

GOD'S GRACE MANIFESTO

THE LITTLE WORD NOW A KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES

THE LITTLE WORD "NOW" A BIBLE-STUDY KEY

Yes, the little word "NOW" is indeed a Bible-study key. In the Epistles of Paul, in which we find the proclamation of GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO, we find a number of very significant "NOWS," "YET NOWS," "BUT NOWS," "THEREFORE NOWS." Most of these "NOWS" follow "TIMES PAST," "SOMETIME," "HID FROM AGES AND GENERATIONS," "AT THAT TIME," "KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN."

In II Corinthians 5:16 and 17 the PAST is separated from the FUTURE by "NOW" . . . "NO MORE" . . . "HENCEFORTH." . . . Then "OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY" . . . "behold 'ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW'." The believer became a "NEW CREATION" in Christ: under a "NEW COMMISSION." "God hath given unto us the MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION: and hath COMMITTED unto us the WORD OF RECONCILIATION." (II Corinthians 5:17 to 19).

Not many years ago we had a change in this country from "the Republican Administration" (dispensation) to "the Democratic Administration." The Democrats selected a messenger to head up their administration to offer to the citizens of this country "A New Deal." Some people today would like to exchange that Democratic "NEW DEAL" for a Republican "NEW DEAL." But there are very many Americans who still prefer the Democratic "NEW DEAL," with perhaps a few revisions.

However, virtually all Americans are satisfied with the "NEW DEAL" we got way back in 1776, when our forefathers were delivered from the domination of a foreign king and kingdom.

In the study of GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO, with our Bible Key "NOW," we shall learn when and why God selected a messenger to proclaim to all the people on this earth (In the study of GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO, with our Bible key "NOW," we shall learn when and why God selected messenger to proclaim to all the people on this earth (Colossians 1:6 and Colossians 1:23) a "NEW DEAL." Many people were against the "NEW DEAL," "THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD" (Ephesians 3:1 to 3), when it was first proclaimed; and many more are against it at this time. It is almost unbelievable that millions, who are the beneficiaries of GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO, are still against it. It is equally unbelievable that millions, who are enjoying the by-products of Christianity in this country and other lands, are as ignorant of GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO, after 1900 years, as though there was not a Bible on earth and not a line in that Bible concerning the most wonderful and glorious secret ever disclosed to this needy, ruined and condemned human race. It was a secret, "hid in God." (Ephesians 3:9).

THE DIMINISHING OF ISRAEL . . . THE RICHES OF THE GENTILES

For centuries Romans 11:12 has been in the Bible and the Bible has been in the hands of Roman Catholics and Evangelical Christians. This all-important truth has been rejected, neglected, ignored, or perhaps, not understood; “Now if the FALL of them (Israel) be the RICHES of the WORLD, and the DIMINISHING of them (Israel) the RICHES of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?” (Romans 11:12). How RICH can a Gentile be today under the terms of GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO? He may have “ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS,” in Christ, in the heavenlies (Ephesians 1:3), eternal glory in a glorified body, according to the RICHES of God’s GRACE. (Ephesians 1:7). He may be immensely RICH; for two reasons First . . . Because the RICH Christ became POOR. (II Corinthians 8:9). . . . Second . . . Because of the DIMINISHING and FALL of Israel.

When and why did the risen, glorified Christ offer to the human race the “NEW DEAL” in the “NEW RECONCILIATION COMMISSION?” In Romans 5:10 we read that we are RECONCILED to God by the death of His Son. This same wonderful truth is recorded in Colossians 1:20 and 21. And we learn in Ephesians 2:14 to 18 that “RECONCILIATION” was provided at Calvary. But it was not made available for Gentiles until something awful happened to Israel . . . God gave them eyes that they should not see (Romans 11:8); and then God CAST AWAY Israel . . . The CASTING AWAY of Israel meant RECONCILIATION for Gentiles. (Romans 11:15). So we know this CASTING AWAY had taken place before Paul wrote II Corinthians 5:16 to 21. But most assuredly it had not taken place when Paul spoke to Israel in Acts 13:40 and 41, then said to those Christ-rejecting Jews in Acts 13:46, “LO WE TURN TO THE GENTILES.”

In the very beginning of the study of GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO, we must understand the meaning of the “NOW” in Romans 11:30 and the “NOW” in 11:31, and why Paul followed the statements in Romans 11:30 to 32 with that statement, in verse 33, that God’s ways were “PAST TRACING OUT.” The truth in these verses we must understand before we begin to see “THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY” of Ephesians 3:9. So we quote Romans 11:30 to 33: “For as ye (Gentiles) in ‘TIMES PAST’ have not believed God, ‘YET NOW’ have obtained mercy through their (Israel’s) unbelief. . . Even so have these (Israel) also ‘NOW’ not believed, that through your (Gentiles’) mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all . . . 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.’”

When did the time indicated by “YET NOW” begin? This is the question, and the question that must be answered before we can clear up the utter confusion caused by the disciples of Dr. E. W. Bullinger, on the one hand, teaching that all of the period covered by the Book of Acts was the “PENTECOSTAL,” kingdom period, that the “DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD” did not begin until after the pronouncement of Acts 28:28, and on the other hand by those who teach, by Acts 2:39 and 2:47 and Matthew 23:38, that the FALL of Israel had taken place before Acts 2:14, and that the “DISPENSATION OF GRACE FOR GENTILES” began on Israel’s feast-day, the Pentecost of Acts TWO.

Surely not one of the TWELVE, or any other servant of the Lord, preached on the day of Pentecost, or before the GREAT TURN of Acts 13:46, that Israelites were receiving God’s mercy because of the Gentiles’ mercy, or that the Gentiles were receiving God’s mercy because of Israel’s unbelief. The “YET NOW” of 11:30 and the “NOW” of Romans 11:31 do not fix the date either at Pentecost or after the close of the Acts period.

The truth expressed in Romans 11:30 to 32 was not “PAST FINDING OUT,” as the Greek word “ANEXICHNIASTOS” is translated in the Authorized Version; but as it is translated in the Revised Editions, it was “PAST TRACING OUT.” The Greek word “ICHNOS” is a track or a step. If this wonderful truth was, and is, “PAST FINDING OUT,” then of course Christians will say, if it is PAST FINDING OUT, what’s the use trying to find it out? But the prayerful, intelligent, spiritual, Spirit-led student of the Scriptures knows that the Holy Spirit would not instruct Christians to make all see what is the “DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY” (Ephesians 3:9), if the truth of Romans 11:30 to 32 could not be understood or found out. The thought of the word translated in the Revised Edition, “PAST TRACING OUT,” is that the truth of Romans 11:30 to 32, like the truth of Ephesians 2:13 to 3:11, cannot be traced in the Old Testament Scriptures, or found out by studying the truth contained in the Books from Genesis to Malachi or in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, or in that part of the Book of Acts that records the ministry of Peter and the Eleven.

GENTILES OBTAINED MERCY IN OTHER WAYS

Certainly after God gave up the Gentiles (Romans 1:21 to 33) and established “the covenant of circumcision” (Genesis 17:3 to 21), and gave instructions to Abraham that He had set aside the many nations and was making His covenant with one nation, Gentiles could come to God through “the covenant of circumcision” (Acts 7:8) and obtain mercy. That “covenant of circumcision” was continued over into the “dispensation of law,” called the OLD TESTAMENT (which did not begin with Genesis 1:1, but 2500 years later with Exodus 20:1). The Lord instructed Moses as to His provisions for the Gentiles, which He called “strangers,” outside the main tabernacle; for God put a difference between Israel and the rest of humanity (Exodus 11:7 . . . Psalm 135:4 and Exodus 19:5), and God erected a partition (at Sinai) between Israel and the other nations on earth (Ephesians 2:14 to 18). That partition stood all the time Jesus of Nazareth was on earth. Christ on earth referred to Israel as “the children” and to the Gentiles, as “dogs.” (Mark 7:27 to 30 . . . Matthew 15:24 to 28). Gentiles could obtain God’s mercy by becoming Jews. (Esther 8:17). The Gentile woman obtained mercy by taking her place as a little dog under the table, in subjection to Israel. (Mark 7:27 to 31). The Gentile man of Luke 7:1 to 12 and Matthew 8:1 to 12 obtained mercy because he built a synagogue for Israel, loved Israel, and asked Israelites to go to Jesus for him. The proselytes on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:10) obtained mercy because they had become identified with Israel and Judaism. Peter preached to Israel not only a message for individual Jews, but a message of repentance and restitution, which if it had been accepted, would have meant “the restitution of all things spoken by the mouth of all of Israel’s prophets since the world began.” (Acts 3:19 to 26). Christ was raised up in incarnation to be Israel’s Saviour. (Acts 13:23. . . Matthew 15:24 . . . Hebrews 2:16 to 18). Christ was raised up in resurrection to give to Israel the sure mercies of David. (Acts 13:30 to 39). When they were about to reject Christ in resurrection they were duly warned. (Acts 13:40 and 41). Acts 5:29 to 32 tells the story of Christ raised up in incarnation and also in resurrection to be Israel’s Saviour, and why the Holy Spirit was sent.

Just think how stupid it is to read “unto you (Israel) first,” in Acts 3:26 and 13:46, and then teach that on the day of Pentecost Israel obtained God’s mercy because of the Gentiles’ mercy, or that the Gentiles obtained God’s mercy, because of Israel’s unbelief. How few Christians seem to realize that because of Christ’s prayer on the cross (Luke 23:34) and the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God concerning the death of Christ (Acts 3:18 . . .

Acts 4:24 to 29 . . . Acts 2:23) the resurrected Christ, on the day of Pentecost, gave to the TWELVE a “NEW” “kingdom” PROPOSITION for Israel, and not a “NEW” “grace” DISPENSATION for Gentiles.

Cornelius and his loved ones obtained God’s mercy before God made known HIS “GRACE” MANIFESTO. Peter preached to Cornelius, whose prayers and alms had gone up to heaven, “in every nation he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted of God.” (Acts 10:32 to 35). Compare this with Romans 4:4 and 5. Peter preached prophesied grace; not the message of II Timothy 1:9.

In rightly dividing the Word of truth the student of the Scriptures, led by the Holy Spirit, learns that no Old Testament prophet ever prophesied that Israel would obtain God’s mercy through the mercy of the Gentiles (Romans 11:31), that the Gentiles would obtain God’s mercy because of Israel’s unbelief (Romans 11:30), that God would cast away Israel with the exception of the remnant according to the election of grace and then and there offer reconciliation to Gentiles, and then baptize both believing Jews and believing Gentiles into one Body by one Spirit (Romans 11:15 . . . 11:5 and 7 and I Corinthians 12:13). What we read in Romans 11:30 and 31 is rather a reversal of the order in “the gospel of the kingdom.” In Ezekiel 36:21 to 38 we learn that God is going to do great things for His “kingdom” nation, which will sanctify His great Name among the Gentiles and then they will know, and Gentiles shall take hold of the skirt of the Jew (Zechariah 8:23). (Compare Matthew 4:23 with Acts 20:24).

Sometime after Saul was converted near Damascus Christ appeared to him in the temple (Paul in a trance), and Christ said, “Get out of Jerusalem . . . I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles” (Acts 22:17 to 21). Paul made his headquarters outside the land of Israel, in Antioch of Syria, in Corinth, in Ephesus and in Rome, “to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man’s line of things made ready to our hand” (II Corinthians 10:16): “yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation.” (Romans 15:20). At that time Paul magnified, or glorified, his office, “the apostle of the Gentiles” (Romans 11:13). Yes, Paul was the chosen vessel of Christ to be His messenger, ambassador, preacher and teacher to the Gentiles (Romans 15:16 . . . I Timothy 2:6 and 7 . . . II Timothy 1:11 . . . Ephesians 3:1 to 4 . . . Ephesians 3:8 . . . II Timothy 4:17). God selected Paul to be the ambassador of His Son for the proclamation of His “GRACE” MANIFESTO and to make known God’s GREAT SECRET which had been HID IN GOD and HID FROM AGES AND GENERATIONS (Ephesians 3:9 . . . Colossians 1:24 to 26 . . . Titus 1:1 to 3 . . . II Timothy 1:9 and 11 . . . Ephesians 3:1 to 4).

WHAT IS A MANIFESTO?

A MANIFESTO is a public declaration by one of authority, frequently by a potentate, sovereign or prince making known his intentions concerning the privileges, liberties and rights of his people. Sometimes the MANIFESTO is good news for the people, but not always. When God made known HIS “GRACE” MANIFESTO He said, “behold the goodness and severity of God” (Romans 11:22). That was good news for some; bad news for others.

