

# THE UNSPARING GOD OF ALL GRACE

## THE PROPHESED KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE UNPROPHESED BODY OF CHRIST

### THE UNSPARING GOD OF ALL GRACE.

“BUT THE GOD OF ALL GRACE, WHO HATH CALLED US UNTO HIS ETERNAL GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS, AFTER YE HAVE SUFFERED A WHILE MAKE YOU PERFECT, STABLISH, STRENGTHEN, SETTLE YOU.” (I Peter 5:10).

“AND GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUND TOWARD YOU, THAT YE, ALWAYS HAVING ALL SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS, MAY ABOUND TO EVERY GOOD WORK.” (II Corinthians 9:8).

“HE THAT ‘SPARED NOT’ HIS OWN SON, BUT DELIVERED HIM UP FOR US ALL, HOW SHALL HE NOT ALSO WITH HIM FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS?” (Romans 8:32).

“FOR IF GOD ‘SPARED NOT’ THE ANGELS THAT SINNED, BUT CAST THEM DOWN TO HELL, AND DELIVERED THEM INTO CHAINS OF DARKNESS, TO BE RESERVED UNTO JUDGMENT . . . AND ‘SPARED NOT’ THE OLD WORLD, BUT SAVED NOAH, THE EIGHTH PERSON, A PREACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, BRINGING IN THE FLOOD UPON THE WORLD OF THE UNGODLY, AND TURNING THE CITIES OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH INTO ASHES, CONDEMNED THEM WITH AN OVERTHROW, MAKING THEM AN ENSAMPLE UNTO THOSE THAT AFTER SHOULD LIVE UNGODLY . . . THE LORD KNOWETH HOW TO DELIVER THE GODLY OUT OF TEMPTATION, AND RESERVE THE UNJUST UNTO THE DAY OF JUDGMENT TO BE PUNISHED.” (II Peter 2:4 to 9) .

“AND I (THE LORD) WILL DASH THEM ONE AGAINST ANOTHER, EVEN THE FATHERS AND THE SONS TOGETHER, SAITH THE LORD: I WILL NOT PITY NOR ‘SPARE’, NOR HAVE MERCY, BUT DESTROY THEM.” (Jeremiah 13:14).

“FOR IF GOD ‘SPARED NOT’ THE NATURAL BRANCHES (ISRAEL) , TAKE HEED LEST HE ALSO ‘SPARE NOT’ THEE (GENTILES). (Romans 11:21).

### THE UNSPARING GOD OF ALL GRACE

Perhaps you have noticed the new sign which is appearing in many places; ‘STOP’ . . . ‘LOOK’ . . . ‘LIVE’. The same warning, in somewhat different language, is being repeatedly given over the radio, with the statement added, “the life you save may be your own.” People who do not heed these warnings are very foolish. But even the people who do stop and look and escape death by accident are not sure just how long they will live here on earth. Unless and until some extraordinary event takes place to put an end to this awful, terrible epidemic of death,

sooner or later each one of us will have to say with David, "I go the way of all the earth." I believe it was Mark Twain who said, "the bed is a dangerous spot; for more people die in bed than in any other place."

When people die we often hear the statement, "the end has come." Is this true? Several thousand years ago a man asked this question, "if a man die, shall he live again?" Since that time more than fifteen billion people have died. Will they live again? Will you live again? So far as the life after death is concerned, it cannot be said, "the life you save may be your own." We are told in Galatians 2:21 that if a man could save himself by his own efforts or religious deeds, then Christ, the Saviour, died for nought. This Saviour said, "if ye believe not that I AM, ye shall die in your sins." (John 8:24). This Saviour said that those who believe will not come to after-death judgment. (John 5:24). Concerning unbelievers, God's Word is plain; "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27). Those who say that the sinner receives full and final punishment for his sins and unbelief here on this earth, before death, do greatly err, not believing God's Word.

"Every one of us shall give an account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12). This is in the Divine Record. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (I John 5:11 and 12). At the time Christ raised Lazarus from the dead He said, "he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25). "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3:36).

In Isaiah 45:22 we find recorded these words of the GREAT GOD; "look unto Me, and be ye saved." Several centuries later GOD sent His servant to point to the Lord Jesus Christ, and say, "behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). In I Peter 5:10 God is called 'THE GOD OF ALL GRACE'. In I John 4:8 we read, "GOD IS LOVE." "Herein is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (I John 4:10). "God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8).

## GOD IS LOVE THE UNSPARING GOD OF ALL GRACE 'SPARED NOT' HIS OWN SON

The eternal, omnipotent, self-existent Lord of Glory on Calvary's cross is proof that 'GOD IS LOVE'. The sinless Son of God, Who was obedient unto the death of the cross (Philippians 2:5 to 8), was made lower than the angels, for the suffering of death, that He might, by 'THE GRACE OF GOD', taste death for every man. (Hebrews 2:9). Thus we see the meaning of the little word 'SO' in John 3:16; that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son; that He 'SPARED NOT' His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all. (Romans 8:32). With Christ believers are promised 'all things'.

Because the rulers of this world knew not, they crucified the Lord of glory (I Corinthians 2:8); they killed 'the Prince of Life' (Acts 3:14 and 15). But Christ was delivered according to the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God when wicked men killed Him. (Acts 2:23 . . . Acts 4:24 to 28). Then in Acts 4:12 we read; "neither is there salvation in any other." God offers

one and only one remedy for sin, the precious shed blood of His well-beloved and only begotten Son.

God's sinless Son was made sin on the cross of Calvary, when He cried My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me, and then yielded up the ghost. When Christ on the cross cried 'FINISHED' He gave Himself a ransom for all. (I Timothy 2:4 to 7). On the cross the Lord Jesus made peace, that believers might be reconciled in 'ONE BODY.' (Colossians 1:20 and 21 . . . Ephesians 2:15 and 16). Righteousness is a requirement for entrance into heaven. That Divine righteousness is found in Christ at Calvary. "To him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly his faith is counted for righteousness." (Romans 4:5 . . . II Corinthians 5:21).

### CONSIDER CHRIST . . . GETHSEMANE AND CALVARY

In Hebrews 3:1 sinners and saints are told to 'consider' Christ. In Hebrews 12:3 they are told to 'consider' Gethsemane and Calvary, the precious shed blood of the Creator of the universe, the Author and Finisher of our faith. God does want you to 'STOP' . . . 'LOOK' . . . 'LIVE.'

You can afford to forget every other problem, every other phase of this life, until you 'STOP' and 'CONSIDER' Christ and Calvary. Why did the Creator of the heavens and earth die between malefactors on the cross? Why did He wear the crown of thorns? Why did His Father forsake Him? We are told in the closing verses of the fourth chapter of Romans, that Christ was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification. We are told in Romans 3:24 to 28, that this was necessary that God might be both just and merciful. We are told in Hebrews 9:12, that Christ by His own blood entered 'once' into heaven, having obtained eternal redemption for us. Let us accept at full face value the words of Christ in John 10:17 and 18, "Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life. I have power to lay it down: I have power to take it up."

Eternal life is God's free gift to believing sinners. (Romans 6:23). God will have all men to be saved. (I Timothy 2:4 to 7). Faith cometh by hearing the Word of God. So 'STOP' . . . 'LOOK' . . . 'LISTEN' . . . 'BELIEVE' . . . 'LIVE.' You may stop, look and listen, but if you do not believe, if you do not personally receive Christ by faith, you will die in your sins. (John 8:24).

