

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Abstract

This work presents a clear and structured approach to understanding the Bible through the principle of “rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV). It demonstrates that apparent contradictions, doctrinal confusion, and interpretive challenges within scripture are resolved when God’s progressive revelation is recognized and properly ordered.

The book establishes that scripture reveals two distinct but unified programs within God’s plan: His prophetic program concerning Israel and the earthly kingdom, and the mystery program revealed through the apostle Paul concerning the Church, the Body of Christ, with a heavenly calling. By distinguishing between these programs—along with their audiences, instructions, and timelines—the reader gains a coherent framework for interpreting the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Through a series of key “aha moments,” foundational passages, and a comprehensive timeline, this work guides the reader into a unified understanding of scripture in which all parts align without contradiction. It further addresses common objections, demonstrating that right division does not fragment the Bible, but rather reveals its precise structure and divine consistency.

The result is a clear, doctrinally consistent, and spiritually grounded understanding of God’s Word—one that restores clarity, resolves confusion, and equips the reader to read the Bible as a single, unified, and purposeful revelation.

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Introduction

Why So Many Christians Are Confused About the Bible

For millions of believers around the world, the Bible is the most important book they will ever read. It is revered as the Word of God—perfect, inspired, and trustworthy. Yet despite this deep respect for scripture, many sincere Christians quietly struggle with a troubling reality:

The Bible can seem confusing.

One passage appears to teach something clearly, only for another passage to seem to say something different. Commands change from one book to another. Promises given in one part of the Bible do not appear to operate in the same way elsewhere. Instructions that seem absolute in one place appear to be ignored in another.

Because of this, many believers are left asking questions they rarely say aloud.

Why does Jesus tell people to obey the Law of Moses, while Paul later says believers are not under the Law?

Why were the apostles told not to go to the Gentiles, when the gospel is now preached to all nations?

Why are some believers baptized in water while others say baptism is not required for salvation?

Why does one passage speak of a kingdom on earth while another speaks of believers whose citizenship is in heaven?

Over time, these tensions have produced an extraordinary number of interpretations. Churches divide into denominations. Teachers disagree with one another. Entire theological systems emerge that attempt to reconcile passages that appear to pull in different directions.

Yet most of the people involved in these debates share the same conviction:

The Bible is true.

The problem, therefore, is not that scripture contradicts itself. The problem lies in **how it is being read.**

A Book Written Across Time

Part of the difficulty comes from the nature of the Bible itself.

The scriptures were written across many centuries by different authors, in different settings, and to different audiences. God revealed His purposes gradually as history unfolded.

This means the Bible is not simply a collection of timeless sayings arranged without order. It is the record of **God's plan unfolding step by step throughout history.**

In the early chapters of Genesis, humanity is only beginning to multiply on the earth. Later, God calls Abraham and establishes a covenant nation through his descendants. Centuries afterward, the Law is given through Moses. The prophets then speak of a future kingdom in which the Messiah will reign.

When the New Testament begins, that long-promised Messiah appears. John the Baptist announces that the kingdom of heaven is near. Jesus ministers primarily to the people of Israel, proclaiming the arrival of the kingdom promised by the prophets.

Later still, the apostle Paul writes letters describing a spiritual body composed of both Jews and Gentiles together—a body he calls **the church.**

Finally, the book of Revelation describes the return of Christ and the establishment of His kingdom.

When these events are read without recognizing the progression of God's plan, it is easy to see why confusion develops. Commands that belong to one stage of God's work may be mistakenly applied to another. Promises given to one group of people may be assumed to apply universally.

In other words, the Bible begins to appear inconsistent when its **structure is not recognized**.

The Missing Key

The solution to this confusion is not to ignore difficult passages or to force them to agree through complicated interpretations.

The solution is to recognize that the Bible itself tells readers **how it must be studied**.

In a letter written near the end of his life, the apostle Paul gave Timothy a specific instruction concerning the scriptures:

2 Timothy 2:15

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

This phrase—**rightly dividing the word of truth**—points to the key that unlocks much of the Bible's structure.

It suggests that scripture contains distinctions that must be recognized. Different instructions are given to different people at different times as God's plan unfolds.

Ignoring those distinctions can cause confusion. Recognizing them allows the scriptures to fall into place.

A Plan Revealed in Stages

When the Bible is examined carefully, it becomes clear that God's plan is revealed progressively.

At certain points in history, new truth is revealed that had not been made known before.

The apostle Paul describes one such revelation as **a mystery hidden from previous ages**:

Romans 16:25

"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,"

This means that part of God's plan had been intentionally concealed until the proper time. When that truth was finally revealed, it introduced something that had not previously been understood.

Recognizing these moments of new revelation helps readers understand why certain teachings appear suddenly within the pages of scripture.

One Bible, One Perfect Plan

None of this suggests that the Bible is divided against itself. Quite the opposite.

When its structure is understood, the scriptures reveal something remarkable.

The Bible becomes a coherent story—one plan moving forward through history toward a final fulfillment. Each part of scripture fits into its proper place, contributing to the unfolding purpose of God.

Promises made in the early chapters of the Bible are later fulfilled. Prophecies given centuries earlier come to pass exactly as described. New revelations illuminate truths that had been hidden before.

The result is not confusion, but harmony.

Understanding how that harmony works is the purpose of this book.

The chapters that follow will explore the key principles that allow the Bible to be read as it was meant to be read—carefully, thoughtfully, and **rightly divided**.

