



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 36
Issue 886

Panorama of God's Revealed Program as Related to His Purpose in the Earth

by — Ray I. Psalmonds (1909-1984)

This is an attempt to present a brief, over-all picture of God's program [for the Earth] as revealed in His Holy Word. The many details of this wonderful program intentionally have been omitted in order, first of all, to present a panoramic view of God's purpose.

This presentation concerning God's plan and purpose is based on the premise that **God has spoken**. What God has spoken is verbally inspired. All present-day Bibles are only translations of the most ancient manuscripts and must be checked against these manuscripts for accuracy. All Scripture must be "*rightly divided*" (II Timothy 2:15) in order to be correctly understood.

By the term "*rightly divided*" we refer to that principal of Scripture interpretation which insists that any verse of Scripture under consideration must be kept in its own context and related only to the people to which it is addressed, or people who have the same hopes and promises.

BEFORE CREATION

Before the existence of anything that was created there was God, and He had a plan. God has revealed in the Bible His wonderful purpose, and all believers can enjoy His plan only by reading and believing what He has declared.

AFTER CREATION

The Scriptures reveal that, before the Heavens and Earth existed as we know them today, there were cre-

ated beings who occupied the Universe. God refers to "*the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation*" (Jude 6) and, "*The world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished; but the heavens and earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store*" (II Peter 3:5-7). This "*world that then was*" is the world to which the fossils and remains belong. There is no indication in Scripture as to how long ago that "*world that then was*" existed, but the fact remains that it did exist.

REBELLION

Due to a rebellion by some of God's created beings, which was led by Satan, the "*world that then was*" became "*without form and void*":

And the Earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep (Gen. 1:2).

Psalm 104:29-30 refers to this same time, as well as Jeremiah 4:23, which says,

I beheld the Earth, and lo, it was without form, and void; and the Heavens, and they had no light.

There is much evidence in Scripture which points to the fact of such a disruption.

Panorama of God's Revealed Program as
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The statements, “*Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the **foundation** of the world*” (Matthew 25:34), and “*The blood of all the prophets which was shed from the **foundation** of the world*” (Luke 11:50), along with, “*He hath chosen us in Him before the **foundation** of the world*” (Ephesians 1:4), all contain the word “*foundation*.” However, this Greek word translated “*foundation*” does not mean “a beginning.” The strict meaning of the Greek word *katabolē* is a “casting down.”

We find the verb form of this same Greek word translated “*cast down*” in the statement: “*The accuser of our brethren is **cast down***” (Revelation 12:10), and, “*Persecuted, but not forsaken; **cast down**, but not destroyed*” (II Corinthians 4:9).

As we read through God’s Word and begin to get a picture of His purpose, we are impressed by the fact that God dates His plan with specific reference to this time of “*casting down*” (overthrow, disruption). The many verses in Scripture which refer to this time will use either the word “*BEFORE*” or “*SINCE*” with “*casting down*.” God also dates some phases of His program from “*BEFORE*” this casting down.

Notice these statements concerning “*FROM*” this casting down:

I will utter things which have been kept secret FROM the foundation [casting down] of the world (Matthew 13:35).

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you FROM the foundation [casting down] of the world (25:34).

Then notice these statements concerning “*BEFORE*” this casting down:

Who verily was foreordained before the foundation [casting down] of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you (I Peter 1:20).

According as He hath chosen us in Him BEFORE the foundation [casting down] of the world (Ephesians 1:4).

These statements clearly show how God dates His program with reference to this “*casting down*” of the world.

Bible Student’s Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- 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 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 (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the Body of Christ (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- 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 and ascended seated position among the celestials (Romans 6; Ephesians 2:6);

– adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God’s storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. 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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For definitions of abbreviations/acronyms, see index after the [order form](#).

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GOD REORDERS

After the rebellion led by Satan that resulted in this “casting down,” God moved to reorder the Heavens and Earth, given in detail beginning in Genesis 1:2. This act of God, as recorded in Genesis, presents to us the first knowledge we have of God’s dealing with man, or the present Heavens and Earth.

The program which is dated “FROM” the foundation of the world.

From the *reordering* of the Universe and the creation of man in the image of God, we see that purpose of God dated “FROM” the foundation (casting down) begin to unfold.

Soon after man is created and placed on this present Earth, we see Satan, the one who caused the first rebellion, on the scene again:

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Yea, hath God said, ‘Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” And the woman said unto the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ‘Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.’” And the serpent said unto the woman, “Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:1-5).

The program of God, as it unfolds in Scripture, is focused on certain families, or households. We prefer to

use the word “household” as it means more than just people who are born into a certain family. The word “household” includes people as well as their possessions. From the sons of Adam down through the centuries we see the program of God directed toward, and tuned to, the household of Abraham, or Israel:

When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel (Deuteronomy 32:8).