Perhaps you have observed that the statements used by Paul, “BUT NOW is made MANIFEST,” “NOW is MANIFESTED,” are used with his statements concerning God’s “GRACE” purposed before the world began (II Timothy 1:9 and 10), “ETERNAL LIFE” promised before the world began (Titus 1:1 to 3), “GOD’S MYSTERY,” hid from ages and generations, hid in God from the foundation of the world (Colossians 1:25 and 26 and Ephesians

3:9), “THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY,” which was kept secret since the world began (Romans 16:25 and 26). Through the apostle Paul God has MANIFESTED His “ETERNAL PURPOSE.” (Ephesians 3:11 . . . Ephesians 1:9 and 11 . . . II Timothy 1:9 . . . Romans 8:28 to 31). A MANIFESTO is that which is made MANIFEST. Let us think of GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO as making manifest God’s sacred secret.

It is very interesting to note the word “WHEREOF” or “WHEREUNTO” (the same Greek word) used by Paul when he mentioned the fact that he was Christ’s chosen apostle to make known GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO. (Colossians 1:23, 1:25 and 29; Ephesians 3:7 . . . AMONG THE GENTILES” (Colossians 1:27), “THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST AMONG THE GENTILES” (Ephesians 3:8), “THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD FOR GENTILES” (Ephesians 3:1 to 4). Paul called himself, “THE PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE GENTILES” (Ephesians 3:1 and 4:1), “THE APOSTLE OF THE GENTILES” (Romans 11:13). Paul wrote that one phase of the MYSTERY OF CHRIST was the II Timothy 1:11 . . . I Timothy 2:7). This distinctive message of Paul is called “THE MYSTERY fact that Gentiles should be JOINT-HEIRS, JOINT-SHARERS in the JOINT-BODY (SUSSOMOS). (Ephesians 3:6).

SOME THINGS HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD

When the apostle Peter, in II Peter 3:15 and 16, said that his beloved brother Paul had written some things hard to be understood, Peter might well have added, “especially Colossians 1:23 to 26”: and you and I would say “amen, brother Peter.” Surely the truth in these verses comes under the heading of “strong meat for them of full age (perfect)” (Hebrews 5:14), truth that will keep members of the Body of Christ from being children tossed to and fro (Ephesians 4:14 . . . I Corinthians 13:11 . . . Hebrews 5:12 and 13). For the understanding of such truth, believers are to pray to the Father of Glory for the spirit of wisdom and revelation, that the eyes of their understanding may be enlightened (Ephesians 1:15 to 19). There is positively no other way to comprehend the profound and glorious truth called “the MYSTERY OF GOD’S WILL” (Ephesians 1:9).

Let us carefully and prayerfully consider Colossians 1:23 to 26, beginning with the “WHEREOF” in Colossians 1:23: “WHEREOF I Paul am made a minister, who ‘NOW’ rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His Body’s sake, Which is the Church: ‘WHEREOF I am made a minister, according to the ‘DISPENSATION OF GOD’ which is given to me for you, to fulfil (fill up or complete) the Word of God ‘THE MYSTERY’ which hath been hid from ages and from generations, ‘BUT NOW’ is made ‘MANIFEST’ to His saints. God was “NOW” manifesting His eternal “grace” purpose that His had been HID. (Read I Corinthians 2:6 and 7).

In the next verse (Colossians 1:27) we learn that this truth concerns Gentiles. It was truth that had been “HID.” Where had it been “HID” and how long? It had been “HID” in God, as God’s “SECRET,” “FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD.” (Ephesians 3:9). It had been “HID” from other generations before Paul’s generation and from other ages before the age of grace, before the time that God was ready to make known to, and through, Paul HIS “GRACE” MANIFESTO.

By way of contrast we note in Acts 3:19 to 26, that what Peter and the Eleven were preaching to and concerning Israel was “spoken by all the holy prophets “SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN.” All of the prophets spoke of “THESE DAYS.” (Acts 3:24). I am sure that you agree

with me, that even a babe in Christ should know the difference between Divine truth “spoken by all of God’s prophets SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN” and Divine truth HID IN GOD FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, yea from before that foundation. This unprophesied truth is called, in Ephesians 3:8, “THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST,” which was concerning the Gentiles. This word “UNSEARCHABLE” is the same Greek word translated “PAST FINDING OUT,” or “PAST TRACING OUT” (Revised Edition), in Romans 11:33.

THE MYSTERY NOT PROPHESED

In Colossians 1:25 and 26 we learn that “THE MYSTERY” revealed in GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO was to COMPLETE the Word of God. In a sense the Bible then is made up of “PROPHECY” (before the revelation of the mystery), “THE FULFILLMENT OF THAT PROPHECY” and “THE MYSTERY” (which was not prophesied).

Then it is interesting to consider Divine truth, “SPOKEN BY ALL THE HOLY PROPHETS SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN,” as covered by THREE “T’S” . . . “THE TREE,” “THE TRIBULATION,” “THE THRONE”; or Christ on Calvary’s tree as the prophesied “SIN-BEARER”; Israel in the GREAT TRIBULATION; the TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE (Jeremiah 30:7 to 9); and Christ on the throne of David, the Prince of Peace, King and Judge (Isaiah 9:6 and 7 . . . Matthew 25:31 to 43). The “KINGDOM” prepared “FROM the foundation of the world.” (Matthew 25:34).

The prophets since the world began foretold the sufferings and glory of Christ (I Peter 1:11), and they foretold the grace that Peter preached (I Peter 1:10), but no prophet ever foretold GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO, “THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY,” “HID IN GOD FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD” (Ephesians 3:9). Not one of them prophesied that for centuries Israel would continue in blindness while Christ would be far above all heavens (Ephesians 4:9 to 13), Head over all things unto the Church, Which is His Body, the filling-up of Him that filleth all things (Ephesians 1:19 to 23); that this would continue until the PERFECT UNITY of Ephesians 4:13; and then Israel’s blindness would be removed and they would receive the “kingdom” salvation and blessings spoken by all the prophets since the world began. This is why God’s unprophesied program during this present age and economy, called “THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD” (Ephesians 3:11 . . . Ephesians 1:11 and 1:9 and II Timothy 1:9 and Romans 8:28 to 31), is called “THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S WILL” (Ephesians 1:9), “THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST” (Ephesians 3:1 to 4) (Colossians 4:3 and 4), “THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL” (Ephesians 6:19 and 20).

The risen glorified Christ chose Paul, putting him into the ministry (I Timothy 1:12 to 16), sending him “FAR HENCE” unto the Gentiles. (Acts 22:21). He gave him His “GRACE” gospel by revelation (Galatians 1:11 and 12), and many other revelations (II Corinthians 12:1 to 12), to proclaim God’s “GRACE” message and program for Gentiles who had been “far off,” “strangers,” “foreigners,” “alienated from the life of God,” “without God,” “without Christ,” “having no hope in the world,” “dead in trespasses and sins,” “by nature the children of wrath,” “no people,” “a foolish nation.” (Ephesians 2:13 to 18 . . . Ephesians 2:11 and 12 . . . Ephesians 4:18 . . . Ephesians 2:1 to 4 . . . Romans 10:19).

The program and message was presented to the Gentiles by Paul “IN DUE TIME,” “‘WHEREUNTO’ I (PAUL) am ordained a preacher and apostle, a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.” (I Timothy 2:6 and 7). The Gentiles’ “DUE TIME” was certainly not while Christ was on earth; for at that time He was sent only to Israel (Matthew 15:24 . . . Romans

15:8); and Paul had not been ordained. It certainly was not in the first chapters of Acts; for Paul had not yet been ordained, and Peter said it was not lawful for the apostles and disciples to go to Gentiles (Acts 10:28 and Acts 11:19). Do you think that that Gentile “GRACE” program was committed to apostles who refused to sit at the table and eat with Christian Gentiles years after Pentecost (Galatians 2:9 to 13)? One mouth of the twelve mouths of the twelve apostles was chosen to preach “prophesied” grace to Cornelius and his house (Acts 15:7), but not one of the Twelve said what Paul said in Romans 16:25 and 26: “Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to ‘MY’ (PAUL’S) GOSPEL and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the ‘REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY,’ which was kept secret SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN” . . . “BUT NOW IS MADE MANIFEST.” What Peter and the Eleven (Acts 2:14) preached was prophesied by Joel, David, Moses, Samuel, Amos and all of Israel’s prophets “SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN.” (Acts 2:16 to 21; 2:27 to 33; 3:21 and 24). Therefore, was not “UNSEARCHABLE” or “PAST TRACING OUT” truth, and was not according to “THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN.” Note Paul’s claim, “MY GOSPEL.” He wrote, in II Timothy 2:8 and 9, that he was in jail in Rome for “MY GOSPEL,” even considered an evil doer.

All of the apostles preached the GOSPEL of I Corinthians 15:1 to 4, how that Christ died for our sins and was buried and was raised again, all in fulfillment of prophecy (Acts 13:29 and 30 . . . Luke 24:46 and 47 . . . Acts 26:22 and 23).

Paul was not in the Roman prison, as the prisoner of Jesus Christ for Gentiles (Ephesians 3:1 and 4:1), for preaching the GOSPEL for sinners; but for “THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL” for saints (Ephesians 6:19 and 20). The GOSPEL for sinners, in fulfillment of prophecy, was not according to the “REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY,” “KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN” . . . “BUT NOW MADE MANIFEST.” If Paul could have shown his enemies that “THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY” was prophesied in Israel’s Scriptures, perhaps he would not have written, “all they in Asia have turned away from me” (II Timothy 1:15); and had Paul continued with the message and program which Christ gave to the Twelve, under the so-called great commission of Matthew 28:19 and 20 and with the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 16:18 to 21), with the full sanction of the Twelve, he would not have used the language concerning his apostleship that he used in I Timothy 2:7 and Galatians 1:11: “I speak the truth in Christ and lie not” . . . “I certify you brethren.” There is a great difference between the prophesied saving “GOSPEL” for sinners and the unprophesied “MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL” for saints; the one was not “HID IN GOD” from the foundation of the world, and the other was.

BUT NOW IS MADE MANIFEST TO HIS SAINTS

Perhaps, you will agree with me, that “THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST,” “HID IN GOD,” “HID FROM AGES AND GENERATIONS,” until God made it known to and through Paul about 1900 years ago, is still a mystery to 98-plus percent of Christians; and apparently very, very few of them have any desire to see what God wants all saints to see, “THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY.” (Ephesians 3:9). The word translated “FELLOWSHIP” in Ephesians 3:9 should be DISPENSATION,” for it is the same Greek word translated DISPENSATION” in I Corinthians 9:17 . . . Colossians 1:25 . . . Ephesians 1:10 and 3:1 and 2. The Greek is “OIKO” . . . “HOUSE” . . . “NOMIA” . . . “LAW” . . . “THE ADMINISTRATION OF A HOUSEHOLD.” The word is translated “STEWARDSHIP” in Luke 16:1 to 3. God is in

the “HOUSE-BUILDING” business, building up the Body (SOMA) of Christ. (Ephesians 4:9 to 13). God is not now building “THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID,” which He will build again when Christ comes back to earth. (Amos 9:11 to 15 . . . Acts 15:13 to 18).

The word “EDIFYING” in Ephesians 4:12, describing God’s present work of building-up one, and only one, Body, is from “OIKO . . . DOMEQ,” “BUILD A HOUSE.” Paul in I Corinthians 3:10, declared that he was the “WISE MASTERBUILDER” (ARCHITEKTON); that he laid the foundation and every saint was to “BUILD TOGETHER” (SUN . . . OIKO . . . DOMEQ) In that sense every saint, who would be a builder together with God, must be a builder together with Paul and must find in Paul’s writings the blueprints and specifications for building “THE HOUSE OF GOD,” “THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD,” “WITHOUT CONTROVERSY A GREAT MYSTERY” (I Timothy 3:15 and 16). Certainly there is no mystery concerning some meeting-house, which we unscripturally call a “church,” or about any one of the two hundred or more sectarian organizations. But the MYSTERY is the “SUSSOMOS” (JOINT-BODY) of Ephesians 3:6, “THE BUILDING BEING FITLY JOINED TOGETHER” (Ephesians 2:21 and 22), made up of human beings, saints saved by grace, and made members of Christ’s Body by a Divine baptism, the Church (EKKLESIA). “Ekklesia” is from “EK” . . . “OUT” . . . “KALEO” . . . “CALL” . . . “THE CALLED-OUT.” God has not called out brick, wood, stone, pews and pulpits; but people.

