



Bible Student's Notebook™

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Volume 36
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Bible Basics #7

The Seven Administrations

Part 1 of 2

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Seven Basic Administrations



THE ADMINISTRATIONS OF SCRIPTURE

Throughout Scripture we are presented with various administrations. These administrations, sometimes called “dispensations,” or “economies,” are divine managements, or stewardships.¹ (See endnotes.) They are the organization and implementation of a specific divine purpose.²

AN ILLUSTRATION

By way of illustration, it may be helpful to think of the various sequential administrations of human governments. Take the U.S. Presidency as an example: each have their own duration, emphasis and purpose – some long, others short in length;³ some wide and others narrow in scope.⁴ Some administrations progress through various stages of policy and agenda. Some have subset administrations opening

and closing within a particular administration, while others have administrations that have spanned out trans-administratively.⁵

Some administrations extend, as it were, into other succeeding administrations, especially of the same political party,⁶ while other administrations have brought about abrupt and sweeping changes, having no semblance of past ones.

THE VARIOUS NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIONS

How generally or technically one may approach the theme of administrations will determine how many one will likely enumerate. What often accounts for this diversity is that there are divine managements that clearly can be viewed as subsets working within major economies, as well as dispensations spanning

over multiple administrations.⁷

As few as two, and as many as eighteen, have been offered for consideration by diligent Bible students.⁸ For our purpose here we'll consider seven basic administrations, presented here in their sequential order.

- The Administration of Dominion
- The Administration of Promise
- The Administration of Law
- The Administration of Pentecost
- The Administration of the Secret
- The Administration of the Kingdom
- The Administration of the *Plērōma*

Now we will look a bit closer at these seven, with just a few of their basic distinctions.

The Administration of Dominion

- Realm: *Earth*⁹
- Scope: *Family (Adamic)*¹⁰
- Emphasis: *Physical*
- Nature: *Domestic*¹¹
- Span: *The Disruption*¹² (Eden) to the *Consummation*¹³

- Central Figures: *Adam & the Patriarchs*
- Central Message: *Procreative Domestic Dominion*¹⁴
- Gospel: *Woman's Seed will hurt the Serpent's head*¹⁵
- Hope: *Earthly Sphere of Glory*¹⁷
- Subset administration(s): *Pre & Post Edenic, Post Babel*
- Ongoing administration(s): *None*

The Administration of Promise

- Realm: *Earth*
- Scope: *One Family (Abrahamic)*¹⁰
- Emphasis: *Physical*
- Nature: *Prophetic Expectation*
- Span: *Abraham to the Establishment of the Kingdom*¹⁸ (with the exception of the Secret Administration)¹⁹
- Central Figures: *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob*
- Central Message: *Abraham to become a great nation*²⁰
- Gospel: *Blessing those who bless Abraham's seed*²¹
- Hope: *Earthly*²² & *Heavenly*²³ *Spheres of Glory*
- Subset administration(s): *None*
- Ongoing administration(s): *Dominion*

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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 universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (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."

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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For definitions of abbreviations/acronyms, see the [online key](#).

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The Administration of Law²⁴

Realm: *Earth*
 Scope: *One Family (Israel, Head Nation)*²⁵
 Emphasis: *Physical*
 Nature: *Social, Ceremonial & Governmental Legislation*
 Span: *Sinai to the Fulfillment of the Kingdom*²⁶
 (with the exception the Secret Administration)
 Central Figures: *Moses (initiator) & Christ (fulfiller)*²⁷
 Central Message: *Blessings for observing and doing all that was commanded*²⁸
 Gospel: *The Gospel of the Kingdom; God will establish a new covenant with Israel*²⁹
 Hope: *Earthly & Heavenly Spheres of Glory*
 Subset administration(s): *The Messianic Administration*³⁰
 Ongoing administration(s): *Dominion, Promise*³¹