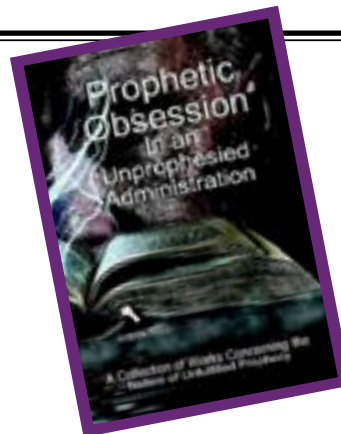
Notice that this refers to a time which was hundreds of years before there was an actual “nation” of Israel. We can follow the plan and purpose of God as it unfolds simply by following God’s dealing with His chosen household.

UNDER THE OLD COVENANT

God made a covenant with Abraham and his household, and everything that God did was in accordance with His purpose for this chosen household. The household of Abraham, or Israel, was to be a special nation through which God would bless all other nations of the Earth:

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 (Exodus 19:5-6).

The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto Himself, as He has sworn unto thee, if thou shalt



Prophetic Obsession in an Unprophesied Administration

(A Collection of Works Concerning the Nature of Unfulfilled Prophecy)

List of authors contained in this work are: Sir Robert Anderson (1841-1918), Cecil J. Blay (1906-1976), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), J. Vernon McGee (1904-1988), Andrew Miller (1810-1883), Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992) and C.R. Stam (1909-2003).

62 pp., PB

See [order form](#) under “Compilations.”

keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in His ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord: and they shall be afraid of thee. And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail, and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath (Deuteronomy 38:9-13).

The blessings promised to the household of Abraham were also to be enjoyed by the Gentiles who believed:

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (Galatians 3:14).

The household of Abraham was very disobedient. They turned from God to idols and refused to live by the covenant they had so willingly accepted. Despite all of their sin and unfaithfulness, God forgave them and continued to focus His plan and purpose through them:

When they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned My holy name ... but I had pity for Mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen ... For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you unto your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you (Ezekiel 36:20-25).

The household of Abraham continued to have cycles, sometimes living under failure, and sometimes in the

heights of God's glory. In all of the ups and downs of Israel we still can trace the plan and purpose of God as it is unfolded through the nation Israel.

If we wish to know how any man, or group of men, stood before the Lord during the time that God was dealing through the household of Abraham, we need only to note their attitude, or relationship, toward this chosen household:

I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed (Genesis 12:2-3).

Although the household of Abraham was small in number at times, God still performed His purpose through this chosen nation:

I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase (Jeremiah 23:3).

Then, many years later, we read,

Even so at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace (Romans 11:5).

God continued to work His program through this household because He made a covenant with them, and He must be true to it. He did not continue with them because of their goodness or faithfulness. He continued with them in spite of their sinfulness:



Spirit Manifestations and the Gift of Tongues

by — Sir Robert Anderson (1841-1918)

In a day of extravagant claims of the miraculous workings of the Spirit every believer must be prepared to evaluate these claims and determine reasonable expectations regarding the work of the Spirit in his or her own life. The author, a noted apologist, considers history and searches the Scriptures to determine what is of God and what is of the great deceiver.

56 pp., PB

See [order form](#) under "Anderson."

"Sir Robert speaks the words of wisdom, and those who heed them will find them a trusty guide in these 'perilous times.'" – Dr. E.W. Bullinger

The Lord will not forsake His people for His great Name's sake; because it hath pleased the Lord to make you His people (I Samuel 12:22).

God's manner of dealing with the household of Abraham changed many times over the centuries, but He still kept them as His chosen household. Because of sin and unbelief, this chosen nation was divided into two parts, the northern and southern kingdoms; but still God did not forsake them. In due time, after a period of several hundred years which has no record in the Bible, God sent His Son as the promised Messiah to this chosen nation, Israel:

When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law (Galatians 4:4-5).

Also, when Christ came, He said,

I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matthew 15-24).

When Jesus Christ sent forth His apostles, they were instructed not to go to the Gentiles, but to go to the chosen nation Israel:

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them saying, "Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 10:5-6).

Of course, there was provision made in God's program for all of the nations of the Earth to be blessed, but this blessing was to come ONLY through the nation of Israel as HEAD NATION.

The nation Israel must FIRST recognize that Jesus Christ is their Messiah before they can become the KINGDOM NATION. The household of Abraham, or Israel, was the nation which God had chosen to be FIRST. This is the primary reason for the instructions not to go unto the Gentiles at that time, for "*the children [of the covenant, cf. Acts 3:25] must first be fed*" (Mark 7:27).

