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The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 38
Issue 928

“Revelation”: Absolute & Relative, Primary & Secondary

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Sometime confusion arises with the use of “revelation,” both in the Scriptures themselves, and in the language of those who teach it.

The root of the “problem” is that the word “revelation” is commonly used in both an *absolute* and *relative* sense – with both a *primary* and a *secondary* meaning.

Our English word “revelation” can refer to that process by which God makes Himself and His plans known at-large, or *absolutely*, a process that results in “Scripture.” This is *primary* revelation.

However, “revelation” can also be used to refer to the *relative* act of God bringing about individual enlightenment, resulting in Him opening the Scriptures to one’s own personal understanding. This is a *secondary* revelation, founded on the *primary* revelation of Scripture.

The Scriptures themselves use the word “revelation” in both *absolute* and *relative, primary* and *secondary* ways as well. The Greek word for “revelation” is ἀποκάλυψις (*apokalupsis*), and simply means,

- disclosure (*SEC*);
- uncovering (*CL*);
- laying bare, making naked (*TGL*).

The Greek elements for “revelation” are,

FROM-COVERING (*CKC*).

For example, in the *absolute, primary* way, Paul declares,



for by **revelation** [*apokalupsis*] the secret is made known to me (Ephesians 3:3, CV).

Yet, in the *relative, secondary* way, Paul prayed,

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may be giving you a spirit of wisdom and **revelation** [*apokalupsis*] in the realization of Him (Ephesians 1:17, CV).

So, we can see from these two verses that,

- (1) “revelation” (*apokalupsis*), in its *absolute* and *primary* way, as in the case of Ephesians 3:3, results in Scripture – Paul’s epistle of Ephesians.
- (2) “revelation” (*apokalupsis*), in its *relative* and *secondary* way, as in the case of Ephesians 1:17, results in an individual’s “realization.”

In fact, the diverseness of the Greek word *apokalupsis* is demonstrated even in the “Concordant” Version, as it is constrained to, as it does from time to time, become *dis-concordant*, translating the 18 occurrences of *apokalupsis* as:

(see **REVELATION**, page 7846)

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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 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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PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963

Office: (800) 784-6010 – Local: (814) 701-0063

bsn@studyshef.com

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor

André Sneidar – Executive Editor

Associate Editors: J. Blake Botner, Steve Martin, Mark Peters, Mark Vogt

Assistant Editors: James Fine, Gary Ingison

Managers and Assistants

Clyde L. Pilkington, III, Nathan H. Pilkington, Stephen Hill

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Prophetic Gaps

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Key Points:

Students of prophecy who are ignorant of the important principle of prophetic gaps are extremely liable to serious error

in their prophetic understanding and interpretation. 7844

An important principle in understanding the fulfillment of Hebrew Prophecy is that of *prophetic gaps*.

filled in your ears" (Luke 4:16-21, CV).

A PROPHETIC COMMA

Luke chapter 6 provides a clear example of such a *prophetic gap*.

The passage that Jesus read was a prophecy from Isaiah 61. What is most notable about Jesus' reading of this passage is that He abruptly stopped reading the prophecy, mid-sentence, then rolled up the scroll and sat back down.

[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where He was reared, and, according to His custom on the day of the sabbaths, He entered into the synagogue and rose to read. And handed to Him was a scroll of the prophet Isaiah, and, opening the scroll, He found the place where it was written,

Needless to say, this was quite a strange experience to those present that day,

And the eyes of all in the synagogue were looking intently at Him.

"The spirit of the Lord is on Me, on account of which He anoints Me to bring the evangel to the poor. He has commissioned Me to heal the crushed heart, to herald to captives a pardon, and to the blind the receiving of sight; to dispatch the oppressed with a pardon, to herald an acceptable year of the Lord ..."

Christ responded by telling them that,

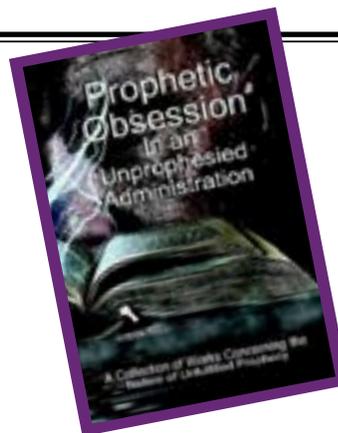
Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your ears.

