

SOME INTERESTING AND MOST IMPORTANT BIBLE QUESTIONS

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there not a radical difference between a program made known ‘SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN,’ and a program kept secret ‘SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN’? (Colossians 1:24 to 26).

What meaneth Romans 11:28: “As concerning the gospel, they (Israel) are enemies for your (the Gentiles’) sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ (Abraham’s . . . Isaac’s and Jacob’s) sake?” The right answers to questions 9 and 10 are altogether essential, if Christians are going to obey Ephesians 3:9, “make all see what is the dispensation of the mystery,” and to know why Paul healed (by the hand of the Lord) heathen at the end of the Acts period (28:8), and left a faithful saint sick as the end of his life drew near. (II Timothy 4:20).

SEVERAL OF THE ‘GRACE GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP’ CHURCHES13

QUESTION ONE

WHAT MEANETH THE STATEMENT OF HEBREWS 13:8; JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY, AND FOREVER?

Before the Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross He said, “Before Abraham was, I AM.” (John 8:58). Some years after Christ was raised from the dead He appeared to the apostle John, and said, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, Which is, and Which was, and Which is to come.” (Revelation 1:8). We are told in I Corinthians 2:8, that because the rulers of this world knew not they crucified the Lord of Glory. Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory, declared that He had glory with the Father before the world was. (John 17:5). The Holy Spirit directed the apostle Paul to write concerning the eternal, self-existent, omnipotent Christ; “He is before all things, and by Him all things consist” . . . “For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” (Colossians 1:17 and 2:9). The writer of Hebrews was directed to write that Christ is the express image of God’s Person and the effulgence of His glory. (Hebrews 1:3). Thomas was not mistaken when he thus addressed the Lord Jesus Christ, ‘My Lord and my God’. (John 20:28). In His essential, eternal Deity, Christ is ever the same.

What did John the Baptist mean when he sent his messengers to ask Christ this question: “Art Thou He that should come? or look we for another?” (Luke 7:19 and 20). Before we give the Bible answer let us note Christ’s answer to these messengers: “Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard, how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached . . . And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in Me.” (Luke 7:22 and 23). This was the fulfillment of Isaiah 35:4 to 6 and Isaiah 61:1: “Behold your God will come . . . He will come and save you . . . Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped: then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing.” “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach the gospel unto the meek: He hath sent Me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives.” Christ quoted Isaiah 61:1 and 2 in Israel’s synagogue on their Sabbath. (Luke 4:18 and 19). In Malachi 3:1 we read this prophecy: “The Lord, Whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple.” When Christ came He

said, "I came down from heaven." (John 6:38). "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." (I Timothy 1:15). Christ came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:28).

Before Christ came down from heaven to earth He was with God and He was God (John 1:1 to 4): He was in the form of God. (Philippians 2:5). God is a Spirit. (John 4:24). When Christ, in His resurrection body, was showing Himself after His death, He said to His disciples; "Handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as we see Me have." (Luke 24:39). Note the statement in John 1:14: "The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only Begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth." Then this statement in Hebrews 2:14; Christ took part of flesh and blood, that He might, through death, destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil. So after Christ had finished the work which his Father gave Him to do He knew that the time of His death was at hand (John 13:1). So He said, "For this cause came I unto this hour" . . . "Now is the judgment of this world" . . . If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto Me, signifying what death He should die." (John 12:27 to 33).

Hear these words of the only begotten Son of God, Who took upon Him the form of man, to be obedient unto the death of the cross (Philippians 2:5 to 8): "therefore, doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me: but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." (John 10:17 and 18). So Christ was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification. (Romans 4:25). "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God; being put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Spirit." (I Peter 3:18). Christ was made lower than the angels to die, when He died. (Hebrews 2:9 Acts 4:24 to 28).

By faith in the true Bible Christ and in His redemptive work, His eternal Deity, His once-for-all sacrifice on the cross, and His bodily resurrection, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we read in Ephesians 1:6 and 7, that God has made us accepted (GRACED US) in the Beloved (Christ); "In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." . . "Having forgiven you all trespasses." (Colossians 2:13).

There is no forgiveness, no salvation, no righteousness, no eternal life, no heaven for the worst or the best of the human race apart from God's infinite, abounding, grace and faith in the perfect work of the perfect Christ. These Divine blessings are for saved believers.

THE LAMB OF GOD . . . THE PRINCE OF PEACE . . . THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH, HIS BODY

Certainly the Lord Jesus Christ was born to die for the sins of the world. (Hebrews 2:9; Hebrews 9:26; I Peter 1:18 to 21).

Where is the Lord Jesus Christ now; and what is His relation to His redeemed people?' He is FAR ABOVE, Head over all things unto the Church Which is His Body. (Ephesians 1:19 to 23). Is the Lord Jesus now only a Spirit, or is He in a glorified body? His form is quite different from His form when He was in the form of God, before He came down from heaven; The Lord was made in the likeness of sinful flesh. (Romans 8:3). Christ does not now have a body of flesh and blood, as He had when He was here in the midst of Israel. During those years Christ was the minister of the circumcision. (Romans 15:8). But now in the Body of Christ (in Christ) there is neither circumcision nor uncircumcision. (Colossians 3:11).

