**Two Main Divisions**

**DISPENSATIONAL BIBLE STUDY :  
2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)**

**THE MOST IMPORTANT DIVISION IN THE BIBLE: PROPHECY AND MYSTERY**

**THE PROPHETIC PROGRAM:** God's purpose to establish a literal, physical, earthly, Davidic, Messianic kingdom, with Jesus Christ as the king of kings, ruling over the twelve apostles, who will rule over the twelve tribes of Israel, who will rule over the nations of this earth.

**THE MYSTERY PROGRAM:** God's purpose to form a spiritual body of believers called "the Body of Christ", with Christ as the Head. This body will be perfectly "conformed to the image of His Son" and will rule and reign with Christ in the heavenly places.

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| **PROPHETIC PROGRAM GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM** | **MYSTERY PROGRAM GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD** |
| **1**. SPOKEN about **since** the world began (Luke 1:68-70; Acts 3:21-24) | **1.** Kept SECRET, hidden **since** the world began (Romans 16:25; Ephesians 3:5,9; Colossians 1:26) |
| **2**. Focus is THE EARTH (Genesis 1:28, 9:1, 13:14-17; Deuteronomy 11:21; Isaiah 11:9; Jeremiah 23:5; Psalms 37:9-11; Matthew 5:5; Matthew 6:10) | **2.**Focus is THE HEAVENLY PLACES (Ephesians 1:3, 2:6 Philippians 3:20; Colossians 3:1-4) |
| **3.** Jesus Christ is THE KING of Israel and the whole world (Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 7:13-14; Zachariah14:9,16; Matthew 2:2; John 1:49; Luke 1:31-33) | **3.**Jesus Christ is THE HEAD of the church, the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18) |
| **4.** ISRAEL is God's chosen nation and will be given supremacy over all nations (Deuteronomy 7:6, 28:13; Isaiah 6:1-5; Matthew 10:5-10; Romans 9:6) | **4.**In the Body of Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile (Romans 10:12, 3:22; Galatians 3:26-28; 1Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 2:16-17) |
| **5.** Redeemed Israel to rule and reign with Christ on the earth (Isaiah 62:1-4; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Exodus 19:4-6; Revelation 5:10) | **5.**The Body of Christ to rule and reign with Christ in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:6, 14-16, 3:6, Philippians 3:20; 1Corinthians 6:3) |
| **6.** Gentiles to be blessed through Israel's RISE to kingdom glory (Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 61:6-9; Zechariah 8:13-23) | **6.** Gentiles blessed through THE FALL of Israel (Romans 11:11,12,15; Acts 28:27-28) |
| **7.** The central gospel is the Gospel of the Kingdom (Matthew 3:2, 4:17,23, 9:35, 24:14) | **7.**The central gospel is the gospel of the Grace of God (Acts 20:24; Romans 1:16-17, 3:23-25) |
| **8.** The chief Apostle is Peter (Matthew 16:18-19; Acts 1:15, 2:14) | **8.**Paul is the Apostle for this age of grace (Romans 11:13; Ephesians 3:1; 1Timothy 2:5-7) |
| **9.** The number 12 is associated with Israel (Matthew 19:28; Revelation 7:4-8) | **9.** ONE is the number for the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:3-4) |
| **10.** Physical and spiritual baptism (Exodus 29:1-7; Matthew 3:2-7, 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:32; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5,8) | **10.** Spiritual baptism only (Romans 6:1-5; Ephesians 4:4; 1Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-28) |
| **11.** Physical and spiritual circumcision (Genesis 17:9-14; Luke 2:21; Deuteronomy 30:6) | **11.** Spiritual circumcision only (Colossians 2:11-13; Romans 6:1-6) |
| **12.** Atonement yet FUTURE (Acts 3:19; Matthew 25:31-34; Romans 11:25-27) | **12.** Atonement NOW (Romans 5:11; Colossians 2:13-14) |
| **13.**The Goal: The God of Heaven to set up the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, Christ to have preeminence (Deuteronomy 11:21; Daniel 2:44; Matthew 25:34) | **13.** The Goal: To form a spiritual body of believers perfectly conformed to the image of Christ and through whom Christ will have the preeminence in the heavenly places (Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:16) |
| **14.**This has been God's purpose FROM the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34) | **14.** This has been God's purpose from BEFORE the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4, 3:11) |
| **15.**This program has been temporarily DELAYED (Romans 9-11) | **15.** This program is NOW in effect (Ephesians 3:1-11; Colossians 1:24-27) |
