name to 'ISRAEL'. (Genesis 32:28).

About 20 years after God counted Abram righteous Abram was circumcised and became 'Abraham'. (Genesis 17:5 and 24). Then nearly 20 years later Abraham placed his son, Isaac, on the altar; and was then and there justified by works, according to James 2:21. In Romans 4:11 we learn that Abram was not justified by submitting to circumcision, but he received the sign of circumcision, the seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had before being circumcised. Abram received the seal more than 20 years after he received the righteousness. Abram received God's perfect, Divine righteousness by faith, without works, about 40 years before he was justified by works by offering Isaac as a sacrifice (or being willing to). Abraham had God's righteousness before and after he offered Isaac.

Here let us read the words of Christ in John 7:22, that circumcision was not of Moses but of the fathers. Here we see the folly of saying that circumcision was the seal of the 'OLD COVENANT'. Abram was circumcised more than 400 years before Israel and Jehovah entered into the 'LAW' contract, which became the 'OLD COVENANT' after the death of Christ. (Hebrews 8:9 to 13). The Abrahamic COVENANT did not become 'OLD' by the death of Christ

on the cross, but was the basis of the 'NEW COVENANT', and therefore became effective. The Abrahamic Covenant is operative in Galatians 3:6 to 29.

As we study from the first chapter of Matthew to the tenth chapter of Acts and learn that no uncircumcised man was baptized, and know that Abraham died more than 300 years before Israel passed from 'not under the law' to 'under the law', we see the utter nonsense of the teaching of certain Covenant Christians who contend that sprinkling adults and infants superseded circumcision, and that sprinkling is the seal of the New Covenant as circumcision was the seal of the Old Testament. Girl children were not circumcised.

The Christian's seal is the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13 and 14 and 4:30). Circumcision was the seal of righteousness which Abram had more than 400 years before there was on 'OLD TESTAMENT' (LAW COVENANT). "The LAW was given by Moses" (John 1:17), The LAW did not annul the promise or make it of none effect. (Galatians 3:17). Now read again the 'BEFORE' in Galatians 3:8 and 3:17, and the 'AFTER' (430 years 'AFTER') in Galatians 3:17.

ABRAHAM'S SEED AND CANAAN

During the reign of LAW, about 900 years after Moses received the LAW at Sinai, Israel lost the land of Canaan, and "the times of the Gentiles, politically" began, about 600 B.C. Some years later the Jews returned to their promised land, but under Gentile political domination. There they were when their Messiah was born in Bethlehem, at the time Caesar, the Gentile, sent out the decree, that the whole world should be taxed. (Luke 2:1). More than thirty years later Israel's Messiah told His nation to render unto Caesar the things there were Caesar's. (Matthew 22:21). The Lord Jesus was born to deliver Israel from Gentile subjugation and to be a King on David's throne. (Luke 1:67 to 77 . . . Luke 2:27 to 33). He was also born to die, in fulfillment of Isaiah 53. Christ said so. (Matthew 26:24 . . . Luke 24:25 and 26 and 46 and John 3:14). Christ went not to the throne of David, but was baptized unto death on the cross of Calvary. (Luke 12:50). "The times of the Gentiles" will end when the Son of man returns for Israel's redemption. (Luke 21:24 to 33).

Yes, in fulfillment of Isaiah 9:6 and 7 and the 36th and 37th chapters of Ezekiel, and many other Scriptures, Christ will go to David's throne and Israel will go to Canaan. This is definitely guaranteed in Genesis 17:8, in Isaiah 62:1 to 4, Amos 9:11 to 15, Ezekiel 36:28 and in hundreds of other prophecies. "And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob, and they shall dwell therein, they, and their children, and their children's children for ever." (Ezekiel 37:25).

If Israel lost their land under the reign of law, and if the law did not make the promise of none effect, if God promised and swore (Genesis 22:15 to 19) to give Canaan to Israel, surely we have a more sure Word of Prophecy. Let us believe what God clearly states in Jeremiah 31:34 to 38, that as sure as His creation exists, so sure is Israel's glorious future guaranteed. Thus we see the meaning of the three words in Romans 11:26, "AS IT IS WRITTEN." Israel shall be saved, "AS IT IS WRITTEN." But first the dispensation of grace for Gentiles must run its course. (Romans 11:25 and Ephesians 3:1 to 4).

