

SIX IMPORTANT BIBLE LESSONS

1. BY ADAM . . . BY MOSES . . . BY CHRIST
2. CHRIST CAME UNTO HIS OWN AND HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT
3. THE NEW CREATION . . . ONE NEW MAN
4. GOD GAVE HIM (ABRAHAM) THE COVENANT OF CIRCUMCISION
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LESSON NUMBER ONE

BY ADAM . . . BY MOSES . . . BY CHRIST.

From Adam To Moses
(Romans 5:12 to 14)

FROM MOSES AND SINAI TO CHRIST AND CALVARY. (Galatians 3:19)

In John 1:17 we read, that the LAW was given by Moses; but GRACE and truth came by Jesus Christ. In Romans 8:1 to 4 we learn that Christ, by GRACE, did for sinners what Moses and the LAW could not do. We have often heard the statement, “what the LAW (the Ten Commandments) demanded (righteousness) GRACE provides.” “By Jesus Christ all who believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the LAW of Moses.” (Acts 13:39).

In Romans 5:12 we read, “by one man (Adam) SIN entered into the world.” “In Romans 5:20 we learn that the LAW entered, that the SIN (that entered by Adam) might abound. GRACE came by Jesus Christ. So in the fifth chapter of Romans we read of “SIN,” “LAW” and “GRACE.” SIN, by Adam; LAW, by Moses; GRACE, by JESUS CHRIST. By Moses is the LAW; and by the LAW is the knowledge of SIN. (Romans 3:20). The LAW was added because of transgression, that SIN might be exceeding sinful, and that all the world might become guilty before God. (Romans 3:19 . . . 7:13 and Galatians 3:19). Let us read how “SIN,” “LAW” and “GRACE” are mentioned in Romans 5:19 to 21:

“For as by one man’s (Adam’s) disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One (Jesus Christ) shall many be made righteous. Moreover the LAW entered that the OFFENCE (SIN) might abound. But where SIN abounded GRACE did MUCH MORE (over)abound: That as SIN hath reigned unto DEATH, even so might GRACE reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”

No human being has ever heard more startling and important news than is published in these three verses of Scripture. GRACE provides for the vilest and guiltiest sinner a sure remedy for SIN and teaches the sinner that salvation from the penalty of sin, the eternal, righteous wrath of God, is NOT BY WHAT MAN DOES FOR GOD, or can do, but BY WHAT GOD, IN GRACE, DOES FOR MAN. This GRACE reigns through and by Jesus Christ. The most

respectable, religious, moral, cultured child of Adam needs this same GRACE; for there is no difference, “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23). This glory of God has been revealed in God’s perfect LAW, the TEN COMMANDMENTS, and God’s perfect SON, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. SIN is the transgression of the LAW. (I John 3:4). Then note the SIN of not believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 16:7 to 10). “Whosoever committeth SIN transgresseth also the LAW; for SIN is the transgression of the LAW.” (I John 3:4).

In my judgment the truth of the fifth chapter of Romans is one of the very first messages to be given to the DEAD SINNER and also the very first Bible truth to be taught to the LIVING SAINT, as a babe in Christ. (I Peter 2:1). Let us never fail to get this simple, but all-important, truth from the Bible; that the men and women of this world are divided into just two groups, “DEAD SINNERS” and “LIVING SAINTS.” The Bible does tell us that LIVING SAINTS are divided into carnal saints and spiritual saints. (I Corinthians 2:15 to 3:5). In this same (I Corinthians 6:9 to 12) we learn, as we do in Ephesians 2:1 to 10 and Titus 3:4 to 8, how God, the Father, Son and Holy; Spirit, makes LIVING SAINTS out of DEAD SINNERS, without man’s works, religious ceremonies, or church activities. God expects the worship, praise, devotion and faithful services of LIVING SAINTS, but He will have none of this from DEAD SINNERS; for they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:8). Until condemned sinners receive from God through Jesus Christ, eternal life, “by grace” “through faith” (Ephesians 2:8), God will neither reward nor recognize anything that man offers Him. “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the NAME of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks unto God, the Father, by Him.” (Colossians 3:17). (I Corinthians 3:14 and 15). “He that believeth on the Son is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:18).

WHEN DID THE LAW ENTER?

As we read Galatians 3:19, “the law was added because of transgression,” and Romans 5:20, “the law entered,” let us also read Jeremiah 31:31 to 35 and learn that the law was added, the law entered, at the time that God took Israel by the hand to lead Israel out of the land of Egypt. At that time Moses was 80 years old. (Exodus 7:7). The LAW was given by Moses; but that LAW was written on tables of stone by the finger of God. (Exodus 31:18). God entered into the LAW contract with Israel at Sinai. The Divine Record is found in the nineteenth and twentieth chapters of Exodus. At that time Israel had been in Egypt for more than 200 years. Israel went down to Egypt about 1700 B.C. and came up out of Egypt about 1500 B. C.. SIN entered, by Adam, in the Garden of Eden. The LAW entered by Moses about 2500 years after SIN entered by Adam. More than 1500 years after the LAW of Moses entered, that the SIN that entered by Adam might abound, GRACE came by Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was made under the LAW to redeem them that were under the LAW. (Galatians 4:4). Thus we learn that, By Adam is the ENTRANCE of SIN; By Moses is the KNOWLEDGE OF SIN (Romans 3:20); and By Jesus Christ is the FORGIVENESS of SIN. (Acts 13:38).

A very important truth for every person to learn is the fact that when God tells us, in Galatians 3:19, the LAW was added to the covenant of promise till the SEED of Abraham (Christ) came, He wants us to understand that the (OLD) COVENANT was added to the ABRAHAMIC COVENANT (THE GOSPEL WHICH GOD PREACHED TO ABRAM) till Christ was made a curse on the tree. (Galatians 3:8—Galatians 3:13 to 17). Therefore, the OLD

COVENANT was both temporary and parenthetical, and according to II Corinthians 3:9 to 16, it has been abolished or made useless. It has vanished away. (Hebrews 8:13). But the Abrahamic Covenant has not been done away, and the LAW of SIN and DEATH, that entered by Adam, is still in full force and effect. Christ was made a curse on the tree to deliver Israel from the curse of the LAW. (Galatians 3:13). Up to that time the LAW was Israel's SCHOOLMASTER (tyrannical child-trainer) to bring Israel to Christ for justification by faith. (Galatians 3:24 and 25). We conclude that a man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the LAW; and if righteousness come by the LAW, Christ died for naught. (Romans 3:28 and Galatians 2:21).

RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH—WITHOUT THE LAW.

How wonderful it would be, if every person in this world would permit the Holy Spirit to teach him the truth of Romans 9:30 to 32! Hear this all-important truth from almighty God:

“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. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the LAW. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone.”

More than ninety per cent of the members of our human race stumble at this stumblingstone. Because most of these members are incurably religious, because the human heart of unbelief is desperately wicked and deceitful, and because the infinite, marvelous, matchless, superabounding grace of the God of all grace is too much for the wisdom or imagination of the human mind and heart, it is almost impossible to teach the children of Adam, religious and otherwise, that RIGHTEOUSNESS is not a human attainment, but a Divine gift. Christ on the cross was made sin for us, that we might be made the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM. (II Corinthians 5:21). “With the heart man believeth unto RIGHTEOUSNESS.” (Romans 10:9 to 11). “Christ is our RIGHTEOUSNESS.” (I Corinthians 1:29 to 32). “To him that WORKETH NOT, but BELIEVETH on HIM that justifieth the ungodly, his FAITH IS COUNTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” (Romans 4:5). Hear it! Receive it at full face value! Believe it with all your heart! Claim it with all your soul! God demands RIGHTEOUSNESS for entrance into the glories of heaven. The natural man is destitute and devoid of any righteousness except that which is called in God's Book, “filthy rags.” (Isaiah 64:6) The righteous deeds of the natural, unregenerated man displease God. (Ezekiel 33:13 . . . Romans 4:4 . . . Acts 8:20 and 21 . . . Romans 8:7 and I Corinthians 2:14).

When we read, in Romans 10:4, that Christ is the end of the LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS to everyone that believeth, and in Romans 8:2, that the LAW of the Spirit of LIFE in Christ Jesus makes the believer free from the LAW OF SIN AND DEATH, let us get it clearly fixed in our minds and hearts—and this will have to be by faith in God's Word—that Our RIGHTEOUSNESS is not by a LAW that we keep, but by the LAW which Christ established in His perfect LIFE, His perfect SACRIFICE and His victory over death, after He had perfectly kept God's perfect LAW. The LAW of the Spirit of LIFE in Christ Jesus, and the GRACE of the God of all GRACE, enable and teach the LIVING SAINTS how to behave as becometh saints and to fulfill the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW, by walking in the Spirit. (Romans 8:4 . . . II Corinthians 9:8 . . . Titus 2:11 to 14). DEAD SINNERS do not become LIVING SAINTS by behaving; but by believing. “By GRACE were ye saved, through faith, and that not of

yourselves; not of works, lest any man should boast; it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8 to 10). DEAD SINNERS are saved without works. LIVING SAINTS will be rewarded for good works.

Most assuredly, if the justified Israelites were no longer under the SCHOOLMASTER after they received the crucified and resurrected Christ, the justified Gentiles, who were justified freely by God’s grace, through the redemption in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24 to 26), were not under the LAW. (Romans 6:14). (Galatians 3:25). By His death on the cross Christ abolished the LAW of COMMANDMENTS that stood between Israel and the Gentiles. (Ephesians 2:15). Concerning this LAW, we read in II Corinthians 3:7 to 18, it was “done away,” “abolished,” “done away in Christ.” “THAT WHICH IS ABOLISHED.” (verse 13). So the LAW of Moses, which was God’s holy, just, perfect, spiritual, good LAW, came in and passed away. God had to get it out of the way before He could deal with Adam’s children in full.