Christ was born in Bethlehem, in fulfillment of Micah 5:2, “but thou, Bethlehem, out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be RULER IN ISRAEL, whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting.” This is confirmed in Matthew 2:6 . . . Christ was born to be GOVERNOR OF ISRAEL. In very plain language the apostle Paul was directed by the Lord to preach that Christ descended from David, to be ISRAEL’S SAVIOUR. . . (Acts 13:23). Peter was directed to proclaim the same truth. (Acts 5:30). John the Baptist was raised up for a ministry for Israel. (Acts 13:24 Luke 1:80 . . . Acts 19:4 . . . Luke 1:16 . . . Matthew 3:5). The father of John the Baptist, filled with the Holy Spirit, declared that Christ was born to be Israel’s Deliverer, to deliver Israel from sin and from Caesar; not primarily to take them to heaven but to establish them in Canaan in peace, without fear. This, in Acts 13:34, is called, ‘THE SURE MERCIES OF DAVID’. The sure mercies of David are guaranteed in Amos 9:11 to 15, Ezekiel, chapters 36 and 37, and Isaiah 9:6 and 7, with Israel permanently established in Canaan, in safety, righteousness and peace, and Christ, as Prince of Peace, on David’s throne. “The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this.” (Isaiah 9:7).

To confirm all of these promises, Jesus Christ, on earth, was a Minister of Israel; sent only to Israel. (Romans 15:8 . . . Matthew 15:24). Therefore, Christ very definitely limited the ministry of His twelve apostles to Israel. (Matthew 10:5 to 8 . . . Matthew 10:23 . . . and Matthew 15:23). Therefore, even several years after the death and resurrection of Christ it was not yet lawful for His apostles and disciples to go in the way of the Gentiles. (Acts 10:28 and 11:28). Read Matthew 10:23 and Matthew 19:28. Christ came unto His own world and nation. When it was apparent that His nation would not receive Him, He wept over them and said, “if thou hadst known the things that belong to your peace . . . but now they are hid from thine eyes . . . Thou knewest not the time of thy visitation” . . . “no peace on earth” . . . (Luke 12:49 to 52) “Jerusalem will remain under the feet of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles (which began when Babylon took over about 600 B.C.) be fulfilled” . . . God will send His army, burn up Jerusalem, kill the Israelites (Matthew 22:7) . . . In the time of great sorrow the Son of man will come back from heaven and redeem Israel. (Luke 19:41 to 44 . . . Luke 21:24 to 33 . . . Matthew 22:7).

There is no statement or intimation in Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, that the Lord of Glory was born to remain in heaven on His Father’s throne for a long period of time, or for a short period of time, to be Head of the Church, Which is His Body, the Filling-up of Him that filleth all in all. (Ephesians 1:19 to 22). Because of this unprophesied program, called God’s ‘eternal purpose’, purposed in Christ from before the overthrow of the world (Ephesians 1:11 . . . Ephesians 3:11 . . . Ephesians 1:4 and 5), which God is carrying on during the years that the unprophesied ‘kingdom’ prepared from the overthrow of the world (Matthew 25:31 to 34) is in abeyance, we are living in the times of the Gentiles spiritually (Roman 11:25), under the dispensation of the mystery. This dispensation and period of special favor for the nations during the period that the kingdom nation is set aside was not made known to other generations and ages, but was HID IN GOD. (Colossians 1:24 to 26) . . . (Ephesians 3:9). This truth is a part of the truth called ‘THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST’ (Ephesians 3:1 to 3 . . . Colossians 4:3 and 4). ‘The Riches of Christ Past - Tracing - Out.’ (Ephesians 3:8).

That Christ was to die on the TREE, was no mystery. (Acts 13:29 . . . Luke 24:21 to 26) . . . (Acts 3:18 . . . Acts 17:3 . . . Matthew 26:24 . . . John 3:14). It was prophesied. (I Corinthians 15:1 to 4). That Israel is to be in a period called the ‘TRIBULATION,’ was prophesied. (Jeremiah 30:4 to 12 . . . Matthew 24:21). That Israel is to be saved out of that great TRIBULATION is no secret. (Luke 21:27 to 33 . . . Romans 11:26 to 29). That Christ is to be on

the THRONE of David is no mystery. (Read Ezekiel, chapters 36 and 37 and Isaiah 9:6 and 7). “THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS SHALL PERFORM THIS.” (Isaiah 9:6 and 7). “Saith the Lord, Who doeth all these things . . . Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world.” (Acts 15:18 and 19).

When Israel, the builders, rejected the STONE, CHRIST, and He was nailed to the TREE, it was the Lord’s Doing, even the DAY THE LORD HATH MADE. (Psalm 118:21 to 24 and Matthew 21:42 . . . Acts 4:24 to 28 . . . I Peter 1:18 to 21 . . . Acts 3:18).