The Administration of Pentecost³²

Realm: *Earth*
 Scope: *One Family (Israel) & Gentile Proselytes*³³
 Emphasis: *Physical*
 Nature: *Coming Kingdom Foretaste (signs, wonders, & miracles)*³⁴
 Span: *Pentecost to the end of the Acts-Period*³⁵
 (Acts 28)³⁶
 Central Figure: *The Twelve & Paul (with Paul acting as a priest of Israel to the Gentiles)*³⁷
 Central Message: *National repentance of Israel*³⁸
 Gospel: The Twelve: *“The Gospel of the Circumcision”*³⁹; Paul: *“The Gospel of the Uncircumcision.”*
 (i.e., Paul’s *“my Gospel”*)
 Hope: *Earthly & Heavenly Sphere of Glory*
 Subset administration(s): *None*
 Ongoing administration(s): *Dominion, Promise, Law, Messianic*

The Administration of the Secret⁴⁰

Realm: *Heavens – “Far above all Heavens”*⁴¹
 Scope: *One Body*⁴²
 Emphasis: *Spiritual*⁴³
 Nature: *Absolute Grace*⁴⁴
 Span: Twofold – [On the Earth]: *End of the Acts-Period to the Appearing*⁴⁵
 [Far above all Heavens]: *The Appearing to the Consummation*
 Central Figure: *Paul*⁴⁶
 Central Message: *The Untraceable Riches of Christ Gospel: Paul’s “My Gospel”*⁴⁷
 Hope: *Celestial Sphere of Glory*⁴⁸
 Subset administration(s): *None*
 Ongoing administration(s): *Dominion (Domestic)*⁴⁹

(Endnotes)

- For a foundational study of “Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth,” see:
 - the continuing series Right Division (An Overview of Dispensational Truth), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.,
 - Part 1, [Bible Student’s Notebook #551](#); Part 2, [Bible Student’s Notebook #552](#); Part 3, [Bible Student’s Notebook #553](#); Part 4, [Bible Student’s Notebook #554](#); Part 5, [Bible Student’s Notebook #555](#); Part 6, [Bible Student’s Notebook #556](#); Part 7, [Bible Student’s Notebook #557](#); Part 8, [Bible Student’s Notebook #558](#); Part 9, [Bible Student’s Notebook #559](#); Part 10, [Bible Student’s Notebook #570](#); Part 11, [Bible Student’s Notebook #781](#); Part 12, [Bible Student’s Notebook #795](#); Part 13, [Bible Student’s Notebook #796](#); Part 14, [Bible Student’s Notebook #800](#);
 - [The Foundations of Dispensational Truth](#), Dr. E.W. Bullinger (see [order form](#)).
- “An economy or administration (usually called a “dispensation”) [is] that practical adjustment or organization of affairs which is calculated to affect a desired end. It includes the thought of a dispensation, but is not confined to giving or dispensing. The leading thought is that of *administration, management, stewardship*. ... Changes in administration are much more frequent than the grand constitutional convulsions attending a change in eons [i.e., ages].” — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), *The Divine Calendar*
- The shortest was the William Henry Harrison administration of 32 days. While the Longest was the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration of 4,422 days.



The Unpardonable Sin

A Compilation

Is there really such a thing as an “Unpardonable Sin?” Is there any sin that will never be forgiven? This is a compilation work of liberation and right division from five authors: A.E. Knoch, H.W. Martin, M. Jaegle, J.W. Williams and Phillip Garrison.