THE REIGN AND GOSPEL OF GRACE

There was much grace manifested by God before the reign of LAW and during the reign of LAW, in any and all former dispensations, but we should understand and appreciate the difference between GRACE IN A DISPENSATION and “THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD” committed to the apostle Paul by special revelation. (Ephesians 3:1 to 3).

Yes, there was GRACE “FROM ADAM TO MOSES,” “WHEN THERE IS NO LAW.” (Romans 5:12 to 14). Certainly Abel, Noah and Abram found GRACE in the sight of God. There surely was much GRACE in Israel’s blood-sprinkled MERCY SEAT. (Exodus 25:22 . . . Leviticus 16:15). Surely Jesus of Nazareth, under the LAW, manifested GRACE in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, to the adulterous women He met, to the thief on the cross, and to many, many sinners; but at that time He told His own disciples to respect the seat of Moses and go not to the Gentile dogs. (Matthew 23:1 to 3 . . . Mark 7:24 to 30 . . . Matthew 10:5 to 8). Thus we cannot find the DISPENSATION and FULL REIGN OF GRACE until after God’s KINGDOM NATION (ISRAEL) was set aside. (Romans 11:30).

By the LAW of Sinai all Israelites were condemned. (II Corinthians 3:9 and Acts 15:10 . . . Romans 4:15). That ministration of condemnation passed away. But another LAW, by which all the children of Adam are condemned, never passed away. (Romans 5:17 to 19). By that LAW OF SIN AND DEATH, which is universal and in full force and effect, judgment unto condemnation and death, spiritual, physical and eternal, has passed upon all men. DEATH reigned from Adam to Moses, before the LAW was given by Moses. (Romans 5:12 to 14). It reigned for 1500 years from Sinai to Calvary; and it is still reigning. However, there is a sense in which the SIN question became the SON question when Christ died on the cross. (John 8:24 . . . John 3:7 to 19. . . . John 3:36 . . . John 16:7 to 11).

Thus we have two “DEATH” LAWS . . . The LAW of SIN AND DEATH, that entered by Adam, and the MINISTRATION OF DEATH, the LAW that entered by Moses. (Romans 8:2 . . . Romans 7:10 . . . II Corinthians 3:7). But while in the midst of LIFE there is DEATH, by the GRACE of God, reigning through RIGHTEOUSNESS unto ETERNAL LIFE through JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, in the midst of DEATH there is LIFE, through this Divine LAW of the Spirit of LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS, which frees the believing sinner from the LAW of SIN AND DEATH: something the TEN COMMANDMENTS could not do. (Romans 8:2 to 4). Yes, the LAW of the Spirit of LIFE in Christ Jesus sets the believing sinner free from the LAW of SIN and DEATH and causes the Holy Spirit to indwell that believer, and, if the Holy Spirit is permitted to control, that believer will fulfill the righteousness of the LAW. (Romans 8:2 to 4).

The LAW of Moses could not deliver the believer from the LAW of SIN and DEATH; but could only cause him to cry, “O wretched man that I am . . . who shall deliver me from the body of this DEATH?” (Romans 7:24).

FOOLISH CHRISTIANS

Why did the apostle Paul call the Christians in Galatia, “Foolish Galatians?” (Galatians 3:1 to 3). Because those foolish Galatians thought they had to add the LAW of Moses to the LAW of the Spirit of LIFE in Christ Jesus to be delivered from the LAW of SIN and DEATH.

Sinners, in Ephesians 2:1 to 6, are said to be DEAD in trespasses and SINS, by nature the children of wrath. In Ephesians 4:18, they are said to be alienated from the LIFE of God. Therefore, nothing that nature can do for man can take him out of DEATH. How foolish to believe that a DEAD man struggling with the TEN COMMANDMENTS, which God calls the MINISTRATION OF DEATH, can thereby find LIFE. The free gift of God is eternal LIFE through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23); for GRACE reigns through righteousness unto eternal LIFE by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:21). GOD is not a merchant offering eternal life and righteousness for sale. Who could pay the price demanded? Only Christ, His only begotten Son could—Christ did pay the price. Now God can be both just and the justifier of any and all who receive His grace and His Son. (Romans 3:24 to 26). The Lord Jesus was both the holy ark of the covenant and the blood-sprinkled mercy-seat. He is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world. (I John 2:2). Because of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ believing Jews and believing Gentiles receive God’s mercy. But one of the most important truths of the Bible has been overlooked by more than ninety-nine per cent of Christians and this is the truth we shall present in our Lesson Number Two—We simply mention it here—Hear it! Receive it! Believe it—In no other way can you understand and appreciate the truth of Ephesians 3:1 to 3 concerning “THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD” for Gentiles and thus rightly divide the Word of Truth, in obedience to II Timothy 2:15.

“For as ye (Gentiles) in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their (Israel’s) unbelief.” (Romans 11:30).

Tell yourself what this means. It is certainly a simple statement—But so important. In the GRACE message, which Christ revealed to and through the apostle Paul, there were two reasons why the Gentiles received mercy from God, first because of the redemptive work of Christ and second, because of Israel’s unbelief. Hold on to this as we go to our next lesson.

LESSON NUMBER TWO

CHRIST CAME UNTO HIS OWN AND HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT.

(John 1:11) This Statement In the Light of Romans 5:10 and 11 and Romans 11:30 and
15.

In Romans 5:10 we read that we were RECONCILED to God by the death of His Son. God sent not His Son into the WORLD to condemn the WORLD; but that the WORLD through Him might be saved. (John 3:17). If God wanted the WORLD to be saved while His Son was on earth, as Jesus of Nazareth, why did that Son say, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel?" (Matthew 15:24). The lost sheep of the House of Israel were a small part of the WORLD. The Gentiles were in the majority and surely the Gentiles were a part of the WORLD that God loved; but in very plain language the Lord Jesus Christ instructed His twelve apostles, "Go not into the way of the Gentiles." (Matthew 10:5 and 6). When those twelve messengers had the opportunity to preach the gospel to a Gentile, while Christ was in the flesh, they said to Christ, "send her away." (Matthew 15:23). This was not because of Jewish prejudice, but because of a positive command from Christ. Christ Himself said to this Gentile, "let the children (Israel) FIRST BE FILLED." (Mark 7:24 to 30). In Acts 13:23 we read that Christ was born of David's Seed, to be ISRAEL'S Saviour. In Acts 5:29 to 32 we read that Christ was raised from the dead to be ISRAEL'S Saviour. Christ was of ISRAEL, God over all, blessed forever; the Seed of Abraham. (Romans 9:4 to 6 . . . Hebrews 2:16 and 17). Christ was made under the law; a Minister of the circumcision. (Galatians 4:4 and Romans 15:8). Christ was dedicated according to the law, after He had been circumcised. (Luke 2:39 and 2:21). It was the custom of Christ to go to ISRAEL'S synagogue on ISRAEL'S Sabbath. (Luke 4:16). He commanded His people to obey the law, including the ceremonial law. (Matthew 23:1 to 3 and Matthew 8:3 to 6).

Christ called ISRAEL, believers and unbelievers, "the children of the kingdom." (Matthew 8:12). Years later the Holy Spirit spoke of ISRAEL as the natural branches and of the Gentiles as the wild olive tree. (Romans 11:17 to 23). Christ called ISRAEL, "the children"; and the Gentiles, "dogs." (Mark 7:24 to 30 . . . Matthew 15:21 to 28). Seven or eight years after the death of Christ Eleven of the Twelve apostles condemned Peter for preaching to a splendid, religious Gentile, who gave money to ISRAEL and prayed to ISRAEL'S God, a devout, God-fearing, just Gentile. (Acts 11:1 to 4 . . . Acts 10:2 and 22). The disciples of the resurrected Christ, for some years after the death of Christ, preached God's Word "to none but Jews only." (Acts 11:19). They even declared that it was unlawful to go to Gentiles seven years after the risen Christ said, "disciple all nations." (Acts 10:28 and Matthew 28:19 and 20).

After Christ told ISRAEL, in Luke 19:43 to 46, that they did not know the things that belonged to their peace, and did not know the time of their visitation, they crucified Him. (I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16). In the hour of His death Christ prayed for His murderers, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34). So God knew that ISRAEL, in ignorance, had killed the Prince of Life, Whose death was inevitable. (Acts 3:14 to 18 . . . Acts 2:22 and 23 . . . I Peter 1:18 to 20 . . . John 12:27 to 33 . . . John 3:13 and 14 . . . Acts 13:27 to 30). Therefore, 3,000 of Christ's ISRAEL were saved on the day of Pentecost. But John wrote years afterward that Christ's Own received Him not. In John 2:11, John 2:22 and 23, John 7:31, John 8:30, John 10:42, John 12:11 and 42 we read that many ISRAELITES believed on Jesus. And yet the statement in John 1:11 is, "His Own received Him not." In Acts 4:4 we read that 5,000 believed on Him. These were Jews. In Acts 9:42 and Acts 11:21 we read of many that believed. They were Israelites and received Christ. But His OWN received Him not.

THE REMNANT AND THE REST OF ISRAEL

Some years later the Holy Spirit, by the pen of the apostle Paul, wrote concerning ISRAEL: "At this present time also (about 60 A.D.) there is a remnant according to the election

of grace.” “Israel hath not obtained that which He seeketh for; but the election hath obtained and **THE REST WERE BLINDED.**” (Romans 11:5 to 7). God blinded them. (Romans 11:8 and 9). That blindness from God upon Israel is to continue until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. (Romans 11:25). In this same Eleventh Chapter of Romans where we learn of Israel’s blindness, we read of Israel’s unbelief, Israel’s fall and Israel as being cast away. With every one of these terrible things that happened to Israel we read that God’s judgment upon Israel brought to the Gentiles the most wonderful blessing that the Nations of the earth ever received, “Salvation,” “Reconciliation” and “Divine Mercy.” (Romans 11:11 . . . Romans 11:15 and Romans 11:30).

Christ’s OWN received Christ not, in incarnation, that Christ might go to Calvary and put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (Acts 3:18 . . . Acts 2:23 . . . Matthew 26:24 . . . John 12:27 to 33). God’s OWN received Him not, in resurrection; that God might conclude all in unbelief; “**THAT HE MIGHT HAVE MERCY UPON ALL.**” (Romans 11:32).