The establishment of the Kingdom was contingent upon the household of Abraham receiving Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Israel, as the Kingdom nation, was to take the gospel to all of the world:

This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come (Matthew 24:14).

Despite God's covenant, with its manifold blessings made with the household of Abraham, this nation still rejected the promised Messiah as well as the covenant. Certainly, a small number of Israelites recognized Jesus Christ as Messiah; but the vast majority turned their backs. They not only rejected their Messiah, but they also crucified Him:

But though He had done many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him (John 12:37).

Pilate saith unto them, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" They all said unto him, "Let Him be crucified" (Matthew 27:22).

UNDER THE NEW COVENANT

The chosen household of Abraham had already broken the first covenant:



Concordant Lexicon and Greek Elements

A complete key to the Greek Scriptures and their English translation in the *Concordant Version* giving the etymological analysis and idiomatic meanings of every Greek word used in divine revelation. This is confirmed by a complete concordance of every important grammatical form occurring in the three most ancient manuscripts, *Sinaiticus*, *Vaticanus*, *Alexandrinus*, as well as the *Concordant Greek Text*, the sublinear and the version. This book is not for novices.

379 pp., HC

See [order form](#) under "Reference Works."

The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers (Jeremiah 11:24).

Regardless of this fact, God tells them in the same book,

“Behold, the days come,” saith the Lord, “that I will make a new covenant with, the house of Israel, and the house of Judah” (31:31).

When Jesus Christ shed His blood on Calvary, that blood not only made the complete sacrifice for sin, but it also was the basis on which the New Covenant was established with Israel. Just before Christ was crucified, He took the cup which pointed to His shed blood and said,

This cup is the New Testament [Covenant] in My blood (I Corinthians 11:24; cf. Matthew 26:28).

The major problem with Israel was unbelief. The majority of the nation simply refused to take God at His Word, which caused Jesus Christ to say,

If ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins (John 8:24).

Nevertheless God, in His longsuffering to His chosen household, gave Israel another opportunity, as on the cross Jesus Christ prayed,

Father, forgive them for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34).

After Jesus Christ was resurrected He gave His apostles special instructions concerning a Kingdom program, as recorded in Acts 1:3. These instructions were given on the basis of the New Covenant, for we read,

This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith the Lord, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh ...” For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call (Acts 2:16-39).

God’s desire was to have His chosen household become the channel through which blessing would flow to the entire world. That Israel must “turn again” (I Kings 8:33-34) to the Lord in order to receive the full blessing had been known for centuries.

Therefore, the apostles appealed once again to the nation Israel to repent of their sins and take God at His Word:

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; and He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heavens



Elijah's Coming... and Other Neglected Prophecies

by — Dr. C.E. McLain (1909-1990)

The content of this work is the result of some forty years of learning, unlearning and relearning the truths of the Divine Library. These are neglected truths of prophecy which disturb the status-quo: “The Rapture, The Tribulation and The Millennium,” all in that order.

Clifford “Mac” McLain was born in Blanchard, OK. He received a Bachelor of Theology degree from Atlanta Bible Institute and later his Doctor of Divinity from Trinity Bible Seminary in Atlanta. He was founder of Grace Institute of the Bible and Northside Bible Church in Oklahoma City. He was also host of the radio program, “What’s the Question?”

Author of several books, McLain’s principal emphasis was on the calling of Ephesians 3:9: “To make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery.” Consequently, his works focused on the Apostle Paul’s epistles written after Acts 28:28 – the “Mystery” letters.

136 pp, PB

See [order form](#) under “Other Authors.”

must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began (Acts 3:17-25).

The first forty years (approximately) following the resurrection of Jesus Christ are covered by the Book of Acts. During that period the apostles of the Lord were guided by, and endued with, power from God. They were the most powerful men ever to live on the face of the Earth, and miracles and wonders of all types were in evidence almost every day. Special gifts of the Holy Spirit were given to the believers (Acts 2:4; 11:15), as well as the apostles (Matthew 16:19; Acts 5:1-10).

We see a great turning to God on the part of Israel as the program of God begins to unfold under the new covenant (Acts 2:41; 4:4); but soon we see the opposition begin to mount, and the zeal of the chosen household begins to wane (6:10-13; 8:1).

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

The Apostle Peter had been given the “keys to the kingdom,” as recorded in Matthew 16:18-19, and we see him opening the door of salvation and blessing to the nation Israel:

Therefore let all the house of Israel know as-

surely that God hath made that same Jesus, Whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. ... Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins ... for the promise is unto you and your children, and to all that are far off, even as many as The Lord shall call (Acts 2:36-39).

