



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 26  
Issue 630

# God's Earthly Purpose

by — Dr. William H. Walker (1840-1924)

## THE PROBLEM

In the beginning God created the world for His pleasure and glory. He pronounced it "very good," but in its changed condition, through the work of an enemy preferred by man to God, it has become something in which we could not expect a holy God to take pleasure. The world has become to Him a scene of anarchy, rebellion and disorder – under the organized power of an adversary<sup>1</sup> (Ephesians 2:1-2).

However, God has not abandoned this sinful world, and in the fullness of time He sent His Son to reveal His love and redemptive purpose towards it. Yet, strange to say, this revelation of Himself in fullest love and richest grace revealed in man only the depth of his hatred to God and alienation from Him.

Why should God care for the world after this? What could be expected further from a world which had no appreciation of the infinite love and goodness which had been so graciously displayed? Why not close the scene at once by bringing upon it its merited judgment?

## THE ANSWER

The answer to this is found in the purpose that God formed *before* the world was ruined,<sup>2</sup> or ever was, and expressed to us in the following Scripture:

- [Editor:] For more information about the creation of evil, Satan and the purpose of sin, see:
  - *The Problem of Evil*, A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), see order form;
  - *The "Fall" of Satan*, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #547](#);
  - *The King of Tyre*, E.H. Clayton, [Bible Student's Notebook #569](#).
- [Editor:] For more information, see:
  - *The Disruption*, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #522](#).

*God hath appointed a day in the which He will rule this world in righteousness by that Man Whom He hath appointed and hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead (Acts 17:31).*

We have in this Scripture a purpose, a person, and a program.

### A Purpose

The appointed purpose is to rule this world by a *Man*. What is a purpose but the determining of a certain end to be accomplished, as also of the means by which it is to be secured? This involves will, aim and interest.

God could make a purpose; hence we read of,

*His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself (Ephesians 1:9).*

In the execution of that purpose He cannot be hindered. Human purposes may be thwarted, but God's purpose never.

It was formed in Christ Jesus before the age-times (II Timothy 1:9). God could do this, for,

*Known unto God are all His works from before age-times (Acts 15:18).*

God's Earthly Purpose .....	5457
Editorial .....	5462
Our Mailbox.....	5463



His purpose is immutable, for He is in one mind and who can turn Him, for what His soul desireth, even that He doeth (Job 23:13).

His word is,

*My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure* (Isaiah 46:10).

There are three great facts existing before the beginning of the age times, namely: the eonian purpose of God.

*According as He chooses us in Him before the disruption of the world, we to be holy and flawless in His sight* (Ephesians 1:4; cf. John 17:24; I Peter 1:19-20).

Among the things involved in this purpose is the needed time for its accomplishment. This involved the planning of the ages, their number, length, principle of revelation and responsibility; thus marking the fact of progressive revelation.

### **A Person**

The question of the ages has always been, “Who shall rule the world?” The ages have given the opportunity of determining who can rule the world, and they have all testified unmistakably to man’s incompetency to rule himself, much less his ability to rule others. Nothing could be more impressive than the fact that the results of all of man’s efforts to rule the world have ended in significant failure.

Who is the appointed Man? We read “*The Father*

*loveth the Son*” (John 5:20) and “*hath given all things into His hands*” (John 13:3). God has found one Man Whom He can trust implicitly with all of the interests of the world: the Man of His counsel, Who has undertaken the responsibility of delivering back to God a perfect world with all enemies abolished, and all of the works of the Adversary destroyed (I Corinthians 15:25-28).

What did this mean to the Beloved Son? It meant that He glorified God in the scene where, by sin, God had been dishonored. The Son also revealed man – what he ought to be to God and the distance between that and what he is.

So perfectly has all this been accomplished that, on the basis of it, God commends His love to the sinner, not imputing their offenses unto them but beseeching them to be conciliated to Him (II Corinthians 5:19-21).

Out of this comes the fact of resurrection, which is the basis of a sinner’s assurance of salvation, as well as the guarantee of the future rule of the world by Christ. In the resurrection we have a new supremacy of man in Christ; we do not yet see all things put under Him, but we do see Jesus, crowned with glory and honor (Hebrews 2:7-9), far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but in that which is future (Ephesians 1:21). This much of the purpose has been accomplished.