Thus we learn why Christ’s OWN received Him not. This is the Lord’s doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. (Matthew 21:42 and Acts 4:24 to 29). “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!” (Romans 11:33). The Greek “**PAST FINDING OUT**” is the same Greek word, translated, in Ephesians 3:8, “**UNSEARCHABLE,**” referring to the “**UNTRACEABLE**” Riches of Christ for Gentiles, when and because of Israel’s unbelief, blindness and fall.

GOD’S UNPROPHESIED GRACE PROGRAM

All through the Old Testament Scriptures God’s inspired prophets foretold wonderful blessings for all NATIONS, through the one NATION, ISRAEL, blessings spiritual and physical. These blessings were to come upon the other NATIONS when the one NATION is enjoying the prophesied KINGDOM blessings of God. For this reason this message is called, in the Bible, “**THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM.**” In connection with the UNSEARCHABLE Riches of Christ for Gentiles, the apostle Paul wrote of the MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL. (Ephesians 6:19 and 20). The Gospel for the NATIONS, mentioned in Romans 16:25 and 26, is according to the revelation of the mystery, but not so the prophesied GOSPEL of the KINGDOM.

Now let us again read and believe Romans 11:30, that the Gentiles, who in times past did not believe God, received mercy **BECAUSE OF ISRAEL’S UNBELIEF.** There is, perhaps, no more important verse of Scripture to teach us the dispensational aspect of God’s message and program of grace. Certainly there is nothing in the so-called ‘great commission’ of Matthew 28:19 and 20, “disciple all nations,” that contemplated such a message and program; namely, that God’s mercy would not be extended to the other nations until the mutual rejection of God and Israel should first take place, and then, by the fall of Israel, salvation would come to the Gentiles to provoke Israel to jealousy; when and because God would cast away Israel, reconciliation would be offered the **WORLD.** (Romans 11:11 and Romans 11:15). Surely we see how very important it is to understand the Eleventh Chapter of Romans before we can understand Paul’s words in Ephesians 3:1 to 11, in which verses we are told that Christ, by revelation, made known unto him “the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles,” “the unsearchable riches of Christ for Gentiles,” “the fellowship (dispensation) of the mystery hid in God from before the foundation of the world,” “God’s eternal purpose in Christ.” We are never ready to receive the “mystery” of Ephesians 3:1 to 11 until we understand the “mystery” of Romans 11:25, “that a blindness in part is happened unto Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.”

As we think of the statement of John 1:11, “Christ came unto His own and His own received him not,” in the light of the Eleventh Chapter of Romans, let us also think of Paul’s all-important statement to Israel, in Acts 13:46: “it was necessary that the Word of God should FIRST have been spoken to you (ISRAEL); but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we TURN TO THE GENTILES.” More than twelve years before this declaration the resurrected Christ instructed the apostles to disciple ALL NATIONS. (Matthew 28:19 and 20). But in God’s eternal purpose the Gentiles were not to receive the GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD (Acts 20:24) until Israel rejected Christ, in resurrection (Acts 13:30 to 37 . . . Acts 5:31), as they had rejected Him, in incarnation. Therefore, after the resurrection of Christ, Peter and the Eleven said unto Israel, “you FIRST” (Acts 3:26); and Paul said unto Israel, “you FIRST.” (Acts 13:46 . . . Acts 18:5 and 6).

CAST-AWAY ISRAEL—RECONCILED GENTILES

Then followed the truth that all spiritual, intelligent students of the Bible believe; truth that they must understand, if they are to obey Ephesians 3:9 and know how to be “GRACE” evangelists or “GRACE” Bible-teachers . . . “The casting away of them (ISRAEL) the RECONCILING OF THE WORLD.” (Romans 11:15).

As we have learned that for two reasons the Gentiles obtained mercy from God; because of Christ’s death on the cross, and because of the unbelief of Israel, we learn in Romans 5:10 and 11 and Romans 11:15 the two reasons why RECONCILIATION was preached unto the Gentiles. Let us carefully note Romans 5:10 and 11 and Romans 11 :15:

“For if, when we were enemies, we were RECONCILED to God by the DEATH OF HIS SON, much more, being RECONCILED, we shall be saved by His life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom we have now received the RECONCILIATION.”

“For if the casting away of them (ISRAEL) be the RECONCILING of the WORLD.”

The Gentiles then were RECONCILED because of the DEATH of Christ; and also when and because ISRAEL was cast away. This ISRAEL’S Old Testament prophets never contemplated. The Gentiles obtained MERCY because of ISRAEL’S unbelief. (Romans 11:30). This suggests the question, what would have happened to the Gentiles, if Israel had believed, if Israel had not been cast away? Do we believe Romans 11:26, that when the fulness of the GENTILES be come in, “ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED.” At that time where will the Gentiles be, the Gentiles who are now being saved by grace and made members of the Body of Christ? After ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED what about the millions of Gentiles, the heathen, who will be living on this earth? Surely this age of grace is not the last age when God will be dealing with ISRAEL and the GENTILES. Many times the future earthly glory of Israel is guaranteed in God’s sure Word of Prophecy. (II Peter 1:19). The Bible speaks of ISRAEL as the HEAD and ISRAEL as the TAIL; the RISE and FALL of ISRAEL. (Deuteronomy 28:13— Deuteronomy 28:44). When ISRAEL is the HEAD the saved Gentiles are in subjection to Israel. But today we are living in “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES,” both politically and spiritually. ISRAEL is now the TAIL. Politically, “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES” began about 600 B.C. in the days of Nebuchadnezzar. (The last chapters of Jeremiah and 2 Kings). Spiritually, “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES” began when God blinded ISRAEL after He elected the remnant. So we read in Luke 21:24 that “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES WILL BE FULFILLED,” and we read in Romans 11:25, “THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES BE COME IN”; one refers to the

end of the political subjugation of the Jews and the other to their spiritual subjugation. This marks the end of God's special favor for the Gentiles, known as "THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD FOR GENTILES." (Ephesians 3:1 to 4). This will end with the UNITY and PERFECT MAN of Ephesians 4:13. Then follows God's Kingdom age on earth—ISRAEL will RISE and again be HEAD.

So we say that all intelligent, spiritual students of the Scriptures believe that ISRAEL'S FALL brought God's reign and dispensation of grace for Gentiles. And it is so important that we know that this FALL of ISRAEL had not taken place when Peter preached to Israel, in Acts 2, or when he preached to Cornelius, the Gentile, in Acts 10. Peter certainly did not preach to Cornelius to provoke Israel to jealousy. Cornelius did not receive God's mercy, because of Israel's unbelief. This new program was not inaugurated until God sent Barnabas and Saul and they warned ISRAEL of the impending judgment, which had not yet fallen. (Acts 13:2 and Acts 13:40 and 41).

In the ministry of Peter and the Eleven, from Israel's Pentecost until the Twelve, some years later, rejoiced in the salvation of the household of Cornelius (Acts 11:18), we have a pattern of God's "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" program, which is to be after the close of this present economy and program of GRACE.

Two of the most important Scriptures for the understanding of the beginning and end of the dispensation of grace, we repeat, are John 1:11 and Romans 11:30 . . . "Christ came unto His OWN and His OWN received Him not." Because they received Him not, in resurrection as well as in incarnation, because of ISRAEL'S UNBELIEF the Gentiles obtained mercy. Because ISRAEL was cast away RECONCILIATION was preached to ALIENATED HEATHEN (Ephesians 4:18 . . . Colossians 1:21). They experienced something a little different from the new birth: they were made A NEW CREATION. (Galatians 6:15 . . . Ephesians 2:10 . . . II Corinthians 5:17). ALIENATION in Adam. RECONCILIATION and the NEW CREATION in Christ. (II Corinthians 5:16 to 21).

LESSON NUMBER THREE

THE NEW CREATION . . . ONE NEW MAN.

RECONCILIATION—NEW CREATION—IDENTIFICATION

In Ephesians 2:13 to 15 we learn that the far-off Gentiles were brought nigh to God by the blood of Christ, that they were, and are, in Christ; that Christ made all the nations and the one nation (Israel) one in Christ, "TO MAKE IN HIMSELF OF TWAIN ONE NEW MAN" . . . "That He might reconcile both unto God in one BODY by the cross." This one BODY, composed of saved JEWS and saved GENTILES, is called, in Ephesians 3:6, "SUSSOMOS," "THE JOINT-BODY." In I Corinthians 12:13 we learn that believing Jews and believing Gentiles are baptized by one Spirit into ONE BODY. In Romans 12:5 we read that "we, many, are ONE BODY in Christ, and everyone MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER."

In Ephesians 4:11 to 13 we learn that God will continue to BUILD the ONE BODY, "Till we all come in the UNITY (ONENESS) of the FAITH, unto a PERFECT MAN." Thus we learn that God is MAKING ONE NEW MAN, THE PERFECT MAN, ONE BODY, THE

JOINT-BODY, in which believing Jews and believing Gentiles are reconciled by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The reconciled Gentiles were sometime far-off. (Ephesians 2:13 and 17). They were like Abram was at the time God called him, "AS GOOD AS DEAD." (Hebrews 11:12). The Gentiles were alienated from the life of God. (Ephesians 4:18). They were alienated by wicked works. (Colossians 1:21). "But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST, and HATH RAISED US UP TOGETHER, AND MADE US SIT TOGETHER IN THE HEAVENLIES IN CHRIST JESUS." All of this is called "GOD'S WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS." (Ephesians 2:10).

