

THE HIDDEN THINGS OF THE BIBLE

Doubtless you have read of some of the things in the Bible that were hid. The “hid things” to me have been a very interesting Bible study.

In the very beginning of Genesis are recorded the words of Cain after his great sin: “Behold, Thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from Thy face shall I be hid.” Genesis 4:14.

It was more than three thousand years later that God sent this message to His sinful nation through the Prophet Isaiah: “Behold the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.” Isaiah 59:1 and 2. “Sins have hid His face.” This fact is stated in several other Scriptures.

“For Thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us because of our iniquities.” Isaiah 64:7. “In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment.” Isaiah 54:8.

“Because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them and gave them into the hand of their enemies.” Ezekiel 39:23.

The first “hid” thing is the hid face of God; hid from sinful man because sin separated between God and man.

Although God’s face was hid from his sinning people, David confessed for his nation, and for us, when he said: “O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee.” Psalms 69:5. How foolish were Adam and Eve when they tried to hide from God with their sin. “And Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.” Genesis 3:8. And the Lord God called unto Adam, “Where art thou?” And he said, “and I hid myself.”

Thus we learn that the first man was hiding from God. And in the coming time of sorrow, that time called “the great tribulation,” men will be hiding from God. “Hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” Revelation 6:14 to 16.

The answer to this question is found in the words of David: “Thou art my hiding-place. Thou shalt preserve me from trouble.” Psalms 32:7.

“Hide me under the shadow of Thy wing.” Psalms 17:8.

One of the Hebrew words translated “hid” is also translated “covered”; for example, “Blessed is the man whose sin is covered.” Psalms 32:1.

When a man makes God His hiding-place his sin is covered or hid. “But he that covereth or hideth his sin shall not prosper.” Proverbs 28:13.

And doubtless you recall the words of Christ: “There is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was anything kept secret, but that it should come abroad.” Mark 4:22

In studying these words of Christ it is interesting to note the statement is true concerning man’s secret sins and also concerning God’s revelation of truth which came to man on the installment plan.

Even concerning the redeemed ones of this age God’s Word is that when the Lord comes He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts. I Corinthians 4:5.

Thus we see that all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Hebrews 4:12.

RIGHTLY DIVIDING

In rightly dividing the Word of truth we learn that truth must be properly interpreted and applied, as God intended, to either Israel, the Gentile of the Church of God; and we must also observe the principle of progressive revelation, recognizing that truth hid from one age or generation is disclosed to another. However, prophecy though unfulfilled, is not to be considered a secret. Although it may not be that even the most spiritual shall know the times or the seasons which the Father hath put in His own power. Acts 1:7.

Should not every child of God know the future of Israel? It is simply a matter of believing the plain Word of God. The truth concerning the Body of Christ and Paul's message to the Gentiles was not made known to Israel's prophets and was not made known by Christ when He was here on earth. But Christ confirmed the ministry of Israel's prophets and came with added revelation to Israel concerning their Kingdom.

You doubtless recall His words of thanksgiving to His Father: "I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." Matthew 11:25.

We cannot read these words of the Son of God without thinking of several other Scriptures, such as I Corinthians 2:14 and James 1:21 and Romans 11:25 and Jude 19 and John 3:3, which we quote.

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

"Receive with meekness the engrafted Word."

"Lest ye should be wise in your own conceits."

"Sensual, not having the Spirit."

"Except a man be born from above he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Scholarship, diplomas and degrees cannot guarantee to any religious person the understanding of spiritual truths.

"The anointing which ye have received of Him—The same anointing teacheth you of all things." I John 2:24 to 27.

In all ages and generations men have claimed to be the servants and prophets of God, and yet ignorant of God's truth, because they have been mere professors and not taught of God. How true this is today when church-leadership has fallen into the hands of the so-called Modernists or Liberals. How ignorant they are of simple spiritual truths, in spite of their boast of education and religious training. On the other hand, we can see the truth of the Lord's statement right up to date in the spiritual knowledge and discernment manifested by some humble, uneducated child of God, taught by the Holy Spirit.