What a pity that millions of “church-members” cherish their sectarian organizations and traditions and religious programs far more than any desire to obey Ephesians 3:9, or pray the prayer of Colossians 4:3 and 4 and help to answer it by obeying God’s will therein expressed: Praying, that God would open unto us a “DOOR of UTTERANCE,” to “SPEAK THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST,” for which I (PAUL) am also in bonds.

MAKE IT MANIFEST, AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK

We should all be agreed that every Spirit-sent Bible teacher should be a faithful steward of the mysteries of God. (I Corinthians 4:1 to 4). Every faithful steward of the mysteries of God will MAKE MANIFEST the “MYSTERY OF CHRIST,” and not one such will keep his mouth closed because of religious opponents who, like Satan, hate this glorious truth more than any truth for saints in the Bible. Why? Because it is God’s death-blow to “sectarianism” and the religious programs of Christendom. Every faithful child of God will pray for open doors for the proclamation of GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO” and for “OPEN MOUTHS” (Ephesians 6:19 and 20) when God opens the doors. How many prayers have you uttered or thought for this proclamation?

Presently we shall consider Ephesians 3:5 and Romans 16:26, the verses which have been used by those Christian leaders, who will neither obey Ephesians 3:9 nor give their permission for others to obey it, to prove that GOD’S GRACE MANIFESTO made known by Paul was not “PAST TRACING OUT,” but that Paul simply received a more complete revelation of “THE MYSTERY.” But now let us consider the truth of II Timothy 1:9 and 10, with I Peter 1:18 to 21.

GOD’S PURPOSE AND GRACE GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN

In I Peter 1:18 to 21 we learn that the Lord Jesus Christ was foreordained from before the foundation of the world to be God's spotless Lamb, to bear away the sins of the world (John 1:29);

BUT WAS IN THESE LAST TIMES MANIFEST

And in II Timothy 1:9 and 10 we read that God's "GRACE" was PURPOSED before the world began;

BUT NOW IS MADE MANIFEST BY THE APPEARING OF JESUS CHRIST

We should read II Timothy 1:9 and 10 with Ephesians 1:4 and 5 and 1:11 and Romans 8:28 to 31, "according as God hath chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world Having predestinated us. . ." ". . . for whom He foreknew He predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son."

So we read in II Timothy 1:9 and 10, that God did not (and does not) save believing sinners because of the believers' works, but according to God's purpose and grace given in Christ Jesus before the world began, "BUT NOW" made MANIFEST by the appearing of Jesus Christ and by His perfect redemptive work and resurrection. But when God was ready to make known HIS "GRACE" MANIFESTO He revealed, through the apostle Paul, that He was sending His "GRACE" salvation and "RECONCILIATION" to all of the other nations when and because He CAST AWAY His one favored nation, when they stumbled and fell, because they put God's Word from them (Acts 13:46), and would not have that which was MANIFESTED in Romans 3:21; "BUT NOW the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD without the law is MANIFESTED." With the exception of the remnant according to the election of GRACE (Romans 11:5), Israel preferred working for God's righteousness according to Deuteronomy 6:25; so going about to establish their own righteousness, and being ignorant of God's righteousness, they would not submit themselves unto the righteousness of God by faith. (Romans 10:1 to 4). They absolutely refused to believe Romans 4:4 and 5, "to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt: but to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

"What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone." (Romans 9:30 to 32). "The election (of grace) hath obtained it, and THE REST WERE BLINDED." (Romans 11:7). Israel stumbled and Israel received blindness from God. Then God ushered in for the rest of the world, the other nations, that which is called "THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD." (Ephesians 3:1 and 2).

THE MYSTERY OF ROMANS 11:25

God brought in His REIGN OF GRACE through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:20 and 21) with the FALL of Israel and the MYSTERY of Romans 11:25: "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." (Romans

11:25). This MYSTERY might have been stated in different language: "Israel will be blind; 'RECONCILIATION' and salvation by grace will be offered to Gentiles until the 'TIMES OF THE GENTILES,' spiritually, come to an end." The "TIMES OF THE GENTILES," politically, began when the Jews were rejected by God (II Kings 17:20 . . . II Kings 24:20) and were taken as prisoners to Babylon. In the last two chapters of both II Kings and Jeremiah we read of the political FALL of Israel, the beginning of the "TIMES OF THE GENTILES," politically. God in heaven revealed this secret to Daniel. (Daniel 2). The culmination of the "TIMES OF THE GENTILES," politically, the coming of the SMITING STONE of Daniel 2:34 and 35, is told in Luke 21:27 to 33, the coming to earth of the Son of man.

In Romans 11:11 we read that through Israel's FALL salvation came to the Gentiles, to provoke Israel to jealousy. As God revealed to Daniel His secret concerning the beginning, the course and the culmination of the "TIMES OF THE GENTILES," politically, He revealed His SECRET (MYSTERY) to the apostle Paul concerning the beginning, the course and the culmination of the "TIMES OF THE GENTILES," spiritually. The culmination is told us in Ephesians 4:13 and Titus 2:13. Between the end of the "TIMES OF THE GENTILES," spiritually, and the end of the "TIMES OF THE GENTILES," politically, will come the "GREAT TRIBULATION." Then Israel will be saved by the coming of the DELIVERER, the Son of man. (Romans 11:26 . . . Luke 21:27 to 33). That Israel will thus be saved in the TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE (Jeremiah 30:7), was no MYSTERY (Romans 11:26). The MYSTERY was Romans 11:25, the beginning and culmination of the "TIMES OF THE GENTILES," spiritually; this present age and "DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD," during which God is building up the unprophesied Body of Christ, (Ephesians 4:9 to 13), while Israel is blind by God's judgment (Romans 11:7 to 9).

WHEN AND WHY DID ISRAEL FALL?

We can neither understand nor appreciate GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO until we know when the FALL of Israel took place.

Without thinking seriously and studying the Scriptures diligently and prayerfully many servants of the Lord have quoted Matthew 23:38, "your house is left unto you desolate," in their attempt to prove that the FALL of Israel had taken place when Peter and the Eleven (Acts 2:14) stood up on the day of Pentecost. Presently we shall see that there was a blind Jew at the rime of Israel's FALL, politically, Zedekiah, (II Kings 25:7. . . Jeremiah 52:11) ; and there was a blind Jew in connection with the FALL of Israel, spiritually, Barjesus, (Acts 13:11).

On the day of Pentecost we may be quite sure that Peter and the Eleven would not have said to believing Gentiles, what Paul said in I Corinthians 12:2 and 27, "ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols"; "NOW ye are the Body of Christ." They would not have said to believing Gentiles, what Paul said in Romans 11:31, that the Jews have also NOW not believed, that through the Gentiles' mercy they (Israel) may obtain merry. They would not have said one of the "NOWS" of Ephesians 5:8 . . . Ephesians 2:13 and 19 . . . Romans 16:25 and 26 . . . Colossians 1:25 and 26 . . . and Romans 11:30.

We again emphasize the last mentioned verse, Romans 11:30, for it is indeed one of the most important and significant "key" verses in the Bible; "For as ye (Gentiles) in 'TIMES PAST' have not believed God, 'YET NOW' have obtained mercy through their (Israel's) unbelief." Think of this truth spiritually and prayerfully. As Peter and the Eleven began their preaching on the day of Pentecost to Israel, and continued, we learn that thousands of the Jews

believed (Acts 2:41 . . . Acts 4:4 . . . Acts 5:14 . . . Acts 6:7 . . . Acts 9:35 and Acts 9:42). But during those years it was not lawful for the apostles to go to Gentiles. (Acts 10:28). When Peter did preach to Cornelius and his house (Acts 10:32 to 42), Cornelius was not RECONCILED because Israel had been CAST AWAY (Romans 11:15); and God did not send Peter with salvation to Cornelius because of the FALL of Israel or to provoke Israel to jealousy. To Israel, Peter said, “unto you first.” (Acts 3:26). And the Gentiles did not then obtain mercy because of Israel’s unbelief. Surely on the day of Pentecost Peter did not say concerning Israel, “even at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace”; “the election hath obtained it; and the rest were blinded.” (Romans 11:5 . . . 11:7 to 9). The risen Christ did not make known the message of RECONCILIATION until some years after Paul was saved and commissioned. Peter did not say, on the day of Pentecost, to alienated Gentiles, “ ‘YET NOW’ hath God RECONCILED.” (Colossians 1:21). If Peter preached to Cornelius, some seven or eight years after Pentecost, “in every nation he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted of God” (Acts 10:34 and 35), and on the day of Pentecost, “repent and be baptized for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38), could any one believe that on the day of Pentecost Peter preached to “far off” Gentiles, “not by works of righteousness which we have done” (Titus 3:5), “to him that worketh not” (Romans 4:5), “by grace are ye saved through faith; not of yourselves, not of works” (Ephesians 2:8 and 9)? Peter did not preach, “by Christ we have ‘NOW’ received the ‘RECONCILIATION’ (not atonement).” (Romans 5:10).

Do we find any record in the first ten chapters of Acts that Peter and his fellow-apostles were preaching “justification by faith?” The stumbling of Israel, referred to in Romans 9:31 and 32, that brought Israel’s FALL and salvation to the Gentiles, occurred after Paul said to Israel, “it was necessary that the Word of God should FIRST have been preached to you: But seeing ye put it from you and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, LO WE TURN TO THE GENTILES.” (Acts 13:46). Peter, in Acts 3:26, said to Israel, “unto you FIRST”; and if Matthew 23:38 marked the FALL of Israel, Peter should have added, “LO, WE TURN TO THE GENTILES.” In fact, he should never have had said, “unto you first,” if their FALL had taken place.

WHY DID ISRAEL FALL? We read in Romans 9:31 and 32 that Israel stumbled at the stumbling stone of “THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD BY FAITH.” We read in Romans 11:32 that Israel’s FALL was, that God might conclude all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all.

ISRAEL’S FOUR GREAT SINS AND ISRAEL’S FALL

When we speak of Israel’s FOUR GREAT SINS we head up their multitude of sins under their FOUR SINS. We have already observed that Israel stumbled over the truth of Romans 3:21, “BUT NOW the righteousness of God without the law is MANIFEST.” Like the foolish Galatians (Galatians 3:1 and 2), and like many foolish church-members today who prefer Cain’s way to that of Abel, the Pharisees’ way to that of the publican (Luke 18:9 to 14), Israel then wanted, as the present day blind Jews want, righteousness with the law according to Deuteronomy 6:25. They made the terrible mistake recorded in Romans 9:31 to Romans 10:4: then Israel FELL: and through their FALL a “NEW DEAL” was offered to Gentiles, a message of grace and reconciliation never before offered to any one from the day of the birth of Israel. (Something wonderful was offered to uncircumcised Abram) (Genesis 15:6 and 8; Galatians 3:6 and 8; Romans 4:8 to 11). Israel said while Christ was on earth, “we will not have this MAN to

reign over us,” “we have no king but Caesar,” “away with Christ and crucify Him.” They received Him not (in incarnation). . . (John 1:11). After Christ was raised from the dead and Peter said to Israel, “unto you FIRST,” and the Holy Spirit had been sent from heaven as a sign to Israel that Christ was raised from the dead to be their Saviour (Acts 5:32), they resisted the Holy Spirit and blasphemed (Acts 7:51 . . . Acts 13:45 . . . Acts 18:5) and forbade the apostles to preach to the Gentiles (I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16). They thereby filled up the measure of God’s wrath to the uttermost: and that brought the FALL, the CASTING AWAY, the DIMINISHING, the UNBELIEF of Romans 11:7 to 33, and the beginning of the “TIMES OF THE GENTILES,” spiritually; the proclamation of GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO; God’s “NEW DEAL” for the nations of the earth. The DIMINISHING of Israel, the RICHES of the Gentiles. (Romans 11:12).

Israel did not FALL when they committed the first TWO GREAT SINS, but after they committed the last TWO GREAT SINS. These they had not committed on the day of Pentecost or when Peter used the keys of the kingdom of heaven at the time Cornelius was saved.