Hear these important statements . . . "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, BUT A NEW CREATION." (Galatians 6:15) . . . "Therefore if any men BE IN CHRIST, there is a NEW CREATION . . . OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY: BEHOLD ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW". "GOD HATH RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF BY JESUS CHRIST." (II Corinthians 5:17 and 18). In Adam, sinners are condemned, alienated, unrighteous, dead. In Christ, saints are justified, reconciled, righteous and alive from the dead. To these saints God's instructions are, "Yield yourselves unto God as those who are alive from the dead." (Romans 6:13). All in Adam are dead sinners; all in Christ are living saints. The dead sinners are DEAD IN SIN. The living saints are DEAD TO SIN. The dead sinners have only the "OLD MAN." Saints have the "NEW MAN." (Colossians 3:10 and Ephesians 4:24). The NEW MAN is created in the image of God, in righteousness and holiness. Saints are partakers of the DIVINE NATURE. Notwithstanding this fact they are instructed to PUT OFF THE OLD MAN and to RECKON HIM DEAD; "RECKON YE ALSO YOURSELVES TO BE DEAD INDEED UNTO SIN, BUT ALIVE UNTO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD." (Romans 6:11 and Ephesians 4:20 to 23).

Thus we see how the Holy Spirit has linked together three glorious, wonderful doctrines, "RECONCILIATION," "THE NEW CREATION" and "IDENTIFICATION."

ADAM'S CHILDREN—RECONCILIATION

We have learned that RECONCILIATION for the world is first mentioned in connection with the casting away of Israel. (Romans 11:15). We note in Romans 5:11 and 12, that RECONCILIATION is mentioned in connection with the entrance of sin and death by ADAM . . . We quote . . . "Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom we have now received the RECONCILIATION . . . Wherefore as by one man (ADAM) sin entered into the world, and death by sin." We have observed that RECONCILIATION is mentioned in connection with the NEW CREATION in Christ Jesus. (II Corinthians 5:16 to 19). The word "atonement" in Romans 5:11 should be "RECONCILIATION."

From the call of Abram, about 1900 B. C., or rather from the birth of the nation Israel, about 1700 B. C., the CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM received very special blessings from God. They enjoyed special privileges and priorities. The nation Israel was God's peculiar treasure, blessed above every nation of the earth. Concerning Israel, God said, in Isaiah 43:7, "I created him for My glory." Israel was God's special CREATION and came from one "AS GOOD AS DEAD." (Hebrews 11:12). "Who are ISRAELITES; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants and the giving of the law, and the service of God and the promises: Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, Who is over all, God

blessed for ever.” (Romans 9:4 and 5). Israel gave us our Bible and our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Seed of Abraham, the Seed of David, Who was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel. (Hebrews 2:16 and 17 . . . Matthew 1:1 . . . Acts 13:23 . . . Matthew 15:24). Christ came unto His own. All of the apostles of Christ mentioned by name were Israelites, including the apostle of the Gentiles. (Romans 11:13). “Salvation is of the Jews.” (John 4:22).

As long as Israel was in the place of special privilege, the other children of Adam had to take a subordinate place, a place in subjection to the children of Abraham, first under the covenant of circumcision (Genesis 17) and then a lower place under the law. When Jesus of Nazareth visited His people Israel, it was not meet for Him to give the children’s bread to the dogs. (Mark 7:24 to 30). The children were to be filled first. At that time there was a great difference between the children of Abraham and the other children of Adam. But this difference had ceased to exist when Paul wrote in Romans 10:12, “there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek”; no longer “children and dogs.” When the children of Abraham were removed from their place of special privilege God ushered in a new dispensation, the dispensation of His grace for Gentiles. (Ephesians 3:1 to 4). God had purposed this new movement in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world, but God had kept it as His secret until the blindness was sent upon Israel and the Gentiles obtained mercy through Israel’s unbelief. (II Timothy 1:9 . . . Romans 16:25 . . . Romans 11:15 and 30 . . . Ephesians 3:9 to 11). After the risen Christ revealed God’s eternal “grace” purpose to and through the apostle Paul, then the children of Abraham had to come, in grace, to God just the same as did the other children of Adam. Then the Holy Spirit mentioned ADAM, RECONCILIATION, THE NEW CREATION, THE JOINT-BODY, THE MYSTERY, THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST, PREDESTINATION, THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD. (Romans 8:28 to 31 . . . Ephesians 1:4 and 1:9 to 11, Ephesians 3:8 to 11 . . . Colossians 1:24 to 27).

Adam; the old creation; ALIENATION. Christ; THE NEW CREATION; RECONCILIATION. The fifth chapter of Romans tells us of ruin by Adam and redemption by Christ. “By Adam” and “By Christ.” “Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” (II Corinthians 5:16 to 21). In these verses God has truly revealed a new deal for the human race. God turned from His ONE NATION to the MANY NATIONS.

THE ONE NATION AND THE MANY NATIONS

As we compare the first and the fourth chapters of Romans with the twelfth to seventeenth chapters of Genesis, we learn how God gave up the Gentiles and began anew with one man, an uncircumcised heathen by the name of Abram; how God turned from the many nations to ONE NATION. God preached the gospel to Abram. (Galatians 3:8 . . . Genesis 12:1 to 5 . . . Genesis 15:5 to 8 . . . Romans 4:9 to 11). That was about 1900 B. C. Then about 1900 years ago the Lord preached to the only unsaved man on earth who saw Christ after He was raised from the dead, an Israelite who was born out of due time. (I Corinthians 15:8). That Israelite became THE APOSTLE OF THE GENTILES. (Romans 11:13). In the eleventh chapter of Romans that apostle (Paul) tells us how God turned from the ONE NATION to the MANY NATIONS, and how God will again turn back to the ONE NATION, “when the fulness of the Gentiles is come in.” So God gave up the MANY NATIONS and God gave up the ONE NATION; and then God brought in a new economy and program. This was not brought in under the Twelve on the day of Pentecost, buff later on under an apostle who was saved outside of the land of the Jews and not by the preaching of the Twelve. Neither did Paul receive his Gospel or

commission from the Twelve, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 1: 11 and 12 . . . Ephesians 3:1 to 4).

At the time God turned from the ONE NATION to the MANY NATIONS (Gentiles) the Gentiles, also called “heathen” and “the nations,” were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, alienated from the life of God, dead in trespasses and sins, in the world having no hope, without God (atheos), atheists, because they were without Christ. (Ephesians 2:1 to 3 and Ephesians 2:11 and 12 and Ephesians 4:18). God gave them the opportunity to be saved, by grace, apart from Israel’s law and religion. They were made accepted (GRACED) in Christ the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:6 and 7). They became God’s workmanship the NEW CREATION, and members of the JOINT-BODY (SUSSOMOS) of Ephesians 3:6. As God created ISRAEL, for His glory, out of one AS GOOD AS DEAD, through the apostle Paul, the Lord’s wise masterbuilder (I Corinthians 3:10), God began to build, and is still building, ONE CHURCH, the BODY OF CHRIST, THE FILLING-UP OF CHRIST (Ephesians 1:19 to 23 . . . Ephesians 4:10 to 13) out of a great multitude as GOOD AS DEAD; and that is not very good. God, during this dispensation of grace, is making ONE NEW MAN. (Ephesians 2:15). The members of this BODY are to grow up into Christ in all things, which is the Head, “From whom the whole BODY fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the BODY unto the BUILDING-UP of ITSELF in love.” (Ephesians 4:15 and 16). This is to continue until Christ presents THE CHURCH (not the churches) unto Himself a glorious, spotless, holy CHURCH, ONE FLESH with Christ. (Ephesians 4:25 to 32). When the Holy Spirit tells members of the Body of Christ, “Ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God,” we know something of the glorious doctrine of

IDENTIFICATION

“Even when we were dead in sins, hath made us alive together with Christ, and hath RAISED US UP TOGETHER, AND MADE US SIT TOGETHER IN THE HEAVENLIES IN CHRIST.” (Ephesians 2:5 and 6). We have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3). Let us never forget that the members of Christ’s BODY will be the FILLING-UP of Christ, and with Christ, ONE FLESH, ONE NEW MAN. (Ephesians 1:21 to 23— Ephesians 4:13). Christ is in us, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27). Christ lives in us, after we have been crucified with Him, and the life which we live in the flesh, we live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved us and gave Himself for us. (Galatians 2:20).

Members of Christ’s BODY are a crucified and resurrected people; and of course, between crucifixion and resurrection they were buried; and after their resurrection they are seated in the heavenlies; they walk in newness of life; they seek those things which are above where Christ is seated, far above all principalities and powers, far above all heavens. (Ephesians 1:19 to 23 . . . Ephesians 4:10 to 12 . . . Romans 6:4 to 6 . . . Colossians 3:1 to 6). Crucified and resurrected saints do not begin with the earthly ministry of Israel’s King, with the sermon on the mount, or the golden rule or with Christ’s kingdom parables; but they begin with His death and resurrection and ascension. It was then that Christ gave those gifts for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the building-up of the BODY of Christ. (Ephesians 4:9 to 13). It was then that Christ saved and commissioned the apostle of the Gentiles.

We should be very careful not to confuse the BUILDING AGAIN OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID, and the KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN used by Peter

and the Eleven, who are yet to sit on twelve thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel (Acts 15:13 to 18 . . . Matthew 19:27 and 28 . . . Matthew 16:19), with the BUILDING-UP OF THE BODY OF CHRIST and the DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD committed to the apostle Paul, who was chosen by the risen Christ to be His FOREMAN. Peter and the Eleven did not speak of the BODY in their oral or written ministry, so far as we have any record. They agreed, with Paul, to go to the circumcision, after Peter had used the keys of the kingdom of heaven with the household of Cornelius. (Acts 15:7 and Galatians 2:9). But not one of the TWELVE was the prisoner of Jesus Christ for preaching the MYSTERY, as was Paul. (Colossians 4:3 and 4 . . . Ephesians 6:19 and 20 . . . Ephesians 3:1 to 4).

The members of the BODY of Christ are identified with Christ, by a DIVINE BAPTISM and a DIVINE CIRCUMCISION, made without hands, except the hand of God. (Colossians 2:11 and 12 . . . Galatians 3:26 to 28). Only as we understand this IDENTIFICATION can we understand and appreciate God's way for the saint's victory over sin, by putting off the old man, putting on the new man, by reckoning ourselves to be dead unto sin; and how to witness our IDENTIFICATION with CHRIST. This is by putting to death the deeds of the flesh as we seek those things which are far above all heavens where Christ is. (Colossians 3:1 to 6). No religious ceremony is an adequate or Scriptural witness of the New Creation; but walking in newness of life.