### **A Program**

There was more than one purpose to be accom-



344 pp, PB

See order form.

## ***Is Hell Eternal? or, Will God's Plan Fail?***

by — Charles H. Pidgeon (1863-1932)

“Our readers will rejoice with us at [this] publication by Charles H. Pidgeon, President of the Pittsburgh Bible Institute. A firm stand is taken for the salvation of all based on the doctrine of the eons as revealed in the Scriptures. Many other books on this subject, lacking the light which the doctrine of the eons brings, have never seemed sufficiently conclusive to carry conviction to those who wish a scriptural basis for their belief.” – A.E. Knoch, *Unsearchable Riches*. Reprint of the 1920 edition.

plished by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into this world. It is not merely individual, to “seek and to save that which was lost,” but it has national and racial objects.

### THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL’S KINGDOM

The purpose for which Christ came, as recorded in the Gospels, was to set up a Kingdom.<sup>3</sup> His preaching and teaching had reference to the Kingdom, which would have been set up at that time if the Jewish people had received Him as their King. In their rejection of Him, the Kingdom has passed into abeyance, and will so remain until the King shall return, and Israel says,

*Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord (Matthew 23:39).*

### WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

In the progress of the ages, certain things have been accomplished toward the ultimate subjection of the world to the rule of the Man of God’s appointment (Acts 17:31).

#### 1. The King has been born.

This part of the prophecies has been fulfilled, and fulfilled literally; a virgin has conceived and brought forth a Son (Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; Luke 1:35). The

3. [Editor:] For an in-depth look at Israel and her place in God’s plan, read:

– *God’s Holy Nation: Israel and Her Earthly Purpose (Contrasted with the Body of Christ and Its Heavenly Purpose)*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., see order form.

first half of these prophecies having been fulfilled literally, the other half will be fulfilled in like manner.

#### 2. The King has been presented.

John the Baptist, the herald of the King, proclaimed Him present and introduced Him to the people. The King Himself proclaimed the Kingdom at hand, in their midst in the person of the King then with them. The miracles He wrought were the evidence of the righteousness of His claims as their Messiah. They only needed to put the claims of Jesus side by side with the predictions of the prophets to know that of a truth, He was the one that was to come.

#### 3. The King was acknowledged.

The wise men from the East came inquiring,

*Where is He that is born King of the Jews? (Matthew 2:2).*

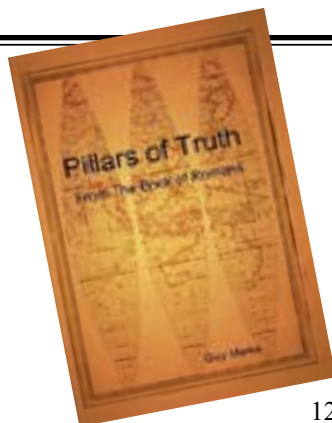
Pilate, in the inscriptions he placed over the cross, testified,

*This is the King of the Jews (Luke 23:38).*

The resurrection was not only the witness of God that Jesus was the Son of God, but that He was also the Seed of David and the fulfillment of all covenant promises made to Him.

#### 4. The King has been rejected.

Why was He rejected in view of all the righteousness of His claims? The Jews were like the people of the present day, with this difference: they (the Jews) ►



## Pillars of Truth from the Book of Romans

by — Guy Spencer Marks (1899–1989)

“A helpful series based on Romans.” – *Unsearchable Riches*.

120 pp, PB

See order form.

read the Scriptures accepting all about the coming glories of the Kingdom, but overlooked the necessity of the suffering before the Kingdom could be established. Today we are generally occupied with the suffering Christ and are indifferent as to the Kingdom. The offense of the *cross* has now become the offense of the *crown* (Luke 24:25-27).

### 5. The King has been exalted.

This is where our attention is now directed.

*But now, we see not yet all things put under Him; but we see Jesus ... crowned with glory and honor* (Hebrews 2:7-9).

## WHAT HAS BECOME OF ISRAEL'S KINGDOM?

In the rejection of the King, what has become of Israel's Kingdom?

### 1. The Kingdom has NOT been abandoned.

The Book of Acts still keeps Israel's Kingdom before the people. The first question in the book is about the Kingdom:

*Wilt Thou at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel?* (1:6).