Let us now look more in detail into their FOUR SINS:

FIRST . . . Israel killed and stoned their prophets (Matthew 21:35 and 36 . . . Matthew 23:30 and 31 . . . Acts 7:52 . . . I Thessalonians 2:15). . . SECOND . . . They killed the Prince of Life, the Heir, the Son of God, the Lord Jesus (Matthew 21:37 . . . Acts 2:22 . . . Acts 3:14 and 15 . . . Acts 13:29 and 30 . . . Acts 7:52 and I Thessalonians 2:15). . . THIRD . . . Israel blasphemed and resisted the Holy Spirit Whom God sent as a sign and witness to Israel that He Had raised Christ from the dead to be Israel’s Prince and Saviour and give them repentance and forgiveness of sins. (Matthew 12:31 and 32 . . . Acts 7:51 . . . Acts 18:5 and 6 and 13:45 and 46). FOURTH . . . Israel forbade Christ’s apostles to preach to Gentiles. (I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16).

By committing their THIRD and FOURTH sins, listed above, Israel FILLED UP. What did Israel fill up? While on earth Christ said to Israel: “fill up then the measure of your fathers.” (Matthew 23:32). After that they “killed the Prince of Life” (Acts 3:14 and 15), thus sinning against the Son of man (Matthew 12:29 to 32). When they committed this GREAT sin, their SECOND, they did none other things than God’s hand and counsel determined before to be done (Acts 4:25 to 29) (Acts 2:22 and 23 and Matthew 21:42). And as that sin was to be “pardonable” (Matthew 12:31 and 32), the Son of man on the cross prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they KNOW NOT what they do” (Luke 23:34). So God’s message to Israel after they killed the Prince of Life was, “I know that THROUGH IGNORANCE ye did it, as did also your rulers” (Acts 3:17).

Do you see why Israel’s GREAT sin against the Son of man was pardonable? Every student of the Bible will be an ashamed workman (II Timothy 2:15), who does not see that “THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY” and the “JOINT-BODY” of Ephesians 3:6 did not begin when Israel committed their SECOND sin, but after they had rejected Christ, in RESURRECTION, as well as in INCARNATION, thereby committing their THIRD and FOURTH sins: “the Jews, who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets and have persecuted us: and they please not God, and are contrary (antagonistic) to all men, FORBIDDING US TO SPEAK TO THE GENTILES that they might be saved, to FILL UP THEIR SINS ALWAYS: for the wrath of God is come upon them to the UTMOST.” (I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16).

Israel FILLED UP by committing their THIRD and FOURTH (Acts 14:2 . . . 14:19 . . . 17:5) sins. But there was a “GRACE” remnant of Israel at the time God set them aside. (Romans 11:5).

LO, WE TURN TO THE GENTILES (Acts 13:46)

There was something different about this TURN from any turn God had ever taken. This was about twelve years after Christ, in resurrection, commissioned His ELEVEN (Matthew 28:16) to “disciple all nations.” It was several years after Peter and the Eleven had acknowledged that God had granted repentance unto life to Gentiles. (Acts 11:18). Immediately after the Lord TURNED Paul to the Gentiles many Greeks believed. (Acts 14:1 to 6). Then Paul returned to Antioch in Syria, after this first great missionary journey, and when he told what had happened on that journey they rejoiced because God had opened a door of faith unto the Gentiles. (Acts 14:27). If we Gentiles knew just what day of the year that took place, we should celebrate even more heartily than we do on July Fourth. That was a great day for the Gentiles, who had been “aliens,” “strangers,” “no people;” “a foolish nation.” (Ephesians 2:12 and Romans 10:19). “BUT NOW, in Christ Jesus, ye (Gentiles) who were SOMETIME FAR OFF are brought nigh by the blood of Christ.” (Ephesians 2:13).

When did Paul say, “LO, WE TURN TO THE GENTILES”? Right after he told Israel that Christ was raised up in incarnation to be Israel’s Saviour (Acts 13:23), and then told them that God had raised Christ up in resurrection to give to Israel “the sure mercies of David” (Acts 13:30 to 39); and then Paul warned Israel not to make the great mistake they were about to make (Acts 13:40 and 41).

TWO BLIND JEWS

Now let us note that all of this immediately followed a very unique and significant miracle, which has truly been called “a dispensational miracle.” Read in Acts 13:5 to 15 how a Gentile by the name of “PAUL” (Sergius) wanted to hear God’s Word from a Jew by the name of “SAUL.” Another Jew, with a splendid name (BARJESUS), was determined that PAUL should not hear SAUL. BARJESUS means “THE CHILD OF JEHOVAH-SAVIOUR.” Israel is the Child of Jehovah. But when Barjesus sought to turn the Gentile away from God’s Truth the other Jew “SAUL” called him “a child of the devil”: and told him he was “FULL OF GUILLE” and would be blind “for a season,” not seeing the sun: and he went about led by the hand. You will recall that Christ spoke of NATHANAEL (meaning the gift of God), as an Israelite in whom there was “NO GUILLE.” Quite a difference between “FULL OF GUILLE” and “NO GUILLE.” If you will carefully read the conversation between Christ and Nathanael, in John 1:45 to 51, you will learn that NATHANAEL is Israel in Romans 11:26, whereas BARJESUS is Israel in Romans 11:25. Israel will be redeemed when the fulness of the Gentiles be come in (Romans 11:26) and then Israel will say to Christ what Nathanael said, “Thou art the Son of God: Thou art the King of Israel.” Then read Ezekiel, chapters 36 and 37, and learn what God is going to do for and with Israel. They will be Israelites in whom there is “NO GUILLE.” Why? For God’s own holy name’s sake. (Ezekiel 36:22 and 32). Why? Because God’s gifts are without repentance. (Romans 11:27 to 29). Nathanael means “gift of God.” Like blind Barjesus, blind Jews are to be led by the Gentiles’ hands. (Romans 11:31).

Barjesus, full of guile, blind for a season, seeking some one to lead him by the hand, is Israel in Romans 11:25, during this present age and dispensation of grace; for a season not seeing the Sun of Righteousness Who will arise with healing in His wings. (Malachi 4:2). Blind Israel must “NOW” receive God’s mercy through the mercy of the Gentiles. (Romans 11:31).

The fulness of the Gentiles will come in, when God has completed the “ONE NEW MAN” of Ephesians 2:15, and then there will be a “NEW ISRAEL.” (Isaiah 62:1 to 4).

We learn in Acts 13:5 to 15 that Barjesus was blind because he tried to keep the Lord’s apostle from preaching to a Gentile, and then the Gentile believed the apostle when and because he saw the blindness of Barjesus. Israel was “Barjesus,” meaning “the child of Jehovah,” and when and because of blindness God sent upon Israel, salvation, reconciliation and mercy were offered the Gentiles. When Israel forbade the apostles to preach to Gentiles they filled up the wrath of God to the uttermost (I Thessalonians 2:16) and then “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES,” spiritually, began. As blind Barjesus marked the beginning of the FALL of Israel, spiritually, so blind Zedekiah, about 600 B. C., marked the beginning of the FALL of Israel, politically. Read the story in II Kings 25:7 and Jeremiah 52:11. Then after those captive Jews reached Babylon and “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES,” politically, began, God revealed in His secret to Daniel how the end would come. This is confirmed in Luke 21:24 and 27 to 33.

“THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES,” spiritually, had not begun when Christ was on earth. He told His own apostles to recognize two seats of authority, in Matthew 22:17 to 22 and Matthew 23:1 to 3, Caesar in Rome, and the Jewish rulers in Moses’ seat in Jerusalem. Thus we see that the FALL of Israel, spiritually, had not taken place when Christ was here on earth.

GENTILES AS STRANGERS AND FOREIGNERS (ALIENS)

We read in Ephesians 2:11 and 12 the status of the Gentiles, “aliens” and “strangers.” This began when God established Israel and continued after God gave the law to Israel at Sinai. Then in Luke 4:24 to 30 we read how Israel wanted to kill Christ for saying that God blessed two Gentiles. In Acts 22:21 to 26 we learn how Israel wanted to kill Paul for saying that their Messiah sent him to Gentiles. In Matthew 15:22 to 24 we learn that Christ’s own apostles said concerning the needy Gentile to whom they had the opportunity to preach, “send her away.” Then years after Christ died even James did not want Peter to eat with saved Gentiles. (Galatians 2:10 to 12). Can you imagine the hatred Israel held against “the apostle of the Gentiles” (Romans 11:13), when he said he was debtor to the Greeks and even the Barbarians (Romans 1:14)? At the time the Gentile, “Paul,” was saved because he saw the blindness of Barjesus, the apostle changed his name from a good Israelitish name, “SAUL,” to a Gentile name, “PAUL.” The Jews declared that it was not fit that such a man should be on this earth. (Acts 22:21 to 26). Then Paul described in I Corinthians 4:13, what he was in the estimation of Israel, “the filth of the world; the off-scouring of all things.” He was counted all day long as a sheep for the slaughter. (Romans 8:36). This Hebrew of the Hebrews, the erstwhile zealous Pharisee, who had profited in the Jews’ religion, now counted it all but dung, to win Christ and the righteousness of God by faith in Christ. (Philippians 3:3 to 10 . . . Galatians 1:14). One reason why the Jews wanted to tear Paul into pieces, they thought he was responsible for the presence of a Gentile in their Jerusalem temple some 25 years after Pentecost. (Acts 21:28 and 29).

With these facts in our minds, can you imagine any of the TWELVE would have said to Gentiles, either while Christ was on earth or up to the time that the Book of Acts ceased to record their spiritual activities, what is said in Ephesians 2:13 and 2:19: “BUT NOW, in Christ Jesus, ye who were SOMETIMES far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ?”

“NOW THEREFORE’ ye are ‘NO MORE’ ‘strangers’ and ‘foreigners’ (Ephesians 2:11 and 12 and 4:18), but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the HOUSEHOLD OF GOD.”

All of this is quite different from Christ's words to the Gentile, "it is not meet to give the children's bread to dogs" (Mark 7:27 to 31), or Peter's words in Acts 10:28, "it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company or come unto one of another nation."

Surely the Gentiles were "far off," "strangers," "aliens," "foreigners." When we read of people "far off," in the Bible, we must study the context to see whether "far off" is the geographical distance from Jerusalem or the spiritual distance from God. (Isaiah 57:19 . . . Ezekiel 6:12 . . . Daniel 9:7 . . . Zechariah 6:15 . . . Ezekiel 22:5 . . . Acts 2:39 . . . Ephesians 2:13 and 2:17). If we read and study Ezekiel 34:11 to 16 and 37:22 to 28 and many verses in between and then read that Peter addressed his Epistle to the "Dispersion" (I Peter 1:1 and 2) and learn, in John 7:35, that the "Dispersion" referred to Jews "far off" from Jerusalem, we will learn that the "other sheep" of John 10:17 referred to Jews, and not Gentiles. We shall also learn that the "far off," mentioned by Peter on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:39) were the "far off" Israelites of Daniel 9:7. We must not be careless with our metaphors. Christ differentiated between Israel, "the sheep," and Gentiles, "the dogs." (Mark 7:27 and 28 . . . Matthew 15:24). Then there was a great difference: but in Romans 3:22 and 10:12, some years later, "there is no difference."

The "far off" of Ephesians 2:13 and 2:17 were Gentiles who were "far off" from God; but "NOW" under GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO brought nigh to God by the precious shed blood of Christ, saved by grace, through faith, made alive, raised up and made to sit in the heavenlies. In the so-called Four Gospels we read frequently "ON THE EARTH": in Ephesians we read several times "IN THE HEAVENLIES."

What a transformation! Far off, dead dogs, alienated from the life of God (Ephesians 4:18), no people, "atheos" (without God . . . Ephesians 2:12), having no hope, "NOW" by the infinite, matchless, marvelous grace of the God of all grace brought into God's HOUSEHOLD as saints, made alive and seated in the heavenlies, and there blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3), to be joined with Christ, ONE FLESH (Ephesians 5:31 and 32)! Then learn that this was all according to God's ETERNAL PURPOSE in Christ, kept secret by God for centuries; that this PURPOSE and GRACE was given us in Christ before the world began (II Timothy 1:9 and 10); "Hid in God since the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 3:9); "hid from ages and from generations" (Colossians 1:25 and 26). . . "BUT NOW" made MANIFEST in GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO (II Timothy 1:10 . . . Colossians 1:26 . . . Romans 16:26 . . . Romans 3:21).

Let us note how this is stated in Titus 1:2 and 3: In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN; but hath in DUE TIMES MANIFESTED His Word through preaching, which is COMMITTED unto 'ME' (Paul)."