“How shall we that are DEAD TO SIN, live any longer therein?”

“Know ye not, that so many of us, as were BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH?”

“Therefore we are BURIED WITH HIM BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH; that like as CHRIST WAS RAISED UP FROM THE DEAD by the glory of the Father, even we also should WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.” (Romans 6:3 and 4.)

The mighty power that God used to raise Christ far above Satan's heavenly domain is available for every believer who has been baptized into Christ's death and burial. (Ephesians 1:19 to 21). All of the grace and power and spiritual blessings in the heavenlies of the God of all grace belong to the believers who are IDENTIFIED with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection and ascension and heavenly glory. (Ephesians 1:3 . . . II Corinthians 9:8 . . . Ephesians 3:20). These IDENTIFIED believers are to know Christ in the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings.

Without ritual, Israel's law of works, or religious ceremony of any kind, during this age and dispensation of grace, the believer is eternally saved and joined to Christ in an inseparable and everlasting union. The very moment the convicted sinner believes God's Word and receives God's Son and His perfect work of redemption, by faith, that believing sinner is instantly baptized into the death of Christ, and at the very same moment he is buried with Christ; raised with Christ; seated with Christ in the heavenlies, blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ. At that same moment his life is hid with Christ in God; he is joined to Christ the Head and to every other member of the ONE CHURCH (BODY) Which God is building. Only God can receive anyone into His ONE CHURCH. This He does by grace, at the moment the sinner believes unto the saving of his soul. God is not building 200 churches, not even two churches; just ONE BODY. God will later on build again THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID; but this He is not now doing. God will again turn to the ONE NATION and create a NEW ISRAEL and a multitude of Gentiles will be evangelized by them. (Isaiah 62:1 to 4). But Israel's prophets said nothing and knew nothing of the ONE NEW MAN being made during this unphesied period when Israel's kingdom covenant has been interrupted.

“For as the body is ONE, and hath many members, and all the members of that ONE BODY, being many are ONE BODY: SO ALSO IS CHRIST.” (I Corinthians 12:12.)

“They two shall be ONE FLESH . . . This is a GREAT MYSTERY, but I speak concerning CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.” (Ephesians 5:31 and 32.)

Hold on to this glorious truth and go with us as we take it up in another lesson. The Lord Jesus Christ and His Church (Body) are called “CHRIST.” The Church has been called “THE MYSTICAL CHRIST.”

LESSON NUMBER FOUR

GOD GAVE HIM (ABRAHAM) THE COVENANT OF CIRCUMCISION. (Acts 7:8)

ABRAM WAS RECKONED RIGHTEOUS IN UNCIRCUMCISION. (ROMANS 4:10)

CIRCUMCISION IS A DISPENSATIONAL STUDY.

Comparatively few Christians have seemed to understand that CIRCUMCISION is one of the profound and important studies in the matter of obeying II Timothy 2:15, “rightly dividing the Word of Truth.” At the time God gave to Abraham the Covenant of CIRCUMCISION, “ABRAM” BECAME “ABRAHAM” by God’s command. (Genesis 17:5 and 10). God said to ABRAHAM . . . “Every man child among you shall be CIRCUMCISED . . . And ye shall CIRCUMCISE the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the Covenant betwixt Me and you . . . And he that is eight days old shall be CIRCUMCISED among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed . . . My Covenant shall be in your flesh for an Everlasting Covenant .

. . . And the UNCIRCUMCISED man child, whose flesh of his foreskin is not CIRCUMCISED, that soul shall be CUT OFF FROM HIS PEOPLE; he hath broken My Covenant.” (Genesis 17:10 to 14). “And Abraham was ninety years old and nine, when he was CIRCUMCISED.” (Genesis 17:24).

Abram was seventy-five years old when God called him. (Genesis 12:4). “And he (Abram) believed in the Lord and HE (the Lord) counted it to him (Abram) for righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6). (Galatians 3:6). So ABRAM was declared righteous in UNCIRCUMCISION some years before he became CIRCUMCISED ABRAHAM. “And he (Abraham) received the sign of CIRCUMCISION, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had, yet being UNCIRCUMCISED.” (Romans 4:11). Abram was declared righteous in UNCIRCUMCISION about 430 years before Moses received Jehovah’s LAW FOR ISRAEL at Sinai. (Galatians 3:16 to 19). Abraham was CIRCUMCISED about 406 years before THE LAW (OLD COVENANT) WAS ADDED, because of transgression. (Galatians 3:19). Abraham died at the age of one hundred and seventy-five. (Genesis 25:7). This was 100 years after God called and justified ABRAM, and about 330 years before Jehovah and Israel entered into the LAW Covenant at Sinai. (Jeremiah 31:31 to 35). (Exodus 20). That Covenant at Sinai was decidedly NEW at the time IT WAS ADDED (Galatians 3:19); but it became the OLD COVENANT some 1500 years later, by the death and resurrection of Christ, the Mediator of the NEW COVENANT. (Hebrews

8:13 . . . Hebrews 12:24 . . . II Corinthians 3:13 and 14). Moses was 80 years old when the (OLD) COVENANT WAS ADDED TO THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT OF PROMISE. (Exodus 7:7). For 80 years of his life Moses was not under the OLD TESTAMENT, but he was for the last 40 years of his life. Abraham died 330 years before the OLD TESTAMENT entered, that sin might abound. (Romans 5:20).

In this connection let us note the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, in John 7:22 and 23 . . . “Moses therefore gave unto you CIRCUMCISION: (NOT BECAUSE IT IS OF MOSES, BUT OF THE FATHERS): And ye on the Sabbath day CIRCUMCISE a man. If a man on the Sabbath day receive CIRCUMCISION, that the law of Moses should not be broken.” Here we learn that at the time Christ was on earth Israel’s CIRCUMCISION was 406 years older than THE TEN COMMANDMENTS and the MEATS AND DRINKS, and DIVERS BAPTISMS, and the CARNAL ORDINANCES, which were imposed on Israel till the time of reformation. (Hebrews 9:10.)

ABRAHAM NOT UNDER THE LAW

Hear these important words, in Romans 4:13: “For the promise that he (Abraham) should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the LAW, but through the righteousness of faith.” Again, in Galatians 3:17 and 18; “The COVENANT (that God made with Abram and Abraham), the LAW, which was 430 years after, CANNOT DISANNUL, that it should make the PROMISE of none effect . . . For if the inheritance be of the LAW, it is no more of PROMISE, but God gave it to Abraham by PROMISE.”

If the law was given at Sinai more than 1500 years before Christ, on the cross, became the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth (Romans 10:4), then Abram was justified by faith and Abraham was CIRCUMCISED (24 years later) more than 1900 years before Christ, as Abraham’s Seed, died on the cross. (Hebrews 2:16 and 17 . . . Galatians 3:19). THE LAW WAS ADDED UNTIL ABRAHAM’S SEED CAME AND DIED for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament. (Galatians 3:19 and Hebrews 9:15).

Thus we learn that the LAW TESTAMENT (THE OLD COVENANT) was for a temporary and parenthetical dispensation and period, falling in between God’s PROMISE to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel) and the death and resurrection of Abraham’s Seed, Christ; and that the LAW COVENANT was done away in Christ. However the COVENANT OF PROMISE is still in force and effect, so far as the truth of Galatians 3:8 is concerned. God has interrupted that part of His covenant and oath with Abraham that has to do with Israel’s possession of their PROMISED LAND. (Genesis 17:8 . . . Genesis 22:17). And we also see that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel) and Israel’s twelve sons had all died before Moses received the LAW COVENANT for the children of Israel at Sinai. There is not one line of the OLD TESTAMENT in the Book of Genesis, and we do greatly err when we call the Book of Genesis “THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES.” The first of the OLD TESTAMENT is recorded in Exodus 20, years after the last of Jacob’s children had died.

CIRCUMCISION IN GOD’S GRACE PROGRAM

After the Holy Spirit, by the pen of the apostle Paul, in the Epistle to the Galatians, had told the saints of the relation of the Abrahamic Covenant to the Law Covenant and to the Redemptive Work of Christ, these words were added: “For I testify again to every man that is

CIRCUMCISED, that he is debtor TO DO THE WHOLE LAW.” (Galatians 5:3) . . . “And I, brethren, if I yet preached CIRCUMCISION, why do I yet suffer persecution? Then is the offence of the cross ceased . . . I would they were even cut off which trouble you.” (Galatians 5:11 and 12) . . . “As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be CIRCUMCISED; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ; For neither they themselves, who are CIRCUMCISED, keep the law, but desire to have you CIRCUMCISED, that they may glory in your flesh.” (Galatians 6:13 and 14). As we read this strong language let us remember Acts 16:3, concerning Timothy: “Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and CIRCUMCISED him (Timothy). Why? “BECAUSE OF THE JEWS.” (Acts 16:3). Was Paul guilty of duplicity? Was he inconsistent? If he CIRCUMCISED Timothy to please men, did Paul write the truth in Galatians 1:10: “if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ?” In Galatians 2:3 we learn that Paul would not permit the CIRCUMCISION at Jerusalem to CIRCUMCISE Titus. Why? Because the mother of Titus was not a Jew, as was the mother of Timothy. Let us never forget Acts 21:25, “As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing.” This seemed good to the Holy Spirit and the apostles. (Acts 15:28) . . . “We trouble not them which from among the Gentiles are turned to God.” (Acts 15:19).

By studying the fifteenth and the twenty-first chapters of Acts we learn that the twelve apostles and Paul were willing that believing Jews should be CIRCUMCISED, but not believing Gentiles, notwithstanding the fact that Paul wrote in Galatians 6:15 “For in Christ Jesus neither CIRCUMCISION nor UNCIRCUMCISION availeth anything, but a new creature.”

