

Right Division Part 2

Right division helps us understand the entire Bible. You can rightly divide what God said to people of the past from what He is saying to us today from what He has recorded for those people coming after us! When you know that there are different messages for different people, you begin to look at Bible passages to see if they apply to us today.

It's not that the entire Bible is not important, it is very important for us to learn about God and His plan for all of creation. Paul wrote that all scripture is profitable for the people of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

The Davidic covenant promised that there would be a son of David to reign on the throne of Israel forever. Jesus was sent to those who were under the Law (the circumcision.) Jesus was that son of

David who was sent to the Jewish people as their King and Redeemer, as God had promised.

Jesus rather dramatically demonstrated that He was sent only to the children of Israel and not to any of the other people on earth (the Gentiles.) When a Gentile begged Jesus to heal her daughter, Jesus told her that He was sent only to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Matthew 15:22-25

And, **behold, a woman of Canaan** came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, **O Lord, thou Son of David**; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. **But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.** Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

If you don't understand right division of the Bible, you will be very confused by Jesus' response.

Matthew 15:26

But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

It becomes clear when you know that “children” is the children of Israel and Jesus is the bread. “Dogs” is what the Jews called the Gentiles.

The Canaanite woman said that she knew that to be the case. But, using the example of the dog, she said she was willing to take any crumbs that were left over after the children had eaten!

Matthew 15:27

And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

Because of her great faith, Jesus granted her request.

Matthew 15:28

Then Jesus answered and said unto her, **O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.** And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

The exchange between Jesus and the Canaanite woman is something that brings out, for those of us who may not have known it, that Jesus Christ was sent to earth to minister only to the Jews! Jesus was sent as part of the covenant God made with David to be the king, and the redeemer promised to Israel

Paul

James, Peter (Cephas,) and John had been with Jesus during His earthly ministry, when He worked exclusively with the Jews. They understood that they were to continue working only with Jews as Jesus had commissioned them to do.

After His ascension, Jesus Christ gave Paul a new gospel that Paul and Barnabas were to take to the Gentiles.

Galatians 2:7-9

But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter

to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, **they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.**

What happened next is something that most Christians do not understand. Remember, it is only when you study the Bible dispensationally, rightly divided, that you understand that God (temporarily) set aside the nation of Israel and took salvation straight to the Gentiles.

Peter endorses Paul's new dispensation from Jesus Christ. He calls it "the wisdom given unto him." Peter admits that he had difficulty understanding all of Paul's teachings, but he acknowledges and accepts them as scripture.

2 Peter 3:15-16

And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as **our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath**

written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, **as they do also the other scriptures,** unto their own destruction.

In Romans, Paul makes it clear that the Jews have stumbled and that God's plan of salvation has come to the Gentiles. Paul said the reason is to make the Jews, who were God's people, jealous that God was working with another group of people.

Romans 11:11

I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather **through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.**

The new dispensation was given to Paul, after Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, to tell the Gentiles, because Israel, as a nation, has been blinded and deafened.

Acts 28:28

Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

Individual Jews can still be saved under the new dispensation, along with the Gentiles.

Romans 3:22-23

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ **unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

The Dispensation Given to Paul

We are still living in the dispensation that Jesus Christ gave to the apostle Paul.

All of the information dispensed to him by Jesus Christ is found in the letters that Paul wrote, Romans through Philemon.

It is very easy to tell which letters are written by Paul. All of them start out like a memo--first Paul's, the writer's, name and then, to whom they are written. There are 13 of Paul's letters, 9 were written to churches and 4 were written to individuals. All of them were written to believers.

Jesus Christ's dispensation to Paul, and for us today, involves a new gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:17

For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, **a dispensation of the gospel** is committed unto me.

Here is our gospel:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, **I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which**

also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**

The new dispensation involves a new time frame.

Ephesians 1:10

That in **the dispensation of the fulness of times** he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

The new dispensation creates a new group of people, the Church, the Body of Christ.

Romans 12:5

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

In the new dispensation, there is no difference between the Jews and the Gentiles, all are part of the same body.

I'm sure you know people who are Jewish who are still trying to live like the Jews lived in Jesus' day. How sad for them if they do not realize that they must believe in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection if they are to be saved.

Everyone who believes in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as payment for all of their sins is a new creature—neither Jew (circumcision) nor Gentile (uncircumcision.)

Galatians 6:15

For in Christ Jesus **neither circumcision** availeth any thing, **nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.**

Paul is very clear that today, in God's plan, there is no distinction between the Jews and the Gentiles. ("Greek" means Gentiles.)

Romans 10:12

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

God has set the nation Israel aside for a time. Today, He says there is no distinction of any kind—Jew or Gentile, male or female, bond or free—in the Church, the Body of Christ. Everyone has to come to God through faith in Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

Galatians 3:26-28

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

How do we know God's chosen people are part of the Church, the Body of Christ? Paul tells us we are.

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? **for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; **and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**

Titus 2:13-14

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; **Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

The Dispensation of the Grace of God involves God's grace alone. Following the Law is no longer required to receive God's grace.

Ephesians 2:4-9

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead

in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, **(by grace ye are saved;)** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: **That in the ages to come** he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

Paul stated it very clearly. Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to the believers.