Of course Christians, who magnify man's responsibility above the sovereignty and foreknowledge of God, do not like II Timothy 1:9, Ephesians 1:4 and 5 and 1:11 and Titus 1:2 and 3 and Romans 8:28 to 32, while other sincere, humble Christians who do want to reconcile "whosoever will" with these other Scriptures find it so difficult, because they do not pray the prayers of Ephesians 1:15 and 23 and 3:14 to 21 and thus receive from God the knowledge of His "ETERNAL PURPOSE." Surely Christians cannot say "all things work good for them who love God" (Romans 8:28) unless they add "who are the called according to His PURPOSE," and then learn in Romans 8:29 to 31, studied with "PURPOSE" in II Timothy 1:9 . . . Ephesians 1:9 . . . 1:11 and 3:9 to 11, what is meant by God's "ETERNAL PURPOSE IN CHRIST."

But all of us should agree that it is a spiritual crime to mix in anything of Israel's religious or "law" program in an effort to supplement the grace of God and the perfect, finished

work of the Lord Jesus Christ, to make salvation more effective, or the believer's position, "IN CHRIST," more secure.

How important it is for members of the Body of Christ to study carefully the verses that tell of their position and possession and conflict "IN THE HEAVENLIES," of "THE PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS IN THE HEAVENLIES," and why God wants all saints to see "THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY" . . . "To the intent that 'NOW' unto PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS IN THE HEAVENLIES might be known by the Church, the manifold wisdom of God" (Ephesians 3:10); knowing that this WISDOM was ordained to our glory BEFORE THE WORLD (I Corinthians 2:7). Read Ephesians 1:3 . . . 1:19 to 23 . . . 2:4 to 7 . . . Romans 8:38 . . . Colossians 2:10 and 2:16 and Ephesians 6:12. In Ephesians 6:12, "HIGH PLACES" should be "IN THE HEAVENLIES." It is not easy to always remember what is stated in Ephesians 6:12, for we do think at times that we wrestle against flesh and blood when God's servants, who propagate evangelical Christianity, will not do one thing to obey Ephesians 3:9, but bitterly, and sometimes viciously, oppose those who do. Satan does hate the truth that pertains to his principalities and powers in the heavenlies and the position of members of the Body of Christ there more than he does any message for saints in the Bible.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PREMILLENNIAL FUNDAMENTALISTS THE BLINDNESS OF RELIGIOUS GENTILE CHURCH MEMBERS

Of course we all know what the leaven of Galatians 5:9 has done to Roman Catholicism and we are sure that they know absolutely nothing of GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO.

But when we behold all about us how II Corinthians 11:13 to 15 describes the blind religious men in many so-called evangelical church pulpits and seminaries, we should remember the words of Romans 11:19 and 21: "Behold therefore the 'GOODNESS' and 'SEVERITY' of God," in GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO. There is a great difference between God's "GOODNESS," if we accept His "GRACE," and His "SEVERITY," if we reject God's "GRACE," and imitate Israel in trying to win God's favor and His heaven by religion and works. "For if God 'SPARED NOT' Israel, take heed lest He 'SPARE NOT' thee (Gentiles)." In the name of evangelical Christianity in ever-increasing numbers religious reverends and doctors and professors are propagating their Christianized agnosticism, going in the way of Cain, preferring the way of the Pharisee to that of the publican in Luke 18:10 to 14, and apparently ignorant of the fact that a Christian infidel is an impossible paradox. They are headed for the awful judgment of Jude 13 and II Thessalonians 2:7 to 12. All Christians should heed the warning of II John 7 to 11 and never for one moment, by presence or presents, support these false prophets in their evil deeds.

Surely the Fundamentalists, especially the leaders, have a tremendous responsibility in this day of apostasy, which will abound and increase until the age and dispensation of grace comes to an end according to Titus 2:13 and Ephesians 4:13. Their duty, in this apostasy, is to contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered unto the saints. (Jude 1 to 4). Every member of the Body of Christ, who really believes Ephesians 2:8 to 10, should join with the apostle Paul, in saying, "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 6:14), knowing that we have been "GRACED IN HIM"; (Ephesians 1:6) and in saying "by the grace of God I am what I am." (I Corinthians 15:10).

The writer of this message agrees with the "grace" preacher among these leaders, who are Pretribulation Premillennarians, in their uncompromising stand for the verbal inspiration of the

Bible, the virgin birth and eternal Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, His bodily resurrection, and the truth that the Lord Jesus will not only take His Body to glory before He comes to establish the millennium on earth, but before the Great Tribulation. The writer has no controversy or disagreement with them on any fundamental, evangelical truth in the Bible, as to the doctrines mentioned, also as to the Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit, as to the clear teaching of the Bible that there is, during this age and economy, one and only one true Bible Church, the JOINT-BODY of Ephesians 3:6, that salvation and membership in the Body of Christ is by grace through faith in the perfect redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ, that no religious ceremony or ordinance or good deed can in any way help to save the believer, get him into the Body of Christ or into heaven; that at death believers depart to be with Christ in a conscious state. We all believe that the same infinite, all-sufficient grace of the God of all grace (I Peter 5:10 . . . II Corinthians 9:8 . . . Titus 2:11 to 14) that saves believing sinners is wholly adequate for the spiritual behavior and separated lives of believing saints; and that believers saved by grace will be rewarded for good deeds done in the Name of Christ. (Colossians 3:17 and 3:23 and 24 and I Corinthians 3:11 to 15).

No Fundamentalist is more heartily opposed to any and every form of soul-sleeping, the unconscious state of believers or unbelievers, between death and resurrection, or to any form of “universalism,” or “universal reconciliation,” than is the writer of this message, who believes in eternal, never ending glory for believers and eternal perdition, the wrath of God, for unbelievers, whether they be moral or immoral. Every true servant of the Lord is against any “annihilation” theory.

EVERY FUNDAMENTALIST IS A DISPENSATIONALIST

Every intelligent, spiritual, Spirit-taught student of the Bible knows that there is not one line of the Old Testament in the Book of Genesis, that “from Adam to Moses” (Romans 5:13 and 14) there was no law (except the law of sin and death and the law called “conscience”). About 2500 years after Adam left Eden the Lord called Moses to Sinai for a new agreement or covenant or testament; and according to Exodus 20 there God added the law, because of sin (Galatians 3:19). The law entered that the sin, that entered 2500 years before by Adam, might abound (Romans 5:20). That law was Israel’s schoolmaster to bring them to Christ and Calvary for justification by faith. (Galatians 3:24 and 25). Israel was “under law” from Sinai to Calvary, about 1500 years. Then the Sinai covenant (testament) became the “old covenant,” the “old testament.” It was made “old” at Calvary (Hebrews 8:13). It was abolished at Calvary. (II Corinthians 3:11 to 15). It was nailed to the cross, taken out of the way, broken down. (Colossians 2:14 to 16 . . . Ephesians 2:14 to 18). Christians in this dispensation are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:14). Christ, as Jesus of Nazareth, was under the law. (Galatians 4:4 . . . Matthew 5:17 to 19 . . . 23:1 to 3 . . . Luke 4:16 and 2:39).

Thus we see that even the Postmillenarians believe in three dispensations: NUMBER ONE . . . From Adam’s sin until God gave the law at Sinai before the law (“old” testament) was added NUMBER TWO . . . From the giving of the law at Sinai until the abolition of the law at Calvary NUMBER THREE . . . from the Pentecost of Acts Two until now and until whatever they think is going to take place on this earth in the future.

Surely even the intelligent Postmillenarians know that God’s messages to the people “from Adam to Moses” were quite different from the messages to His people from Sinai to Pentecost: that He was not, in either of those periods, speaking about the Church of the Mystery,

or that which He purposed, in Christ, before the foundation of the world. (Ephesians 3:11). And surely members of the Body of Christ, in this age and reign and dispensation of grace, who are not under the law, are not to be regulated by God's instructions to His "old testament" people on their march from Egypt to Canaan, worshipping God in a portable tabernacle, and observing their religious ceremonies and God-given ordinances described in Hebrews 9:10, which were mandatory as they received the spirit of bondage unto fear.

What would Christ have done to one of His apostles, while He was Jesus of Nazareth in the midst of Israel (Acts 2:22), if that apostle had preached at that time what Christ told Paul to preach years later in Colossians 2:16 and Galatians 6:15? Paul testified to the Gentiles in due time (I Timothy 2:7), because Israel would not believe on the resurrected Christ or accept righteousness by faith (Acts 13:46 . . . Romans 9:31 to 33), and the Gentiles obtained mercy, according to Paul's message, because of Israel's unbelief (Romans 11:30).

THE PRINCIPLE OF PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

Of course intelligent Bible study is "DISPENSATIONAL" Bible-study and surely any servant of the Lord is very stupid to ridicule or neglect this intelligent Scriptural method (II Timothy 2:15). This of course includes the principle of progressive revelation (confined to the limits of the Bible), with the knowledge that all of the Bible is God's inspired Word, but that God gave us the Holy Scriptures, by inspiration and revelation, on the installment plan. We certainly know that the religious program mandatory under law is forbidden and prohibited in GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO. As has been said many times, all of the Bible is FOR members of the Body of Christ, but all of the Bible is not ABOUT members of the Body of Christ.

The time indicated by the "NOW THEREFORE" of Ephesians 2:19 . . . the "NOW" of I Corinthians 12:27 and 20 and Ephesians 3:5 . . . the "BUT NOW" of Ephesians 2:13, 3:8 and of Romans 16:25 and 26 and Romans 7:6 . . . the "NOW" of Romans 6:22 and Acts 15:10 . . . the "YET NOW" of Colossians 1:20 and 21, of II Corinthians 5:16 and of Romans 11:30 and the "BUT NOW" of Colossians 1:25 and 26 and the "NOW" of Romans 8:1 was neither while Christ was on earth, as the Minister of the circumcision (Romans 15:8), nor from Pentecost to the sending forth of Saul (Acts 13:2). (Read Hebrews 2:3 and 4 and Galatians 2:7 to 9). How could any Christian have been established during those years by the "MY GOSPEL" of Paul or the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery (Romans 16:25), when Christ had not yet given Paul the gospel by revelation (Galatians 1:11), had not sent him forth as He did in Acts 13:2? In Paul's message he preached to Gentiles to be saved by grace and God would raise them up to sit together in the heavenlies where Christ is, "far above all heavens." (Ephesians 2:4 to 9 . . . Ephesians 4:10). Peter told Israel to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins and God would send Christ back from heaven to earth, where they were, to establish His kingdom (Acts 3:19 to 21), adding that Samuel and many prophets foretold "these days." But what prophet foretold Ephesians 2:5 to 9 or the "UNSEARCHABLE" riches of Christ among the Gentiles of Ephesians 3:8?

WHAT IS MEANT BY THIS PRESENT PARENTHESIS?

The evangelical Premillenarians, the Fundamentalists, who call themselves "grace" preachers, of course, are "DISPENSATIONALISTS," for they believe that Luke 19:42 to 44 . . .

and 21:24 to 33 and Matthew 23:38 and 39, and other Scriptures, teach that the prophesied “kingdom” which Christ declared to be “at hand” (Matthew 4:17 . . . 10:7 . . . Mark 1:14 and 15) and will again be at hand when the Son of man comes to earth (Luke 21:27 to 33), has been postponed, that while the prophesied “kingdom of heaven” is in abeyance God is building the Church of the Mystery. So they speak of this present age and dispensation, from Pentecost of Acts Two to the Rapture of I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18, as a “PARENTHESIS.” This suggests that it was not contemplated by Israel’s prophets. Although Christ talked with His TWELVE concerning the kingdom of God when He was showing Himself alive after His death (Acts 1:3), their question in Acts 1:6, concerning their “prophesied kingdom,” proves that He told them nothing concerning the truth called by Paul “THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST.”

The teaching of the Premillenarians, concerning the interrupted or suspended “kingdom” covenants, is very disgusting to the Postmillenarians, makes some of them furious, for they are going to bring in the millennium without the return of the King, and they call the Body of Christ, “Spiritual Israel.”

But the Premillenarians, who teach that their “PARENTHESIS,” “THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY” (Ephesians 3:9), “THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD” (Ephesians 3:1 to 4), “THE JOINT-BODY (SUSSOMMOS),” (Ephesians 3:6), “THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S WILL” (Ephesians 1:9), began on the day of Pentecost with Peter and the Eleven, are not only disgusted with other evangelical Premillenarians, who teach that in the first eleven chapters of Acts we find a pattern of God’s kingdom program to be put into operation after the culmination of Ephesians 4:13, and that GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO was not made known or put into operation until after Paul was sent forth in Acts 13:2, after which a “NEW COMMISSION” (II Corinthians 5:16 to 21) was proclaimed, but they are sometimes so furious that they even go beyond exaggerations in condemning fellow-members of the Body of Christ, and their “battle-cry” or “scarecrow” is “BULLINGERISM.” Of course most of them are ignorant of the meaning of “Bullingerism,” but sheep-like many join the battle-cry and false charges against other Fundamentalists, who are not only positively and uncompromisingly against the extreme “DISPENSATIONALISM” of Dr. E. W. Bullinger, against his elimination of the Lord’s Supper from GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO, and his pagan teaching of the unconscious state of the soul between death and resurrection—as is the writer of this message—but who prove his fallacies by rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

WHAT IS MEANT BY “BULLINGERISM”?