Thus we see that Prophecy covered ‘THE TREE’ . . . ‘THE TRIBULATION’ . . . ‘THE THRONE’. But not the ‘JOINT-BODY’ of Ephesians 3:6 . . . The ‘ONE NEW MAN’ of Ephesians 2:15.

Although God has temporarily suspended or interrupted His ‘kingdom’ program that will bring universal peace and righteousness to this earth with the Prince of Peace on David’s THRONE, He has not permanently abandoned that plan. “THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS SHALL PERFORM THIS.” (Isaiah 9:7).

As Christ changes His form and Its ministry we must do some dispensational Bible teaching when we say Jesus Christ is the SAME yesterday, and today, and forever.

QUESTION TWO

What did Christ mean when He said, if He did not go away, the Holy Spirit would not be sent? . . . The Holy Spirit was not yet; because Christ was not yet glorified?

The disciples of the Lord Jesus, who were saved at the time John the Baptist was baptizing, that Christ might be made manifest to Israel (John 1:31), at the time John was preaching baptism unto repentance, for the remission of sins (Luke 3:3), had to wait more than three years to receive the Holy Spirit; until after the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The resurrected Son of God said, (Acts 1:5) ; “John truly baptized with water: but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence.” There is no record that any of the disciples of Christ, who had received John’s baptism and were present when the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, were again baptized with water. But the 3000 new disciples of Acts 2:41 were told to repent and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and receive the Holy Spirit Whom John promised in Luke 3:16. Then the disciples, who were saved before Pentecost, and those saved on the day of Pentecost and in Acts 4:4, sold their houses and lots and gave the money to the apostles. There must be some reason why members of the Church today are not expected to practice this kingdom ‘communism.’ This suggests a dispensational change which took place before Paul wrote his First Epistle. (I Thessalonians).

The Church, in Ephesians 3:6, is called the ‘JOINT-BODY,’ saved Jews and saved Gentiles joined together, reconciled in ONE BODY by the cross (Ephesians 2:15 and 16), all joined to Christ (Romans 12:4 and 5 . . . I Corinthians 12:12 and 13). Faith cometh by hearing the gospel. (Romans 10:12 to 15): While Christ was on earth He instructed ‘His messengers, “go not into the way of the Gentiles.”’ (Matthew 10:5 to 8). So there was no ‘JOINT BODY’ while Christ was on earth, sent only to Israel, (Matthew 15:24). In I Corinthians 12:12 (in the Greek) the ‘JOINT-BODY’ is called ‘THE CHRIST’, Jews and Gentiles ‘baptized by ONE SPIRIT into ONE BODY’. If the Holy Spirit was not yet, until after the death and resurrection of Christ, then Jews and Gentiles were not baptized by ONE SPIRIT into ONE BODY during the years that Christ was Jesus of Nazareth in the midst of Israel. (Acts 2:22).

The Jews saved on the day of Pentecost did not have to wait for three years or more to receive the Holy Spirit. They received the Holy Spirit when they obeyed Acts 2:38. Today any sinner, Jew or Gentile, who receives Christ as Saviour and meets God at Calvary, immediately receives the Holy Spirit, all of the Holy Spirit, the anointing, the sealing, the baptism, by faith. (Galatians 3:14 . . . Ephesians 1:13 and 14 . . . II Corinthians 1:21 and 22). ‘After that, ye believed’ in Ephesians 1:13 and 14 and ‘since ye believed’ in Acts 19:1 to 3 are both, in the Greek ‘PISTEUSANTES’ (BELIEVING).

QUESTION THREE

What is the meaning of Galatians 3:19, ‘the LAW was added TILL?’

This question is answered in this third chapter of Galatians, and by comparing Genesis 15:6 to 8, Exodus 12:41 and Jeremiah 31:32. After we have studied these Scriptures we will learn that Galatians 3:19 means that, the LAW CONTRACT entered into between Jehovah and Israel at Sinai, was ADDED to the COVENANT OF PROMISE which God gave to Abraham 430 years before Moses received the two tables of stone, ‘WRITTEN WITH THE FINGER OF GOD’ (Exodus 31:18). In Romans 5:20 we learn that the LAW (that was given by Moses . . . John 1:17) entered, that the sin that entered by Adam might abound. The LAW received at Sinai entered about 2500 years after sin entered in the garden of Eden. (Romans 5:12 to 14). From the day Adam left the garden of Eden until Moses was eighty years old (Exodus 7:7) the people on this earth, including the families of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, were not regulated by the ten commandments. Read Romans 5:13 and 14. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Jacob’s twelve sons were not commanded to keep the seventh-day sabbath. The meats and drinks, divers baptisms, and carnal ordinances of Hebrews 9:10 were not imposed on them. They practiced no water ceremonies. Water baptisms began at Sinai, and not with John the Baptist. Those fathers were not UNDER THE LAW. And as the LAW became the ‘OLD TESTAMENT’ by the death of Christ on the cross (Romans 10:4 . . . Hebrew 8:13 . . . Colossians 2:14), Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Levi, Joseph, Ephraim and others were not OLD TESTAMENT characters. All of them lived and died before the LAW WAS ADDED.