THE TWO-FOLD INHERITANCE IN GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

In Genesis 13:15 and in Genesis 17:8 God very definitely promised all of the land of Canaan to Abraham's seed, the Nation Israel. More than 400 years after these promises were made Israel entered the land of Canaan, under Joshua and Caleb. This was after the death of Moses at the age of 120. That was about 1460 B.C. About 600 B.C. God permitted Nebuchadnezzar to take the promised land away from the natural seed of Abraham. In Amos 9:11 to 15 God promised that Israel would again be planted in Canaan, never to be pulled up again out of their land, which I have given them, saith the Lord, thy God.

When, according to Galatians 3:8, the Scriptures foresaw, at the time uncircumcised Abram believed God and was declared righteous by faith (Genesis 15:6 to 8), that God would declare a great number of heathen righteous by faith, the Scriptures did not foresee these heathen, who were to be saved centuries later by hearing and believing 'the gospel of the uncircumcision' (committed to the apostle Paul (Galatians 2:7), as living in Canaan as Israelites. The Scriptures foresaw the 'TRUTH' that Paul preached to Peter, in Galatians 2:16: "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ."

The LAW was added to what God preached, in Genesis 15:6 to 8, to Abram, the uncircumcised heathen, 'TILL' the parenthetical 'LAW' dispensation and age was brought to an end by the first advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. That LAW was given to Israel, to be Israel's schoolmaster (child-trainer) to bring them to Christ to be justified by faith, and to be no longer under the LAW. (Galatians 3:24 and 25). Christ died on the cross to deliver Israel from the curse of the LAW (Galatians 3:13); and that the Gentiles might by faith receive God's righteousness and the Holy Spirit, as free gifts from God. (Galatians 3:14 . . . II Corinthians 5:21).

AS IT IS WRITTEN

When Israel rejected Christ when He came the first time, Christ said, "This is the Lord's doing; and it is marvelous in our eyes" . . . (Matthew 21:42 . . . Psalm 118:22 and 23). When Israel delivered Christ to Pilate to be crucified, and Christ cried 'FINISHED' and yielded up the ghost, righteousness and salvation for sinners was provided. "This is the day the Lord hath made." (Psalm 118:24).

Therefore we learn in Acts 2:22 and 23, 3:18, 4:25 to 28 and Acts 13:29 and 30 that the Son of God had to go, "AS IT IS WRITTEN OF HIM." (Matthew 26:24).

In Romans 11:26 we learn that Israel's Messiah shall come back to this earth to save Israel, "AS IT IS WRITTEN." Spend a little time thinking of Matthew 26:24 and Romans 11:26, and see Christ as "He That Should Come," and as "He That Shall Come."

If Christ had to be rejected the first time to accomplish His Father's purpose of redemption, if that rejection and the crucifixion of the Lord of Glory (I Corinthians 2:8) was the Lord's doing, and the murderers of the Prince of Life (Acts 3:12 to 15) did none other things that God's hand and counsel determined before to be done (Acts 4:24 to 28), if the Son of man had to be lifted up (John 3:14), if Israel could not believe (John 12:37 to 40), we can better understand why the Son of God, on the cross, prayed for Israel, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34). Christ's sufferings had to precede His glory. (I Peter 1:11—Luke 25:24 to 28).

The Lord Jesus Christ was despised and rejected of men and went to His death and resurrection, in fulfillment of Prophecy. The Lord Jesus will return to this earth, save Israel, plant them in their promised land, and establish on this earth a political and spiritual kingdom, in fulfillment of Prophecy.

However what the Lord Jesus is now doing, far above all heavens, (Ephesians 4:7 to 12), as Head of the Church, Which is not primarily a religious organization but a spiritual Organism, is not in fulfillment of Prophecy. (Ephesians 1:20 to 23; 2:21 and 22).

ISRAEL'S SINS AND FALL

Israel's Four Great Sins, which caused God to suspend His kingdom covenants, interrupt His kingdom program, and inaugurate a new dispensation and to begin historically to make the 'ONE NEW MAN' of Ephesians 2:1 by reconciling believing Jews and Gentiles in ONE BODY by the cross, are mentioned in Acts 7:51 to 60, 18:5 and 6, 13:45 and 46, I Thessalonians 2:11 to 16. Read these several verses. Israel was accused of killing God's prophets, killing God's Son, resisting and blaspheming the Holy Spirit, and forbidding the apostles to preach to Gentiles. The first two of these sins were pardonable.