The opposition against Dr. E. W. Bullinger and his teaching began with the Plymouth Brethren in England when and because Dr. Bullinger, who agreed with the Plymouth Brethren and every evangelical Pretribulation Premillenarian among the Fundamentalists of this country as to every fundamental doctrine of evangelical truth, taught that “THE LORD’S PRAYER” and “THE LORD’S SUPPER” have no place in God’s present “GRACE” program: that “THE LORD’S DAY” of Revelation 1:10 is not Sunday. Dr. Bullinger used such Scriptures as II Corinthians 3:6, Romans 15:27, Acts 28:20, Galatians 3:7, 3:29, 4:26, Acts 26:22 and 23 . . . Romans 11:17 . . . Romans 4:16 (compared with Ephesians 4:6) and I Corinthians 11:27 with Matthew 26:28 (compared with Ephesians 2:11 to 13), in his attempt to prove that the Church during the entire period covered by the Book of Acts was a “COVENANT” prophesied Church (calling the period from Acts 2:1 to Acts 28:28 the “PENTECOSTAL PERIOD”). His contention was, that inasmuch as the BODY of Ephesians and Colossians is the Church of the MYSTERY,

and not prophesied, and “non-covenant,” not only did a new spiritual program begin after Acts 28:31, but a new and different Church. Inasmuch as the Lord’s Supper is mentioned in connection with the blood of the “covenant,” it has no place in the “non-covenant” Church. You can well imagine what the Plymouth Brethren would do to and against any man who would try to take away their “Lord’s Day” theory and their “SUNDAY MUST,” the Lord’s Table. So the battle started and so it rages. Then when Dr. Bullinger proved that the Brethren used the “Therefore” of Romans 6:4 for their “WITNESS” instead of the “THEREFORE” of Colossians 3:5, and proved that there was no religious cemetery in Romans 6:4 for the burial of the old man, as a “watery grave” witness, something more than their indignation was aroused. They were ready to cry as did Paul’s enemies, “away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live.” (Acts 22:22). At this present time this “watery grave” witness is the greatest hindrance to the recovery of “THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST” among Fundamentalists. The “THEREFORE” of Romans 6:4 proves the very opposite of what is taught by some: it teaches that the believer who has died and been raised by baptism has also been buried by the same baptism. It is a known fact that no Bible teacher, who reads water into Romans 6:4, Ephesians 4:5 or Colossians 2:12, makes any attempt to obey Ephesians 3:9.

While the utter confusion goes on Pentecostalism and “Snake jugglers” and “religious healers” and wild “tongues movements” are playing havoc with many poor, deluded victims. These “Fanatics” challenge our so-called “grace” preachers, who revise and abridge Mark 16:16 to 18 and Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16 and I Corinthians 14:18, 12:28 and I Corinthians 1:17 to fit into their faulty dispensationalism, and they say to these “grace” Fundamentalists, if God’s “grace” program and the joint-Body of Ephesians 3:6 began on the day of Pentecost, if GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO began when those TWELVE men (Acts 2:14) stood up on Israel’s Jewish feast-day, and if there has been no change in God’s administration since that day, why not go to Mark 16:16 to 18 (obeying all three verses) and to the Book of Acts and I Corinthians 12:7 to 11 for our program?

Of course the evangelical Premillenarians, who teach that “THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY” (for Gentiles), began when Peter and the Eleven were preaching to Israel on Pentecost, make no attempt to make anyone see what is the “DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY,” in obedience to Ephesians 3:9; for what began on Pentecost was foretold by Israel’s prophets, Joel, David, Moses and Samuel, according to Peter’s words, and was, therefore, not THE MYSTERY HID IN GOD FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD. (Ephesians 3:9).

AN INTELLIGENT QUESTION CONCERNING SIGN-GIFTS

There are many sincere Christians who are very much confused and bewildered as to the sign-gifts of I Corinthians 12:7 to 11, and ask, if God put them in the Church (I Corinthians 12:28), who put them out? If there has been no change in God’s spiritual program since Paul wrote his first six Epistles, during the “ACTS” period, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, Galatians, I Corinthians, Romans and II Corinthians, then why should not the sincere, spiritual Christians believe that those signs are absent because Christians are not as spiritual today as were the Corinthians and others? But then their confusion is not cleared up when they read that the Corinthians, who exercised those sign-gifts, were anything but spiritual. (I Corinthians 3:1 to 4 . . . I Corinthians 6:7 to 9 . . . I Corinthians 14:10 to 34 . . . I Corinthians 8:1 to 12 . . . I Corinthians 15:12). Perhaps many have missed the meaning of I Corinthians 13:8 and 13:13,

things that were to be done away, things for children, and things that were to abide for the full-aged.

Dr. Bullinger saw that there was an absence of signs and visions and tongues and religious ceremonies in Paul's Epistles, written after the close of the "ACTS" period (I Timothy 5:23 . . . II Timothy 4:20 . . . Philippians 2:25 to 29), and by comparing "the hope of Israel" (Acts 28:20) with Ephesians 3:1 to 4, Paul there a prisoner for "the Mystery among the Gentiles," he explained away the sign-gifts of the "ACTS" period by stating that a NEW CHURCH with a different hope and calling began after the close of Acts. This extreme dispensationalism has led to worse than confusion, and has done much harm in the matter of the recovery of lost truth concerning GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO.

When Christians, who don't play follow the leader, see that not even the most consecrated, spiritual, faithful, fruitful evangelical "grace" preacher today does, or can, exercise any of the sign gifts of I Corinthians 12:7 to 11, they want to know "why," with the correct Scriptural answer.

Some years ago when I was prayerfully and diligently studying the Scriptures for an explanation why the present-day absence of signs, visions, tongues and jail deliverances and angelic visitations found in Mark 16:17 and 18 and all during the period covered by the Book of Acts, I wondered why the Book of Acts did not record the doings and sayings of Paul from Acts 28:31 until the time of his departure from earth. I knew that Dr. Luke wrote the Book of Acts, and that he was with Paul when Paul said "good-bye" to earth (II Timothy 4:11). Then why did not the Holy Spirit lead Luke to write the many things that Paul did and said between the last word in Acts and Paul's farewell message? There was a reason for this sudden closing of Acts, after which Paul wrote Titus, I Timothy, Philippians, Philemon, Ephesians, Colossians and II Timothy, called Paul's "Prison" Epistles. There was a reason why Paul did general healing in Acts 19:10 to 12, and why after the close of Acts he instructed a faithful saint to use a physical remedy. (I Timothy 5:23). Then I saw that in the last chapter of Acts we find the record of Paul's miraculous healing of a heathen, but in the last chapter of all of his writings, some years later, he said, "Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick." (II Timothy 4:20). Trophimus was a faithful saint. The Holy Spirit had II Timothy 4:20 put into the inspired word for religious "sign" healers. Of course every intelligent spiritual Christian believes in Divine healing (elective) but not in divine healers.

Then I learned that in Paul's oral and written ministry before Acts 28 he proclaimed both the prophesied and unprophesied truth of God, and I found in the Book of Acts and in Paul's first Epistles nearly 200 references to the Old Testament Scriptures, whereas in Paul's "Prison" Epistles there are very, very few references to the Old Testament Scriptures and very little truth not "UNSEARCHABLE." (Ephesians 3:8 and Romans 11:33).

I saw that there were several baptisms during the "Acts" period and thereafter Paul declared "there is one baptism." (Ephesians 4:5). I saw there was important truth for the correction of error in I Corinthians 13:8 and 13, things that would be done away and what would abide.

So in the year 1921 when I was searching for the Bible answer a friend handed me a little pamphlet printed and distributed by the Moody Bible Institute, "Visions, Signs and Tongues Not God's Order For Today," with a strong "foreword" endorsement by Dr. C. I. Scofield. On the very first page of that pamphlet the author branded as "satanic" the teaching that the Church all during the Book of Acts was a "kingdom" Church different from the "Post Acts" Church (Bullingerism) and also the teachings of the "signs" and "healing" Christians (Pentecostalism).

Then the author asked whether it is not Satan who turns the eyes of sincere Christians back to Pentecost rather than on to the "Prison" Epistles of Paul; declaring that "the normal course" of the Church is to be found in Paul's last Epistles; and that God brought forth a new order after the close of the "Acts" period, and in that new order is noted the absence of the signs and signgifts found in the Book of Acts and in Paul's earlier Epistles.

This is the only intelligent Scriptural explanation of the difference in God's spiritual program before and after Acts 28. It is pitiable, if true, that a Christian brother in charge of the book-store or publications at Moody's, a brother who uses anointing oil, has instructed the salesman not to let their customers and visitors see that book. It will only be brought out of hiding by urgent request.

The cure offered by Dr. Bullinger and those who propagate his "DISPENSATIONALISM" is much worse than the disease. I rejected it the very first time I read it. I have never taught or believed Dr. Bullinger's extreme "DISPENSATIONALISM," having written against it years ago and many times since. But still there are Fundamentalists who have continuously called me a "BULLINGERITE": most of them being as ignorant of Dr. Bullinger's teachings as they are of "THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY," while other Fundamentalists, zealous immersionists, are guilty of deliberate falsification, and they know it full well, while at the same time they teach that they buried their old man under the water. The new man does not bring false charges, sometimes called "lies."

So while the outstanding leaders among the Fundamentalists use the "BULLINGERISM" "scarecrow" to keep their followers ignorant of the glorious truth of the ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD, the men who propagate "extreme DISPENSATIONALISM" pick up a recruit now and then with their two pet Scriptures, the "NONE OTHER THINGS" of Acts 26:22 and "THE HOPE OF ISRAEL" of Acts 28:20.

These brethren contend that Paul's statement in Acts 26:22, "NONE OTHER THINGS," proves that in his first six Epistles and in all of his sayings recorded in the Book of Acts nothing of the "UNSEARCHABLE" truth of Ephesians 3:8 can be found; that in prophecy somewhere between Genesis 1:1. and the last words of Malachi everything that Paul preached before Acts 28 can be found. This means that Israel's prophets prophesied that temporary blindness would be sent upon Israel (the mystery of Romans 11:25); that because of Israel's unbelief, mercy would be extended to Gentiles (Romans 11:30 and 11:25); and that THE Jews would obtain mercy by the Gentiles' mercy (Romans 11:31). On the contrary the Holy Spirit teaches that this truth was "PAST TRACING OUT" (UNSEARCHABLE) (Romans 11:33). These brethren, in their utter inconsistency and contradictions, admit that the Greek word, translated in Ephesians 3:8, "UNSEARCHABLE," means "not prophesied in the Old Testament Scriptures"; that the same Greek word is used in Roman 11:33. Yet they teach that the truth of Romans 11:30 to 32 was prophesied

What folly to contend that the Old Testament prophets foretold that believing Jews and Gentiles would be baptized by one Spirit into one Body and all be members one of another (I Corinthians 12:13 . . . Romans 12:4 and 5), and that the Gentile members of this Body were waiting for Israel's hope in Amos 9:11 to 15. The very heart of the unprophesied MYSTERY, which was HID in God and HID from ages and from generations, is I Corinthians 12:12; "SO ALSO IS CHRIST." This is the wisdom ordained to our glory before the world. (I Corinthians 2:7). What stupidity to teach that any of Israel's prophets prophesied that the "RECONCILIATION" COMMISSION would be given for Gentiles (II Corinthians 5:18 to 20 . . . Romans 5:11), because God would temporarily CAST AWAY Israel (Romans 11:15). No

prophet even intimated the “fulness of the Gentiles” in Romans 11:25, or the “fulness of Israel” (Romans 11:12) after their DIMINISHING to make the Gentiles RICH.