The LAW was added 430 years after Abraham believed God and God declared Abram (in uncircumcision . . . Romans 4:7 to 11) righteous. (Genesis 15:6 to 8). When God declared Abram, in uncircumcision, righteous, 430 years before the seventh-day sabbath and the other nine commandments were given (Galatians 3:16 and 17 . . . Exodus 12:41), God then and there preached the gospel to Abram. The Scriptures foresaw that a host of uncircumcised heathen would be justified by faith, by the gospel of the uncircumcision, which the risen Christ committed to the apostle Paul, by revelation. (Galatians 3:6 to 8 . . . Galatians 1:11 and 12 . . . 2:7). Thus we learn in the third chapter of Galatians, that the OLD TESTAMENT was ADDED to the gospel which God preached to Abram (430 years after He preached that gospel) which was 1500 years before Christ was MADE UNDER THE LAW to redeem them that were UNDER THE LAW. (Galatians 4:4). So about 1500 B.C. Israel was conscious of a great change, as they passed from NOT UNDER THE LAW to UNDER THE LAW. At Sinai they received a yoke, a yoke of bondage, which they were never able to bear or endure. (Acts 15:10 . . . Galatians 5:1 Hebrews 12:20 . . . Jeremiah 31:24 . . . Psalm 119:126). That LAW was given to Israel to be their tyrannical child-trainer to lead them to Christ and Calvary to receive by faith in Christ and His redemptive work the righteousness demanded at Sinai. (Romans 8:2 to 4 . . . Romans 10:4 . . .

Romans 3:21 to 28 . . . Galatians 3:24 . . . Galatians 3:21 and 22). Then God's people were no longer UNDER THE LAW. (Galatians 3:25 and Romans 6:14). The LAW WAS ADDED TILL. Till God, by Christ, accomplished for the believing sinner the blessings of Romans 3:24 to 28. By the death and resurrection of the eternal, sinless, God-Man, the Lord of Glory, God established a new law . . . 'THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS,' which does for the believing sinner what the LAW given at Sinai could not.

We should do considerable explaining when we call the Book of Genesis, 'THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES,' as the LAW TESTAMENT was given in the twentieth chapter of Exodus . . . something entirely NEW, not OLD. It became OLD centuries later. (Hebrews 8:13 . . . Colossians 2:14).

QUESTION FOUR

"What did Christ mean when He said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel?" (Matthew 15:24). Many Christians have been more than confused trying to reconcile John 3:16 with Matthew 15:24, that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that WHOSOEVER believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life, and Christ's own words, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." They think they see here contradiction and they prefer to accept John 3:16 rather than Matthew 15:24. Some have explained the seeming contradiction by saying that the Holy Spirit led John to write John 3:16 years after Paul had said, in Romans 10:12, there is no difference between Israel and the rest of the nations concerning God's offer of salvation: "for whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13).

Several years after the death of Christ Peter declared that it was not lawful for the Lord's messengers to go to Gentiles. (Acts 10:28). Many have thought that the great commissions of Matthew 28:19 and 20 and Mark 16:14 to 16 made it lawful. But the Lord gave the apostle Peter the 'sheet' vision and sent him to the household of Cornelius (Acts 10:9 to 18). Then by a vision He sent Paul. (Acts 22:21). Cornelius was a Gentile different from the general run of heathen to whom Paul was sent. Cornelius was a devout man, and one that feared God, prayed always, and gave alms to God's people. (Acts 10:2 and Acts 10:22). Cornelius feared God and worked righteousness. (Acts 10:35). To Cornelius, Peter preached Christ, saying, "To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His Name whosoever believeth shall receive remission of sins." Remember this was several years after Pentecost, on which day Peter was instructed to preach a "whosoever" message to Jews gathered at Jerusalem, and "to all who are afar off." (Acts 2:39). The words 'far-off' are found several times in the Bible, having two meanings, 'far-off from God' (Ephesians 2:13 . . . Ephesians 2:17). and 'far-off from Jerusalem'. (Daniel 9:7). Paul was sent by Christ to the Gentiles 'far off from God', and 'far off from Jerusalem'. (Acts 22:17 to 21 . . . Romans 15:16 to 21).

Both Peter and Paul, as well as the Holy Spirit by Zacharias, said in plain language that Christ was born to be Israel's Saviour. (Acts 13:23 . . . Acts 5:30 and Luke 1:67 to 72). Christ was born 'King of the Jews' (Matthew 2:2 . . . John 1:49) and He died 'King of the Jews'. (Luke 23:38 and Luke 23:3). Christ was born to deliver Israel from sin, from the law, and from Caesar. (Luke 1:67 to 77). (Galatians 4:4). He was raised from the dead to be Israel's Saviour and Prince, and to give to Israel 'the sure mercies of David'. (Acts 5:31 and Acts 13:34). Christ was born to take David's throne and to reign over the house of Israel for ever. (Luke 1:27 to 33). He was

raised from the dead for the same purpose. (Acts 2:27 to 33). He will come to earth again, for the same purpose.