### WHY BELIEVING GENTILES MAY BE RICH

In II Corinthians 8:9 we are reminded of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was RICH, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich. Not only did Christ become poor that we might be RICH; but on the cross the Lord of glory was made sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. (II Corinthians 5:21). Christ made peace through the blood of His cross, that sinners might be reconciled to God through Him. (Colossians 1:20 and 21 and Ephesians 2:16). So we read in Romans 5:10, that believing sinners are reconciled to God by the death of His Son; "by Whom we have received the 'reconciliation'." (Romans 5:11). Then in I John 2:2 we learn that Christ on the cross became the

propitiation for the sins of the whole world. So God has been merciful to all the human race, in that He offers mercy and pardon and peace to believing sinners through the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son.

But now let us carefully read Romans 11:12, Romans 11:15 and Romans 11:30; “now if the fall of Israel be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the ‘RICHES’ of the Gentiles, how much more their fullness?” . . . “for if the casting away of Israel be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?” . . . “for as ye (Gentiles) in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their (Israel’s) unbelief.”

From the Scriptures we have quoted it is obvious that it takes no profound Bible scholar or student to see the truth, that believing Gentiles were offered spiritual ‘RICHES’ for three reasons. Because the rich Christ became poor, and because Christ died on the cross and because God cast away Israel. Believing Gentiles obtained Divine mercy, because of Christ’s death on the cross and because of Israel’s unbelief. If salvation was sent to Gentiles when and because of the FALL of Israel, in a manner that it had never been sent before (Romans 11:11 . . . Acts 13:46 . . . Acts 18:6 . . . Acts 28:25 to 28), it would seem that every Christian would be interested in learning just when the FALL of Israel took place.

In connection with the diminishing, and casting away, and blindness, and unbelief of Israel, we read that God ‘SPARED NOT’ Israel. (Romans 11:21). This was the second time that God ‘SPARED NOT’ Israel. God ‘SPARED NOT’ Israel when Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, invaded Jerusalem, destroyed the temple, blinded the King of Judah, and made political slaves of the Jews; about 600 B.C. About 1500 years before that Babylonian captivity God ‘SPARED NOT’ the Gentiles. (Romans 1:18 to 28).

After the Holy Spirit separated Paul for a new ministry (Acts 13:2), great spiritual blessings were offered uncircumcised heathen, the ‘FAR-OFF’ Gentiles, because God ‘SPARED NOT’ His own Son and because He ‘SPARED NOT’ His own Nation (Israel).

#### TAKE HEED LEST GOD SPARE NOT THE GENTILES

It would be well if the religious and political rulers of every nation on this earth would sound forth to the people God’s warning in Romans 11:21, “if God ‘SPARED NOT’ Israel, take heed lest He also ‘SPARE NOT’ the Gentiles.” Any one who may think that the God of all grace is going to SPARE any sinners who despise His grace, reject His Son, and fail to meet God at Calvary, should read what God says about it. For all such, God declares that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10:28 to 33) . Read II Thessalonians 2:3 to 13 and Revelation 6:13 to 17 and learn that God will send a strong delusion to unregenerated, religious people; let them believe the lie and be damned. “And the kings of the earth, and the great men; and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, 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?” This has not yet taken place—but it will.

God 'SPARED NOT' the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, into darkness for judgment. (II Peter 2:4). God 'SPARED NOT' the old world but destroyed with a flood all flesh not in the ark. (II Peter 2:5 to 8). Of the three sons of Noah was the whole earth over-spread. (Genesis 9:19). Shem was the father of all the children of Eber. (Genesis 10:21). Abram was an Eberite. One of Eber's own sons was 'PELEG,' meaning 'division'; for in his days was the earth divided. (Genesis 10:25). The whole earth was of one language and of one speech. God came down in judgment and did confound their speech and scattered them abroad upon the face of all the earth. (Genesis 11:6 to 9). God called the place 'BABEL,' meaning 'confusion.' There has been 'division' and 'confusion' from that day to this. What about today? Behold the nations. Behold the 300 religious sectarian churches.

God 'SPARED NOT' the nations. They had changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator; for this cause God GAVE THEM UP. (Romans 1:21 to 32). They worshipped images like to corruptible man, and to birds, and to four-footed beasts, and creeping things. (Romans 1:23). When the Lord sent Peter to Cornelius to tell him how to be saved the Lord gave Peter a vision of a sheet, "wherein were all manner of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air." (Acts 10:12).

#### GOD PROMISES: ISRAEL—CANAAN—CHRIST

After God 'SPARED NOT' the Gentiles, but gave them up, God began a new movement more than 1900 years before Christ was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem. God called an uncircumcised Eberite by the name of Abram. At that time Abram was seventy-five years old. God promised that Abram would be the father of a great nation; and that that nation would occupy the land of Canaan. (Genesis 12:1 to 6) (Genesis 17:8). God told Abram that the whole earth would be blessed through his Seed, Christ. (Galatians 3:16 to 18). Read Romans 9:4 and 5 concerning Israel.

The first question in Matthew is, "where is He that is born King of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2). The first verse of Matthew is "Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham."

In Genesis 15:13 and 14 God foretold that Abraham's seed, the children of Israel, would be delivered from Egyptian bondage after four hundred years. So in Exodus 12:37 to 42 we read that six hundred thousand adult Israelites were delivered after four hundred and thirty years.

A few weeks later Israel passed from 'NOT UNDER THE LAW' to 'UNDER THE LAW' at Sinai. The law was added four hundred and thirty years after God preached the gospel to uncircumcised Abram. (Galatians 3:8 and Galatians 3:16 to 19). four hundred and thirty years before the beginning of the Old (Law) Testament, uncircumcised Abram believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Romans 4:7 to 11 . . . Genesis 15:6 to 8 . . . Romans 4:1 to 5). Twenty-four years after God called Abram God gave 'the covenant of circumcision' (Genesis 17 . . . Acts 7:8). Abraham and other male members of his household were circumcised. Forty years after Abram was justified by faith without works, Abraham offered Isaac on the altar, and Abraham was justified by works. (Genesis 22 . . . James 2:21 to 24).

Four hundred and thirty years after Abram was justified by faith without works we read, in Exodus 2:24 and 25, that God delivered Israel from Pharaoh and Egyptian bondage; because

He remembered something. What did God remember? Something that He is going to remember again. God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in Romans 11:26 to 28, are called the fathers, and for their sakes Israel will again be God's redeemed 'kingdom' nation; "when the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." Israel shall be saved. (Romans 11:26 . . . Luke 21:27 to 33).

Let us note carefully Romans 4:13, "the promise that he should be heir of the world was not to Abraham, or his seed. through the law, but through the righteousness of faith." The law did not make the promise of none effect. (Romans 4:14 . . . Galatians 3:16 to 19).

Thus we see that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Levi. Judah and others all died before the beginning of the Old Testament, which was added at Sinai when Moses was eighty years old (Exodus 7:7). There is not a line of the Old Testament in the Book of Genesis or in the first eighteen chapters of Exodus. God will make a New Covenant with Israel in fulfillment of His promise to the fathers. (Jeremiah 31:31 to 39).

Israel entered Canaan under the 'LAW' Covenant and lost it. They will enter Canaan under the 'NEW' Covenant and not lose it.

