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The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume XVI
Issue 400

Pause

by — Rick Longva

It is good that one should wait in stillness for the salvation of Yahweh (Lamentations 3:26).

We live in a time of pause.

You might ask, “How can you say that? Look at the world today, people are running to and fro, things change at such a rate that by the time it is made known it is already disappearing and surpassed by something newer.”

Most people have no time to think, let alone pause; they are kept busy just trying to catch up.

Yet the believer knows this is a time of pause. Not our pause, but Israel’s.

PAUL = PAUSE

Most of Christianity are taught that the teachings of Paul are just a part of the big picture for God’s church, that you have to find the secret to unlock all the mysteries from Genesis to Revelation. They attempt to fit them all into one harmonious teaching that they say is written to the church in order for the church to be complete in Christ, therefore robbing Israel of its promises.

The truth is – for the ecclesia (“church”), the Body of Christ – Paul’s teachings are the big picture, and you will never be able to make them completely harmonize with the other writings. Not that all Scripture isn’t beneficial – it is (II Timothy 3:16-17), and it is

for us – but Paul’s writings are written exclusively to us, the ecclesia.

Paul’s name – which is *Paulos* in the Greek – is derived from the Greek root *pau*, which means “pause.”

Paul tells us that God’s dealings with an earthly kingdom, that is to be blessed through Israel, have been put on hold – or paused. What better person to bring this truth to the people than the apostle Paul (Pause). We see the beginning of this “Pause” in Acts 28, where Paul is speaking to the “Foremost of the Jews” (:17) – when they reject Paul’s message, Paul tells them that God is now pausing from His dealings with them. He says,

Ideally the holy spirit speaks through Isaiah the prophet, to your fathers, saying, “Go to this people and say, ‘In hearing, you will be hearing, and may by no means be understanding, And observing, you will be observing, and may by no means be perceiving, For stoutened is the heart of this people, And with their ears heavily they hear, And with their eyes they squint, Lest at some time they may be perceiving with their eyes, And with their ears should be hearing, And with their heart may be understand-

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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This free weekly electronic publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation of God's purpose to 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 since the world began" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13);
- 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);
 - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6);
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

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Local: (814) 701-0063

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor

(clyde@studyshef.com)

André Sneider – Managing Editor

Rick Lemons – Associate Editor

Department Managers and Assistant Editors

Windber, PA: Clyde L. Pilkington, III, Nathan H. Pilkington, Janet L. Maher, Aaron Locker
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 Canada: Don Bast

Foreign Representatives:

Australia:

Robert Tangchue
 12 Weeroona St
 Chermshire Brisbane
 Queensland 4032
rtangchue@optusnet.com.au

Canada:

Rick & Donna Longva
 5211 Morrison Place
 Peachland BC V0H 1X2
www.GodisGod.ca
rick@godisgod.ca

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PAUSE (continued from front page)

ing, And should be turning about, And I shall be healing them.” Let it be known to you, then, that to the nations was dispatched this salvation of God, and they will hear (:25-28).

God is now calling out a people – from both the Jews and Gentiles – to be the Body of believers that will find their allotment in the celestial realm. We are now living in an administration of grace, the interval of parenthesis or *pause* in the Scriptures between the Acts and Revelation that would be Paul’s thirteen letters.

Maybe a better way to illustrate it is:

Genesis to Acts is written to Israel, a kingdom-on-earth teaching, the parenthesis () are Paul’s writings which are to the nations and those Jews who would become Christ’s Body the church (---- us ----), from Hebrews to Revelation is all Israel’s kingdom on earth teaching again.

Genesis to Acts = Israel (Romans to Philemon = us)
Hebrews to Revelation = Israel.

ISRAEL’S BLINDNESS

Israel’s rejection of Christ and His earthly kingdom opened the door for God’s plan to the nations. Paul puts it this way in Romans 11:

What then? What Israel is seeking for, this she did not encounter, yet the chosen encountered it. Now the rest were calloused, even as it is written, “God gives them a spirit of stupor, eyes not to be observing, and ears not to be hearing,” till this very day ... For I am not willing for you to be ignorant of this secret, brethren, lest you may be passing for prudent among yourselves, that callousness, in part, on Israel has come, until the complement of the nations may be entering (:7-8, 25).

At one time we, the nations, were to be blessed through Israel’s faithfulness (Genesis 22:18); but, because Israel disbelieved God and rejected the Christ, we are now blessed through their rejection of Him (Romans 11:11-15). Yet, as Paul says, this rejection by

Israel won’t last forever: God has paused in His dealings with Israel for now, but only until the complement of the nations have been brought in. Then,

All Israel shall be saved, according as it is written, “Arriving out of Zion shall be the Rescuer. He will be turning away irreverence from Jacob [Israel].” And “This is my covenant with them whenever I should be eliminating their sins.” As to the evangel, indeed, they are enemies because of you, yet, as to choice, they are beloved because of the fathers. For unregretted are the graces and the calling of God (:26-29).