Ignorance of the glorious truths of the Bible, including Moses and all the prophets, the messages of Christ and the twelve and the later revelation concerning the Body of Christ given through Paul, is inexcusable today. But the knowledge of Pauline truth was not only excusable, but impossible, during the years the Saviour was with His apostles on earth; and even for years after that earthly ministry. There are certain truths that the leaders of Israel should have known after Christ had revealed God's program to them.

Let us read the words of His lamentation:

“HE BEHELD THE CITY AND WEPT OVER IT, 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.” Luke 19:42.

Because of their stubborn wills and self-righteous souls, God hid from the wise and prudent the kingdom message of their own Messiah. The Messiah and His peace was likewise hid from their eyes.

But there were many things hid even from those who had left all to follow Christ, from those who had acknowledged His Messiahship, Kingship and Divine authority.

You will doubtless recall His words, recorded in Luke 18:21 to 33, informing those intimate disciples of His approaching rejection, death and resurrection. Why did they not discern His statement? It was not due to a lack of humility, or because of carnal disobedience; but we note their reaction.

“AND THEY UNDERSTOOD NONE OF THESE THINGS, AND THE SAYING WAS HID FROM THEM; NEITHER KNEW THEY THE THINGS WHICH WERE SPOKEN.” Luke 19:34.

We know that the gospel by which we were saved is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But when this message was preached to the twelve apostles before the death of Christ, that gospel was hid from them. But Christ had been preaching a gospel to them for several years and they had been preaching that same gospel to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. What gospel had they been preaching? The answer to this question is Mark 1:14. The time came in their ministry when the truth that was hid was made known concerning the need and value of the death and resurrection of Christ. But Peter, who said to Christ concerning His approaching sacrificial death, “be it far from Thee Lord: this shall not be unto Thee,” wrote, perhaps thirty years later, concerning the death of Christ, “He once suffered for sins the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God.” Matthew 16:21 and 22. I Peter 3:18. Certainly we have here a plain case of progressive revelation.

In spite of the command of Christ to His apostles concerning His sacrifice and resurrection, “let these sayings sink down into your heart,” “they understood not this saying and it was hid from them.” Luke 9:44 and 45.

Most assuredly that message of redemption was not hid from them for the same reason that it is hid from unbelievers today, through the work of the god of this age. II Corinthians 4:3 and 4. To this we shall refer later.

But if the twelve apostles did not understand the words of Christ concerning His death; if even the most favored ones after His death knew not the Scriptures that Christ must rise from the dead; and if all twelve of them were concerned about the restoration of the kingdom to Israel, how foolish to believe that they knew the very first thing about the Body of Christ, or the mystery revealed years later to the Apostle who was not one of the twelve, Paul. John 20:9—Acts 1:6—Ephesians 3:1 and 2.

So we learn that while certain truths are hid from religious people who are mere professors and cannot see because they have not been born of God, and while spiritual truths are hid from even saved people who are wise in their own conceits and will not receive the Word with meekness, or as did the Bereans; yet in the careful study of Ephesians 3:5 and Colossians 1:26 we are instructed that even the most spiritual and faithful of the Lord’s servants in one age had to remain ignorant of the truth of God that was to be revealed in a later dispensation. And in rightly dividing and rightly understanding the Word of truth we must distinguish between fulfilled prophecy and the revelation of new truth not the subject of prophecy. As an example of

this, the Holy Spirit declared by the mouth of the father of John the Baptist and by the mouth of Peter and the eleven more than thirty years later that the restitution of all things, including Israel's peaceful possession of their land wholly delivered from any Gentile interference because of the righteous reign of their promised Deliverer, was spoken by the mouths of all the holy prophets since the world began. Luke 1:67 to 73 and Acts 3:19 to 22.