Christ said, when He was Jesus of Nazareth in the land of the Jews, “it is not right to take Israel’s bread and give it to Gentiles.” (Mark 7:27). He specifically instructed His messengers, “go not into the way of the Gentiles.” (Matthew 10:5 to 8). Christ was Minister of the Jews with a ‘confirmation’ ministry; that is, fulfilling prophecy. (Romans 15:8 and Acts 13:29 and Matthew 5:17 and 18). Christ came to seek and save the sons of Abraham. (Luke 19:8 to 12 . . . Hebrews 2:16 and 17 . . . Galatians 4:4). There is no record that He sought Gentiles. He must needs go to Samaria. More than 12 years after Christ died He directed the apostle Paul to say to the Jews, “It was necessary that the Word of God should FIRST have been spoken unto you. But seeing ye put it from you and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, ‘LO, WE TURN TO THE GENTILES’.” (Acts 13:46). And later the truth of Romans 11:30, Romans 11:11 and Romans 11:15 was made known; that the Gentiles obtained Divine mercy, when and because of Israel’s unbelief; when and because of Israel’s FALL; when and because Israel was cast away. Then followed the mystery of Romans 11:25, that a blindness in part happened to Israel UNTIL THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES BE COME IN. Then what? Israel shall be saved.” (Romans 11:26 to 29). After the Church is raptured Christ will come in the clouds and to the earth as the Son of man.

QUESTIONS FIVE AND SIX.

In Matthew 8:5 to 13 and Luke 7:1 to 10 we read of the Roman Gentile, in the land of the Jews, to whom the Lord Jesus ministered by healing his loved one, while Christ was sent only to Israel. That man was very, very, humble, of ‘GREAT FAITH’, loved the Jews, built them a synagogue and reached Christ through the elders of Israel. At the time this healing took place Christ said, “THE CHILDREN WOULD BE CAST INTO DARKNESS.” (Matthew 8:12).

In Matthew 15:21 to 28 and Mark 7:24 to 30 we have the account of the GREEK GENTILE woman, outside the land of the Jews, who received the Lord’s ministry for her loved one. This woman was very, very, humble and of GREAT FAITH. She took her place as a little dog under the table. To her, the Lord Jesus uttered the all-important truth, “LET THE CHILDREN FIRST BE FILLED.” (Mark 7:27).

In the Gospel of John there is no record, in detail, that Christ ministered to any Gentiles, even to the two special cases we have mentioned. As we approach the Book of Acts and intelligently study the outline of that Book, we learn that in the first part the CHILDREN (Acts 3:24 to 26) were FIRST being filled (Acts 13:46); and in the latter part the CHILDREN (The Jews) were being CAST OUT INTO DARKNESS. Thus we see the DISPENSATIONAL suggestions in the ROMAN man in the land of the Jews and the GREEK woman outside the land of the Jews. Read Matthew 15:23. Why did the apostles say, ‘send her away’? Because of Matthew 10:5.

QUESTIONS SEVEN AND EIGHT

The WITNESS of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 5:32). In studying the Scriptures and obeying II Timothy 2:15, Christians are to recognize the principle of 'PROGRESSIVE REVELATION', knowing that God revealed Divine truth on the installment plan. (Matthew 13:17) . . . Hebrews 1:1 and 2 . . . Luke 18:31 to 35 . . . John 20:9 . . . Acts 26:16 . . . Colossians 1:24 to 26 . . . Ephesians 2:19). God told some believing Israelites to tarry at Jerusalem for the descent of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 24:49 . . . Acts 1:5). After the FALL of Israel Paul preached a 'grace' message quite different from Peter's 'Acts 2:38 message. Note Titus 3:5 to 8 . . . "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to God's mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord." Not physical washing here; but an inside washing that made the believing sinner a new creation.

Before the FALL of Israel Saul was told to arise and be baptized and wash away his sins. (Acts 22:16). Peter preached, "repent and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38). There is as much difference between Acts 2:38, BEFORE THE FALL OF ISRAEL', and Titus 3:5 and 6, 'AFTER THE FALL OF ISRAEL', as there is between LAW and GRACE. It is because Evangelical Christians have fixed the time of Israel's FALL before Christ gave the commissions of Matthew 28:19 and 20 and Mark 16:14 to 18, that they have been so utterly confused that they have altered and abridged Mark 16:14 to 18 to read exactly what it does not say, "he that believeth and is saved should be baptized as a witness or to get into some local church organization, but do not worry about the signs of Mark 16:17 and 18." Many of them have accused the twelve apostles, during the first nine chapters of Acts, of being disobedient and prejudiced, out of the will of God in not obeying Matthew 28:19 and 20, "disciple ALL NATIONS." Others insist, if salvation is by grace (Ephesians 2:8 . . . Romans 3:24), Christ didn't intend that His servants should find water in Mark 16:16 or in Acts 2:38.