God is the Blinder: He is the One Who has caused Israel’s blindness; He is the One Who has caused the world’s blindness; and He will be the One Who opens all eyes. Paul says this so plainly in Romans 11:29-32, that only a theologian could screw it up:

For unregretted are the graces and the calling of God. For even as you once were stubborn toward God, yet now were shown mercy at their stubbornness, thus these also are now stubborn to this mercy of yours, that now they also may be shown mercy. For God locks up all together in stubbornness, that He should be merciful to all.

At first glance, one would be led to believe that we were all stubborn of our own accord. The nations were stubborn toward God, then Israel became stubborn toward God. In the relative this is true, but in the absolute it is God Who locks up all together in stubbornness. “Why?” So that He will be merciful on all. He is the Sovereign, not us and not Israel. We all are a part of His plan; He is not a part of our plan, as so many have claimed and preach.

So, as Paul tells us in this era of “Pause,” we, the believers, are being blessed through the ordained stubbornness and blindness of the chosen nation Israel; but, as this world economy comes to a close this will change, and God will once more focus all on Israel.

WHEN

Until the complement of the nations may be entering in (Romans 11:25).



God, in this administration of grace and era of pause, is calling out a chosen people for Himself to reign in the celestials, that will be the [realm of] inheritance of all who now are believing in the death, entombment and resurrection of Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:3-4).

Israel, the nations and most of Christendom stumble over these simple words of truth from the Scriptures: *Christ died, Christ was entombed, and Christ rose.*

Many believe these actions took place – they just don't believe that they all “really” happened.

He really died! – That is the stumbling block for Christendom.

He really rose! – That is the stumbling block for Israel.

He was really here, and He is coming back! – That is the stumbling block for the nations.

God, at present, has caused many to be stubborn to these truths; but He will reveal Himself to the nations and Israel in a different way at the time of Christ's Unveiling. Before that can happen, the last person to complete Christ's Body has to be brought into His grace in this era of pause. Then He will take away His ambassadors who believe these truths as

well as those who are proclaiming it – that Christ died, was entombed, and three days later rose (I Corinthians 15:1-4), and that God is conciliated to us (II Corinthians 5:18-21). At the time of our departure God's main focus will again be on Israel. The believer's part in this present administration of grace will be finished and, as every nation in the world today removes their ambassadors when there is a shift in the way a certain government deals with policy that is disagreeable to their government's policy, God will remove His ambassadors.

God will remove His ambassadors from the coming indignation, at that time when the era of “Pause” comes to an end.

The reason for this removal of God's ambassadors is made clear in three verses from the apostle Paul. He tells us that “*being now justified in His blood, we shall be saved from indignation, through Him,*” “*for God did not appoint us to indignation, but to the procuring of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,*” “*and to be waiting for His Son out of the heavens, Whom He rouses from among the dead, Jesus, our Rescuer out of the coming indignation*” (Romans 5:9; I Thesalonians 5:9; 1:10).

We believers are not to experience the indignation of God on Israel and the nations. Our Rescuer will

(see *PAUSE*, page 3603)



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A Real World Example of God's Sovereignty

by — Phillip Garrison

Have you ever heard someone say, “God doesn’t bother with the trivial things of life”? I’ve heard it many times, although not necessarily worded in that manner. Could that be so? On the surface, it sounds reasonable enough. I used to believe it was absolutely the case – but then one day I began actually to study the Scriptures rather than merely listen to others’ skewed opinions and biases.

From Jehovah [are] the steps of a man, And man – how understandeth he His way? (Proverbs 20:24, YLT).

In whom also we did obtain an inheritance, being foreordained according to the purpose of Him Who the all things is working according to the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:11, YLT).

So, according to Ephesians 1:11, God operates (not merely observes or knows ahead of time) ALL in accord with the counsel of His will. So, here is the question at hand: “Can God take care of the *BIG* things without taking care of the *small* things?” The answer to that question is “No,” but to illustrate my point, why don’t we take a look at a *BIG* real life example and examine just a few of the small things God must have taken care of to bring to fruition His *BIG* goal. Oh, and keep in mind the following passage:

Let every soul to the higher authorities be subject, for there is no authority except from God, and the authorities existing are appointed by God (Romans 13:1, YLT).

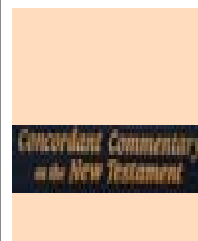
My example is the 2008 election of Barack Obama. Oh, what the heck: for fun, let’s look at the 2012 re-election of Barack Obama and just a few of the **big**

and **small** things God caused to happen in order to bring about His purpose of placing Barack Obama in the current place of authority he now holds.