But when Paul preached among the Gentiles the riches of Christ he was preaching the unsearchable or untraceable riches of Christ; and he wrote to those Gentiles that they were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, and were already seated in Him and with Him in the upper-heavenlies; and with Him were one flesh. Ephesians 3:8—Ephesians 1:3—Ephesians 2:6 and 7—Ephesians 5:27 to 31. This grace was given them in Christ Jesus before the world began. II Timothy 1:9 This was Paul's final word as minister to the Gentiles. II Timothy 1:11 and 12.

Let us turn to Colossians and read several verses: "CHRIST IN WHOM ARE HID ALL THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE." Colossians 2:3.

"EVEN THE MYSTERY WHICH HATH BEEN HID FROM AGES AND FROM GENERATIONS, BUTTS NOW MADE MANIFEST TO HIS SAINTS . . . THE MYSTERY AMONG THE GENTILES, WHICH IS CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY." Colossians 1:26 and 27.

"FOR YE ARE DEAD, AND YOUR LIFE IS HID WITH CHRIST IN GOD. WHEN CHRIST WHO IS YOUR LIFE SHALL APPEAR, THEN SHALL YE ALSO APPEAR WITH HIM IN GLORY." Colossians 3:3 and 4.

If all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid in Christ and the believer is in Christ, who is his hiding-place, then the believer is where the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid.

And now that the mystery has been revealed by the risen Head of the Church, which is His Body, it should no longer be hid. If it be hid, it is not God's fault. Satan has much to do with the astounding ignorance of "Body" truth and with the mixture of Israel's kingdom truth with the revelation of Christ for the Gentiles by the pen of the Apostle to the Gentiles.

Concerning the mystery and the dispensation of grace and the untraceable riches of Christ, the risen Lord expressed His will and purpose in this language, "To make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world had been hid in God." Ephesians 3:9.

An unregenerated religious person cannot be made to see. But why is it that spiritual leaders even among zealous contenders of the faith will not see for themselves, or will endeavor to keep others from seeing, what the risen Lord wants them to see.

That which was hid in God from the beginning of the world has nothing to do with that which was spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began. That which was hid from other ages and generations but has now been made known unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit is God's truth for this age; and this truth which was made known after Christ was raised far above all principalities and powers, and seated in the upper heavenlies, is specifically for those who were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and who have obtained mercy because of Israel's unbelief. Romans 11:30. Ephesians 2:11 to 17. To mix this glorious "Body" truth with Israel's kingdom truth, or to confuse it with that which is in part, including signs and ceremonies, is not rightly dividing the Word of truth. Rather, such a mixture and confusion is to again hide the mystery in religion.

The Body of Christ is not Israel. Paul, who was an Israelite, after he turned to Christ did not suddenly abandon Jewish rites, signs and ceremonies; but with the full revelation of the Mystery they all passed out of his life and he pressed toward the mark for the prize of the calling on high; and for him to live was Christ, in whom he was full and with whom he was seated. Old things had passed away and that which was in part when that which was perfect had come; and he urged even the Hebrews to go with him on to perfection in doctrine. He no longer knew Christ after the flesh. But Paul knew and wrote that the fulness of the Gentiles would come in and God would then deal again with His nation Israel. Romans 11:25 and 26.

“ISRAEL IS NOT HID FROM ME”

According to the interpretations and theories of the Postmillennialists, who have misappropriated Israel’s covenants and promises, Israel, as a nation, is hid from God. But this erroneous conception is the result of confusing Israel with the Body of Christ. God’s word is, “Israel is not hid from Me.” Hosea 5:3. Whether or not the pearl of great price, mentioned in Matthew 13:46, is the Church—which is extremely doubtful in the light of Ephesians 3:5—or whatever may be the leaven hid in the meal, it does seem that the treasure in the field, mentioned in Matthew 13:44, is Israel. In Psalm 135:4 God declared that He had chosen Israel as His peculiar treasure. He so declared with the birth of that Nation. Exodus 19:5. “THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE UNTO TREASURE HID IN A FIELD; THE WHICH WHEN A MAN HATH FOUND, HE HIDETH, AND FOR JOY THEREOF GOETH AND SELLETH ALL THAT HE HATH, AND BUYETH THE FIELD.” Matthew 13:44.