This was the first question asked by the perplexed disciples; all through the book it is the prominent subject and is set aside only at the book's end. If their thought was wrong, it seems strange that the Master did not use the opportunity to correct their mistake.

They did *not* make any mistake. They were not warranted by the Hebrew Scriptures to expect anything else than the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom, according to their prophets.

### 2. The Kingdom has NOT been changed in its nature.

There has been no change in the Kingdom's nature. It still has reference to an *earthly* administration, the *Kingdom of the Heavens* ruling the earth. It is yet to be established visibly upon the earth at the return of the King (Luke 19).

### 3. The Body of Christ is NOT the Kingdom.

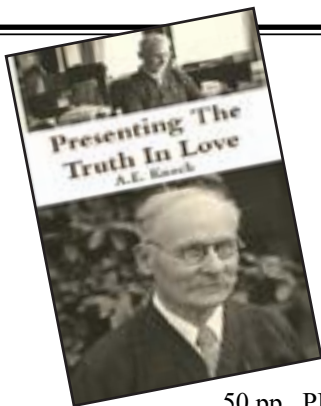
The Body of Christ is not the fulfillment of Israel's Kingdom promises. The Body of Christ was before the Kingdom in the purpose of God (Ephesians 1:3-4). It is *heavenly* in character, position, blessings and destiny.

### 4. The Kingdom is now in abeyance.

The Kingdom is *not* in view at present. When Israel is again the subject of God's dealings, its form will be that of the Kingdom *in mystery*. In that condition it will remain until the return of the King. The eight parables of Matthew 13 give us its different phases until the King comes back again. The present time is a parenthesis, not recognized outside of Paul's epistles.

## WHAT REMAINS FOR ISRAEL'S KINGDOM TO BE ESTABLISHED?

What remains yet to be accomplished, before this world is under the rule of the Man "*Whom He hath appointed*"?



50 pp., PB

See order form.

## *Presenting the Truth in Love* *In Memoriam of A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)*

This book consists of seven short chapters: (1) *Presenting the Truth in Love* – A.E. Knoch; (2) *My Father – As I Remember Him* – Ernest O. Knoch; (3) *Knoch and His Work: A Biographical Sketch by a Close Friend and Long Time Associate* – Edward H. Clayton; (4) *My Brethren Background* – A.E. Knoch; (5) *Musings On Mount Olivet* – A.E. Knoch; (6) *Be Confirmed in the Faith* – A.E. Knoch; (7) *The Funeral Message* – Herman H. Rocke.



The program for the future may be found in many of its particulars in Acts 15:16-18.

*After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up. That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom My Name is called, saith the Lord, Who doeth all these things. Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world.*

### 1. The Prophetic Program.

*To this agree the words of the prophets.*

It must be kept in mind that the present election is *not* the subject of the prophets. “*The Secret*,”<sup>4</sup> or “*The Mystery*” as committed to Paul deals with a prior translation of the saints (Philippians 3:20-21).

### 2. The National Program.

This is expressed in,

*The building again of the tabernacle of David which is thrown down, and the setting of it up again.*

This is nothing less than the restoration of Israel (1)

4. [Editor:] For more information about “*the Mystery*” and its “*Secret Administration*,” see:
- *What Is the Mystery?*, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #516](#);
  - *The Present Secret Administration*, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #575](#);
  - *A New Administration at the Close of Acts*, Adlai Loudy, *Part 1*, [Bible Student’s Notebook #562](#); *Part 2*, [Bible Student’s Notebook #563](#);
  - *The Pentecost, Readjustment & Secret Administrations*, Adlai Loudy, [Bible Student’s Notebook #497](#).

to their God, (2) to their land, (3) to one another and (4) to their mission.

### 3. The Racial Program.

*The residue of men ... and all the Gentiles ...*

The nation of Israel will be restored to their own land. This restoration will be in connection with the return of their Messiah. Israel thus converted will become the missionaries to the nations (Gentiles) for their conversion to God, in accordance to the original promise made to Abraham.