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Remember, Paul tells us that the Law was added until the seed should come to Israel (to whom the promise was made.) Jesus Christ is the seed that came to Israel, the “seed of the woman.”

Galatians 3:19

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, **till the seed should come to whom the promise was made;** and it

was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

God's new dispensation was given to one person, Paul, who was selected by Jesus Christ to dispense the information to Gentiles.

Colossians 1:25

Whereof I am made a minister, according to **the dispensation of God which is given to me for you**, to fulfil the word of God;

We have been delivered from the Law to serve in newness of Spirit, not to follow the letter of the Law.

Romans 7:6

But **now we are delivered from the law**, that being dead wherein we were held; that **we should serve in newness of spirit**, and not in the oldness of the letter.

The Rapture

The End of our Dispensation

The Bible is complete, so we already know what happens next. We just don't know when it will happen. What we are to expect, at any time, is to hear the trump of God and be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air! Most people refer to this event as The Rapture.

It does not matter if we have already died before this happens. In fact, those who have already died will come back with Him and be raised first! Then those of us who are still alive will be caught up to forever be with the Lord in heaven! How exciting is that?!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. **For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord

shall not prevent them which are asleep. **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:** and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Paul explains that these corrupt bodies we have on earth cannot inherit the incorruption of heaven. Our bodies will be changed to incorruptible bodies as we meet the Lord in the air.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Now this I say, brethren, **that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.** Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: **for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this**

corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

After the Church, the Body of Christ is taken from the earth into heaven, God goes back to the previous dispensation. Actually, God will pick up where He left off working with the Jews— judgement! Satan will send a counterfeit Christ, the antichrist, to fool all of the Jews who have refused to believe that Jesus was the Christ. Remember, the nation Israel was blinded and deafened because they did not love the truth. Those Jews who are still waiting for Christ to come the first time will be fooled by the Wicked one because of his power, his signs, and his false wonders.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned

who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Jesus warned His disciples about this time of judgement.

Matthew 24:21-22

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

After the 7 years of Tribulation, Jesus will return in victory to gather all of the elect of Israel and set up His Kingdom of Heaven on the earth.

Matthew 24:29-31

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: **And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the**

Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The Kingdom Dispensation

Daniel writes about the Great Tribulation. Afterward, many people who have died (sleep in the dust of the earth) will be resurrected to everlasting life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Daniel 12:1-2

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: **and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.**

Everyone who is resurrected to everlasting life will live in the Kingdom in a body that will never die. The ones that wake to shame and everlasting contempt will experience the second death. That will happen at the end of the thousand years at the Great White Throne judgement.

We know about this dispensation, too. It is found in the Bible in great detail. This is when Israel as a nation will be forgiven. Remember, they have to repent and seek the Lord to be forgiven. That would have already happened if the Jews as a nation would have accepted Jesus as their King when He came to earth nearly 2,000 years ago.

Exodus 19:5-6

Now therefore, **if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.** These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

The Jews refused this Kingdom, first when they refused to fight for it after they left Egypt, and then when Jesus Christ came to earth and offered it to them. The nation's sins will be blotted out only when Jesus Christ returns to earth a second time, to set Himself up as King. "That your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

Acts 3:9

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Paul says that when the Deliverer, Christ, comes, He will honor His covenant, take away their sins, and all Israel, (as a nation—not all individuals) will be saved.

Romans 11:26-27

And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, **There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.**

Jesus will write the Law in the hearts of the people so that they will all know the Lord.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will **make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; **After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;** and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And **they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**

When Christ comes to earth again, He will send angels to gather all of God's people together in Israel.

Matthew 24:30-31

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. **And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

Israel's kingdom of priests will last for one thousand years.

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, **but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

When Jesus Christ comes the second time, Satan will be bound in chains for the entire one thousand years of the Kingdom.

Revelation 20:1-3

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. **And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more,** till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

There will also be a drastic increase in lifespans, much like those experienced by Adam through Noah.

Matthew 24:37

But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Zechariah 8:3-5

Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain. **Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There**

shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.

Isaiah says that no children will die when very young. Men will not die before they have had a long, full life. People will still be considered children when they are 100 years old! That is a drastic increase in lifespans! Isaiah also cautions that unbelievers will not make it past 100 years old (be accursed,) probably because they will have committed a sin with a death penalty before then.

Isaiah 65:20

There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

At the end of the thousand years, Satan is allowed freedom to deceive everyone, one final time. Incredibly, a huge number of people are deceived and gather to battle against God.

Judgement in the form of fire comes down from God and devours them all.

Revelation 20:7-9

And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

The Final Dispensation—Eternity

And after the thousand years Kingdom on earth, God will create a new heaven and new earth!

The sin-cursed earth will pass away and a brand-new heaven and earth will appear. God will dwell with the people on earth, the Jews.

Revelation 21:1-3

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed

away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

There will be no need for the temple, or sun, or moon in the city.

Revelation 21:22-23

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

We, the Church, the Body of Christ, will dwell in the new heaven with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, **we have a building of**

God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Why does God need a new heaven? Way back in Job, we find that the heavens are not clean today. In the next passage, saints are angels.

Job 15:15

Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.

Are you surprised about that? Remember who lives there today--Satan and his angels.

Revelation 12:7-9

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; **neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

That is why both the earth and heaven will be new.