About 1450 B.C. Israel entered Canaan. God gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. (Acts 13:20). Israel desired a king, and God gave them Saul. Read these words in I Samuel 8:7, which the Lord spoke unto Samuel concerning Israel: "they have not rejected thee; but they have rejected Me." Compare this with Luke 19:14, when Christ foretold that Israel would reject Him: "we will not have this Man to reign over us." Christ knew what was in the wicked hearts of Israel's rulers and put it in these words: "they said among themselves, This is the Heir, let us kill Him, and let us seize on His inheritance." (Matthew 21:38). So Israel said to Pilate, "away with Him, crucify Him . . . we have no king but Caesar." (John 19:15). Pilate said, "I am innocent of the blood of this Just Person; see ye to it." (Matthew 27:24). Israel answered, "His blood be on us, and on our children." (Matthew 27:25).

## ISRAEL'S MANY SINS

Centuries before Israel cried concerning their Messiah, "away with Him, crucify Him", one of their great prophets was directed by the Lord to write this statement: "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron . . . it is graven upon the table of their heart." (Jeremiah 17:1). Then Jeremiah added concerning God's own nation, "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." (Jeremiah 17:9).

See what another great prophet confessed when he saw the glory of the Lord: "Woe is me! for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King." (Isaiah 6:5). Isaiah was directed to write, in Isaiah 1:5 and 6: "the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot, even unto the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores . . . your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire; your land, strangers devour it in your presence." "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib, but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider . . . a sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, evildoers and corrupters, who have forsaken the Lord and provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger; they are gone backward." (Isaiah 1:3 and 4). "They have rebelled against Me." (Isaiah 1:2).

This was neither the first time nor the last time that God's chosen nation rebelled against Him. About 1500 B.C., at the time Moses was eighty years old (Exodus 7:7), Israel passed from 'NOT UNDER THE LAW' to 'UNDER THE LAW'. (Exodus 20 . . . Galatians 3:19). At Sinai Israel became God's 'OLD TESTAMENT' ('LAW-COVENANT') people. The LAW was intended to be their schoolmaster to bring them to Christ and Calvary for justification by faith. (Galatians 3:24 and 25).

Enroute from Egypt to Sinai, after God had miraculously and marvelously delivered Israel from Pharaoh and Egyptian bondage and before they received 'the yoke of bondage' at Sinai (Acts 15:10 . . . Galatians 5:1), right after they sang their song of deliverance in Exodus 15:1 to 19, they began to murmur. (Exodus 15:24). Again they murmured and longed for Egypt and the flesh pots. (Exodus 16:2 and 3. They continued to murmur. (Exodus 17:3). Not long after they received the two tables of stone written by the finger of God (Exodus 31:18), the Lord said, "I have seen this people (Israel), and behold it is a stiff-necked people." They were saved from utter destruction because God remembered His promise to Abraham Isaac and Jacob. (Exodus 32:13).

#### THE BIBLE HISTORY OF ISRAEL FROM EGYPT TO ROMANS 11:11

In Isaiah 43:15 we read these words: "I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King." "I have created him for My glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him." (Isaiah 43:7). "Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord." (Isaiah 43:10). God, in human form, came down from heaven to Israel, in fulfillment of Isaiah 35:3 to 6. He came unto His own; and His own received Him not. (John 1:11). When Israel's Messiah had been delivered by their religious rulers to the heathen judge, Pilate, the Messiah said to Pilate concerning Israel's rulers; "he that delivered Me unto thee hath the greater sin." (John 19:11). Then note Acts 3:12 to 15, "ye men of Israel . . . ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you, and killed the Prince of life." . . . "Whom ye delivered up, and denied Him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go." Surely the Lord Jesus was despised and rejected of men, 'The Man Of Sorrows'.

If you will spend one hour in carefully and prayerfully reading four chapters in the Bible and parts of four other chapters, you will have the condensed history of Israel from Egypt to the FALL of Romans 11:11. Then as you read of Israel's future glory in Romans 11:26 to 29, you will learn that the "FALL AND RISING AGAIN OF ISRAEL" is an all-important key to the understanding of the Scriptures. (Luke 2:34).

First read Isaiah 5:1 to 7 and Matthew 21:33 to 46. In these Scriptures we have two parables of the VINEYARD. In Isaiah 5:7 we read, "the VINEYARD is the house of Israel." The Lord asked, "what more could have been done to My VINEYARD that I have not done in it?" (Isaiah 5:4). Next read two Psalms, the seventy-eighth and the one hundred and sixth. Now read again Matthew 21:33 to 46, 'The Parable of the Vineyard'. Now read the condensed history of Israel in the seventh and thirteenth chapters of the Book of Acts. After you have read the Scriptures mentioned you will better understand Israel described as 'the magnificent failure'. You will not regret it, if you spend this hour that we suggest.

In a certain sense we have a climax in I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16: “The Jews, who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us: and they please not God, and are contrary to all men. Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins always: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.”

Now read Romans 11:7 and 8: “Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for: but the election obtained it; and the rest were blinded . . . God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see” . . . “Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see.” (Romans 11:10). “They stumbled at that stumblingstone.” (Romans 9:32). Christ said to His people: Walk while ye have the Light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.” (John 12:35). “Have they stumbled, that they should FALL: God forbid: but through their (ISRAEL’S) FALL, salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.” (Romans 11:11).

Do not be ignorant of this Divine secret, “blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in” . . . And then what? “ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED.” Why? Because God’s honour is at stake and because His gifts and calling are without repentance. (Romans 11:25 to 29). “Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” (Isaiah 49:3).

#### GOD SPARED NOT ISRAEL ABOUT 600 B. C.

About 1500 years after God ‘SPARED NOT’ the Gentiles, but ‘GAVE THEM UP’ (Romans 1:24 and 26), something terrible happened to Judah. This was some years after something awful had happened to the ten tribes, Israel. God ‘SPARED NOT’ Israel. God ‘SPARED NOT’ Judah.

In II Kings we learn what happened to God’s ‘kingdom’ nation about 600 B.C. “Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel, behold I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle . . . and I will forsake the remnant of Mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies; because they have provoked Me to anger.” “And the Lord said, I will remove Judah also out of My sight, as I have removed Israel (II Kings 17:18), and will cast off this city Jerusalem, which I have chosen, and the house, of which I said, My name shall be there.” Note in II Kings 25:7 to 11 that the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar and his captain besieged the city of Jerusalem, killed the king’s sons. They put out the king’s eyes, burnt the house of the Lord, burnt the houses of the king and his people, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem. “So Judah was carried away out of their land.” (II Kings 25:21).

In these Scriptures we certainly learn that the ‘UNSPARING GOD’ was so very angry that He ‘SPARED NOT’ Israel and Judah. In Luke 21:24 the Lord Jesus called the period of time which began with Judah’s captivity, “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES.” Christ was born in “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES”, at the time Caesar sent out a decree that the whole world should be taxed. (Luke 2:1 to 7).

The Lord Jesus, in Luke 14:21 and Matthew 22:7, has told us that God was very, very angry with Israel. God was to become so angry with Israel that He would send an army to burn up Jerusalem. In Matthew 22:7 the Lord referred to Israel as murderers, with whom He would be



angry. In Luke 21:20 to 23 the Lord Jesus foretold the days of vengeance which would be visited upon Israel. God's Word is very plain and emphatic that He will visit His wrath and vengeance upon those who despise His grace, reject His Son and who think lightly of the precious shed blood of Christ. (Hebrews 10:28 to 33).

### CHRIST'S OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT

Let us consider John 1:11 with Matthew 21:42 and Romans 10:21. "Christ came unto His own and His own received Him not." "Jesus saith unto them, did ye never read in the Scriptures, the Stone which the builders rejected, the Same is become the Head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?" "But to Israel He saith, All day long I have stretched forth My hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."