This utter confusion is because they have not understood Matthew 12:40 . . . Luke 23:34 . . . Acts 3:18 to 21 . . . Matthew 12:31 to 33, studied with Acts 7:51 and I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16; and this means that they fix the date of Israel's FALL that sent the 'grace' message and program to the nations (Romans 11:11) years before it actually took place.

Whether Christians say that it was the apostles' stupidity and prejudice or God's restraining hand that kept the apostles from preaching the 'grace' gospel to the Gentiles for several years after Pentecost, grace preachers agree it was not preached to them. Therefore believing Gentiles were not baptized by ONE SPIRIT into ONE BODY (I Corinthians 12:13), to place them in the 'JOINT-BODY' (not 'same' Body) of Ephesians 3:6. If for this 'grace' program Peter laid the foundation when he was using the keys of the kingdom and preaching the gospel of the circumcision (Acts 3:19 to 26), then Paul was deluded or presumptuous when he said, "I have laid the foundation." (I Corinthians 3:10). Read that verse in the Greek and note the word 'SUNOIKODOMEIO' (build the house together). Christians are to build together with the chief builder. Then read Peter's words in II Peter 3:15 and 16. And you may say, 'Amen, brother Peter'.

Now let us without prejudice read and believe and understand Acts 5:31 and 32; the first WITNESS of the Holy Spirit; not the witness that Gentile believers were the children of God, in the Body of Christ (Romans 8:13 to 17 and 12:4 and 5). The Holy Spirit first witnessed the raising of Christ from the dead to be ISRAEL'S 'PRINCE AND SAVIOUR: to give to Israel 'THE SURE MERCIES OF DAVID' (Acts 13:34); to give to Christ the throne of David. All of this is in connection with the TABERNACLE OF DAVID (Acts 15:13 to 18), not with the un-

prophesied BODY of Christ, Which is the Filling-Up of Christ. (Ephesians 1:19 to 23). Compare Mark 16:14 with Romans 11:15 and Colossians 1:5 and 6 and Colossians 1:23.

Why did Christ say that the sin against the Son of man would be pardonable; but not the sin against the Holy Spirit? (Matthew 12:31 to 33). Why did Christ pray on the cross for His murderers, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34), then had Peter say, in Acts 3:17 that their great crime was due to ignorance, when Christ had said, in Matthew 22:7, that He would send His army and destroy His murderers? Christ Himself declared that His death at the hands of His own nation was ‘THE LORD’S DOING’ (Matthew 21:42 . . . Psalm 118:21 to 24 . . . Acts 2:23 . . . Acts 4:24 to 28). Christ said, ‘The Son of man MUST BE LIFTED UP’. (John 3:14). Christ had to die. He had to be buried and be raised from the dead, to provide the saving gospel for sinners. (I Corinthians 15:1 to 4). When Christ told this to His inner circle of friends, they did not understand it: (Luke 18:31 to 35). Thomas was a doubter. He believed not; just like the other apostles when told that Christ had been raised from the dead. (Luke 23:11):

Israel rejected the credentials of the Messiah, His miracles. They repudiated His Divine claims. (John 12:37 to 41). He gave them a final sign; Jonah was in the fish, so “the Son of man will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.” (Matthew 12:40). Christ had to be rejected, crucified, buried and raised the third day. (Luke 24:46 . . . Acts 26:22 and 23 . . . Acts 17:3). Until this had been accomplished Israel could not have committed the unpardonable sin, by resisting and blaspheming the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51 . . . Acts 13:45), which meant refusing ‘THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT’ of Acts 5:32. Stephen accepted that WITNESS. He was filled with the Holy Spirit, when He saw the SON OF MAN STANDING IN HEAVEN. (Acts 7:54 to 60). Israel resisted the Holy Spirit; rejected Stephen’s message; stoned him to death. Dying Stephen prayed that God would forgive them. (Acts 7:60). Israel continued to resist and blaspheme the Holy Spirit. Then they forbade the apostles to preach to Gentiles. The wrath of God to the uttermost came upon them. (I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16 . . . Romans 11:7 to 11).

In Acts 5:30 to 32, we learn that Christ was raised up, in incarnation, from Mary’s womb, to be Israel’s Saviour; and that He was likewise raised up in resurrection, from Joseph’s tomb, to be Israel’s Prince and Saviour. We learn also that the first mission of the Holy Spirit was to be GOD’S WITNESS of this fact; the fact that God had made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:36).

How stupid, in the light of John 12:37 to 41, Matthew 12:31 to 33, Matthew 12:40, Luke 23:34 and Acts 5:32, to teach that the Fall of Israel occurred before Paul was converted, that ‘THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY’ (Ephesians 3:9) began on the day of Pentecost. Until and unless we understand the great dispensational crisis of Romans Eleven; and know that every event and doctrine in the Bible must be studied, interpreted, appropriated and applied as to whether it is recorded ‘BEFORE THE FALL OF ISRAEL’ (Romans 11:11) or ‘AFTER THE FALL OF ISRAEL’, we will be a workmen, not rightly dividing the Word of Truth, and therefore, ashamed. (II Timothy 2:15).