The “ETERNAL PURPOSE” of God in Romans 8:28 to 31 is the “ETERNAL PURPOSE” of God in Ephesians 1:11 and in II Timothy 1:9. Compare Romans 8:29 to 31 with Ephesians 1:4 and 5. Think of the absurdity of even suggesting that the wisdom ordained to our glory before the world (I Corinthians 2:7) was, that believing Gentiles would be Israelites enjoying “the hope of Israel” as interpreted by the extreme dispensationalists. The “hope of glory” in Colossians 1:27 is the “hope of glory” in Romans 5:2. (II Corinthians 13:5). Philippians 1:1 to 6 is proof the Philippians were in the same Body while Paul was in the Roman prison that they were in when Paul preached to them in Philippi, in Acts 16. The “hope of Israel” of Acts 28:20 is mentioned in Acts 23:6, “of the HOPE and RESURRECTION of the dead am I called in question.” Read also Acts 24:14 and 15 . . . Acts 25:19 . . . Acts 26:5 to 8.

Is the gospel of the grace of God more clearly proclaimed in Ephesians 2:8 to 10 and in Titus 3:5 to 8 than it is in Romans 3:24 to 28 or in Romans 4:4 and 5? Surely the Divine baptism of Romans 6:3 is the one baptism of Ephesians 4:5.

All of this “DISPENSATIONAL” confusion is one of Satan’s devices to keep saints from knowing the truth which he hates with a vicious, relentless hatred, the truth that landed Paul in prison as an evil doer, as the prisoner of Jesus Christ for Gentiles. (Ephesians 3:1 to 3). Do you suppose Satan, who once held a much higher place in higher heavens, was pleased when Christ spoiled principalities and powers (Colossians 2:16), when God raised Christ far above those principalities and powers and made Him to be Head over all things to the Church, His Body, the filling-up of Christ (Ephesians 1:19 to 23)? If some one should ask you, to what church you belong, if you should answer “I am a member of the ‘FILLING-UP’ of Christ,” would they not doubt your sanity? (I Corinthians 2:12 to 14). How many sermons have you heard on the truth of Ephesians 2:15, “God is making of the twain ‘ONE NEW MAN’? Certainly every Christian who desires to be God’s unashamed workman should know what God is doing in this age and dispensation of grace.” (Ephesians 4:10 to 14).

WHAT PROPHETS KNEW THE TRUTH OF THE MYSTERY BEFORE PAUL?

If the Fundamentalists, who claim that the dispensation of the mystery began with Pentecost, say that the period from Pentecost until the rapture of the Church is a “PARENTHESIS,” we would ask them what part of the “PARENTHESIS” was known or made known by any prophet of Israel? Was all of the truth concerning “THE MYSTERY” of Ephesians 3:9 . . . Ephesians 1:9 . . . Colossians 1:25 and 26 included in “THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST” among the Gentiles (Ephesians 3:8) or just a part of it, and which part? We have already learned that the truth of Romans 11:30 to 32 was “UNSEARCHABLE.”

We ask these questions because the Bible teachers, who teach that the dispensation of the mystery did not begin until after Acts 11:18, and that the apostle Paul was the first messenger of the Lord to receive the revelation of “THE MYSTERY,” are constantly being asked to explain the “AS” in Ephesians 3:5 and tell who were the apostles and prophets of Romans 16:26 and Ephesians 2:20. Note Ephesians 3:5: “THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST” . . . “which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, ‘AS’ it is ‘NOW’ revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.” The Premillenarians, who will not have “the dispensation of grace,” “the dispensation of the mystery,” “the Joint-Body” of Ephesians 3:6, begin later than Pentecost

when the Holy Spirit fell upon Peter and the Eleven, try to persuade themselves and others that the “AS” in Ephesians 3:5 teaches “comparative revelation”; that the “MYSTERY” was revealed to others before Christ revealed it to Paul, but not as clearly as Christ revealed it to Paul. When Christ said to His apostles, in Luke 24:39, “a spirit hath not flesh and bones, ‘AS’ ye see Me have,” Christ did not use the “AS” to indicate comparative revelation. If I should say, “when I was a boy people did not travel 300 miles an hour through the air ‘AS’ they do now,” I would not mean “comparative speed,” for there were no airplanes when I was a boy.

Note Paul’s “ME” in Ephesians 3:2, 3:3, Paul’s “MY” in Ephesians 3:4 and “UNSEARCHABLE” in Ephesians 3:8, and “FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD HID IN GOD” in Ephesians 3:9. Surely here, as in Colossians 1:25 and 26, and the “ME” (of Paul) in Titus 1:2 and 3, we have proof that no prophet had the slightest knowledge of God’s “ETERNAL PURPOSE” before it was FIRST revealed to Paul, and then of course, by the Holy Spirit, it was revealed to others, as it will be today to all saints, who obey II Timothy 2:15 and will pray the prayer of Ephesians 1:15 to 23.

We will search in vain, if we search the Scriptures to learn if anyone of the TWELVE or any other servant of the Lord, except Paul, was in jail for telling God’s Secret (Ephesians 6:19 and 20 . . . Colossians 4:3 and 4). And we know that Paul called this Divine Secret, in II Timothy 2:8 and 9, “MY GOSPEL,” for which he was in the Roman jail. So the “MY GOSPEL” of II Timothy 2:8 is the “MY GOSPEL” of Romans 16:25: “Now to Him that is of 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’ . . . ‘BUT NOW’ is made ‘MANIFEST’ by the Scriptures of the prophets.”

Was Paul egotistical or presumptuous, if not deluded, when he called GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO, “MY GOSPEL”? On the day of Pentecost when the TWELVE stood up (Acts 2:14), and said, “let all the house of Israel know,” did they preach Jesus Christ, according to the “REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY,” when they said, “this is that which was spoken by Joel?” This truth was not kept secret since the world began. Neither was the truth of Acts 2:27 to 33 or 3:19 to 24. Neither was Acts 15:13 to 18. Neither was Acts 10:43. The preaching of Jesus Christ according to the “REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY” was “HID” from ages and from generations (Colossians 1:25 and 26), “HID” in God (Ephesians 3:9). “BUT NOW is made MANIFEST to His saints.” (Colossians 1:26).

Would any intelligent, spiritual, Spirit-taught student of the Scriptures even attempt to fix the date of the “BUT NOW” of Colossians 1:26 at Pentecost or at any time between the time that Peter preached to Israel as to what Jesus of Nazareth did on earth in the midst of Israel (Acts 2:22) and to Cornelius, The Gentile, as to what Jesus of Nazareth did on earth in the midst of Israel (Acts 10:37 to 39), when in the foundation truth of the MYSTERY we read the significant “NOW” and “HENCEFORTH” of II Corinthians 5:16 and the reason for the “NEW” commission . . . “NOW” “HENCEFORTH” “NO MORE” know Christ after the flesh? Compare Acts 2:22 with Colossians 1:27; and “Test things that differ.”

But does not Ephesians 2:20 tell us that we are “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief Corner Stone?” Who was their foundation? “Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (I Corinthians 3:11). But note the verse immediately preceding verse 11, in which Paul called himself “a wise masterbuilder” and wrote, “I have laid the foundation.” Have these brethren read Galatians 2:1 to 7?

Did any one of the TWELVE or any servant of God other than Paul use the word "BODY," in referring to the Church of the Mystery, so far as we have any Scriptural record? Aside from Adam's statements in Genesis 2:23 and 24, concerning husband and wife, one flesh, is there even a hint in the writings of any of the prophets from Moses to Malachi that God would do what He is now doing? Is there a hint in the writings of Matthew, Mark, John, Peter, James or Jude, or in the Gospel of Luke, concerning the "ONE NEW MAN" of Ephesians 2:15, the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the "REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY"?

Let us ever keep in mind that when Christ ascended far above all heavens He gave gifts unto men . . . "for the 'PERFECTING' of the saints," for the work of the ministry, that saints might not be wind-tossed babes. (Ephesians 4:10 to 14). This and Ephesians 3:9 and I Corinthians 4:1 to 4 give the answer to the question so often asked, "what difference does it make when the BODY or the dispensation of grace or the dispensation of the mystery began: I am in that BODY and know I am saved by grace, so why worry when it began; let's preach the gospel to sinners?" We do know that Hebrews 5:11 to 13 describes most members of the Body of Christ and very, very few are described in Hebrews 5:14. But Acts 20:32 is still in the Bible: so is II Timothy 2:15: so is II Timothy 2:8, which should be read with Galatians 1:10 . . . John 12:43 . . . the last clause of Jude 16 . . . and I Peter 5:2.

WORKMEN WHO NEED TO BE ASHAMED

Every minister of Christ is expected to be a faithful steward of the MYSTERIES of God. (I Corinthians 4:1 to 4). How can any servant of the Lord, who even claims to be a Bible teacher, begin to obey Ephesians 3:9 until he knows the truth of Romans 11:11 and 11:12 and 11:15 and 11:30 to 33? How can he know "THE MYSTERY OF MYSTERIES," if he does not know that Israel had not been CAST AWAY before Paul was sent forth as an apostle; that the FALL of Israel had not taken place when Peter and the Eleven told "devout Jews from every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5) what Joel, David, Moses, Samuel and all their prophets had predicted?

Here is a challenge. Surely as you read Colossians 1:25 and 26, as to what GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO is, and the "BUT NOW is made MANIFEST to His saints," and also read Colossians 4:3 and 4, the prayer that God's messenger might have open doors to proclaim God's "MYSTERY," for which Paul suffered for us Gentiles, to make it "MANIFEST AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK," you will agree with me that every servant of the Lord, who claims to be a faithful steward of the mysteries of God, ought to be making it "MANIFEST." Now the challenge; if you would visit one hundred thousand churches in this country, would you find one single pastor or Bible teacher, who teaches that GOD'S "GRACE" MANIFESTO was made known by Peter and others before Paul proclaimed it, who even understands Colossians 1:24 to 26, to say nothing of making it "MANIFEST" as he ought?

Every Premillennial "grace" preacher among them truthfully teaches that this "PARENTHESIS" (BODY AGE) began when Israel was "DIMINISHED," with the "FALL" of Israel, when and because Israel was "CAST AWAY." (Romans 11:11 . . . 11:12 and 11:15). Most heartily does the writer agree; and he most heartily agrees with them that I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16 proves that the "JOINT-BODY" of Ephesians 3:6 began before Paul wrote that Epistle, his first. But I most heartily disagree with them, that, because of Christ's words in Matthew 23:38, or because of Christ's words to Paul, in Acts 9:4, compared with Ephesians 5:31 and 32 (but with which the brethren forget to compare Matthew 25:40 and 45), or because of Paul's words, "I persecuted the Church of God" (Galatians 1:13), and because the Holy Spirit

came on the day of Pentecost in fulfillment of Joel's Prophecy, therefore, Peter could have said to Gentiles on the day of Pentecost, "NOW THEREFORE ye are NO MORE 'strangers' and 'foreigners,' but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the Household of God" (Ephesians 2:19), or "NOW ye are the Body of Christ and members in particular." (I Corinthians 12:27). These "NOWS" do not fit into Peter's Pentecostal messages.

THE "PARENTHESIS"

Almost all Premillenarians, who preach salvation from the penalty of sin by grace without religion or good deeds, believe that there is a difference between "the gospel of the kingdom" mentioned in Matthew 4:27 and 24:14 and "the gospel of the grace of God" mentioned in Acts 20:24. They believe that there is a difference between the "END" mentioned in Matthew 24:13 and 14: "he that endureth unto the 'END' shall be saved" . . . "and then shall the 'END' come," and the "MYSTERY" coming of Christ for the rapture of the Church mentioned in I Corinthians 15:51 to 53. But those who believe that the commission of Matthew 28:19 and 20 is God's order for this age of grace believe that the "END" of Matthew 28:20, "lo, I am with you, even unto the 'END'," is the "END" (RAPTURE) of I Corinthians 15:51 to 53 and not the "END" of Matthew 24:13 and 14.

Of course, if they deny that Mark 16:16 is "the gospel of the kingdom," "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," to be preached to every creature under heaven, and when preached as a witness among all nations the "END" shall come (Matthew 24:14), they run into trouble when they read Paul's words in Colossians 1:6 and 23, "the gospel which is come into all the world" . . . "which was preached to every creature which is under heaven": for then the "END" did not come, except the "END" of Paul's earthly ministry.

They should see also that they are in trouble trying to fit the commission of Matthew 28:19 and 20 and Mark 16:16 to 18, in which "baptism" has a prominent place, with Paul's words in I Corinthians 1:17, "for Christ sent me not to baptize."

I read a notice in a store, being remodeled and decorated, which said "UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT." The student of the Scriptures, who does not see that after Israel rejected Christ in resurrection God's spiritual program was turned over to "NEW MANAGEMENT," will not understand the difference between "THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" under which Peter worked and "THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD" under which Paul proclaimed the distinctive message which the risen Christ revealed to him. In Paul's Epistles, testified Peter, are some things hard to be understood. (II Peter 3:15 and 16). But remember the prayers of Ephesians 1:15 to 23 and 3:14 to 21, and believe Paul's words in I Corinthians 3:10 . . . Ephesians 3:8 and Colossians 1:24 to 27.