70 pp., PB

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

4. Rightfully so or not, some presidents were dubbed “the do-nothing president” for their perceived lack of initiatives within the scope of their administrations. Among them were Fillmore, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, Coolidge and Hoover. While others had administrations of tremendous scope – the most notable was the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration, termed “The New Deal.”
5. Again, taking the FDR administration as an example: some initiatives arose and folded with his term (such as the Civil Works Administration, the Public Works Administration, and the Works Progress Administration), while others have continued through succeeding administrations (such as the Social Security Administration and the Federal Housing Administration).
6. Such as the Johnson administration could be seen in some ways as an extension of the Kennedy one.
7. “Some [dispensations] may overlap, and more than one can run together at the same time.” – Charles H. Welch (1880-1967), *Alphabetical Analysis*
8. For example:
 - Russell H. Schaefer (1919-1999) suggested “there are two vast Bible dispensations,” which are Israel and the One Body (“What is a Dispensation?” *Scripture Research*, Volume 1, Number 1; 1964);
 - C.I. Scofield (1843-1921) tallied seven: Innocence, Conscience, Human Government, Promise, Law, Grace, and Reign (*Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*);
 - J. Edwin Hartill (1909-1981) listed eight: Innocence, Conscience, Human Government, Promise, Law, Grace, Judgment, and Kingdom (*Principles of Biblical Hermeneutics*);
 - Clarence Larkin (1850-1924) totaled nine: Edenic, Antediluvian, Post-Diluvian, Patriarchal, Legal, Ecclesiastical, Judgment, Messianic, and Perfect (*Dispensational Truth*);
 - William B. Hallman (1902-1985) listed ten: Edenic, Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Pentecostal, Secret, Tribulation, Millennial, and Fullness (*Biblical Hermeneutics*);
 - A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) and Adlai Loudy (1893-1984) counted twelve: Innocence, Conscience, Government, Promise, Law, Incarnation, Pentecostal, Transition, Secret, Wrath, Kingdom, and Fullness (Knoch, *The Divine Calendar*; Loudy, *God’s Administrations*);
 - Charles H. Welch (1880-1967) wrote of eighteen: Innocence, Adam to Noah, Noah to Babel, Babel to Abraham, Abraham to Egypt, Exodus to Sinai, Sinai to Jericho, Jericho to Saul, David to Christ, the Earthly Ministry of Christ, Pentecost to Peter in Prison, Paul’s First Ministry, Paul’s Prison Ministry, The Resumption of Pentecost, the Day of the Lord, the Millennial Kingdom, the Great White Throne, The End - the goal reached: God all in all. (*Alphabetical Analysis*).
9. For more information on the two realms, see:
 - Article: “The Two Realms” (Bible Basics #4), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., *Bible Students Notebook #847*;
 - Video: “[The Two Realms](#)” (Bible Basics #4), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.
10. It should be noted that οἰκονομία (*oikonomia*; G3622), rendered “administration” (CV) (KJV, “dispensation,” “stewardship,” “economy”), means “management of a household or family” (LSJ) “the management of a household or of household affairs” (TGL). Thus, how appropriate that all seven of these administrations all are centered on “households”: The Adamic household, the Abrahamic household (the “house of Israel,” “the house of Judah,” etc.), “the household of faith,” “the household of God” – “the whole family in Heaven and Earth.” Hence, believers are referred to as “brothers.”
11. This is the Dominion of Family. The dominion of the earth was vested in the family. The authorities were a husband and his wife. The perpetuation and increase in this domain was to be through their children (Genesis 1:28). God gave dominion to Adam and Eve (:26); but note (:28) that the subduing of, and continued dominion over the earth, followed “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the Earth.” As Adam and Eve had children, their dominion increased, and the authority naturally passed to them. Thus the dominion of the Earth was vested in the family.

The family here is not the nuclear family of contemporary Western culture, but the family governed by the patriarchal system.

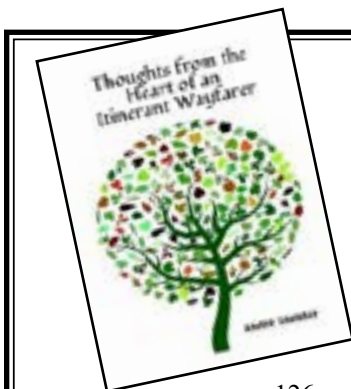
“The Old Testament family is a wider circle than the typical two-generation nuclear family of parents and children characteristic of contemporary Western society.” — Sinclair Ferguson, ed., *New Dictionary of Theology* (Downers Grove, IL, InterVarsity Press, 1988), page 251.

“Another term for family, ‘bayith’, included all living within the confines and jurisdiction of the dwelling.” — Merrel Tenney, ed., *New International Dictionary of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan, 1987), page 343.

“In both Testaments the family is much broader, and much more important, than we normally see it being in our day. With regard to the family, one thing is absolutely clear in the Bible. Nowhere in Scripture is there found the idea that each ‘family’ consists of two parents and 2.3 children living in a house on a lot 100 by 60 feet and as an isolated unit, with ‘King and Queen’ and a three-bedroom home as their little ‘castle.’ In the Bible, the family was *too broad* and *too important* for such isolation ... Actually, the concept of the ‘nuclear’ family of today – the typical two generation nuclear family of parents and children characteristic of contemporary Western society – is not only foreign to the Bible; it is relatively new in the history of America as well ...” — Terry & Beverly Miethe, *Serving Christ: A Family Affair* (Joplin, MO, College Press, 1995) pages 178-179.