May we implore you to read the Scriptures we mentioned, for a condensed history of Israel; the seventy-eighth Psalm . . . the one hundred and sixth Psalm . . . Matthew 21:33 to 46 . . . Isaiah 5:1 to 8 . . . the seventh chapter of Acts and the thirteenth chapter of Acts?

When Israel's Messiah gave out the truth of Matthew 21:42, He was quoting Psalm 118:21 to 24: "I will praise Thee; for Thou hast heard Me, and art become My salvation. The Stone Which the builders rejected is become the Head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it."

According to the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah, the sins of Israel were to be laid on Christ, Who was to be despised and rejected. So the words of the Lord by the prophet was, "who hath believed our report?" (Isaiah 53:1). See how this is quoted in John 12:37 to 42: "But though He (Christ) had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him, that the saying of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report?" . . . "Therefore they could not believe."

With these strange and significant words let us read Matthew 26:24, John 3:14 and John 12:27 to 33: "The Son of man goeth, as it is written of Him" . . . "the Son of man must be lifted up" . . . "for this cause came I (Christ) unto this hour . . . and I if I be lifted up will draw all men unto Me, signifying what death He should die."

The Son of man came to be sinned against. (Matthew 20:28). Note in Acts 3:12 to 18 why God was willing to charge Israel's great sin (ye killed the Prince of life) to ignorance, and to forgive all who would repent. Note 3:18: "But those things, which God before showed by the mouth of all His holy prophets, that Christ should suffer, He hath so fulfilled."

Now do you understand the meaning of Psalm 118:21 to 24 . . . "This is the Lord's doing" . . . "This is the day which the Lord hath made." "Thou art become my salvation." Christ was delivered on the cross by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God when wicked men murdered Him. (Acts 2:22 and 23). It was the Lord's doing. The day that Christ died on the cross was the day of salvation. It was the day that the Lord made. When the sinless Son of God died on the cross it was also for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant; for it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. (Hebrews 9:15 and Hebrews 10:4).

In Acts 5:29 to 32 we learn that the first ministry and work of the Holy Spirit was to be a 'WITNESS'. The Holy Spirit was sent first to witness to Israel, that Christ was raised up in incarnation, before Calvary, to be Israel's Saviour, Messiah, Deliverer and King, and to witness that Christ was raised up from the dead to be Israel's Prince and Saviour, to give to Israel 'the sure mercies of David' (Acts 13:34), to occupy the throne of David (Acts 2:27 to 33).

The Lord Jesus Christ took upon Himself flesh and blood that He might through death destroy him who had the power of death, the devil, and deliver them, who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Hebrews 2:14 and 15). "Thou shalt call His Name JESUS; for He shall save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21). Christ was made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law (Galatians 4:4), to deliver Israel from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13). But let us not overlook the all-important truth, that Christ was born to deliver Israel from Caesar, from the hands of their Gentile rulers and enemies, and to bring about the restitution of all things spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began. (Luke 1:67 to 77). This is included in 'the gospel of the Kingdom'.

Inasmuch as Christ's suffering had to precede His glory (I Peter 1:11), Christ said, after His death and resurrection: "thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day." (Luke 24:46). The risen Lord led the apostle Paul to utter the same truth in Acts 17:3 and in Acts 26:23: "Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead." The Son of man must needs have been in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. (Matthew 12:38 to 42).

Because Christ must needs have gone to His death on the cross, because His body had to be in the tomb for three days, Christ said, if Israel sinned against the Son of man, it would be forgiven them. (Matthew 12:31 to 33). For this reason Christ on the cross prayed for Israel, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34). Because of this prayer, because of the truth of Acts 3:18, Acts 4:24 to 28, and Acts 2:23, God was willing to charge Israel's sin to ignorance. But if they rejected the 'WITNESS' of the Holy Spirit, if they resisted and blasphemed Him, they would not be forgiven. (Acts 5:32 . . . Acts 7:51 . . . Acts 13:45 . . . Matthew 12:31 to 33) .

#### SOME OF CHRIST'S OWN DID RECEIVE HIM

In Acts 1:12 to 15 we read of one hundred and twenty disciples of Christ who did receive Him. How many other disciples of Christ, who were not there present, we do not know. But we know that He had a little 'kingdom' flock; and we know that three thousand were added to that little 'kingdom' flock on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:41 to 45). Then the flock increased to five thousand. (Acts 4:4). As long as Peter used the keys of the kingdom, God added to that 'kingdom' flock. Note Luke 12:32 and 33: "fear not little flock: for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom . . . sell that ye have, and give alms." Christ did not say, "it is your Father's good pleasure to make you members of My BODY."

When several thousand Jews and proselytes were added to the little flock of Luke 12:32, they obeyed Luke 12:33. They sold their houses, lots and other earthly possessions. (Acts 2:41 to 45). This was a 'kingdom' communism: not a 'BODY' communism. Note six Jews and one proselyte were chosen to supervise the communism. (Acts 6:1 to 7). This communism continued

as long as God gave Israel the opportunity to receive or to reject Christ in resurrection. Note what was promised Israel, in Acts 2:38 and Acts 3:19 to 26, if Israel would repent and receive the WITNESS of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Acts 5:31 and 32. During that time the twelve apostles remained in Jerusalem. (Acts 8:1). For several years after the resurrection of Christ it was unlawful for the human witnesses of the resurrected Christ to go to Gentiles. (Acts 10:28 . . . Acts 11:19). Therefore, we should be convinced that during those several years there was no 'JOINT-BODY'. There was a 'CHURCH' and 'churches'. Thus we see that while the BODY of CHRIST is 'THE CHURCH', there are churches in the Bible which are not the BODY.

### PRETRIBULATION PREMILLENARIANS AND THE KINGDOM

Some Christians call themselves 'AMILLENARIANS', because they do not believe that Christ will reign with His saints on this earth for one thousand years, as is stated in Revelation 20:6.

Premillenarians do believe that there will be a millennium of peace on this earth, a thousand years during which Satan will be in the bottomless pit. (Revelation 20:1 to 3). Then nations will learn war no more. (Micah 4:3). These Premillenarians believe also that the Bible teaches that there will be on this earth, immediately preceding the beginning of the millennium, the time of trouble which the Lord Jesus called 'the great tribulation'. (Matthew 24:21). In the midst of that period of great suffering, when the dragon and the beast and the false prophet shall reign, the Lord Jesus, as the Son of man, will come and redeem Israel and then judge His enemies and call the nations to judgment. (Luke 21:27 to 33 . . . Matthew 25:31 to 34).

The Premillenarians, who are evangelical, 'grace' messengers, believe that Christ must come before there can be a millennium of peace on earth. This is why they are called 'Premillenarians'. They also believe that every member of the Body of Christ will be caught away to glory before the great tribulation begins. Therefore they are 'Pretribulation Premillenarians'.

In Luke 18:8 we learn that the Son of man will not find faith on the earth when He comes. Therefore, He will not find the Church, Which is His Body. The Church will have been raptured. (I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18 . . . Titus 2:13 . . . Philippians 3:20 and 21 . . . Colossians 3:3 and 4 . . . I Corinthians 15:51 to 54). In II Thessalonians 1:7 to 10 we learn that Christ will return for awful judgment on a Christless world, "when He shall have come to be glorified in His saints." "When He shall come", in II Thessalonians 1:10, is the Greek 'ELTHE', and should be translated 'shall have come'. God hath not appointed members of Christ's Body to wrath. (I Thessalonians 5:9).