This will be in a reverse order:

- God caused Barack Obama to appear on the 2012 Presidential Ballot.
- That of course necessitated that God cause Barack Obama to receive the Democratic Presidential nomination in 2012.
- Prior to that (4 years prior to be exact), God caused Barack Obama to win the 2008 Presidential election.
- Again, God caused Barack Obama actually to appear on the official 2008 Presidential ballot.
- Of course, God caused Barack Obama to receive the Democratic Presidential nomination in 2008.
- Prior to this, God caused Barack Obama to win the 2008 Democratic Presidential Primary.

(see **SOVEREIGNTY**, page 3603)



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(Part 4 of 6)

by — Robert C. Brock

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- The good deposit – II Timothy 1:14
- Healthy words – I Timothy 6:3
- The Word of the Lord – Acts 13:48-49
- The Word of Christ – Colossians 3:16
- The standard of God – Philippians 3:16
- The Word of Truth – Ephesians 1:13
- The Word of God – Romans 10:17
- The wisdom of God – I Corinthians 2:7
- The Word of life – Philippians 2:16
- The Word of His Grace – Acts 14:3



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SOVEREIGNTY (continued from page 3601)*Still with me?*

- Prior to that, God caused the relatively obscure Senator from Illinois, Barack Obama, to give a speech at the 2004 Democrat National Convention.

Let's go back a bit further to smaller details:

- Barack Obama, who would one day aspire to be President of the United States, actually got involved in politics at a grass roots level in Chicago, IL, and God directed that path.
- God caused various influencing figures to come into Barack Obama's life not only in his adult years but also in his childhood years.
- Much further back, God made sure that Barack Obama's parents would one day meet, marry and – well, give birth to Barack Obama.

Of course, there were many, many more things that

God had to take care of to bring to fruition, His placing Barack Obama into the place of authority which he now holds. The interesting thing is that what we have looked at briefly really only deals with Obama, his family members and those who influenced or came into the life of Obama in some manner – but, what, by necessity, do all elections have in common?

Answer: Voters; and, more accurately, millions of voters along with the multifarious influences, conditions, perspectives, opinions, etc. which would influence each voter who took part in the 2012 Presidential Election to cast the ballot in the way God intended for God's purpose to come to be.

Many times we do not drink in the magnificence of God's power and sovereignty. Instead, many people view God as One who knows what will happen but leaves His sovereign will to chance or to His creatures.

But, we serve a mighty all-powerful God who is bringing about His purpose for the good. Think on that! ■

PAUSE (continued from page 3600)

snatch us out of harm's way. At that time the world, especially Israel, will experience trials that have not been experienced since the creation of mankind, and *"except those days were discounted [shortened in length of time], no flesh at all would be saved [spared]"* (Matthew 24:21-22).

The time will come when God will move from this era of pause and turn once again to reveal Himself to Israel, and to the nations, through signs and wonders that will cause men's hearts to fail them from fear and anxiety (Luke 21:25-26; Revelation 6: 15-17; Isaiah 2:19). The world is already experiencing the birth pangs of this now in the religious, economical and political world, as they move to form a coalition to come to a solution for what now ails the world of man.

Paul tells us when this will begin to happen in II Thessalonians 2:1-1. The apostle John in The Unveiling of Jesus Christ [Revelation] tells us in detail how this will happen through the seven seals, the seven

trumpets and the seven bowl judgments, as does Daniel in visions he had, as well as King Nebuchadnezzar. They tell of the political as well as the religious systems of the world from the past on up to the coming one world system of religion and government that will eventually collapse.

It must always be remembered that, while God is conciliated to the world (II Corinthians 5:19), mankind for the most part is not yet conciliated to God – yet the Scriptures teach that one day they all will be (Colossians 1:20). Because of Christ' sacrifice, all mankind will be drawn to Him (John 12:32). To the believer this has already been revealed by His grace (Colossians 1:21-22); to those who at present don't believe, God's righteous indignation will be poured out onto the world.

At that time of God's indignation, God will be revealing Himself to the world in a way that is foreign to us who are in this era of "Pause" and now believe through grace. ■



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by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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I have read it completely three times. I always refer back to certain chapters. – FL

When I read it, it was like I could breathe again. Your calming words lead me to a greater realization. – OH

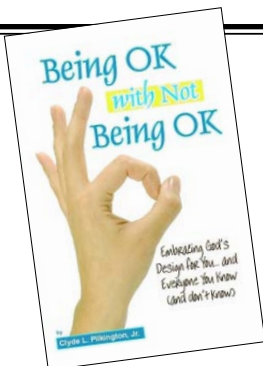
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