I am sure we are agreed that all Premillenarians teach that this present "CHURCH" (BODY) AGE is a "PARENTHESIS"; that is, it has fallen in between the interruption or suspension of the setting-up of God's prophesied kingdom on this earth, with Christ on the throne of His glory here on earth (Matthew 25:31 to 43 . . . Isaiah 9:6 and 7), and the return of Christ as the Son of man to bring about the restitution of all things spoken by all the prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:21). All "Pretribulation" Premillenarians are agreed that the end of this present "PARENTHESIS" will be the Rapture of the Church. (I Corinthians 15:51 to 53 . . . Titus 2:13 and Philippians 3:20 and 21). We are all agreed that this "PARENTHESIS" was not prophesied. We should all be agreed that it is significant that the Lord demanded from Acts 1:26 to Acts 12:2 that there should be TWELVE apostles: but not after James was killed. (Acts 12:1

and 2). Then He said “separate unto Me Barnabas and Saul” (Acts 13:2), and Barnabas soon faded out of the picture. Then the spiritual program of God was under “NEW MANAGEMENT” and surely during those years from Acts 1:26 to Acts 13:46 God was dealing with Israel in a manner He has not dealt with them since.

So we are most certainly disagreed as to when the “PARENTHESIS” began: for it is inconceivable that the “PARENTHESIS,” which was unprophesied, began at a time when Peter said that Joel and David and Moses and Samuel and all of the prophets spoke of “THESE DAYS.” (Acts 2:16 to 32 and 3:24). All Premillenarians, who are “grace” messengers, are agreed that there is a difference between the “MYSTERY” coming of Christ, before the tribulation, (I Corinthians 15:51), and the prophesied coming of Christ to save Israel. (Romans 11:26 and Luke 21:27 to 33). Why can we not agree that there is a difference between God’s prophesied program under Peter and the Eleven in Acts Two and Three and the “UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST” for Gentiles (Ephesians 3:8) which the risen Christ revealed to Paul when and because Israel was CAST AWAY after the death of James in Acts 12:1 and 2?

IS GOD’S PROGRAM TO VISIT THE GENTILES?

In Acts 15:14 Peter and James declared that God did visit the Gentiles to take out from among them a people for His Name. This was in connection with Peter’s statement in Acts 15:7 concerning his mouth chosen to preach to Gentiles at the time Peter opened his mouth and preached to the household of Cornelius. (Acts 10:32 to 36). Paul, in Ephesians 2:15, wrote that God’s program in this age is to make of Jews and Gentiles “ONE NEW MAN.” But most of our Premillennial brethren tell us that God’s program in this age is to “visit the Gentiles and take out from among them a people for His Name.” Now think of this: Peter and James, at about the very same time they uttered the truth of Acts 15:14 concerning “VISITING THE GENTILES,” agreed that they would “VISIT THE JEWS” (Galatians 2:9).

Then in spite of the fact that these same brethren acknowledge that there is no record in the Book of Acts of one single missionary journey of any one of the TWELVE outside of the land of the Jews, that according to Acts 8:1, Acts 15:1 to 10, Galatians 2:1 to 9, they remained in the cities of Israel (in obedience to Matthew 10:23), they attempt to prove by unreliable “church history” that the TWELVE went “far hence” and did visit the Gentiles and did carry out the great commission of Matthew 28:19 and 20. How sad it is that men of God must wrest the Scriptures to support their faulty dispensationalism!

We should all know that the Divine program, which God in this age wants His servants to make “MANIFEST,” and all saints to see (Colossians 4:3 and 4 and Ephesians 3:9, has to do with the heavenly position and possessions of members of the Body of Christ: has much to do with principalities and powers in the heavenlies: includes the MYSTERY AMONG THE GENTILES, Christ in them the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27): and is the truth that God is making “ONE NEW MAN.” (Ephesians 2:15). Then we read that the MYSTERY is the fact that Gentiles are to be “joint-heirs” and “joint-sharers” in the JOINT-BODY” (Ephesians 3:6): and the Body is the “Filling-Up of Christ.” (Ephesians 1:22 and 23). Then we learn that this Body was chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world and the Body-members were predestinated to be children of God . . . “holy” and “without blame” (blemish) before Him in love. (Ephesians 1:4 and 5). All of this is according to the “RICHES OF GOD’S GRACE” (Ephesians 1:7) and this “GRACE” was God’s “ETERNAL PURPOSE” and was given us in

Christ before the world began (II Timothy 1:9), and in the ages to come God will show the exceeding RICHES OF HIS GRACE in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:7). Then the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church will be “ONE FLESH.” (Ephesians 5:31 and 32).

ADAM - CHRIST - THE CHURCH

After God had taken Eve out of the wounded side of Adam, while Adam was in a deep sleep, Adam said, “a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be ‘ONE FLESH.’” (Genesis 2:24). Adam had no mother to leave and certainly Adam’s Creator did not want Adam to leave Him. It is quite interesting to note, in Genesis 5:2, that God created them, Adam and Eve, and God called “THEIR” name, “ADAM.”

Think of this with “SO ALSO IS CHRIST,” in I Corinthians 12:12 . . . the “HEAD” and the “BODY” . . . “CHRIST.” Christ left His Father in heaven. It is significant that Christ left His mother at a wedding. (John 2:4). God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Christ on the cross. Adam was a figure of Christ. (Romans 5:14). The spear went into Christ’s side. The Body of Christ is called “THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH HE PURCHASED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD.” (Acts 20:28). So Paul said, “a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they TWO shall be ‘ONE FLESH.’ . . . THIS IS A ‘GREAT MYSTERY’: but I speak concerning Christ and the Church.” (Ephesians 5:31 and 32).

After Paul wrote of God’s “before the world began” “PURPOSE” and “GRACE” given us in Christ Jesus he added, “But is ‘NOW’ made ‘MANIFEST’ by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ” . . . “WHEREUNTO’ I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle and a teacher of the Gentiles.” (II Timothy 1:9 to 11).

We know that “GRACE” came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17); that “GRACE” reigns through RIGHTEOUSNESS unto ETERNAL LIFE through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. (Romans 5:21). We know that Christ was foreordained to be God’s Lamb, but was “MANIFEST” in these last times. (I Peter 1:20). Note carefully that Christ, the foreordained Lamb, was “WITHOUT BLEMISH” . . . “WITHOUT SPOT.” Note the foreordained Church, “WITHOUT BLEMISH” . . . “WITHOUT SPOT,” in Ephesians 5:27 and Ephesians 1:4 and 5: Christ loved the Church; gave Himself for the Church to sanctify and cleanse the Church; that He might present the Church to Himself a GLORIOUS Church, “NOT HAVING SPOT” . . . “WITHOUT BLEMISH.” (Ephesians 5:27). . . “According as He hath chosen us in Christ BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, that we should be “WITHOUT BLAME” (BLEMISH). . . Having “‘PREDESTINATED’ us.” Thus we see in GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO, that “PURPOSE” and “PREDESTINATION” are linked together (Ephesians 1:11 . . . II Timothy 1:9 . . . Romans 8:28 to 31). This is called “THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S WILL” (Ephesians 1:9).

So God foreordained and PREDESTINATED, from BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, the “SPOTLESS” CHRIST, “THE PERFECT MAN,” Who died on the cross to redeem believing sinners. God also foreordained and PREDESTINATED, from BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, the “SPOTLESS” Church, (in I Corinthians 12:12 called “CHRIST”), “THE PERFECT MAN” of Ephesians 4:13. As Adam was “ADAM,” without Eve and with Eve; so Christ is “CHRIST,” without His Church and with His Church. So as the GREAT MYSTERY we have these two “SPOTLESS” CHRISTS . . . But Christ and the Church . . . “ONE FLESH.” This is the MYSTERY of Mysteries included in GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO. Surely you and I will pray for open doors and open mouths to make this TRUTH

“MANIFEST” as we ought to speak (boldly). (Ephesians 6:19 and 20 . . . Colossians 4:3 and 4). Of course, you know what to expect from Satan and religious men.

Surely you and I are agreed that it would be awful if only those who understand GOD’S “GRACE” MANIFESTO could get into the Body.

If you would like to study the “NOWS,” “BUT NOWS,” “THEREFORE NOWS,” and “YET NOWS,” we would suggest that you do so in the order we give them here, and you will note that some of them refer to the death and resurrection and intercession of Christ, dating from Calvary, while the others date from Israel’s rejection of Christ in resurrection, from their refusal of Roman 3:21, and their blindness from God, after which Paul said: “Even at this present time (NOW) there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” (Romans 11:5). “The election hath obtained it AND THE REST WERE BLINDED.” (Romans 11:7).

Here then is the order of the “NOWS,” Bible-study keys: I Peter 1:18 to 21 . . . Hebrews 9:26 . . . John 12:27 and 12:31 . . . I Corinthians 15:20 . . . Hebrews 9:24 . . . Romans 7:6 . . . Romans 6:22 . . . Romans 8:1 . . . Acts 15:10 . . . II Timothy 1:9 and 10 . . . Romans 3:21 . . . Romans 11:30 . . . Romans 11:31 . . . Colossians 1:20 and 21 . . . Romans 5:11 (atonement in this verse should be RECONCILIATION). . . II Corinthians 5:16 and 5:20 . . . Ephesians 5:8 . . . Ephesians 2:13 . . . Ephesians 2:19 . . . Romans 16:25 and 26 . . . Ephesians 3:5 . . . Colossians 1:25 and 26 . . . I Corinthians 12:27 and 20 . . . I Corinthians 13:13 . . . Romans 13:11. (Read also Acts 17:30).

After carefully studying these “NOWS,” give the correct “DISPENSATIONAL” answer as to the time indicated by them and mark those that were not true until after Paul’s “TURN” in Acts 13:46. Would Christ have said while on earth what is said in Romans 3:22 and 10:12? “There is no difference?” For the answer read Mark 7:27 to 31.

When the prayer of Ephesians 1:15 to 18 is answered in behalf of the saint, that saint knows what is the hope of God’s calling, the riches of the glory of God’s inheritance in the saints. Remember that God purposed before the foundation of the world that what He works out in this age and dispensation of grace will accomplish the glorious climax of Ephesians 5:27 . . . THAT CHRIST MIGHT PRESENT TO HIMSELF A GLORIOUS CHURCH, NOT HAVING SPOT, OR WRINKLE, OR ANY SUCH THING; BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH. . . (Read Ephesians 1:4 and 5) (Ephesians 1:11). So the highest truth in the MYSTERY OF MYSTERIES is what God has and will have for Christ in the saints, rather than what saints have in Christ, which too is unspeakable.

Then read the strange language of Paul: “That I may PRESENT a chaste virgin to Christ” (II Corinthians 11:2). . . . “That we may PRESENT every man PERFECT in Christ Jesus” (Colossians 1:28). Note that this statement follows the most profound truth in the Bible (Colossians 1:25 and 26). Who is going to PRESENT US: Christ or Paul? What does the Bible say? Both Christ and Paul. So surely we will all agree, that next to the eternal sinless Lord of glory, the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords (I Timothy 6:14 to 16), measured by true standards, the apostle Paul was the greatest man who ever lived on this earth. Paul told the truth when he said, “I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” (I Corinthians 15:10).

In Hebrews 13:20 and 21 it is the God of peace who makes the saint perfect. In Hebrews 5:14 to 6:3 we learn that it is the strong meat of God’s Word. In Ephesians 4:10 to 14 we learn of the gifted servants of Christ who are to make saints perfect.

“Knowing that He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise us up also by Jesus, and shall PRESENT us with you.” (II Corinthians 4:14). Let us keep in mind that Christ, Who is to

PRESENT the Church unto Himself SPOTLESS (Ephesians 5:27), is Himself SPOTLESS (I Peter 1:19 to 21). Both Christ and His Church are “WITHOUT SPOT.” Christ offered Himself to God “WITHOUT SPOT” (Hebrews 9:14). The Greek word translated “WITHOUT SPOT” in Hebrews 9:14 is translated “FAULTLESS” in Jude 24 “Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to PRESENT you ‘FAULTLESS’ before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”

Think of what we were and where we were and what we are and what we are going to be and where we are going to be; in glory! “SPOTLESS,” “BLAMELESS” and “FAULTLESS” before the presence of His glory. Do you thank the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for HIS “GRACE” MANIFESTO?