Premillenarians, who are evangelical, 'grace' messengers, believe that 'the kingdom of heaven', which was at hand when Christ was here in the midst of Israel (Acts 2:22 . . . Matthew 4:17 . . . Matthew 10:5 to 8), is altogether different from the Church, Which is 'THE BODY OF CHRIST'. (Ephesians 1:21 to 23 . . . Colossians 1:24 to 26). They quote Luke 19:41 to 44 and Matthew 21:42 and 43 to show why and how God withdrew His 'kingdom' offer to Israel. Most of these messengers believe that Matthew 21:43 and Matthew 23:38 and 39 prove that the FALL of Israel, mentioned in Romans 11:11, occurred before the day of Pentecost of Acts Two. This means that God 'SPARED NOT' Israel at the time that He 'SPARED NOT' His own Son.

(Romans 8:32 . . . Romans 11:21). They believe that the Body of Christ, to which the Holy Spirit referred as a 'MYSTERY' (Colossians 1:24 to 26), had its historic beginning on the day of Pentecost; that on that day the Holy Spirit came from heaven to baptize Jews and Gentiles in 'ONE BODY' (I Corinthians 12:13), to reconcile both in 'ONE BODY' by the cross (Ephesians 2:16), and make them members of the 'JOINT-BODY' (not 'same' Body) of Ephesians 3:6. This means that the one hundred and twenty disciples of Acts 1:12 to 15 were 'kingdom' saints until the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost; and then they became 'BODY' saints, or members of the 'ONE BODY' of Ephesians 4:4.

These Premillennial 'grace' messengers quote John 7:38 to 40 . . . John 16:7 to 12 and Matthew 15:24 and Matthew 10:5 to 8 to prove that believers were not baptized by 'ONE SPIRIT' into 'ONE BODY' while the Son of God was Jesus of Nazareth in the midst of Israel. They teach that 'the kingdom of heaven', which was 'at hand' while Christ was on earth, will be at hand again after God has made the 'ONE NEW MAN' of Ephesians 2:15, that is. when He has added the last member to the 'JOINT-BODY' of Ephesians 3:6, Ephesians 2:21 and 22, Ephesians 4:15 and 16, and given every member of this 'JOINT-BODY' a glorified body. This will be when Christ, Who is our life, shall appear.

#### THE CHURCH AND THE PARENTHETICAL PERIOD

Thus you see that the 'Pretribulation Premillennarians', who are evangelical, 'grace' messengers, teach that God interrupted His 'kingdom of heaven' program, temporarily suspended His 'kingdom' promises and plans when Israel rejected Christ and delivered Him to Pilate for crucifixion. This means that they teach that the period from Calvary and Pentecost to the rapture of the Church might be called a 'PARENTHESIS'; and, according to Colossians 1:24 to 26 and Ephesians 3:8 to 11, 'an unprophesied 'PARENTHESIS''. They quote Romans 11:25 and 26 "for I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in . . . and so all Israel shall be saved, "AS IT IS WRITTEN."

#### AS IT IS WRITTEN

Let us carefully and prayerfully note Matthew 26:24 and Romans 11:26 and try to understand the significance and full meaning of the words 'AS IT IS WRITTEN'.

Christ said: "The Son of man goeth, 'AS IT IS WRITTEN' of Him." (Matthew 26:24). Now note Christ's words in Luke 22:37: "this that is written must yet be accomplished in Me." Then note His words after He was in the heart of the earth three days and three nights, His sign to Israel (Matthew 12:38 to 41), "thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day." (Luke 24:46).

Now note in Romans 11:25 and 26, that after this present period of special favor to the nations, "all Israel shall be saved", 'AS IT IS WRITTEN'. Christ must needs fit into the prophesied pattern concerning His suffering and His coming glory. (Acts 17:3 . . . I Peter 1:11 . . . Luke 21:27 to 33 ).

'IT IS WRITTEN' in the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah, that Christ must needs go to the cross of Calvary. 'IT IS WRITTEN' in Isaiah 9:6 and 7, that Christ must needs go to the throne of David. Christ Himself, said, in Matthew 12:40 and 41, that He had to go to the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

In Matthew, Mark, Luke and John we read more than twenty-five times these words concerning Christ and His redemptive work and His 'kingdom' ministry (Matthew 4:23 . . . Ephesians 4:17); "THUS IT IS WRITTEN" . . . "FOR IT IS WRITTEN" . . . "AS IT IS WRITTEN". Note the words of the apostle Paul right before he said to Israel, "seeing ye put it (the Word of God) from you, Lo! we turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46); the words recorded in Acts 13:29 and 30, concerning Christ's death and resurrection: "And when they had fulfilled all that was written of Him, they took Him down from the tree, and laid Him in a sepulchre: But God raised Him from the dead." Note in verse 34 that Christ was raised from the dead to give to Israel the sure mercies of David. This confirms Acts 5:31 and 32 and Acts 2:27 to 33.

The sure mercies of David meant for Israel not only salvation from sin, but salvation from Caesar and the Gentiles. (Luke 1:67 to 77). It meant the restoration of the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:6 . . . Luke 24:21), the 'restitution' of all things spoken by the mouth of God's prophets 'SINCE THE WORD BEGAN' (Acts 3:21). Samuel and all of Israel's prophets foretold 'Israel's Kingdom Days'. (Acts 3:24). But Samuel, Joel, Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah and others did not foretell 'the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles', did not foretell that believing Jews and Gentiles would be reconciled in 'ONE BODY' by the cross to make the 'ONE NEW MAN' (Ephesians 2:15 and 16 . . . I Corinthians 12:12 and 13), to make the 'JOINT-BODY' of Ephesians 3:6, the 'FILLING-UP' of Christ (Ephesians 1:20 to 23), Christ and the Church 'ONE FLESH' (Ephesians 5:31 and 32).

This present dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles is called "the dispensation of the MYSTERY, from the beginning of the world 'HID IN GOD'." The reconciling of Jews and Gentiles in 'ONE BODY' by the cross, during this parenthetical period when Israel is a rejected, blinded nation, was 'HID FROM AGES AND FROM GENERATIONS'. (Colossians 1:24 to 26). Jews and Gentiles are not being baptized into 'ONE BODY' by 'ONE SPIRIT', in fulfillment of any prophecy found in any Book from Genesis to Malachi. "THE CHRIST" of I Corinthians 12:12, the 'FILLING-UP OF CHRIST' of Ephesians 1:20 to 23, the 'ONE NEW MAN' of Ephesians 2:15, Christ and the Church 'ONE FLESH' (Ephesians 5:31 and 32), we find foreshadowed, but not prophesied, in Genesis 2:21 to 24 and Genesis 5:2. But the 'MYSTERY', for which Paul suffered as a malefactor (II Timothy 2:8 and 9 . . . Colossians 4:3 and 4 . . . Ephesians 6:19 and 20 and Ephesians 3:1 to 11) , was not revealed by, or to, any prophet of Israel. "BUT NOW IS MADE MANIFEST TO HIS SAINTS". (Colossians 1:26). And God wants all saints to see what is the 'DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY'. (Ephesians 3:9 . . . I Corinthians 2:6 and 7 . . . Romans 16:25). Note why in Ephesians 3:10; and get busy.