How does this compare with Romans 3:1 and 2? “What profit is there to CIRCUMCISION? Much in every way; chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.”

Compare this with Galatians 5:2: “Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be CIRCUMCISED, Christ shall profit you nothing.”

Surely we are learning that CIRCUMCISION requires more than a superficial study and occupies a very important place in Bible study. In Genesis 17 we learned that those who would not submit to CIRCUMCISION were to be cut off. In Galatians the CIRCUMCISION, who tried to impose CIRCUMCISION on justified Gentiles, were to be cut off. Thus we see that what God demands in one economy, or dispensation, He forbids and prohibits in another. This is DISPENSATIONAL BIBLE STUDY, even as is the comparison of LAW and GRACE, when we teach that the righteousness demanded by the LAW is provided by God’s GRACE.

When Paul became the prisoner of the Lord Jesus for Gentiles (Ephesians 3:1 to 4) he wrote from his prison in Rome:

“We are the CIRCUMCISION, which worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.” (Philippians 3:3.)

“And ye are complete (full) in Him (Christ) . . . In Whom also ye are CIRCUMCISED with the CIRCUMCISION made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the CIRCUMCISION of Christ.” (Colossians 2:11.)

Here we read of the CIRCUMCISION of Christ, a CIRCUMCISION which is Divine and spiritual. But in Luke 2:21 we read that Jesus was CIRCUMCISED with HUMAN HANDS, physical CIRCUMCISION: “And when eight days were accomplished for the CIRCUMCISING of the Child, His Name was called Jesus.” “And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee.” (Luke 2:39). Jesus Christ was a Minister of the CIRCUMCISION; and was made UNDER THE LAW to redeem them that were UNDER THE

LAW. (Romans 15:8 and Galatians 4:4). Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law. (Matthew 5:17 and 18).

About 40 years after Jesus Christ was CIRCUMCISED Peter had just preached to Cornelius, the Gentile, and the other apostles contended with Peter, "Saying, thou wentest in to men UNCIRCUMCISED, and didst eat with them." (Acts 11:1 to 3). Just before this Peter declared that it was an unlawful thing "for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation." (Acts 10:28). Surely here we learn of something that was being done for the first time. (Acts 15:13 to 17). Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:11 of the Gentiles in time past called UNCIRCUMCISION by that which is called the CIRCUMCISION, as aliens from the commonwealth of Israel. The UNCIRCUMCISION were far off from God; the CIRCUMCISION were nigh. (Ephesians 2:17). While Jesus of Nazareth was in the midst of Israel, a Man approved of God by miracles (Acts 2:22), He was sent only to the CIRCUMCISION. After Christ was raised from the dead He was first presented to the CIRCUMCISION and even after they were scattered they preached the Word to none but the CIRCUMCISION. (Acts 11:19).

Then Paul said that it was necessary that God's Word should first be preached to the CIRCUMCISION, and that he turned to the UNCIRCUMCISION because Israel put God's Word from them. (Acts 13:46). Then the UNCIRCUMCISION obtained God's mercy, because of the unbelief of the CIRCUMCISION. (Romans 11:30). Then there was no difference between the CIRCUMCISION and the UNCIRCUMCISION. (Romans 10:13). They were reconciled to God in one Body by the cross of Christ. (Ephesians 2:16). Then CIRCUMCISION took on a new meaning.

THE CIRCUMCISION AND THE UNCIRCUMCISION GOSPELS

In Galatians 2:1 to 9 we learn that, by revelation, Paul went up to Jerusalem to talk to the other apostles and brethren at Jerusalem concerning the Gospel of the UNCIRCUMCISION which Christ had committed to him. Those leaders at Jerusalem added nothing in conference to Paul, "But contrariwise, when they saw that the GOSPEL OF the UNCIRCUMCISION was committed unto me (Paul), as the GOSPEL OF the CIRCUMCISION was unto Peter." (Galatians 2:7). Rather plain language, don't you think? Paul explains something of the GOSPEL OF THE UNCIRCUMCISION in Galatians 3:8: "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the HEATHEN through faith, preached before (430 years before the law was added) the Gospel unto ABRAM, saying "in thee shall all nations be blessed." Why can Abram (Abraham) be called the father of us all? (Romans 4:16). Because ABRAM was an UNCIRCUMCISED HEATHEN when he was declared righteous in UNCIRCUMCISION. When God preached the Gospel to that one UNCIRCUMCISED HEATHEN, who was declared righteous by faith without law or ceremony, the Scripture foresaw the GOSPEL OF THE UNCIRCUMCISION by which a great multitude of UNCIRCUMCISED HEATHEN would be declared righteous by faith without law, religion, ceremony or CIRCUMCISION.

After the Scripture foresaw the Gospel of the UNCIRCUMCISION (which was to be committed unto Paul) at the time ABRAM was justified in UNCIRCUMCISION, about 24 years later ABRAM became CIRCUMCISED ABRAHAM at the age of 99. Then one year later Isaac was born and he was CIRCUMCISED when he was eight days old. (Genesis 21:4). CIRCUMCISION was first the seal of ABRAM'S righteousness. (Romans 4:9 to 11). CIRCUMCISION was of the fathers. (John 7:21 to 23). As the LAW was Israel's schoolmaster

to bring Israel to Christ to be justified by faith, and as the LAW had a shadow of good things to come (Hebrews 10:1 to 4) (Galatians 3:24), so CIRCUMCISION was carried over from the fathers, under PROMISE, to Israel UNDER THE LAW, and foreshadowed the Christian's CIRCUMCISION of Christ, made without hands. (Colossians 2:11). At the time the Christian is thus CIRCUMCISED, according to Colossians 2:11, so according to the next verse he is likewise BURIED WITH CHRIST IN BAPTISM, Christ having been BAPTIZED on the cross of Calvary. (Luke 12:50). A DIVINE CIRCUMCISION and a DIVINE BAPTISM are essential for salvation and for membership in the Body of Christ.

TWO PHASES OR ASPECTS OF THE INHERITANCE

Peter's GOSPEL OF THE CIRCUMCISION was under the COVENANT OF CIRCUMCISION and looked back to the prophets and to CIRCUMCISED ABRAHAM. (Acts 7:8) (Acts 3:24 and 25). Paul's GOSPEL OF UNCIRCUMCISION looked back to Genesis 15:6, when UNCIRCUMCISED ABRAM was justified in UNCIRCUMCISION, without law, works or ritual, that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not CIRCUMCISED. (Romans 4:11) (Galatians 3:8).

In Romans 4:13 we learned that GOD'S PROMISE that Abraham should be HEIR OF THE WORLD was not THROUGH THE LAW, but through the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH. In Galatians 3:18 we learned that THE INHERITANCE was NOT OF THE LAW, but of PROMISE.

One principal reason why "Covenant" Christians and "Non-Covenant, Premillennial" Christians cannot get together, why Premillenarians are not agreed that there was a difference between Peter's GOSPEL OF CIRCUMCISION and Paul's GOSPEL OF UNCIRCUMCISION, is first, because they do not seem to see the two definite phases of the INHERITANCE, and the difference between the GOSPEL which God preached to UNCIRCUMCISED ABRAM and the COVENANT AND OATH which He made with CIRCUMCISED ABRAHAM.

At the time ABRAM was CIRCUMCISED and became ABRAHAM, God promised "ALL THE LAND of CANAAN" to ABRAHAM'S natural seed. (Genesis 17:8). This was in addition to the promise of spiritual blessings for individual ISRAELITES. Both parts of this INHERITANCE are included in Hebrews 6:13 to 20, where both Covenant and Oath are mentioned. But when Paul wrote to the Christian Gentiles in Galatia and elsewhere, concerning the INHERITANCE BY PROMISE, and added, "if ye be Christ's, then are ye ABRAHAM'S seed, and heirs according to the promise," he did not mean to have them understand that they would inherit the land of Canaan. They were members of the Body of Christ, seated in the heavenlies. There is a larger sense in which all of the families of the earth are to be blessed, through Israel and in subjection to Israel, when the natural seed of Abraham shall inherit and possess all the land of Canaan. This is why Peter and the Eleven, beginning with the day of Pentecost, called Israel "the children of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham." (Acts 3:24 and 25). This is why they preached the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy, those of Samuel and others; why they told Israel that their repentance would bring Christ back for the restitution of all things; why they called on them to sell all their houses and lots. (Acts 2:16 . . . Acts 2:28 to 33 . . . Acts 3:24 to 26 . . . Acts 4:34 . . . Acts 3:19 to 21). So we see that the promise of Genesis 17:8 (concerning Canaan) was included in the GOSPEL of the CIRCUMCISION to Israel.

But what the Scripture saw, according to Galatians 3:8, at the time ABRAM was declared righteous, without CIRCUMCISION, as an UNCIRCUMCISED HEATHEN, was the Gospel of UNCIRCUMCISION to be proclaimed by an apostle born out of due time, the Apostle of the Gentiles, a pattern (I Timothy 1:16). Then, because God's gifts and calling are without repentance, and for Abraham's sake, Israel will be saved and established in Canaan. (Romans 11:26 to 29) (Amos 9:11 to 15).

The blessing of Abraham that the believing Gentile receives in this age of grace, because of Christ's death on the cross, because of Israel's unbelief and fall, because of the UNCIRCUMCISION GOSPEL which the Scripture foresaw, is RIGHTEOUSNESS by grace, through faith, without law, works or religious ceremony. (Galatians 3:13 and 14 . . . Romans 3:24 to 28 . . . Romans 4:4 and 5 . . . Ephesians 2:8 to 10).

Thus while it is true that no Old Testament prophet foretold "the Church of the Mystery," it was prefigured in Genesis 2:21 to 24 and the Scriptures in Genesis 12:1 to 4 and Genesis 15:6 foresaw the UNCIRCUMCISION Gospel, but Genesis was no part of the Old Testament Scriptures.