And furling the scroll, giving it back to the deputy, He is seated. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were looking intently at Him. Now He begins to be saying to them that "Today this Scripture is ful-

It would pay one to read all eleven verses of Isaiah 61. All that Christ read were the first verse and a half. Then He suddenly stopped reading verse two before its end. He stopped at a comma.

Let's look at the first three verses of Isaiah 61. We will place the portion of the passage which Jesus read at the synagogue in bold type.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He has sent Me to bind up the



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

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brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified (Isaiah 61:1-3, CV).

JESUS RIGHTLY DIVIDED THE WORD OF TRUTH

Jesus divided the first portion of this passage from the rest, and told them,

“**Today THIS Scripture is fulfilled in your ears.**”

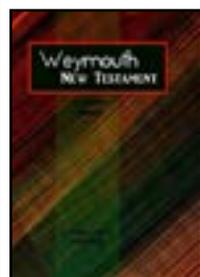
Our Lord Jesus Christ practiced right division that day.

He was fulfilling only the very first portion of Isaiah 61. If He had read past the comma of :2 He could not have made the statement, “*Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your ears.*”

A COMMA OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS

Although no one else at the synagogue that day understood it, the coming and work of their Messiah was to be fulfilled in two distinct periods of time separated by thousands of years.

Jesus fulfilled Isaiah 61 *only* through the phrase “*to herald an acceptable year of the Lord ...*” The next phrase of that sentence, “*and the day of vengeance of our God,*” would still be thousands of years away. For in fact, even



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Greek Testament in English**
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by — Richard Francis Weymouth

225 pp.

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if the rest of this passage *could* begin to be fulfilled in our own day, there has already been a two-thousand-year gap in this one comma found in Isaiah 61:2. Such is the nature of prophetic passages.

We do not know how much more time will transpire before the rest of the verse and chapter of Isaiah are fulfilled. Yet, we submit to our readers that as much as another thousand years may remain, if not thousands more. God withstanding, no one knows how long it will be.

Thus, it is Christ Himself who introduces us to the important principle of *prophetic gaps*.

A THOUSAND YEAR “AND”

Before closing, we will consider another quick example of the *prophetic gap*. This time the gap is represented by an “*and*.”

*Don't be amazed at this, for the hour is coming, when all who are in the graves will hear His voice, and will come out; those who have done good, unto the resurrection of life; **and** those who have done evil, unto the resurrection of judging* (John 5:28-29).

For centuries this verse was used as the basis and proof text for a *general resurrection*. The idea was that a single “*hour*” is coming when “*all*” – both “*those who have done good*” **and** “*those who have done evil*” – will be resurrected together. Yet such is not the case, and it is clearly revealed in progressive revelation that there are multiple resurrections ahead separated in one plain example by a thousand years.

(The rest of the dead do not live until the thousand years should be finished.) This is the former resurrection (Revelation 20:5, CV).

Students of prophecy who are ignorant of the important principle of *prophetic gaps* are extremely liable to serious error in their prophetic understanding and interpretation.

TOPICS:

Major: Isaiah 61:1-3; John 5:28-29; Luke 4:16-2; Prophecy; Prophetic Gaps
Minor: Pre-Millennial Kingdom; Right Division



Tidbits of Truth #42

“Tidbits” is a column dedicated to short comments, thoughts, studies and excerpts.

THE DAY OF CHRIST AND THE MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST IN GLORY

[To: C.C.:] “*The Day of Christ*” spans perhaps some 700 years in length. At the inauguration of “the Day of Christ,” Christ (Head and Body) makes its universal debut – its “*manifestation in Glory*” (Colossians 3:4) at “*the righthand of God*” (Colossians 3:1) “*far above all Heavens*” (Ephesians 4:10). At this time Christ will initiate His universal rule: that of the Heavens – through the instrumentality of the One Body of the Secret Administration; that of the Earth – through His Nation, Israel.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

THE PLACER OF ALL

The Placer of all, the Creator of all, the Operator of all, the Fulfiller of all, is using all to fulfill His plan to be “*All in all.*” No one is frustrating Him. All is and are serving Him and His plan. Evil is here to serve the good. Justice will be administered. All will learn. All will grow up to be model citizens of a new and permanent creation. No one is getting away with anything. No one will be left out. Death is sleep. Everyone will wake up and be brought to maturity. Daddy has a big stick. He also has a kind heart. Anyone trying to help Him will discover He doesn’t need any help. He doesn’t need anything. He is the supply of everything.