Family dominion continued unaltered for nearly two thousand years before its usurpation by nationalism, and although it remains through subsequent administrations, it does so in a weakened and frail state.

For more information on this important theme, see,



Thoughts from the Heart of an Itinerant Wayfarer

by — André Sneidar

This is a unique collection of 33 articles and a selection of quotes from André Sneidar, Executive Editor of *Bible Student's Press* and *Bible Student's Notebook*. Since 1988 he has closely co-labored with Clyde Pilkington in a multifaceted ministry.

126 pp., PB

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

- [World Affairs and National Politics: And the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus](#), under “Pilkington” on the [order form](#).
12. For more information about “the disruption,” see:
– [The Disruption of the World](#), see on the [order form](#) under “Compilations.”
13. God’s creation is being restored in stages throughout the ages, and will find its complete culmination at the “Consummation” of the ages. At that time all death will be abolished, as well as all illusory human “sovereignty” and “authority,” and God will be “All in all.” For more information on the consummation, see:
– The Consummation, Bob Evelyn, [Bible Student’s Notebook #603](#);
– The Consummation of the Eons, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #656](#).
14. To be fruitful, multiply, fill the Earth, exercising domestic dominion.
15. “Enmity am I setting between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall hurt your head and you shall hurt his heel” (Genesis 3:15, CV).
16. There are three resurrection expectations found in Scripture: Earthly, Heavenly, Celestial. For studies on these, see:
– [The Three Spheres of Glory \(A Compilation\)](#). This book can be found on our [order form](#) under “Compilations,” or ordered online at [Study Shelf](#).
17. The first and baseline hope of glory is earthly. It is the expanded dominion of Eden’s garden of paradise, for which all of creation has a premonition.

The oldest writing of Scripture is the book of Job, where he clearly wrote of his earthly resurrection expectation:

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the Earth: and though after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another, though my heart be consumed within me (19:25-27).

18. *i.e.*, The Kingdom of the Heavens on Earth.
19. It is important to understand this exception. God stopped Israel’s prophetic clock at the end of the Acts Period, thus interrupting the prophetic program entirely and ushering in an *unprophesied Dispensation of the Grace of God*. This previously unknown purpose was called “*the Secret*,” and its management “*the Administration of the Secret*” (Ephesians 3:9).
During the current “*Administration of the Secret*” Israel and her prophecies are in *complete* abeyance. During this time Christ is seated at the right hand of God, “*far above all heavens*” (Ephesians 4:10), where He remains until the time appointed by His Father for Him to begin His work “*among the Celestials*.” At this unprophesied time, ordained by the Father, Christ will be

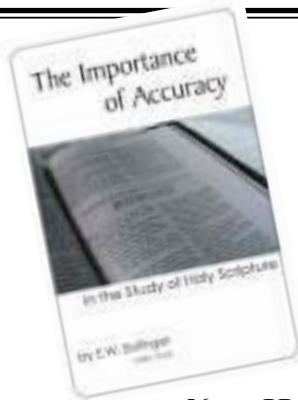
manifest “*in Glory*,” “*among the celestials*,” “*far above all heavens*.” It is at this time that His Body will accompany Him there for a joint-appearance (the entire Christ – the One Body with its Head). Then will begin the *pre-expected* ministry of Christ Jesus among the Celestials through the instrumentality of His fullness (*i.e.*, He, complete with His Body).

20. *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing* (Genesis 12:2).
21. *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the Earth be blessed* (Genesis 12:3).
22. The “*meek*” among Israel and the Nations will “*inherit the Earth*” (Matthew 5:5). They will be given an earthly allotment as their glory. These are Abraham’s “*dust*” and “*sand*” seed (Genesis 13:16; 22:17; Hebrews 11:12): all of those who were “*just*” in their dealings with others (Romans 2:6-7).
23. The heavenly sphere is that of the “*New Jerusalem*” “*descending out of Heaven from God*” (Revelation 3:12; 21:2, 10), and is for all of those who are “*of the faith of Abraham*” (Romans 4:16) – those who are “*Abraham’s seed, heirs according to the promise*” (Galatians 3:29). These are those among Israel and the Nations who have their “*calling*” of hope prior to Acts 28:25.