QUESTIONS NINE AND TEN.

When the risen Lord directed Paul to write that the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the MYSTERY was kept secret SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN, surely He

meant what He said. (Romans 16:25). In Colossians 4:3 and 4 we are told by Paul that he was in the Roman jail, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for the Gentiles (Ephesians 3:1 and 4:1), for 'THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST'. In Ephesians 6:19 and 20 he called this deposit (II Timothy 1:12), 'THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL'. In II Timothy 2:8 to 10 Paul has told us that for his distinctive message he suffered as a criminal in chains. In Ephesians 3:9 Paul calls his deposit, the dispensation committed unto him (I Corinthians 9:16 to 18), 'THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY'; in Ephesians 1:9, 'THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S WILL'. If this MYSTERY was kept secret SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN, (Romans 16:25), if it was 'HID IN GOD' from the beginning of the world (Ephesians 3:9), if it was hid from other ages and generations (Colossians 1:24 to 26), until revealed to and through Paul, no faithful, intelligent steward of the mysteries of God will teach or believe that the 'AS' of Ephesians 3:5 implies comparative revelation. 'UNSEARCHABLE' in Ephesians 3:8 is proof that the MYSTERY concerning God's ETERNAL PURPOSE, which was predestinated, but not prophesied (Ephesians 1:11 . . . Ephesians 1:4 and 5), was not made known by or to Israel's prophets. It was not made known to any of the twelve apostles until after it had been made known by special revelation to Paul by the risen, glorified Christ.

The prophets knew and foretold the gospel of I Corinthians 15:1 to 4, the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (Acts 13:29 and 30). Those prophets knew of the CHURCH of Hebrews 2:12; for they prophesied it. (Psalm 22:22). The prophets foretold the ministry of Peter and the Eleven, recorded in the first eleven chapters of Acts. (Acts 2:30 . . . Acts 3:21 and 24 . . . Acts 10:43 . . . Acts 15:13 to 18). And as we said, Israel's Old Testament prophets and Christ Himself foretold that Christ will occupy David's throne and Israel will be planted in Canaan and the tabernacle of David will be built again. So the fulfillment of Isaiah 62:1 to 4 is not a MYSTERY. (Amos 9:11 to 15 . . . Acts 15:13 to 18 . . . Isaiah 9:6 and 7).

The first MYSTERY which the Christian must know, if he is to understand 'THE PREACHING OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY (Romans 16:25), is the MYSTERY of Romans 11:25, and he must understand Romans 11:28. We quote these two verses: "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this MYSTERY, lest ye should wise in your own conceits, that blindness is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles come in . . . As concerning the gospel, they (Israel) are enemies for your sakes (for the Gentiles' sakes.)" Why: does the Holy Spirit say, "lest ye should be wise in your own conceits?" He might have added "and take heed lest ye be blinded and hindered by your sectarian prejudice." What a simple, but important, truth is here revealed. The blindness of Romans 11:7 to 11, which God Himself sent upon Israel, 'the rest who were blinded' (Romans 11:7), is some day to be removed. That some day will be when this present age and special dispensation of grace for Gentiles has run its course, and the members of the Body of Christ have been taken to heaven. Then the clock of prophecy will begin again to tick. Israel will be saved. For they will be beloved for fathers' sakes. (Romans 11:26 to 29).

Any person, who will study Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and the Book of Acts, and see how Israel's attitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel of grace is summed up in I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16, will be convinced that Israel was the enemy of Christ while He was in their midst as their own promised Divine Messiah. That person will also learn that God, in His great mercy and love, was willing to charge Israel's sin of killing His Son to ignorance and give them full pardon and send His Son back to them. (Luke 23:34 . . . Acts 3:17 to 26). Let us understand that the resurrection of Christ is the all-important part of the gospel. (I Corinthians 15:1 to 4). So Romans 11:28 was after Christ was raised from the dead. Years after Christ was

raised from the dead Paul preached to Israel, that by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His redemptive work, ‘without Moses and the law, they could be justified from all things (Acts 13:38 and 39). Paul said to Israel, “this offer is to you FIRST.” (Acts 13:46). Some Israelites believed the message of justification by grace, through faith. They are called ‘the remnant according to the election of grace’. (Romans 11:5). The rest stumbled at the ‘justification by grace’ message (Romans 9:29 to 33). They were blinded by God, cast away and diminished. (Romans 11:8 to 11 and Romans 11:15).