The field is the world and when Israel’s Messiah shall return to claim His treasure, Israel, the kingdoms of the world are going to become the kingdoms of God and His Christ.

Concerning Israel’s present whereabouts and punishment, we have this Word from God: “Thy Maker is thy husband . . . For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I HID my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.” Isaiah 54:4 to 10. (Read the seven verses.)

“I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers . . . they are not HID from my face, neither is their iniquity HID from mine eyes.” Jeremiah 16:14 to 21. “Because they trespassed against Me, therefore HID I My face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies . . . But I have gathered them unto their own land, and left none of them any more there. Neither will I HIDE my face any more from them: for I have poured out My Spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord God.” Ezekiel 39:23, 28 and 29.

God’s day of vengeance, the day of His wrath, known as the Great Tribulation, the time of Jacob’s trouble, is approaching. Israel will be saved out of it. Jeremiah 30:7.

“And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.” Matthew 24:22. They are beloved for the Father’s sake. This concerning their election.

In Zephaniah 2:2 this coming time of trouble is called, “the day of the Lord’s anger.” In the next verse is God’s warning to Israel:

“SEEK YE THE LORD, ALL YE MEEK OF THE EARTH . . . IT MAY BE YE SHALL BE HID IN THE DAY OF THE LORD’S ANGER.”

Israel is blind today. They have added their greatest sin since Isaiah wrote to them, “your sins have hid His face from you.” Isaiah 59:2. “Thou hast hid thy face from us, because of our iniquity.” Isaiah 64:7.

During this day of Israel’s blindness, waiting for the times of the Gentiles to be fulfilled, the face of God is hid from them; but they are not hid from Him. Because the gifts and calling of God are without repentance, for the fathers’ sake, and because of His covenant with them, God will take away their sins and all Israel shall be saved. Romans 11:25 to 32. But in this day of grace the wrath of God is upon both unbelieving Jew and Gentile.

In the meantime Christendom is rapidly rushing on to Babylon and millions of professing Christians are described in Revelation 3:17 . . . “thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor and blind, and naked.” Alas! most of Christendom is nearly as blind as blind Israel.

The certain men who have crept in unawares, with their emasculate and perverted gospel, called “another gospel,” were foreordained to this condemnation. Jude 4 . . . II Corinthians 11:13 to 15. They are propagating their Christianized agnosticism in the name of Christ, as apostles of Christ, under the one who has transformed himself into an angel of light. As the result, millions are going religiously to perdition, and the age is rapidly drawing to a close, headed for the awful judgment of God.

Many today are like Agrippa, to whom Paul said, “for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him”; and again like him, because they will not accept the message of God which they believe to be true.

Satan is accused of the crime of deceiving the whole world. He corrupts minds from the simplicity that is in Christ, with another gospel, another spirit and another Jesus.

“BUT IF OUR GOSPEL BE HID, IT IS HID TO THEM THAT ARE LOST; IN WHOM THE GOD OF THIS AGE HATH BLINDED THE MINDS OF THEM WHICH BELIEVE NOT, LEST THE LIGHT OF THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF CHRIST, WHO IS THE IMAGE OF GOD, SHOULD SHINE UNTO THEM.” II Corinthians 4:3 and 4.

Are you one of the lost ones to whom this glorious gospel is hid? Satan does not want it to shine unto you.

Isaiah said, “I will wait upon the Lord, that hideth His face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for Him.” Isaiah 8:17. But let us remember that we are living in a different dispensation when the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, when salvation is as free as the air we breathe. “The free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” The gospel by which we are saved is “Christ died for our sins; He was buried and He was raised again the third day.” The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. It is a matter of believing the Word of God, to be saved from sin and the consequences of sin.

The child of God should say today with David of old, “Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” Psalm 119:11.

Then this last verse we leave with you for your own interpretation:

“Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall HIDE a multitude of sins.” James 5:20.