This second-sphere election makes them “*partakers of a heavenly calling*” (Hebrews 3:1). Like their *spiritual* father, Abraham, they “*looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God*” (Hebrews 11:10; cf. 12:22-23).

The New Jerusalem will be the administrative capital of Israel’s worldwide Kingdom on Earth (Zechariah 14:16-17). This is the sphere of Abraham’s *spiritual* seed, which included believing Gentiles during the Acts Period (Galatians 3:29). Unlike the “*meek*” and “*good*” among Israel and the Nations who will “*inherit the Earth*” (Matthew 5:5), these have been granted the faith of their father, Abraham, and have become destined to be his second-sphere “*star*” seed, contrasted with his first-sphere “*dust*” and “*sand*” seed (cf. Genesis 15:5; 22:17; Hebrews 11:12).

These second-sphere “*star*” seeds make up “*the Bride, the Lamb’s Wife*” (Revelation 21:9). They are God’s called-out-ones who had a fixed hope before the current Secret Administration. They were the believers who were represented by “*the ecclesia in the wilderness*” (Acts 7:38), those built upon the confession of Christ’s Messiahship (“*upon this rock will I build My ecclesia*,” Matthew 16:18), whose number were added to on a daily basis during the Acts Period (Acts 2:46-47), and which Saul relentlessly persecuted (“*persecuted the ecclesia of God*,” 1 Corinthians 15:9; Galatians 1:13). These are those “*called*” who will be citizens of that heavenly city coming out of Heaven to the Earth (Revelation 3:12; 21:9-10). While Israel rules over the Earth, the Twelve and the rest of the Bride will rule over Israel from the New Jerusalem.



56 pp., PB.

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

The Importance of Accuracy in the Study of the Holy Scriptures

by — E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

Error in premise equals error in conclusion. In this work Bullinger stresses the critical importance of accuracy when it comes to the study of Scripture.