During the period covered by the Book of Acts the apostle Paul wrote I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Corinthians, Galatians, II Corinthians, Romans. The three Epistles, dealing with 'THE MYSTERY' in detail, are Ephesians, Colossians and II Timothy, called Paul's 'prison' Epistles. The connecting Epistles, which may have been written also after the close of the 'ACTS' period, are Philippians, Titus and I Timothy. The six Epistles of Paul, written during the years covered by the Book of Acts, with Acts, and the three connecting Epistles, should be read

several hundred times and studied prayerfully, in the Spirit several hundred hours, to prepare members of the Body for the understanding of the profound truth in Ephesians, Colossians and II Timothy. Even then something extra special is required to make God's people faithful stewards of the mysteries of God, the prayer of Ephesians 1:15 to 18, prayer for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, to have the eyes of their understanding enlightened, to understand both aspects of the hope and calling of the Church, Which is Christ's Body; namely, the saints inheritance in Christ, and God's inheritance in the saints. (Ephesians 1:11 and 1:18). The answer to this prayer will cause BODY-MEMBERS to connect Ephesians 1:4 and 5 and Ephesians 1:11 with Ephesians 5:25 to 28 and see why God is going to accomplish His 'ETERNAL PURPOSE', and why Christ is going to present the CHURCH unto Himself as a glorious, spotless; holy Church without blemish.

In the ages to come we will know the truth of Ephesians 2:7 and II Timothy 1:9, which most Christians will not now receive, because they are much like the Corinthians, taken up with their religious, sectarian programs (I Corinthians 3:1 to 6), and do not seem to know that the BODY OF CHRIST is not primarily a religious organization, but rather a 'SPIRITUAL ORGANISM'. (Ephesians 5:15 and 16 . . . Colossians 2:19 . . . Ephesians 2:21 and 22 and Ephesians 5:31 and 32). In the Greek text, in I Corinthians 12:12, the article 'THE' is found before 'CHRIST'; and should read: "SO ALSO IS 'THE' CHRIST."

We mentioned the fact that in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, in which Books are recorded the 'CONFIRMATION' ministry of Christ to Israel (Romans 15:8), we find "IT IS WRITTEN" more than twenty-five times. In the first chapters of Acts the twelve apostles also had a 'CONFIRMATION' ministry. (Hebrews 2:2 to 5). Although Paul was never directed by the risen Lord to preach 'the gospel of the kingdom' to Gentiles, in Paul's early ministry he had a 'CONFIRMATION' ministry. (Acts 26:21 to 25 . . . Acts 17:3 to 11 . . . Acts 9:20 to 22). later on in the Acts period Paul had a combination, or two-fold, ministry . . . 'CONFIRMATION' and 'REVELATION'. (II Corinthians 12:1 to 12 . . . Galatians 1:11 and 12 . . . Galatians 2:6 and 7 . . . I Corinthians 12:12 and 13 . . . Romans 12:4 and 5 . . . II Corinthians 5:16 to 21 . . . Romans 11:13 to 15). Signs, miracles, visions and religious ceremonies accompanied the ministry of Christ and His apostles as long as the 'CONFIRMATION' ministry was included in God's spiritual program. (Acts 2:22 . . . Acts 10:38 . . . Hebrews 2:4 . . . Romans 15:19 . . . Acts 19:10 and 11 . . . I Corinthians 12:8 to 11).

The signs and miracles continued while the Lord authorized Paul and the other apostles to continue with the 'CONFIRMATION' ministry. We read in I Corinthians 13:10, that "that which is 'IN PART' shall be done away." Certain things were to pass away: other things, including faith, hope and love, were to continue. (I Corinthians 13:8 to 13).

We should not then be surprised to find more than twenty-five times, in I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Corinthians, Galatians, II Corinthians and Romans and in the Book of Acts, such expressions as "THUS IT IS WRITTEN" . . . "FOR IT IS WRITTEN" . . . "AS IT IS WRITTEN",

How strange and significant that the Book of Acts suddenly closed several years before the apostle Paul ceased to 'ACT' on earth. After that sudden close the expression 'IT IS WRITTEN' is not found in the Epistles of Paul, called his 'prison' Epistles. No 'CONFIRMATION' ministry.

In referring to 'CONFIRMATION' truth, we mean spiritual truth foretold in Old Testament Scriptures. However, it is important to know that when in the so-called New Testament Scriptures we find a reference to some Old Testament prophecy, it is not necessarily true that that prophecy is being fulfilled. In referring to 'REVELATION' truth in the Epistles of Paul we mean truth which Paul refers to in Ephesians 3:8 and Romans 16:25—"the 'UNSEARCHABLE' riches of Christ" . . . "the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery 'KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN'." This truth is called "THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST" (Ephesians 3:3 . . . Colossians 4:3 and 4), "THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL" (Ephesians 6:19 and 20), "THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S WILL" (Ephesians 1:9), "HID FROM AGES AND GENERATIONS" (Colossians 1:25 and 26), "HID IN GOD." (Ephesians 3:9 to 11).

It was not "HID IN GOD", it was not 'HID FROM AGES AND GENERATIONS', that Christ would die on the tree, that Israel's Messiah would come and save Israel from their great tribulation, that Christ will come to this earth and be a King on David's throne (Isaiah 9:6 and 7). So we see that prophesied truth covered the 'TREE' . . . . the 'TRIBULATION' . . . . the 'THRONE'. Christ, as the Son of man, is coming for Israel's redemption (Luke 21:27 to 33 . . . Romans 11:26 to 29) , and to be a King and a Judge on the throne of His glory to have charge of His Father's 'KINGDOM', prepared from the overthrow of the world. (Matthew 25:31 to 34). Then Christ, having returned to earth from heaven, will bring about the prophesied 'RESTITUTION' mentioned in Acts 3:19 to 21. This 'RESTITUTION', which includes the deliverance of the nation Israel from Gentile domination, was the message which the Holy Spirit uttered through the father of John the Baptist in Luke 1:67 to 77. No prophet of Israel foretold that Christ would be doing what He is now doing.

#### THE REJECTION . . . THE RESTITUTION . . . THE RAPTURE

We read in I Samuel 8:7 that Israel rejected the Lord God. We read in Matthew 21:42, in fulfillment of Psalm 118:21 to 24 and Isaiah 53:3, that Israel rejected their Messiah and King, the Lord Jesus Christ. We read in Acts 7:51 to 60 that Israel rejected the witness of the Holy Spirit that Christ was raised from the dead to be Israel's Prince and Saviour. (Acts 5:31 and 32). The Church of the Mystery, the unprophesied 'JOINT-BODY' of Christ, did not have its historic beginning until the third rejection. This of course causes us to compare Acts 7:51 with Acts 13:45 and Acts 18:5, and ascertain whether the FALL of Israel (Romans 11:11) was a very sudden event or whether the setting-aside of Israel was a gradual rejection action.

Reconciliation was sent to the nations when and because God cast Israel away. Therefore, Romans 5:10 and 11 and II Corinthians 5:18 to 21 tell us that God considered Israel set aside before Paul wrote Romans and II Corinthians. It would seem from I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16, recorded in the first Epistle which Paul wrote, that the BODY of Christ had its historic beginning before Paul wrote His first Epistle, but not until Peter had finished his Christ-assigned task, preaching 'the gospel of the circumcision' (Galatians 2:7), and using the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Compare Acts 2:22 with Acts 10:34 to 41.