LESSON NUMBER FIVE

THE BODY OF CHRIST . . . THE CHURCH OF THE MYSTERY

WHICH CHRIST WILL PRESENT TO HIMSELF AS A GLORIOUS, SPOTLESS CHURCH.
(Ephesians 3:1 to 6 and 5:26 to 32).

In Ephesians 3:1 to 6 the apostle Paul reveals to us what the risen Christ revealed to him, "THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST." (Ephesians 3:4). In Ephesians 3:9, concerning "THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST," we read of "THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY which from the beginning of the world hath been HID IN GOD." (The word translated "fellowship" is "oikonomia," translated "dispensation" in Ephesians 3:2 and Colossians 1:25). The "dispensation" (economy) committed to Paul, according to Colossians 1:25 and 26, was concerning "THE MYSTERY WHICH HATH BEEN HID FROM ACES AND FROM GENERATIONS." Therefore, when we read concerning the revelation of 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," we should know that the "AS" does not suggest comparative revelation. We can find no place in the writings of the prophets of Israel or in the Four Gospels where "THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST" was made known or known by the Lord's holy apostles and prophets. Paul's words in Ephesians 3:3 tell how "THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST" was first made known . . . "How that by REVELATION He made known unto ME THE MYSTERY." In Colossians 4:3 Paul tells us again of "THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST, FOR WHICH I AM ALSO IN BONDS." In Ephesians 1:9 "THE MYSTERY" is called "THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S WILL." In connection with THE MYSTERY we read these interesting facts in Ephesians 1:4 and 5:

"According as He (God) hath chosen us in Him (Christ) BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love; HAVING

PREDESTINATED US unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.”

Here we have God's ETERNAL PURPOSE in Christ Jesus; “God's PURPOSE and GRACE, which was given us in Christ Jesus BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN.” (Ephesians 3:11 . . . II Timothy 1:9). “Being PREDESTINATED according to the PURPOSE of Him, Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.” (Ephesians 1:11). Only as we know and make known this “ETERNAL PURPOSE” of God, set forth in Romans 8:29 to 31, God's FOREKNOWLEDGE concerning those whom he PREDESTINATED to be conformed to the image of Christ, can we truly say with assurance Romans 8:28, “We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.” Those who are called according to God's PURPOSE are expected to make known GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE IN CHRIST by making all saints to see “WHAT IS THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY WHICH FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD HATH BEEN HID IN GOD.” (Ephesians 3:9 to 11). The truth concerning GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE is called “THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST.” (Ephesians 3:8). The Greek word “UNSEARCHABLE” is translated in Romans 11:33, “PAST FINDING OUT.” The root is “STEP” or “TRACK.” The meaning of the word is that “THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST” cannot be traced through the former Scriptures; although it is suggested, in type, in Genesis 2:18 to 24 and Genesis 5:2. The Lord revealed to His servant Daniel, the beginning, course and culmination of “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES, POLITICALLY.” (Daniel 2). But to Paul alone did the risen Lord give His first revelation concerning the beginning, the course and the culmination of “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES, SPIRITUALLY.” The Lord Jesus, in Luke 21:24 to 32, tells of the continued course and the culmination of “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES, POLITICALLY.” The apostle Paul, in Romans 11:25 and 26 and Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 4:10 to 13, tells us of the course and the culmination of “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES, SPIRITUALLY.”

“THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST” was “PAST FINDING OUT” until it was revealed by the risen Christ to and through the apostle Paul. And this truth is still “PAST FINDING OUT” unless we find it in the writings of the apostle Paul, for no other apostle or prophet even uses the word “BODY” in defining the CHURCH. As Israel's prophets did not foretell the CHURCH OF THE MYSTERY, the truth revealing it is called “THE UNSEARCHABLE (UNTRACEABLE) RICHES OF CHRIST”; that is, unprophesied riches. None of the apostles was the prisoner of Jesus Christ for “THE MYSTERY,” except the apostle Paul. (Ephesians 6:19 and 20). When we hear Paul's testimony concerning “MY GOSPEL,” and “THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL,” in Romans 16:25 and II Timothy 2:7 to 9 and Ephesians 6:19 and 20, we must know that these expressions mean something more than the gospel by which sinners are saved, which gospel was in fulfillment of prophecy. (I Corinthians 15:1 to 4 and Acts 13:29 and 30). Paul's “MY GOSPEL” and “THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL” speak of “THE CHURCH OF THE MYSTERY,” GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE, WHICH GOD PREDESTINATED, BUT WHICH NO PROPHET OF ISRAEL CONTEMPLATED. Israel's prophets foretold the NEW ISRAEL (Isaiah 62:1 to 4), but not “THE ONE NEW MAN” of Ephesians 2:15.

“THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST,” “GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE IN CHRIST” is not “PAST FINDING OUT,” if the member of the BODY OF CHRIST will obey Ephesians 1:16 to 23 and Ephesians 4:3 to 7, praying the Father of glory for the spirit of wisdom and revelation to have the eyes of his understanding enlightened and will endeavor to keep the UNITY OF THE SPIRIT by contending for ONE FATHER, ONE CHRIST, ONE SPIRIT, ONE FAITH, ONE

HOPE, ONE CHURCH and ONE BAPTISM. But very few are willing. This interferes with their own church programs.

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE MYSTERY

When we are willing to obey Ephesians 1:16 to 23, believing that the Church (BODY) is the filling-up of Christ, and that God recognizes only ONE CHURCH and ONE BAPTISM, then to understand "THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST," we begin by accepting the MYSTERY of Romans 11:25 and 26, that a blindness happened to Israel till the FULNESS OF THE GENTILES BE COME IN, and with that blindness "THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES, SPIRITUALLY" began (not on the day of Pentecost or with the recorded "ACTS" ministry of the TWELVE). Then we are ready for the truth of "THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST" and the meaning of "THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD," committed to Paul, by Christ, for Gentiles, which made Paul, the prisoner of Christ for Gentiles. (Ephesians 3:1 to 4 . . . Colossians 4:3 and 4). The break between God and Israel that brought the "GRACE DISPENSATION" for Gentiles came after the warning of Acts 13:40 and 41.

In Ephesians 5:31 and 32 we read this most interesting truth: "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and the TWO SHALL BE ONE FLESH. This is a GREAT MYSTERY: but I speak concerning CHRIST AND THE CHURCH." CHRIST AND THE CHURCH, "ONE FLESH"—"ONE NEW MAN"—"CHRIST." (I Corinthians 12:12). "THIS IS A GREAT MYSTERY." Yes, this is a PROFOUND SECRET. But should it be a secret in 1946 A.D.? It is a secret to most Christians, because they follow religious leaders who are running "church" programs in competition with God and will not believe Ephesians 4:3 to 13; how God is building up and will complete THE PERFECT MAN.

THE FILLING-UP OF CHRIST

With "THE GREAT MYSTERY," Christ and the Church, ONE FLESH, let us again note that this Church, in Ephesians 3:6, is called "THE JOINT-BODY," (SUSSOMOS). (Not same Body). Let us also note again I Corinthians 12:12 and 13:

"For as the body is ONE, and hath many members, and all the members of that ONE body, being many, are ONE body, SO ALSO IS CHRIST."

"For by ONE Spirit were we all baptized into ONE BODY."

"SO ALSO IS CHRIST." The Lord Jesus Christ is the HEAD of the Church, Which is His BODY, the FILLING-UP OF HIM THAT FILLETH ALL IN ALL (Ephesians 1:20 to 23). The HEAD and all of the members of that ONE BODY "IS CHRIST." Note the consummation in Ephesians 4:13. "THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULNESS OF CHRIST."

In connection with "THE GREAT MYSTERY" of Ephesians 5:31 and 32, we learn what Christ is going to do with His Church. We quote Ephesians 5:25 to 27:

"Christ also loved the CHURCH and gave Himself for it: . . . That He might PRESENT IT TO HIMSELF A GLORIOUS CHURCH, NOT HAVING SPOT OR WRINKLE, OR ANY SUCH THING; BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH."

When the Lord gets the Church as He wants IT, and will have IT, that Church will be "WITHOUT BLEMISH," "GLORIOUS," "HOLY," "WITHOUT SPOT." This is exactly what God PREDESTINATED, when He chose the Church "BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, that we should be 'HOLY' and 'WITHOUT BLAME (BLEMISH),' before Him in

love.” (Ephesians 1:4 and 5). Therefore, we read in Romans 8:29 to 31, WHOM GOD FOREKNEW HE PREDESTINATED AND GLORIFIED. This glorious, spotless, holy CHURCH, without blemish, together with Christ, will be the PERFECT MAN of Ephesians 4:13, the foreordained BODY of Ephesians 1:4 and 5 and Ephesians 1:11; the “CHRIST” of I Corinthians 12:12. Therefore, the BODY is called, “THE FULNESS OF CHRIST.” (Ephesians 1:22 and 23). The BODY will fill up Christ.

THE PERFECT REDEEMER

In I Peter 1:19 and 20 we read of another PERFECT MAN, another CHRIST, “WITHOUT BLEMISH, WITHOUT SPOT, WHO VERILY WAS FOREORDAINED BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.” Christ was thus foreordained to be the LAMB OF GOD, to shed His precious blood for the redemption of Adam’s lost children. This is the same perfect Christ, Who is now far above all principalities, far above all heavens, where He is HEAD of His Church.

Certainly we are in profound Bible truth when we learn that Christ was foreordained to be THE PERFECT MAN, THE SPOTLESS CHRIST, THE LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH, even before Adam was created in the image and likeness of God to be the FIGURE OF HIM WHICH WAS TO COME. (Genesis 1:26 and 27 and Romans 5:14). Before God created Eve out of Adam’s flesh and bone to make the two ONE FLESH (Genesis 2:18 to 24 and Genesis 5:2) He foreordained another PERFECT MAN, WITHOUT SPOT AND WITHOUT BLEMISH, the CHRIST of I Corinthians 12:12, CHRIST AND THE CHURCH, “ONE FLESH,” “ONE NEW MAN.” “So also is CHRIST.”