| **16.**The 12 Apostles called by the Lord while He was on the earth (Matthew 10:1-4) | **16.** Paul called to be an apostle from the ascended Lord (Acts 9:1ff; 1Corinthians 15:8-10) |
| **17.**The apostleship of the 12 was to Israel alone, and then to Israel first (Matthew 10 ff, Acts 3:25,26) | **17.** Paul was commissioned as "the apostle of the Gentiles" because now the program of God is different (Romans 11:13; Ephesians 3:1-9) |
| **18.**The 12 Apostles had the gospel of circumcision committed unto them to proclaim the "good news" of Israel's covenanted Kingdom and Blessing (Matthew 10:6-8; Galatians 2:7,8) | **18.** Paul had the gospel of uncircumcision committed to him. The "good news" of God now being longsuffering towards ALL to accomplish a secret purpose (Galatians 2:7,9) |
| **19.**Israel has to be "born again" (John 3:3-7) | **19.** In present program those "in Christ" are made a "new creature" (Ephesians 2:15, 1Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15) |
| **20.**The 12 Apostles, under their commission, sought to bring the nation of Israel to repentance in view of them crucifying their Christ. They indicted them for the crime but offered them the forgiveness and blessing of God so they could participate in Israel's "at hand" kingdom (Acts 3:12-26, 5:27-32) | **20.** Paul, under his commission, announced that Israel had fallen and that God has temporarily set Israel's program aside and Israel's fullness and kingdom won't come until after the fullness of the Gentiles come in (Romans 11:11-25) |
| **21.**The 12 Apostles announced to Israel that her last days were present. They lived in the says that all the prophets from Samuel and after had foretold of (Acts 2:16-21, 3:24) | **21.** Paul announced that God is now long-suffering and He had set Israel and the things on her time schedule aside and that the times and seasons are not being fulfilled now in this dispensation of grace (Romans 11:11-25, 1Thessalonians 5:1-11; 2Thessalonians 2:1-7) |
| **22.**The 12 Apostles under their commission operated on a God established distinction existing between the Jews and Gentiles (Numbers 23:9; Matthew 10:5-7, 15:21-28; Acts 3:25,26) | **22.** Paul under his commission declares that the "time past" distinction is now done away and the middle wall of partition is broken down, God having made both one. Now there is no difference (2 Corinthians 5:14-19, Ephesians 2:11-14) |
| **23.**The 12 apostles operated with the law still in view along with the rudiments of the world that it employed (Matthew 5:17-19, 23:1-3 James 2:10, Matthew 28:20) | **23.** Paul is given to declare to us that God has not put us under the law, but under grace and that today He is not treating us as children under the law with the rudiments of the world (Romans 6:14; Galatians 4:1-11; Colossians 2:8-17; Romans 7:4-6) |
| **24.**The 12 Apostles warned Israel of the coming wrath of God on the time schedule and were prepared by the Lord to see and also go through the tribulation period (Matthew 24:1-35; Acts 2:14-40, 3:19-23) | **24.** Paul was given to declare the long-suffering of God, the coming of the Lord for us to gather us together unto Himself, delivering us from the wrath (Romans 5:9, 1Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-5:11, 2Peter 3:15,16) |
| **25.**The 12 Apostles during the 3 years of the Lord's earthly ministry never understood or appreciated the meaning or significance of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection (Matthew 16:21-23; Luke 9:43-45,18:31-34) Following Christ's resurrection and the 40 day Bible seminar they had from Him they understood the necessity of Christ's suffering and the benefits received from it, as it pertained to the establishment of Israel's kingdom glory (Luke 24:25-27, 44-49, Acts 1:1-2, 2:22-36, 3:12-21, 4:8-12) | **25.** To Paul God committed the full meaning and significance of the cross of Christ. He preached the cross and Christ crucified. The good news about His death, burial and resurrection - proclaiming it in all its glory as "the power of God and the wisdom of God." Also to Paul was committed the testimony concerning Christ giving Himself a ransom for all men (1Corinthians 1:18, 23; 1Timothy 2:1-7; 1Corinthians 2:6-8; Ephesians 1:8-10) |
| **26.**The 12 Apostles were commissioned in their apostleship to bring Israel's rebelliousness to a head and in doing so vindicate the outpouring of God's wrath upon that generation (Matthew 23:29-36; Luke 11:45-51) | **26.** Paul was commissioned to proclaim that God is now longsuffering and is extending mercy and grace to all in spite of Israel's climactic rebelliousness. (Romans 11:28-36) |