www.EWBullinger.com

24. For more information on the nature of the Mosaic Law, see:
- A Brief Survey of the Mosaic Covenant: Exodus 19 (Right Division: An Overview of Dispensational Truth – Part 4: Israel's Place in God's Plan), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #554](#).
25. For a look at the distinction between “the Nation” and “the Nations,” see:
- “The People” in Contrast to “the Nations” – A Preliminary Examination of the Word “People”: Part 1 – [Bible Student's Notebook #564](#); Part 2 – [#565](#); Part 3 – [#566](#);
 - The Nations to Partake of Israel's Blessings, [Bible Student's Notebook #594](#);
 - The Place of the Nations Under the Ministry of Christ and Paul, [Bible Student's Notebook #505](#).
26. *i.e.*, The Kingdom of the Heavens on Earth.
27. Israel's Messiah was “made under the law” (Galatians 4:4), and did not come to “destroy the law, or the prophets,” “but to fulfil” (Matthew 5:17).
28. *And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the Earth: and all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God* (Deuteronomy 28:1-2ff.)
29. “Behold, the days come,” says 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 broke, although I was an husband unto them,” says the Lord: “but this shall be the covenant that I will make with **the house of Israel**; after those days,” says 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 neighbor, 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,” says the Lord: “for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:31-34).
30. The earthly ministry of Jesus Christ as recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. For a look at Jesus Christ's earthly ministry, see:
- The Earthly Ministry of Jesus Christ, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. [Bible Student's Notebook #6](#), or see the [online article at Study Shelf](#);
 - Our Lord's Earthly Ministry, W.T. Broad, [Bible Student's Notebook #607](#);
 - Christ's Personal Ministry (The Gospels), Dr. Arthur C. Lambourne, [Bible Student's Notebook #887](#).
31. The Scripture tells us that the Law was “added” to that of the Promise (Galatians 3:19).
32. This is God's administration running throughout the Book of Acts
- from Pentecost to the pronouncement of judicial blindness on Israel in Acts 28. This is sometimes also referred to as the “Acts Administration,” “Pentecost(al) Administration,” the “Readjustment Administration,” the “Charismatic Dispensation,” the “Transitional Administration,” etc. After the close of the book of Acts, this administration was concluded and replaced by the current Secret Administration (Ephesians 3:9).
33. During the Acts-Period the Gentiles were grafted in as a wild olive branch, benefiting from the root and fatness of Israel; and they were to fear their grafted position, as seeing that it could be reversed, and they be cut off. For more information see:
- Are We Grafted in to Israel? (Reader's Question Box #41), André Sneidar, [Bible Student's Notebook #817](#);
 - The Olive Tree and Israel's National Position (Romans 11:11-32), Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook #794](#).
- For a further look at Gentiles during the Acts Period, see:
- A Dispensational Consideration of Paul's “Acts” Ministry, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #791](#);
 - Gentiles During the Acts Period, David Tavender, [Bible Student's Notebook #733](#);
 - Gentile Inclusion Before Acts 28, Brian R. Kelson, [Bible Student's Notebook #746](#).
34. *God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? ... Those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit* (Hebrews 2:4; 6:4).
35. For more on the period covered by the Book of Acts, see:
- The Acts Transition and the Pentecostal Dispensation, Sir Robert Anderson, [Bible Student's Notebook #507](#);
 - The Acts of the Apostles And Paul's Epistles: Considered Historically and Dispensationally, J.J.B. Coles, [Bible Student's Notebook #613](#);
 - The Earlier and Later Chapters of the Book of Acts, Sir Robert Anderson, [Bible Student's Notebook #526](#);
 - The Acts Period and the Acts Period Epistles, Tom Ballinger, [Bible Student's Notebook #604](#);
 - The Dispensational Frontier of Acts 28:23-31, Charles H. Welch, parts 1-3: [Bible Student's Notebook #639](#), [#640](#), [#641](#);
 - *The Dispensation of the Grace of God, and Acts 28:28 – A Dispensational Boundary Line*, Otis Q. Sellers (see [order form](#));
 - The Acts Dispensation, Otis Q. Sellers, Parts 1-3, [Bible Student's Notebook #727](#), [728](#), [729](#);
 - Different Conditions Before and After Acts 28, David Tavender, [Bible Student's Notebook #747](#);
 - The Book of Acts (Israel's Place in God's Plan: A Brief Survey of the Greek Scriptures), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., (Part 10) Section 1 - [Bible Student's Notebook #570](#); (Part 11) Section 2 - [#781](#).
36. For more information on Acts 28, see:
- Acts 28: The Dispensational Boundary, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook #550](#);
 - Before and After Acts 28, Oscar Baker, [Bible Student's Notebook](#)



Dispensational Truth or *The Place of Israel & the Church Which Is His Body in the Purpose of the Ages*

by — Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

First published in 1912, this was the author's first full length book. The author exhibits how the Bible reveals the purposes of God, which are seen to have earthly as well as heavenly implications, and need to be carefully compared with traditional doctrines.

263 pp., HB

See [order form](#) under “Welch.”

#595;