### 4. The Consummate Part of the Program.

This looks far beyond millennial times. This embraces the reign of the Son of Man, but reaches beyond to the reign of the Son of God, when all enemies shall be subdued. Beyond this there will be the ultimate delivering up of the Kingdom to the Father, “*that GOD may be ALL IN ALL*” (I Corinthians 15:28). In the opening of Genesis **GOD IS ALL**, at the end **GOD IS ALL IN ALL**.<sup>5</sup>

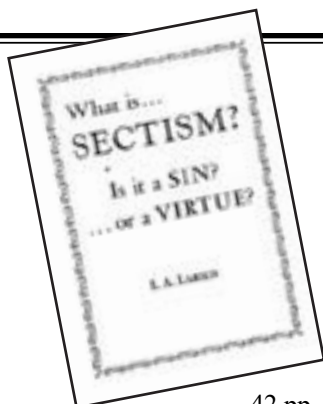
*(edited & abridged)*

- The Purpose of God for this Lost World  
*Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 13 (1922)

#### TOPICS:

**Major:** God; Jesus Christ; Sovereignty; Purpose; Right Division; Chosen; Israel  
**Minor:** Distruption; Kingdom of Heaven; Consummation; Prophecy

5. [Editor:] For a comprehensive study of the many inner-connected doctrines in this article see,  
 – *The Salvation of All*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., see order form.



42 pp., PB

## What Is Sectism? Is It a Sin, or a Virtue?

by — E.A. (Edward Alfred) Larsen (1884-1978)

This work “takes up such matters as the basis of fellowship, definition of a sect and common motives in their formation, and the unity of the saints from a Scriptural viewpoint.” – *Unsearchable Riches*.

*See order form.*





## Editor's Desk

### Bible Teachers with a Dispensational Approach

... *rightly dividing the word of truth* (II Timothy 2:15).

... *cutting straight the word of the truth* (Diaglott).

... *correctly cutting the word of truth* (Concordant).

Dispensational teachers often fall into three basic categories related to the chronology of the Book of Acts: early-Acts (2), mid-acts (9-11-13), and the end of the Acts period (28).

I was raised in a Baptist church that used the *Scotfield Reference Bible*. Then, as a very young teenager I discovered and devoured Clarence Larkin's *Dispensational Truth*. Both works taught an early-Acts position. While these were very basic introductory approaches to "*rightly dividing the Word of Truth*" I am nonetheless very thankful for them as they prepared my heart and mind for what I would later learn.

Over subsequent years I would be introduced to many of the great Bible teachers of the past who had dared to teach from a dispensational approach. Regardless of the various particulars of their attempts at being precise at finding the truth for today, I have great respect for those who labored in the Word before us and were willing to take a stand for God's grand plan of the ages.

In 1985, after two decades of exposure to an early-Acts approach, I purchased a rather large library of

used books from Vince Mercer of North Carolina that ran the full gamut of dispensational positions. In one fell swoop I was introduced to all of the prominent authors of the numerous points of view.

While they varied as to where the present dispensation (or administration) actually may have begun, as related to the Book of Acts, thankfully their contributions have made grand advancements related to the right division of Scripture within a literal, contextual, grammatical and historical approach.

Following is an alphabetic list of some of the authors of the past from whom I have had the distinct honor of learning. Although their works represent the unique results of their own individual journeys and studies, they all had the same goal of freeing believers from the unnecessary burden of attempting to live under administrations that did not belong to them.

Rest well, dear brothers; your labors were not in vain.

Stuart Allen (?-1998)  
Sir Robert Anderson (1841-1918)  
Charles F. Baker (1905-1994)  
Oscar Baker (1898-1987)  
Donald Grey Barnhouse (1895-1960)  
A.E. Bishop (1861-1947)  
William Tucker Broad (1860-1923)  
Robert C. Brock (1931-2015)  
E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)  
Walter H. Bundy (1881-?)  
Alan Burns (1884-1929)  
Leon Albert Bynoe (1895-1983)  
John Robert Caldwell (1839-1917)  
Lewis Sperry Chafer (1871-1952)  
Edward Henry Clayton (1887-1972)  
E. Lynwood Crystal (1872-1946)  
J.N. Darby (1800-1882)  
M.R. DeHaan (1891-1965)  
Theodore Epp (1907-1985)  
John H. Essex (1907-1991)  
Arno C. Gaebelein (1861-1945)  
Vladimir Gelesnoff (1877-1921)  
James M. Gray (1851-1935)  
I.M. Haldeman (1845-1933)  
William B. Hallman (1902-?)  
Norman B. Harrison (1874-1960)