"...that in all things He might have the preeminence ..". (Colossians 1:18)

It is by means of these two programs that the Lord Jesus Christ will have the preeminence on the earth and in the heavenly places.

**What Happened To Israel?**

Much misunderstanding within Christianity today comes because people do not have a true understanding of what happened to Israel. Many think that because Israel failed to obey God He had to find a people who would be able to do what God wanted to accomplish through the nation of Israel. In order to justify why the physical promises and blessings do not apply to us today there is a tendency to "spiritualize" the scriptures. For instance, when the verse is read in the Old Testament  that Israel is to go and possess the land; it is said that it really does not mean the physical land, but anything in which you are having difficulty in your life.

This a grave error to make, for the scriptures mean exactly what they say. Israel was told to go and possess a physical land, the covenant God made with them is for them to have their own land. God is faithful to His promises and will fulfill His covenant that was made the them.

So how do we explain what happened to Israel?

(Romans 11:11-15 KJV) I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather*through their fall salvation *is come*unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.*{12}*Now if the fall of them *be*the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness?*{13}*For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:*{14}*If by any means I may provoke to emulation *them which are*my flesh, and might save some of them.*{15}*For if the casting away of them *be*the reconciling of the world, what *shall*the receiving *of them be,*but life from the dead?

Notice the words that are used:

1. Stumble
2. Fall
3. Diminishing
4. Casting away

Here we see a progression taking place. One can stumble but not fall down. Israel stumbled when they crucified their Messiah but they still had an opportunity to obey God. When Israel stoned Stephen is the moment they fell from the chance to be a blessing of God for the nations; at that moment Christ was standing to execute judgement.(See Acts 7) Instead of God pouring out His wrath, He chose to save, apart from any works, the leader of the rebellion, Saul of Tarsus. A new means of salvation has now come to all, to Jew and Gentile alike, with no distinction. While this new program was being established is the time of the diminishing of Israel, Israel no longer the favored nation in God's eyes. We read about this in the book of Acts which is the explaining of the fall of Israel not the beginning of the Body of Christ.

1. Blinding

(Romans 11:25 KJV) 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 fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

At the end of Acts, we read that Israel no longer has the opportunity to be the nation that God has intended because they chose not to believe. So Israel has been blinded for a time until the fullness of the Gentiles is come in, that is when this dispensation of grace is finished.

God has not set aside Israel forever; it is a temporary condition. God will once again resume His program with Israel and fulfill His promises in the age to come. **But now**, (see Ephesians 2:11-13) we are in the dispensation of Grace, a new program, different than the program with the nation of Israel. We read about our part in God's plan and purpose in the Apostle Paul's writings, Romans through Philemon. Today, there is no difference between Jew and Gentile all have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23) and he is offering His mercy to all.

(Romans 11:30-32 KJV) For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:*{31}*Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.*{32}*For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

God is forming a new creature, the body of Christ, which consists of Jew and Gentile alike.  God does not intend for us, as the body of Christ,  to take over where Israel failed. God's plan and purpose for Israel has been temporarily set aside while He fulfills His purpose for the Body of Christ.

(2 Corinthians 5:17-19 KJV) Therefore if any man *be*in Christ, *he is*a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*{18}*And all things *are*of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*{19}*To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.