All is going as planned, right on schedule. It always has and always will. What can we do, then? Exactly what He has us doing, nothing more, nothing less. If you’re really looking for something to do, here’s something you might try. Always thank God for everything. After you have failed enough, He will become the thanks and everything else you need, springing from within you, pouring into you from above, making you very content, happy, pleased with all He does. And then it may be time for another storm to solidify that constitution. Eventually the heat, pressure, and wisdom will make you into a bright transparent crystalline expression and enjoyer of your Source, Means, and infinite Destiny.

— Jeff Bohlender

3 IMPORTANT THINGS JESUS KNEW THAT TRADITIONAL CHRISTIANITY DOESN’T

Marvel not at this, for coming is the hour in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and those who do good shall go out into a resurrection of life, yet those who commit bad things, into a resurrection of judging (John 5:28-29).

Jesus knew three important things that traditional Christianity doesn’t know.

1. Jesus knew that the dead were currently located in their graves.



Growing in the Realization of God

by — Robert McMahon

This work, firmly rooted in the sovereignty of God, shows the vital importance of acquaintance with the Almighty God leading to a realization that He is our Father and will be “ALL in All.”

56 pp.

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2. Jesus knew that people who were dead could not currently hear God's voice.
3. Jesus knew this was true for both those in their graves who will later be raised for "life" AND those who will be raised for "judging."

Jesus' statement cannot be true if people who die immediately go to Heaven to be with God. Jesus didn't say, "Marvel not, for those who have died who have done good are hearing God's voice in Heaven and those who have died having done evil are in Hell being tormented in flames." Instead, Jesus pinpoints the next event for those in their graves: resurrection.

— Aaron Locker

WHAT PAUL KNEW, WHEN

[To: C.C.:] It will help us to understand that there was a difference between (1) when Paul received information about the Secret Administration, and (2) when he was authorized to make it known.

REVELATION (continued from page 7841)

"revelation" 11 times, and
"unveiling" 7 times.

However, to help alleviate confusion surrounding the word "revelation," it has long been my practice simply to limit my personal use of the word "revelation" to its *absolute, primary* sense, and to choose other words when dealing with the *relative, secondary* act of God in dealing with individuals. I use such words as:

enlightenment, illumination, insight, realization, comprehension, understanding, recognition, and awareness.

Some translations follow similar suit in their attempts at emphasizing the distinction between the *relative, secondary* meaning of *apokalupsis* as found in Ephesians 1:17. So, instead of translating it as "revelation," notice the other ways that it has been translated:

*That, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, would give you a Spirit of wisdom and **UNDERSTANDING** in gaining a personal knowledge of Him (REB).*

That God, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ and

This may have been a norm for Paul: he acquired new information from God that was "not lawful" (II Corinthians 12:4, KJV; i.e., "not allowed" (CV, HCSB, DAR) for him to make known at the time that he acquired it.

With the hindsight of Ephesians and Colossians we are able to see clearly from Philippians that Paul knew the secret, and was pressing forward towards the time of its permitted revelation. He was eager to "attain" and "apprehend" that for which he was "apprehended" – "pressing" toward it (Philippians 3:11-14). Thus, Philippians is the gateway to Ephesians and Colossians.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: [The Day of Christ and the Manifestation of Christ in Glory:] Appearing; Day of Christ [The Placer of All:] Sovereignty [3 Important Things Jesus Knew that Traditional Christianity Doesn't:] Death; Resurrection [What Paul Knew, When:] Colossians; Ephesians; Philippians; Progressive Revelation

*the all-glorious Father, will give you spiritual wisdom and **the INSIGHT to know more** of Him (PME).*

*My prayer is that the God of Jesus Christ our Lord, the all-glorious Father, may inspire you with wisdom and **TRUE INSIGHT through a fuller knowledge** of himself (TCNT).*

*That ye God of our Lord Jesus Christ and the father of glory might give unto you the spirit of wisdom and **OPEN TO YOU the knowledge** of Himself (TNT).*

*For I always beseech the God of our Lord Jesus Christ – the Father most glorious – to give you a spirit of wisdom and **PENETRATION through an intimate knowledge** of Him (WT).*

*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom, and **COMPREHENSION of what is contained in the full knowledge** of Him (FF). BSN*

TOPICS:

Major: Realization; Revelation
Minor: Translation



Editor's Desk

Sleep

All of us are different, in so many various ways. For me, sleep is one of these areas where my own uniqueness is evidenced.

Beginning in the mid-90s, regardless of what time I would go to bed, I would normally awake 3-4 hours later. For a few years I would battle this, as though it were some kind of curse. This is because I listened to the “8 hours a night” advice that is always offered.