God raised Christ from the dead to be Israel's Prince and Saviour and sent the Holy Spirit to witness to that 'TRUTH' (Acts 5:31 and 32), and when Israel blasphemed and resisted that Witness and forbade the apostles to go to the Gentiles, God visited His wrath upon them, blinded all but the elect remnant, and sent the gospel of grace to the heathen. When Paul declared that the heathen received Divine mercy because Israel rejected Christ in resurrection, and testified that blindness had happened to Israel 'UNTIL' the fulness of the Gentiles be come in, and then Israel would be saved, "AS IT IS WRITTEN" (Romans 11:25 to 32), he uttered those wonderful words of Romans 11:33, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past-tracing-out!"

When we learn from the eleventh chapter of Romans that Israel's blindness is for a reason and for a season, we should know that God's prophesied kingdom, which He prepared from the overthrow of the world (Matthew 25:34), will yet be established and that The Lord will, in that day, be King over all the earth. (Zechariah 14:9). (Daniel 2:44).

Surely from this we should understand the message the Lord gave to Peter for Israel, as recorded in Acts 3:12 to 26, concerning the restitution of all things. Peter declared that this kingdom program was spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:21 and 24). Paul declared that the 'TRUTH', by which members of the Body of Christ during this parenthetical age and dispensation are to be established, was kept secret since the world began. (Romans 16:25).

With the FALL of Israel (Romans 11:11), which was some years after Christ said to Israel, "your house is left unto you desolate" (Matthew 23:38), the risen Lord directed Paul to make known His eternal, 'hidden' purpose concerning the Church, Which is Christ's Body, chosen in Christ "from before the overthrow of the world." (Ephesians 1:3 to 5). Hear one of Paul's final testimonies concerning the profound 'TRUTH' relating to the unprophesied Church: "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh, for His Body's sake, which is the CHURCH, whereof I am made a minister,

according to the dispensation of God which is given me for you, to complete the Word of God, the MYSTERY which hath been 'HID' from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints." (Colossians 1:24 to 26).

Surely we should see why the Lord directed members of His Body to contend for ONE CHURCH and ONE BAPTISM and to make all see what is the dispensation of the Mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God. (Ephesians 4:3 to 7; Ephesians 3:9 to 11).

So here we are, after more than 1900 years, in this parenthetical 'grace' age and dispensation, which will come to a very sudden end. Then God will send His Son, after the Church has been raptured, to save Israel, to build again the tabernacle of David, and to imprison Satan in the bottomless pit, and to establish His prophesied kingdom on this earth. God will send Jesus Whom the heavens must receive until the restitution of all things spoken by the mouth of God's holy prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:21).

Thus we see how important it is to obey II Timothy 2:15:

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

Surely we have learned how important it is to first understand the 'foundation' 'TRUTH' of the third chapter of Galatians and the eleventh chapter of Romans to really understand the difference between LAW and GRACE, the difference between God's prophesied 'KINGDOM' and His unprophesied 'CHURCH' the BODY of Christ. This means to understand the 'TRUTH' of Ephesians 2:13 to 17, concerning the broken down partition, the making of the NEW MAN, the reconciling of Jews and Gentiles in ONE BODY by the cross.

In rightly dividing the Word of 'TRUTH', the members of Christ's Body, who are guided by the Spirit of 'TRUTH' and who pray the prayer of Ephesians 1:15 to 19, will know that every doctrine and every event in the Bible must be studied as to whether it is recorded before the FALL of Israel or after the FALL of Israel. (Romans 11:11). When we know that the ministry and messages of Peter and the Eleven, in the first chapters of Acts, was God's program, before the FALL of Israel, and Paul's message and program of grace was, after the FALL of Israel, we will know why Paul never preached Acts 2:38 and 3:19 to 21 to Gentiles. We will know the difference between 'the gospel of the circumcision' (committed unto Peter) and 'the gospel of the uncircumcision' (committed unto Paul (Galatians 2:7). It should be rather a simple matter to understand the difference between 'the gospel of the kingdom' of Matthew 4:23 and 10:4 to 8 . . . Luke 9:1 to 6, and 'the gospel of the grace of God' revealed by Christ in heaven to the apostle Paul. (Galatians 1:11 and 12 and Acts 20:24).

God has been waiting for 1900 years for members of the Body of Christ to make all see what is the dispensation of the mystery. Are you ready and willing to obey Him? Until and unless you see it, you cannot make others see this wonderful, glorious profound 'TRUTH'.