When we say that Christ came unto His own, and His own (nation) received Him not (John 1:11), we cannot apply the truth in full that Israel received Him not, until after Israel

rejected the 'WITNESS' of the Holy Spirit in Acts 7:51 and Acts 13:45. When, according to Acts 7:51, Israel rejected Christ in resurrection, as they had rejected Him in incarnation, the prophesied 'RESTITUTION', included in 'the gospel of the circumcision', was postponed. We read Christ's words in Matthew 23:39 and Luke 13:35, "ye shall not see Me henceforth, till ye shall say, blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord."

We might use the word 'MILLENNIUM' for 'RESTITUTION'. We might explain the 'RESTITUTION' as 'the kingdom of heaven', or 'the prophesied kingdom of God'. The Church, Which is the BODY of Christ, will not usher in the millennium. There will be no 'RESTITUTION' as long as the heavens retain the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19 to 21 . . . Luke 21:27 to 33 . . . Romans 11:26). We must not overlook the national phase in 'the gospel of the kingdom'; the fact of Israel's redemption as a nation and their occupation of Canaan with their King and Messiah on David's throne.

In quoting John 1:11, that Christ came unto His own Nation, we know that there is no reference here to Gentiles. They were called "no people", "a foolish nation." (Romans 10:19). At the time Christ came unto His own to deliver them from Gentile subjugation (Luke 1:67 to 77), the Gentiles were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel (Ephesians 2:11 and 12): they were 'far off' from God. (Ephesians 2:17 and 18 and 13) . The proselytes of Acts 2:10 were Gentiles by birth, but Jews by religion. (Esther 8:17). For several years after the death of Christ it was unlawful for the apostles to go to Gentiles. (Acts 10:28). Compare Peter's words in Acts 10:28 with Christ's words in Mark 7:26 to 28. Note when and why Paul said, "Lo we turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46). Then note many Greeks were saved. (Acts 14:1 and 2). Then note how God opened up the door of faith for Gentiles, and when. (Acts 14:27).

Note again in I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16 the crowning sins of Israel, sins that brought upon them Divine wrath. Then note in Romans 9:30 to 33 when, how and why Israel stumbled at the preaching of Acts 13:39, "by Jesus Christ all who believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." (Romans 3:24 to 28).

A man of God, considered one of the best of all Bible teachers, who recently departed to be with Christ, called by some 'the archbishop of fundamentalism', said "the clock of prophecy stopped at Calvary and will not tick again until after the 'RAPTURE' of the Church. (I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18). This statement needs to be qualified, but all Pretribulation Premillenarians believe that this present parenthetical 'grace' period will end in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (I Corinthians 15:51 to 54) , and then after Christ appears in glory for His Church He will return to earth for the prophesied 'RESTITUTION' or 'MILLENNIUM'. He will accomplish Luke 1:67 to 77 and Luke 2:27 to 33 . . . Romans 11:26 to 29).

#### THE UNPROPHESIED 'ONE MAN' OF EPHESIANS 2:15

All members of the Body of Christ are expected to be, privileged to be, labourers together with God. (I Corinthians 3:6 to 9) . In this connection they are expected to know the truth of I Corinthians 3:10, that the risen Christ appointed Paul to be the wise masterbuilder and to lay a certain foundation. The Greek word translated 'masterbuilder' is *architekton*, literally, 'head carpenter'. Therefore Paul instructs Body-members to follow him (I Corinthians 11:1 . . . Philippians 3:17 . . . I Corinthians 4:16) . Paul declares himself a 'pattern'. (I Timothy 1:16).



Then note in Colossians 1:24 to 26 the why and wherefore of his 'suffering' ministry. (Ephesians 3:1).

Every spiritual leader is expected to be a faithful steward of the mysteries of God. (I Corinthians 4:1 to 4). Every such leader is to so instruct members of the Body of Christ that they will not be 'infants' tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:7 to 14 . . . Hebrews 5:11 to 6:3) , but established by Paul's gospel. (Romans 16:25).

As members of the Body of Christ know that the Lord used Paul to write about one-half of the Books of the so-called New Testament Scriptures, that Paul, in speaking of himself, used the first person pronoun more than one thousand times, and as Paul is the only apostle who suffered as an evildoer in the Roman prison for the MYSTERY OF CHRIST, who was truly the prisoner of Jesus Christ for Gentiles, they should know that we cannot build intelligently and effectively with God until we understand the meaning of making 'ONE NEW MAN'. (Ephesians 2:15). Note in Ephesians 2:21 and 22 that God is building a temple, a building made up of human beings saved by grace, all fitly joined together and joined to the risen, glorified Christ.

Sometimes we hear the 'ONE NEW MAN' referred to as 'THE MYSTICAL CHRIST', Which means 'THE SPOTLESS CHRIST' of Ephesians 5:25 to 28, Which Christ will present to Himself. We read in Jude 24 and Ephesians 3:20 what God is able to do with members of Christ's Body, living saints who are dead to sin. They will be 'spotless,' or 'faultless.' In I Peter 1:18 to 23 we learn that the Son of God, Who offered Himself without spot to God (Hebrews 9:14), was 'THE SPOTLESS CHRIST', the Man Christ Jesus Who gave Himself a ransom for all. (I Timothy 2:4 to 7) . Compare the 'SPOTLESS' Man on the Cross with the 'ONE NEW MAN' of Ephesians 2:15.

As we compare I Corinthians 12:12 and 13 with Ephesians 2:15 and 16 and Ephesians 5:31 and 32, we see the faulty teaching of those who teach that 'THE CHURCH OF THE MYSTERY', 'THE JOINT-BODY', 'THE MYSTICAL CHRIST' is not found in the Epistles of Paul written before the pronouncement of Acts 28:25 to 28. 'THE CHRIST' of I Corinthians 12:12 is 'THE MYSTICAL CHRIST', foreshadowed in Genesis 2:21 to 24 and Genesis 5:2. Then note the Divine operation in I Corinthians 12:13, "believing Jews and Gentiles baptized by 'ONE SPIRIT' into 'ONE BODY'." This agrees with Ephesians 2:16. This was not foretold by any of Israel's prophets; neither I Corinthians 12:12 and 13 nor Ephesians 2:15 and 16. "To make of the twain 'ONE NEW MAN', by reconciling believing Jews and Gentiles in 'ONE BODY' by the cross." Then Ephesians 5:31 and 32, "Christ and the Church 'ONE FLESH'. Compare with Genesis 2:21 and 24, Adam and Eve 'ONE FLESH', called 'ADAM'. (Genesis 5:2).

#### CONTRAST EPHESIANS 2:4 TO 10 WITH ACTS 3:19 TO 21

In the unprophesied spiritual program of God the apostle Paul was directed to tell sinners, who were dead in sin, that they could be saved by grace through faith, and thus be made alive and be raised up to sit down with Christ in the heavenlies. (Ephesians 2:4 to 10 . . . Colossians 2:13) . They could be raised up where Christ sits in the heavenlies.

By way of contrast, Peter proclaimed God's prophesied spiritual program in Acts 3:19 to 26, telling Israel that if they would repent, God would send Christ back to earth, rather than raise

them up to sit down in the heavenlies. The truth of Acts 3:19 to 26 was spoken by the mouth of all of God's holy prophets, from Genesis to Malachi. Compare Acts 3:21 and Luke 1:70 and 79, "as God spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, 'SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN', with Romans 16:25, truth concerning Christ and the dispensation of grace for Gentiles, 'KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN'. Quite a difference!