(see **EDITORIAL**, page 5464)



My journey has been a long painful one filled with trials, tragedy, loss, forsaking and everything you can think of. It's an amazing thing when you realize how the spirit of God works. We grow in brokenness and the toughest of times. It is amazing when everything comes together and you finally see the truth. God surely does lock up all in stubbornness so he can have mercy on all. This process is very long and very humbling. He does it for us, not to us. Faith and hope are wonderful, but without love it is all for nothing. I hope you realize what a blessing you are and how much love God gave you to share. – **OH**

I have been enjoying (feasting) on all the great information on your website. This is a fulfillment of my biggest issues since I was a young Christian ... I [was] not growing, but starving for lack of meat and potatoes. Seeing the many writers from the 1800s in the BSNs leaves me asking how you have been able to get ahold of these materials! – **MD**

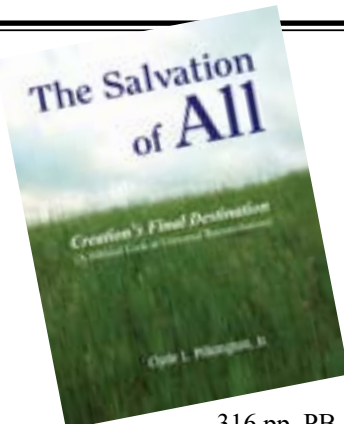
I just wanted to say I appreciate you and love you. Let's walk in love as Christ loves us and gives Himself for us. The greatest virtues we can display in this period are patience and love as we wait it out for our Savior. – **IL**

I am just thankful for the joy Father is giving me in this journey. You and your family are like heartfelt poetry sent from the loving potter. So very precious to me! – **AL**

I want to compliment you on your hard work for our Lord. As a humble and gracious man I know that you know that God knows your heart and you do it to help us and exalt Him ... but we all still appreciate you. – **MA**

We are really impressed with the 4-part lecture you made [Divine Lockup]. We love you brother and keep doing this wonderful work. – **CA**

Thanks to you for your gracious hospitality and the books! I'm glad I made the trip and to have met you all. I'll take a look at the things you sent home with me. – **PA**



## ***The Salvation of ALL: Creation's Final Destination***

*(A Biblical Look at Universal Reconciliation)*

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is truly better “Good News” than we could ever have imagined. It is far more glorious than religion would ever have us believe. *The Salvation of All* is a book about a “Good News” that will reach its final goal in the *salvation of all* mankind.

316 pp, PB

*See order form.*

“*The Salvation of All*” – An excellent book. – **MI**

*The Salvation of All* is the most clearly written testimony to God's ultimate grace and mercy towards man that I've seen in print. – **VA**

I'm sure I'll be referring back to *The Salvation of All* for years to come. The issues you addressed in the book need

to be discussed among believers. – **IL**

*The Salvation of All* is worthy reading for people on both sides of the doctrinal fence. Regardless of whether or not those who read it will agree with you, I believe they will respect you for not serving up the regurgitated fodder that fills the shelves of religious bookstores. Very thought provoking! I'll be recom-

mending it to many people! – **FL**

*The Salvation of All*, what an amazing book. I feel the veil has been lifted and finally I see clearly the glory of our Lord and Savior. What a joy to know the truth and understand just how amazing our God truly is to all. You are a sincere man of God whom I trust and respect. – **VA**

**EDITORIAL** (continued from page 5462)

Donald G. Hayter (?-1988)  
Richard Holden (1828-1886)  
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C.R. Stam (1909-2003)  
Miles Stanford (1914-1999)  
Lehman Strauss (1911-1997)  
W.H. Griffith Thomas (1861-1924)  
W. Leon Tucker (1871-1934)  
Merrill F. Unger (1909-1980)  
William H. Walker (1840-1924)  
Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

While certainly all the Bible is *for* us, not all the Bible is written *to* us or *about* us.

While certainly all of the Bible is *for* us, not all of the Bible is written *to* us or *about* us.



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

**Bible Student's Notebook™**

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 26, No. 630 – July 17, 2017

*Scripture education in a semi-weekly format!*

This *free* electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 1:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:

- total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
- union in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6);
- adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

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