- Acts 28: The Dispensational Crisis, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook #642](#);
 - [The Dispensation of the Grace of God, and Acts 28:28 – A Dispensational Boundary Line](#), Otis Q. Sellers (see [order form](#));
 - Fundamentals of Present Truth, Tom L. Ballinger, [Bible Student's Notebook #847](#);
 - Paul's Message After Acts 28, William B. Hallman, [Bible Student's Notebook #867](#);
 - The Pentecostal and Secret Dispensations, William B. Hallman, [Bible Student's Notebook #866](#);
 - The Two Sets of Paul's Epistles in Relation to Acts 28, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook #773](#).
37. Paul had an early, prophetic, priestly ministry (*diakonia*, G1248) to the members of the nations (Romans 11:13, cf. Galatians 2:7; II Corinthians 4:1) which purpose was to provoke Israel to emulation (Romans 11:14). It was a ministry of grace (Acts 20:24), spirit (over against death, II Corinthians 3:7-8), righteousness (over against condemnation, :9), and conciliation (5:18). For a look at the subject of Paul's priestly ministry, see the book:
- [Paul's Priestly Ministry: A Compilation](#) (see [order form](#) under "Compilations").
38. *Then Peter said unto them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).*
39. *i.e., "The Gospel of the Kingdom."*
40. For a detailed study of the Secret Administration see the comprehensive work [The Administration of the Secret](#) on the [order form](#) under "Compilations," or visit, <http://studysshelf.com/compilations.htm>.
41. For more information about the Celestial realm, see:
- [The Third Heaven - Our Celestial Destiny: A Comprehensive Compilation](#) (see [order form](#) under "Compilations").
42. The doctrine of the one body is never referred to by any other apostle than Paul. He calls it "*the Dispensation of the mystery*" with which he had especially been entrusted [Ephesians 3:9]. ... Jew and Gentile being formed by the Spirit into one body ... was a truth never before made known. The Old Testament will be searched in vain for it. It is not there, because it was "hid in God" [3:9]. The recognition of but one body and one Head ... leaves one outside of all human systems, and apart from all recognition of human heads. "The Church must have a head!" was the Romanist's challenge to Luther, as he began to set forth the claims of the Papacy. "Yes," replied the mighty champion of the reformation, "and that Head is Christ!" — H.A. Ironside (1876-1951) *Sailing with Paul* (1913), chapter 10
43. While God certainly blessed Israel with many physical blessings on Earth, our lot is that of being blessed "*with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ*" (Ephesians 1:3, *KJV*), "*every spiritual blessing, in the heavenlies*" (*REB*), "*every spiritual blessing among the Celestials*" (*CV*). Thus, unlike Israel, we are "*disposed to that which is above, not to that on the Earth*" (Colossians 3:2, *CV*).
44. Grace is the undeserved and unrequited favor of God. Grace cannot be withheld because of unworthiness (Romans 4:5-8). Pure grace cannot be exercised where the slightest degree of human merit or goodness is recognized. Grace cannot be lessened because of unworthiness. Much sinfulness calls for much grace (Romans 5:20-21).
- We will often hear about the danger of carrying God's grace too far. Nonsense! The fact is that we could not possibly carry grace any further than God has already carried it! "*Yet where sin increases, grace superexceeds*" (Romans 5:21, *CV*).
- This Scripture passage is clear: When sin accelerates, grace goes into overdrive. God's grace will never be outdone! It will *EVER* super-exceed the measure of sin.
45. This secret "*appearing*" and subsequent work among the Celestials were completely unknown to Jewish prophecy. This *ap-*

pearing of the completed Christ (Head and Body) will take place prior to the reestablishment of Israel's prophetic program, and thus, prior to any prophetic passages dealing with the events surrounding Christ's return, coming to the Earth.

At an unprophesied time, with Israel's prophetic clock still motionless, Christ will reveal Himself *among the Celestials*. His Body will join Him there in His appearance as co-regents, the new aristocracy of the Super-Heavens. This manifestation has no prophetic signs or indicators pointing to its arrival. This celestial experience will pre-date the so-called "*rapture*" or "*snatching away*" taught in I Thessalonians 4 (along with the voice of Israel's archangel and its prophetic "*trump*" of :16).

Under "*the Administration of Secret*," our hope is "*pre-expectant*." In other words, our hope comes first, before the descent of Christ to the Earth. In fact, it is our righteous occupation and rule among the Celestials that will later facilitate the necessary conditions that will prevail from the Heavens upon the Earth. Paul tells us that under "*the Administration of the Secret*" we "*are pre-expectant in the Christ*" (Ephesians 1:12, *CV*).

Being that our hope is unprophesied, there are then no time-tables for it *whatsoever*, thus we have no way of knowing how long it predates the descent of Christ's return to the Earth. All we know is that the hands of Israel's prophetic clock are now silent and still, and that they will not resume until our appearance with Christ among the Celestials, in Glory, has been accomplished. At some point *after* our hope has been realized, God will again resume His prophetic dealings with Israel and the Nations.

For more information on Christ's appearing/manifestation (Greek, *phaneroō*, make-APPEAR), see:

- Christ's Appearance in Glory, William B. Hallman, [Bible Student's Notebook #866](#);
- The End of the Secret Administration and the Celestial Appearing of Christ, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #835](#);
- "The Hope of Israel" vs. "That Blessed Hope," Clyde L. Pilkington.