ADAM AND CHRIST

Surely in many, many ways the Bible is the story of TWO MEN, ADAM AND CHRIST, as we learn in the fifth chapter of Romans and the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians. In this last mentioned chapter Adam is called “THE FIRST MAN” and “THE FIRST ADAM,” and Christ is called “THE SECOND MAN” and “THE LAST ADAM.” (I Corinthians 15:47 and 45). Adam was a figure of Christ. (Romans 5:14). God gave to the first man the name “ADAM,” before Eve was taken from Adam. (Genesis 2:19 and 20). Then we read in Genesis 5:2:

“In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made He him: Male and female created He them; and blessed them and called THEIR name ‘ADAM.’

As we think of the statement, God called “THEIR NAME ADAM,” let us read the most wonderful, interesting, significant truth in Genesis 2:21 to 24:

“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof: And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a WOMAN, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now BONE OF MY BONES, and FLESH OF MY FLESH: she shall be called “WOMAN,” because she was taken out of man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be ‘ONE FLESH’.

As we read these words, we think of Ephesians 5:31 and 32; “Therefore shall a man 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’.”

As we read Genesis 5:2, that the Lord God “called THEIR NAME ‘ADAM,’” we think of I Corinthians 12:12 . . . “all the members of that ONE body, being many, are ONE body, so also is ‘CHRIST’. ‘Adam and Eve, ONE FLESH, “ADAM.” Christ and the Church, ONE FLESH, “CHRIST.”

Strictly speaking, God was not Adam’s father, but his Creator. Certainly God did not want Adam to leave Him, even though God knew that Adam would. Adam had no mother. This truth then was for the future, having the general application to human marriages, as defined by Christ in Matthew 19:3 to 9, and the specific application of Christ’s eternal union with His Church. Christ said, concerning man and wife; “wherefore, they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.” (Matthew 19:6). Many husbands and wives have been put asunder. But nothing can put asunder Christ and His Church. (Romans 8:32 to 39).

Speaking of this specific application, Christ did leave His Father, and on the cross the Father forsook His Son. God permitted a deep sleep of death to fall upon Christ and permitted that Roman spear to pierce His flesh in about the same spot where Adam’s rib was taken. It is rather significant that Christ left His mother at the wedding when He said, “WOMAN, what have I to do with thee?” (John 2:4). While in the hour of death Christ remembered His mother, He said, “WOMAN, behold thy son.” (John 19:26.) The CHURCH OF GOD is mentioned as “the CHURCH OF GOD which He purchased WITH HIS OWN BLOOD.” (Acts 20:28). That blood shed on Calvary’s cross, when God caused a deep sleep to fall upon His Son at the time Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for IT (Ephesians 5:25 and 26), was the blood of the SPOTLESS PERFECT MAN, WITHOUT BLEMISH, Who was foreordained before the foundation of the world, at which time God foreordained the other PERFECT MAN (Ephesians 4:13) (Ephesians 1:4 and 5 and 1 :11), the BODY OF CHRIST, the CHURCH, SPOTLESS AND WITHOUT BLEMISH. (Ephesians 5:26).

As Adam was “ADAM” before EVE came out of him, and was also “ADAM” after EVE was bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh, or one flesh with Adam, so Christ was “CHRIST” before God began to take the CHURCH out of His wounded side and He and His BODY are “CHRIST.” Yes, you agree with me “THIS WAS A GREAT MYSTERY,” “but now is made manifest to His saints.” (Colossians 1:26). Do you not agree with me that this is the most wonderful truth for saints in all of the Bible, and that every servant of Christ should be a faithful steward of the mysteries of God (I Corinthians 4:1 and 3) and make all saints to see what is the dispensation of the mystery (Ephesians 3:9)?

Some day, some hour, some moment Christ shall suddenly appear to glorify His Church, and then present IT to Himself. The dead in Christ shall first be raised in incorruptible bodies, and at the same time, “we shall be changed.” (I Corinthians 15:51 to 58 . . . I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18 . . . Titus 2:13 . . . Philippians 3:20 and 21). “We shall appear with Christ in glory.” (Colossians 3:3 and 4).

AFTER THE RAPTURE

But this will not be the end of the world; not even the resurrection of the unsaved. There will be other ages after the close of this present evil age (Galatians 1:4), which is also the age of grace (Titus 2:11). There will, according to God’s sure Word of Prophecy (II Peter 1:19), be a glorious “kingdom” age, preceded by “the great tribulation,” out of which Israel shall be saved. (Jeremiah 30:7 to 11 . . . Romans 11:26 to 29 . . . Luke 21:27 to 33). Israel will be planted in

their own land never to be plucked up again, when the Lord comes to “BUILD AGAIN THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID.” (Amos 9:11 to 15 . . . Acts 15:13 to 18). The TWELVE APOSTLES (NOT PAUL) will have a prominent place in that program (Matthew 19:27 and 28), as will God’s KING DAVID. (Isaiah 9:6 and 7 . . . Ezekiel 36:21 to 24 and Ezekiel 37:21 to 24).

GOD’S FOREMEN

Christ was God’s FOREMAN, in making the heavens and the earth. Noah was God’s foreman, in building the ark. Moses was God’s foreman in building the tabernacle. Solomon was God’s foreman in building the temple. We have stated what David, Christ and the Twelve Apostles will do in building again the tabernacle of David. But in building up the Body of Christ the apostle Paul said:

“According to the grace of God given unto me (Paul), AS A WISE MASTERBUILDER (ARCHITEKTON) . . . I HAVE LAID THE FOUNDATION . . . and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he BUILDETH (TOGETHER) (SUNOIKODOMEO) thereupon.” (1 Corinthians 3:10.)

“OKIO-DOMEO” means “to build a house”—“Sun,” together.

Only as we get our blueprints and specifications from the WISE MASTERBUILDER, Christ’s foreman for the building-up of the BODY, can we build together with God, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, and with Paul, intelligently and well-pleasing to our Lord, according to Ephesians 4:9 to 13.

If we follow Peter as foreman, we may find ourselves trying to build the Tabernacle of David before God is ready for that task. Christ will come to earth for that.

But let us contemplate the mutual joy, and glory when the Lord Jesus shall perfect the Church and present it to Himself; and then we shall begin to understand the full meaning of the riches of God’s grace in ages to come. (Ephesians 2:7).

LESSON NUMBER SIX

AMILLENARIANS . . . POSTMILLENARIANS . . . PREMILLENARIANS

Of course the Liberals or Modernists in so-called Christian churches are “Amillennarians,” which means there will be “no millennium,” no reign by Jesus Christ, in Person, on the throne of His glory here on earth, for one thousand years or any years, as described in Revelation 20:3 to 7, Matthew 25:31 to 45, Isaiah 9:6 and 7 and other Scriptures. As they know nothing of why Christ came the first time, we would not expect them to believe that He will come the second time to earth. But there are some saved “Amillennarians.” Their favorite text is “the kingdom of God is within you,” and they do what is called “spiritualizing.” They make the Bible prophecies concerning the redemption of Israel and their restoration in the land of Canaan, in fulfillment of Genesis 17:8 to 12 and Amos 9:11 to 15, refer to their favorite text.

The saved “Amillennarians” and “Postmillennarians” teach that the Christian Church is “Spiritual Israel,” and the covenant which God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the new covenant with Israel mentioned in Jeremiah 31:31 to 35 and Hebrews 8:7 to 13, apply to

“Spiritual Israel”; that these covenants are in full force and effect today; that God did not break with Israel either at the cross, on the day of Pentecost, or at any subsequent time; and that these covenants guarantee the Christianizing of the entire human race. New Testament Israel is the Christian Church, the continuation of Old Testament Israel. “Postmillennialism” means the coming of Christ ‘after the millennium.’ The church will therefore bring in the millennium and then the return of Christ to be King; so they speak of bringing in, or the spread of, the Kingdom. Very few “Postmillenarians” are strong for a literal millennium on earth. They very seldom teach that there will be a thousand years of peace and righteousness on earth, a warless kingdom age in fulfillment of Isaiah 2 and Isaiah 11 and Isaiah 66:12 to 24 and Micah 4:1 to 8. Most of them are really “Amillenarians,” believing that there will be no one thousand year golden age on earth. They are uncompromisingly opposed to the teaching of the “Premillenarians,” that at the time Christ was rejected by Israel God broke with Israel, that then and there God’s kingdom covenants concerning Israel and Canaan were suspended or interrupted, the kingdom of heaven postponed, and that God ushered in a new parenthetical dispensation and age.

The “Premillenarians” teach that there will be no millennium, there can be no millennium, until after the Lord Jesus Christ, in fulfillment of Acts 1:11 and Luke 21:27 to 31, actually comes back to this earth in Person. They teach that Christ and His saints will reign over the earth for one thousand years. The “Premillenarians” are divided into “Posttribulation Premillenarians,” “Pretribulation Premillenarians” and “Partial-Rapture Premillenarians.” The “Posttribulation Premillenarians” believe that Christ will come to earth before the millennium, but not before the great tribulation of Jeremiah 30:7 and Matthew 24. The “Pretribulation Premillenarians” believe the Church will be raptured before the millennium and before the tribulation. The “Partial-Rapture Premillenarians” teach that spiritual Christians will be saved from the tribulation but that carnal Christians will not be. They sometimes quote the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins and Revelation 3:10.

All “Premillenarians,” among evangelical Christians, believe they are taught in Romans 11:25 and 26, Romans 11:15, Romans 11:11 and Romans 11:30, that salvation, mercy and reconciliation were offered, in grace, to Gentiles when and because God broke with Israel and blinded them. The Gentiles obtained mercy because of Israel’s unbelief. (Romans 11:30). They teach that God has not abandoned His kingdom program, the salvation and restoration of His chosen nation Israel, which is in abeyance during this present parenthesis, but He has interrupted His kingdom covenants and promises while He builds up the Church, Which is Christ’s Body, in accordance with Ephesians 4:9 to 13.