When and because of Israel’s FALL, salvation was sent to the Gentiles. Salvation was sent to the Gentiles centuries before Israel’s FALL of Romans 11:11. (Esther 8:17 . . . Jonah 3:2). Gentiles, in subjection to Israel, became ‘proselytes’. (Acts 2:10). They had limited privileges. But the salvation and dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles mentioned by Paul in Romans 11:11 and Ephesians 3:1 to 8 and Ephesians 2:13 to 21 was a message and program new and quite different. Israel wanted to murder Paul when he told them that Christ appeared to him and told him to go to the Gentiles. (Acts 22:17 to 21 and 22 and Acts 23:12). The Lord in heaven revealed to Paul ‘the gospel of the uncircumcision’ . . . (Galatians 2:7 and Galatians 1:11 and 12). The risen Lord committed to Paul ‘the ministry of reconciliation’ (II Corinthians 5:18 to 21), when and because Israel was cast away. (Romans 11:15). Then the Gentiles obtained Divine mercy through Israel’s unbelief. (Romans 11:30). Through Israel’s FALL the believing Gentiles became rich. (Romans 11:12). All of this meant much more than becoming proselytes, or taking the place of the dogs under the table. (Mark 7:26 to 29). When the FALL of Israel took place and they no longer had priority or special privileges, they had to come to God, through Christ, as the children of Adam, as did the Gentiles. Romans 10:12 . . . Ephesians 2:16.

Therefore, we should understand the statement that the blinded Jews were enemies of the gospel for the Gentiles’ sakes. (Romans 11:28). When Christ returns in the clouds with power and great glory for Israel’s redemption (Luke 21:27 to 33 and Romans 11:26), they will be beloved for the fathers’ sakes; for Abraham’s sake, Isaac’s sake and Jacob’s sake. This will also be because of God’s covenant and oath; and because His gifts and calling are without repentance. (Romans 11:26 to 29).

Because Old Testament prophecy did not contemplate this period of special favor for the nations and the making of ‘THE ONE NEW MAN’ of Ephesians 2:15, but rather the making of ‘THE NEW ISRAEL’ of Isaiah 62:1 to 4, this suspension or interruption of God’s kingdom prophecies, during which period Israel is indeed LOAMMI (not My people), but the cast-away nation in blindness, ‘UNTIL THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES BE COME IN’ (Romans 11:25), the interruption or postponement and the ‘grace’ salvation of Gentiles is called a ‘MYSTERY’ in Romans 11:25 and Ephesians 3:1 to 3.

This caused Paul to cry out “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways ‘past tracing out’.” (Romans 11:33). The Greek word in Romans 11:33, translated ‘past-tracing-out’, is translated ‘unsearchable’ in Ephesians 3:8.

Truth past-tracing-out was the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery, ‘KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN’. . . (Romans 16:25 . . . Colossians 1:24 to 26 . . . Ephesians 3:9) . . . ‘THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST’ (Ephesians 3:8).

Inasmuch as ‘THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY’ (Ephesians 3:9), ‘THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD’ (Ephesians 3:1 to 3), ‘THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL’ (Ephesians 6:19 and 20), was not made known to or by the twelve apostles until after

the risen Lord revealed this truth to the apostle Paul, the 'MYSTERY GRACE' dispensation did not begin before Saul was converted and was sent forth by the Lord. This means of course that the CHURCH which Saul persecuted was not 'THE CHURCH OF THE MYSTERY', 'THE JOINT-BODY' of Ephesians Saul persecuted Christian Jews. Note why Paul suffered in chains as an evil doer (II Timothy 2:8), the message for which Paul was an ambassador in bonds. Ephesians 6:19 and 20. (Colossians 4:3 and 4). We do not find in the Bible that Peter or any of his fellow-apostles was in jail for 'THE MYSTERY'.

Surely Christ's ministers should be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God. (I Corinthians 4:1 to 4). Such faithful stewards should know the difference between the prophesied kingdom of God, prepared from the overthrow of the world, with Christ on the throne of His glory here on earth (Matthew 25:31 to 34), and the unprophesied 'ETERNAL PURPOSE' of God concerning the predestinated BODY OF CHRIST ('THE CHRIST' of I Corinthians 12:12), Which Christ is to present to Himself as a glorious, holy, spotless Church, without blemish, (Ephesians 5:25 to 32). This Church was indeed chosen in Christ, before the overthrow of the world (Ephesians 1:4 and 5 and Ephesians 1:11) to be such a holy, spotless Church.

Likewise the faithful steward of the mysteries of God should readily see the great difference between 'THE PROPHESED RESTITUTION', which Peter preached, and 'THE UNPROPHESED MYSTERY' which Paul preached. (Acts 3:21 and Romans 16:25). Read the comparison, and see the difference. "The RESTITUTION of all things, which God HATH SPOKEN by the mouth of all His holy prophets 'SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN'." (Acts 3:21). "All the prophets have likewise foretold of 'THESE DAYS'." Now note in Romans 16:25, that not one of these prophets foretold 'THESE DAYS' of grace in which we today live: "Now to Him that is of the 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'." Hid from ages and generations" . . . (Colossians 1:24 to 26) . . . HID IN GOD." Ephesians 3:9). Until the MYSTERY of Romans 11:25 and 28, and the truth of Romans 16:25, he will not, and cannot, obey Ephesians 3:9, making others to see 'THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY.'

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Our next Bible Conference - at which we will consider the questions we have presented in this Message - will be held at the Downtown Central Y.M.C.A. of Chicago, LaSalle and Monroe- Monday Evening, February 25th, 1952. Cafeteria supper at 6:15. You are invited.