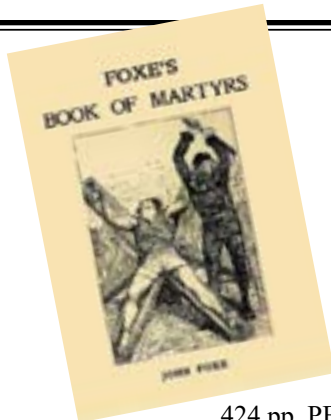
Since the program of God under the New Covenant called for a large number of Gentiles to be saved, we see Peter in Acts 10:28-35 using the other “key to the kingdom” to open the door of salvation to the Gentiles as recorded.

The Gentiles who became saved were to be identified with Abraham’s household, according to Galatians 3:29, but they also were to remain secondary to the nation Israel, who was FIRST. Paul states,

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew FIRST, and also to the Gentile (Romans 1:16).

The saved Gentiles of the Acts Period were to be blessed with Abraham and enjoy the same hope which was promised to Abraham and his household:

If ye be Christ's then ye are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise (Galatians 3:29).



Foxe's Book of Martyrs

by — John Foxe (1516-1587)

One of the most influential authors of the English Reformation, Foxe was an English historian and martyrologist, who studied at Brasenose College, Oxford, and Magdalen College School. By the time he was twenty-five, he had read the Latin and Greek fathers, the schoolmen, the canon law, and had acquired great skill in the Hebrew language. Foxe resigned from his college in 1545 after becoming a Protestant and thereby subscribing to beliefs condemned by the Church of England under Henry VIII. Foxe would personally witness the burning of William Cowbridge in September 1538.

424 pp, PB
See [order form](#)
under “Histories.”

In the forty years between 1547 and his death, he produced some forty works in English and Latin. His classic, *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, was originally published in 1554. It was an account of the martyrs of Western history, but emphasizing the sufferings of English Protestants and proto-Protestants from the fourteenth century through the reign of Mary I. With particular emphasis on England and Scotland, it includes accounts of the sufferings of believers under the Catholic Church. The book went through four editions in Foxe's lifetime and a number of later editions and abridgements.

If the Gentiles have been made partakers of their [Israel's] spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things (Romans 15:27; cf. 9:23-24; 8:17.) **BSN**

— *Scripture Research*, Volume 1, Number 3 (1964)

(edited)

Psalmonds was an associate of [Russell H. Schaefer](#) (1919-1999), [Howard N. Bunce](#) (1879-1954), Robert A. Hadden, and [William B. Hallman](#) (1903-1985).

TOPICS:

Major: Creation; Disruption; Earth; Israel; Jews; Kingdom; Old Covenant; New Covenant; Purpose
Minor: Genesis; Gentiles; Rebellion



Thank God for you! Growing in God's Word is beautiful and powerful. Keep up the good work. – **PA**

I've been reflecting recently on how much you've truly helped me achieve a greater maturity. I'm really a bit overwhelmed by the peace I feel from the things you've taught me: Law vs Grace, Love, Peace, Paul's Gospel, the Death of Christ, Reconciliation of All, etc. It all means so much to me and I appreciate you helping me so much! I indeed had a stagnation point these last two years where I wasn't growing anymore in faith, until I reached out to you and you replied in depth and with patience. ...

I read your compilation book on the error of substitutional death.¹ For once I was so at peace with truly understanding that God is a good God and a loving God. ... Anything He does is love, and all He works

1. [Doctrine of Substitution: An Erroneous Teaching](#) (see [order form](#) under "Compilations").

for is love. ... I'm so, so happy and calm knowing that whatever happens in this world can only get better or get fixed in the future, and I have faith in God that *of course* He knows what we need and how to perfect us and His creation. ... I've come to a more at-peace approach with everything that happens. I'm in a race physically (my current life), but I feel and act like I'm already at the finish line (justification, love, God all in all). – **Netherlands**

The two articles in [BSN #878](#) (one which clearly identifies/considers Universalism, Calvinism and Arminianism; one which explains the error of western cultures falsely assuming the role of Israel) are EXCELLENT!!! Thanks for your diligent ministry of discovering and then sharing truth. – **IN** **BSN**

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Audio Archives!

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66 pp., PB

See [order form](#) under "Clyde Pilkington."

Mars' Hill: A Study on Acts 17

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Even among those who place a great emphasis on Paul, with his unique apostleship and message, there is an amazing neglect of one of his most outstanding messages found in the Book of Acts: his message given on Mars' Hill. The content of his message to this group of unbelieving pagans has been overlooked for far too long. These words of Paul contain a very rich message. Preserved in the Scriptures, we know that, not only was it a challenge to the pagans of Athens, but it will prove to be a challenge to the members of Christ's Body as well.