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- ton, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #485](#);
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 - Hope, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook](#): part 1, [#493](#); part 2, [#494](#); part 3, [#495](#);
 - The Timing and Nature of Our Hope, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #510](#);
 - The Last Trump, Oscar M. Baker, [Bible Student's Notebook #546](#);
 - Christ's Appearing and Israel's Prophetic Clock, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #567](#);
 - The Hope of Paul's Prison Epistles, Tom Ballinger, [Bible Student's Notebook #582](#);
 - What Does Parousia Mean? Otis Q. Sellers, [Bible Student's Notebook #699](#);
 - Clearing the Clouds: Rapture Realities, Andrew Brown, [Bible Student's Notebook #700](#);
 - The Order of Events, Otis Q. Sellers, [Bible Student's Notebook #700](#).
46. Paul's apostleship, both during the Acts-Period and afterwards, was distinct and separated from that of the Twelve Apostles. For a closer look at this subject see:
- Paul Was Not One of the Twelve Apostles, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #101](#), also as an article at [StudyShelf](#).
47. Paul's "my gospel" is the premier evangel concerning Christ's grand work at Calvary. It is a glorious revelation that began being declared at his divine separation in Acts 13. This gospel continues to this day. Thus, Paul's gospel spans both a portion of the Pentecostal Administration (from Acts 13-28) and all of the Secret Administration. Additionally, Paul's gospel – "the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24) – will ultimately be the future basis of God's worldwide judgement (Romans 2:16), which will be the setting of all things right – the correction of everything.
- It must be remembered that "gospels" and "administrations" are not the same thing, so it should almost go without saying that there is a difference between Paul's Gospel and the Secret Administration – one is a gospel; the other is an administration. Some of the most advanced students of Scripture have failed to make this clear distinction. This failure to "rightly divide" between the two has resulted in much confusion, even among dispensational teachers. For look at their distinctions, see:

- Paul's Gospel and the Secret Administration, [Bible Student's Notebook #788](#).
- For a closer look at Paul's Evangel, see the following resources on our [order form](#):
- [Paul's Gospel](#), William R. Newell;
 - [The Gospel of Our Salvation](#), Adlai Loudy;
 - [Meaning and Usage of Gospel](#), Adlai Loudy;
 - The Gospel's Differentiated, [God's Eonian Purpose](#) (chapter 9), Adlai Loudy.
48. Currently, Israel and her early Kingdom hope are in abeyance. Yet, all of creation still has as their premonition the baseline earthly glory. Yet, for the believer of Paul's gospel, the third sphere is the unique calling of the One Body "among the Celestials." The revelation of this pinnacle sphere is found only in the letters of Ephesians and Colossians. This phrase, "among the Celestials," is exclusive to the book of Ephesians (1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12, CV). These two epistles unveil the *Secret Administration* (Ephesians 3:9) and its sphere of glory "far above all Heavens" (Ephesians 4:10) where Christ sits "in Glory" (Colossians 3:4) "at the right hand of God" (:1), and where we will one day "appear with Him" (:4). "The administration of God which is given to [Paul] for [us]" makes "Christ in [us], the hope of Glory" (Colossians 1:25-27).
- The Lord Jesus Christ has been given "all authority, in Heaven and on Earth" (Matthew 28:18, REB). His Body will have jurisdiction over all spheres. Our seated dominion – "among the Celestials," "far above all Heavens" – is that of ruling jointly with Christ in and from the Super-Heavens, with universal jurisdiction extending even over the Earth.
- The Heavens are above the Earth, not just physically, but governmentally. A part of the powerful message learned by Nebuchadnezzar was that the Heavens have "jurisdiction" (CV) or "dominion" (REB), "ruling" (YLT) over the Earth and its kingdoms (cf. Daniel 4:26).
- While Israel rules over the Earth, and the Twelve and the rest of the Bride rule over Israel from the New Jerusalem, we will be joint regents with Christ ruling over the entire Universe.
49. The only other administration continuing during the Secret Administration is the baseline, non-prophetic administration of the family (Ephesians 5:22-6:9; Colossians 3:18-25).

(concluded next issue)

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