God's prophets knew and foretold Israel's redemption and restoration, recorded in Romans 11:26 to 29. But Israel's prophets did not know and therefore did not foretell, the truth (the mystery) of Romans 11:25; the truth that God's 'kingdom' nation would be blind and led away captive into all nations (Luke 21:24) 'until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled' (Luke 21:24), 'until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in'. (Romans 11:25). As we learn in Romans 11:26 to 29, the fact that the nation Israel will yet be saved, by the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, was no mystery, for it was prophesied. The mystery was the fact that this national redemption was to be, and has been, postponed until after this period of special Divine favor upon the Gentiles, until after God has made the 'ONE NEW MAN', made up of believers saved by grace through faith, without works or religious doings. Then there will be the NEW ISRAEL prophesied in Isaiah 62:1 to 4.

Only as members of the Body of Christ receive the Spirit of wisdom and revelation and have the eyes of their understanding enlightened (Ephesians 1:15 to 19) can they know the difference between Christ as the Head of the unprophesied Body during this present age, dispensation and reign of grace, and Christ on earth sitting on David's throne, with the government on His shoulder in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. There are hundreds of unfulfilled prophecies concerning Christ's future glorious reign on this earth. But the prophets, who foretold these future glorious events, knew nothing and said nothing concerning God's predestinated, eternal purpose concerning Christ 'far above in the heavenlies', and the members of His Body joined to Him the risen Head, joined to Him in an inseparable and eternal union; sitting down in the heavenlies with Him. (Ephesians 2:4 to 7 . . . Ephesians 1:4 and 5 . . . Ephesians 1:20 to 23) .

Only as we understand the 'UNSEARCHABLE RICHES' of Christ (Ephesians 3:8), pertaining to God's eternal purpose, from the beginning of the world 'HID IN GOD', can we make others see what God wants all saints to see, "what is the dispensation of the mystery". (Ephesians 3:9 to 11).

#### WHEN DID ISRAEL'S ALL-DAY-LONG END?

Let us ask and answer this question concerning Romans 10:21: "How long was Israel's 'ALL-DAY-LONG'? It is very significant that the statement in Romans 10:21 immediately precedes the facts recorded in the great 'dispensational' chapter, the eleventh chapter of Romans. The tenth chapter closes with this statement, God's words concerning Israel: "but to Israel He saith, all day long I have stretched forth My hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."

How long was Israel's 'ALL-DAY-LONG'? When did it end? When did it begin? When Israel asked Christ for a sign some months before they cried, "away with Him; crucify Him", Christ said to Israel, "an evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah: for as Jonah was three days and three nights

in the whale's belly: so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:38 to 41). After this sign had been given the Holy Spirit witnessed that Christ had come out of the heart of the earth to be Israel's Prince and Saviour. (Acts 5:32). Therefore Israel's 'ALL-DAY-LONG' did not end until after Christ was raised from the dead.

In Exodus 16:1 to 4 and Exodus 17:1 to 4 and Exodus 32:7 to 12, as well as in the Psalms we mentioned, Psalm seventy-eight and one hundred and six, we learned that Israel was a disobedient, murmuring, gainsaying people. Then we learned in Matthew 21:33 to 46, Acts 7:51 to 60 and I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16, that Israel continued to be such a people. There is a very brief history of Israel before God performed the wonderful miracles to cause Pharaoh to let Israel go and to cause Israel to be baptized unto Moses; that is, to accept his God-appointed leadership. (Exodus 14:31). But we will begin their 'ALL-DAY-LONG' a few weeks before they passed from 'NOT UNDER THE LAW' to 'UNDER THE LAW' at Sinai when they became God's 'OLD TESTAMENT' people. Not until the twentieth chapter of Exodus about 1500 B.C., did Israel become God's 'OLD TESTAMENT' people. Remember Israel got into Canaan, 'for the fathers' sakes' (Romans 11:28), not because they were faithful and obedient in keeping the covenant which God made with them at Sinai. (Genesis 15:6 to 14). Israel will again go back to Canaan (Genesis 17:8) (Jeremiah 31:31 to 36), for the same reason. (Romans 11:28). After the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. (Romans 11:25 and 26)

When we read John 3:14, Matthew 12:38 to 41, Luke 24:46, Acts 3:18 and I Peter 1:11, and learn that Christ had to go to His death on the cross and be raised the third day, to provide for lost sinners God's saving gospel (I Corinthians 15:1 to 4), when we study these Scriptures with Christ's prayer on the cross (Luke 23:34), and the message of Acts 3:12 to 26, which the Lord directed Peter to preach to Israel, we should understand the truth of Acts 5:29 to 32, that God gave Israel the opportunity to believe the gospel of the kingdom, the gospel of the circumcision, and receive Christ, as Prince and Saviour, in resurrection as well as in incarnation.

Therefore, it is a great blunder to attempt to prove by Matthew 23:38 and 39, that Israel's 'ALL-DAY-LONG' ended at the cross. Israel's 'ALL-DAY-LONG' did not end until they had rejected the Holy Spirit, His WITNESS of the truth of Acts 5:31 and 32. This they did in Acts 7:51 to 60 and Acts 13:45 and 46. Remember Israel's three-fold rejection of the Lord . . . I Samuel 8:7, Matthew 21:42 and Acts 7:51. Then read Christ's words concerning Israel's unpardonable sin in Matthew 12:31 to 33. Then read again Israel's crowning sin in I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16. In Acts 7:51 we learn that Israel committed the unpardonable sin in Jerusalem Then they blasphemed and resisted when Paul preached to them in Asia. (Acts 13:45). Then note the significant words in Acts 13:46; "Lo! we turn to the Gentiles." Then note that Israel blasphemed and resisted in Europe, in Acts 18:5 and 6. In Acts 18:6 these words of Paul are recorded, "your blood be upon your own heads: I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles." Compare Acts 7:51 to 60 with Acts 28:25 to 28 and Romans 11:7 to 11. Compare Matthew 23:38 and 39 with Acts 13:40 and 41 and Romans 11:7 to 11.

We should see that it is not an easy matter to mark the exact date when Israel's 'ALL-DAY-LONG' ended; the exact date that God ushered in 'the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles' mentioned in Ephesians 3:1 to 3. Just when did God begin to make the 'ONE NEW MAN' of Ephesians 2:15, 'THE JOINT-BODY' of Ephesians 3:6?

As we read Acts 11:1 to 6, we certainly know that Peter was not directed to preach to Cornelius to provoke Israel to jealousy, that Cornelius did not obtain Divine mercy, because of Israel's unbelief. (Romans 11:11 and 11:30). Therefore, Acts 11:1 to 6 is proof that Israel's 'ALL-DAY-LONG' had not ended when Peter preached to Cornelius. Certainly God did not usher in 'the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles' on the day of Pentecost, and did not on that day send salvation to Gentiles to provoke Israel to jealousy.

In the light of Acts 10:28, Acts 5:29 to 32 and Acts 11:19, it is absurd to teach that God began on the day of Pentecost the work of baptizing Jews and Gentiles in 'THE JOINT-BODY' of Ephesians 3:6. But in the light of Acts 14:27 and I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16, it is obvious that the BODY of Christ began historically before Paul wrote his first Epistle, I Thessalonians.

Surely we have learned that God is the 'UNSPARING' God of 'ALL GRACE'; that the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men; that for those who despise God's grace and reject His Son as Saviour (John 16:7 to 10), it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10:26 to 33). If God 'SPARED NOT' Israel, take heed lest He 'SPARE NOT' the Gentiles. (Romans 11:21).