I would lay in bed awake for hours every night trying to fall back asleep. After all, it was what I *should* do for my health. Staying in bed when I was awake, because I was *supposed* to, became a great prison to me.

After a while, I just learned to get up when I was awake. For the last 25 years or so, my sleep norm is 3-4 hours most nights – with perhaps an occasional 5-to-15-minute powernap somewhere in the late afternoon, or early evening. After multiple nights of this short sleep schedule, I will usually sleep 5-6 hours one night, occasionally longer, then right back to my norm.

What I had viewed in the beginning as a “curse,” I eventually came to see as my special “blessing.” I am usually up somewhere between 1:00-3:00 most mornings. I am up wide awake, and I aggressively begin my studies and writing. While others are asleep in the house it allows for many hours of very quiet productive time. Over time I have come to relish my early morning time. I would not be the person that I am today without my norm of 3-4 hours a night.

I sleep when I am sleepy, and am up working when I am awake, regardless of the advice of the experts. Interestingly, for me, on the nights that I get 3-4 hours of sleep I am usually the most awake and productive for the day. On the nights that I sleep longer, not only do I have less

working time, but I am more typically sluggish.

Thomas Edison wrote,

I never found need of more than four or five hours sleep in twenty-four hours. I never dream. It's real sleep. When by chance I have taken in more [sleep], I wake up dull and indolent [disinclined to work]).

Winston Churchill averaged 5-6 hours of sleep per day (which included a full-blown daily 2-hour nap during the day). “You get two days in one – well, at least one and a half.”

Leonardo De Vinci followed the “Uberman sleep cycle” – an extreme form of *polyphasic sleep* (or segmented sleep). This is the practice of sleeping multiple times in a 24-hour period. The Uberman method involves 20-minute naps every 4 hours – about 1-½ hours of sleep a day. Nikola Tesla followed this same sleep pattern.

I am well aware that my sleep patterns are not “normal,” and I *do not* recommend them. They are not something that I *try* to do, neither do I suggest anyone else *trying* them. Each of us are very uniquely made, and we must not fight the design of God for us.

Cf. “Some People Have a Superhuman Strength: Only Needing 4 Hours of Sleep,” Manasee Wagh, *Popular Mechanics*, June 27, 2022:

These “short sleepers” don't necessarily do it by choice – they're genetically programmed to require less. Short sleepers are people who do well with about half of the shut-eye that the rest of us require to function. Researchers have discovered particular mutations in three genes that control short sleepers' resting needs. Their super-efficient sleep helps maintain better health and greater resilience to stress.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clyde".

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.
The Pilkington Abbey
Paint, PA

TOPICS:

Major: Editor's Desk; Sleep



12 New Videos Recorded in Cleveland, OH

The Pentecost & Secret Administrations

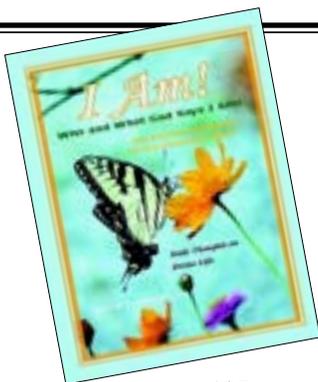
by Clyde Pilkington

These videos are available on our YouTube channel, Biblical Resources, and range from 2 to 26 minutes, with an average of 11 minutes each.

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(The Most Important 70 Years of Human History) | #8: Straight Jacket Verses #3: “Not Forsaking the Assembling of Yourselves Together” (7:24)
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107 pp.

I Am! Who and What God Says I Am!

The Divine Reckoning of the Renewed Mind; Daily Thoughts on Divine Life

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

People are always talking about their attempts to discover their true selves – of trying to “find themselves.” The believer in the Lord Jesus Christ needs to find out who they *really* are. This doesn’t need to be such a difficult search. All that is really needed is a careful look at the Scriptures, and a simple faith in the words of who and what God says we are. God knows who we are; all we need to do is to *believe Him*. This book catalogs the Divine Record of who and what God says that you are. It is a short encyclopedia of faith – the truth about you. It is the truth about you, simply because it is *God* Who has said it. God has spoken these truths concerning you – the *real* you. Believe His record! Refuse to be the shell of a person, pushed into a mold of Adamic conformity. Be the real you that God has uniquely designed you to be. Refuse to be bullied out of your divinely designed identity that our Father has given you.

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