And once those principles become clear, many passages that once seemed difficult begin to make sense in ways that readers often find both surprising and deeply satisfying.

Part I — The Key That Unlocks Scripture

Chapter 1

The Three Verses That Unlock the Entire Bible

For many sincere readers, the Bible can feel confusing.

One passage appears to say one thing, while another seems to say something different. Commands change. Promises shift. Entire books appear to operate under different rules.

In one place believers are told to keep the Law. In another they are told they are not under the Law. In one passage the apostles are instructed not to go to the Gentiles, while later the gospel is preached to the whole world.

These tensions have caused generations of believers to ask the same question:

How can the Bible be perfectly inspired and yet seem so difficult to reconcile?

The answer is not that the Bible contradicts itself. The answer is that most readers have never been shown the **key that unlocks its structure**.

That key appears in three verses of scripture.

When these verses are understood together, the entire Bible begins to make sense in a way that many readers have never experienced before.

The First Key: Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

The first verse is Paul's instruction to Timothy:

2 Timothy 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**”

This verse contains a principle that explains why many people struggle with the Bible.

Paul does not simply say to read scripture.

He says to **study** it.

And not merely to study it, but to study it in a very specific way:

Rightly dividing the word of truth.

The phrase “rightly dividing” means to cut straight, to separate properly, or to distinguish accurately. It suggests that the scriptures contain **distinct parts that must be recognized and understood in their proper place**.

If those distinctions are ignored, confusion naturally follows.

Consider a simple example. God commanded Noah to build an ark. That command was perfectly true and perfectly inspired. Yet no believer today believes that every person is required to build an ark.

Why not?

Because that instruction was given to **a specific man at a specific time for a specific purpose**.

The same principle appears throughout scripture. God gives different instructions to different people at different times as His plan unfolds.

Recognizing those distinctions is what Paul calls **rightly dividing the word of truth**.

The Second Key: The Mystery Hidden Since the World Began

The second verse introduces a concept that surprises many readers.

Paul writes:

Romans 16:25

“Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.**”

Here Paul reveals something remarkable.

Part of God’s plan had been **hidden for ages**.

It was not revealed in earlier scripture. It was not foretold by the prophets. It was something God had kept secret until the proper time.

Paul calls it **“the mystery.”**

Later he explains this more fully:

Ephesians 3:5

“Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.”

This means that the Bible contains both:

- truths that were **revealed through prophecy**, and
- truths that were **kept secret until later revelation**.

Understanding this difference explains why certain teachings appear suddenly in Paul’s writings without being predicted in earlier scripture.

The mystery was not hidden because God wished to confuse humanity. It was hidden because it belonged to a specific stage in His unfolding plan.

The Third Key: Three Groups in God’s Plan

The third verse identifies a distinction that helps organize much of the Bible’s teaching.

Paul writes:

1 Corinthians 10:32

“Give none offence, neither to the **Jews**, nor to the **Gentiles**, nor to the **church of God**.”

In a single sentence, Paul identifies three distinct groups:

1. **The Jews**

2. The Gentiles

3. The Church of God

The first two groups—Jews and Gentiles—make up the nations of the world. Throughout the Old Testament, God primarily dealt with humanity through **Israel**, the Jewish nation He had chosen.

But here Paul identifies something new: **the church of God**.

This church is not simply another name for Israel. It is described elsewhere as **a new body composed of both Jews and Gentiles together**.

Paul explains this clearly:

Ephesians 2:15

“For to make in himself of twain **one new man**, so making peace.”

The church is therefore something distinct in God’s plan—a body made up of believers from every nation, united in Christ.

Recognizing these three groups helps readers understand why certain instructions are directed toward Israel, while others are directed toward the church.

When the Pieces Come Together

When these three verses are understood together, the structure of the Bible becomes much clearer.

First, we learn that scripture must be **rightly divided**.

Second, we learn that God revealed **a mystery hidden from earlier ages**.

Third, we learn that God’s dealings involve **distinct groups of people within His plan**.

These truths do not divide the Bible against itself. Instead, they reveal the **order and harmony already present in scripture**.

The Bible then begins to read less like a collection of disconnected teachings and more like what it truly is:

The unfolding revelation of God’s plan across history.

From the promises given to Israel, to the revelation of the mystery through Paul, to the future fulfillment of prophecy, the scriptures describe a single plan moving steadily toward its final fulfillment.

Understanding that structure is the beginning of rightly dividing the word of truth.

And once that structure becomes clear, the entire Bible begins to open in ways many readers never imagined.

Chapter 2

Seeing the Whole Bible at Once

For most people, the Bible is read in pieces.

A chapter here. A verse there. A story remembered from childhood. A passage quoted in a sermon. A favorite section revisited again and again.

While each of these has value, something critical is often missing:

The ability to see the entire Bible at once.

Without that overarching view, even sincere readers can struggle to understand how the parts fit together. Individual passages may be interpreted correctly on their own, yet still be misplaced within the larger plan of God.

The result is not a lack of truth—but a lack of **structure**.

The Problem with Fragmented Reading

Imagine trying to understand a complex machine by examining only one piece at a time.

You might study a gear and understand how it turns. You might examine a lever and understand how it moves. But unless you can see how those parts connect, you will never fully understand the machine.

The same is true with scripture.

A verse about faith may be clear.

A passage about the Law may be clear.

A teaching about the kingdom may be clear.

But without seeing where each of these belongs within the whole, confusion can arise.

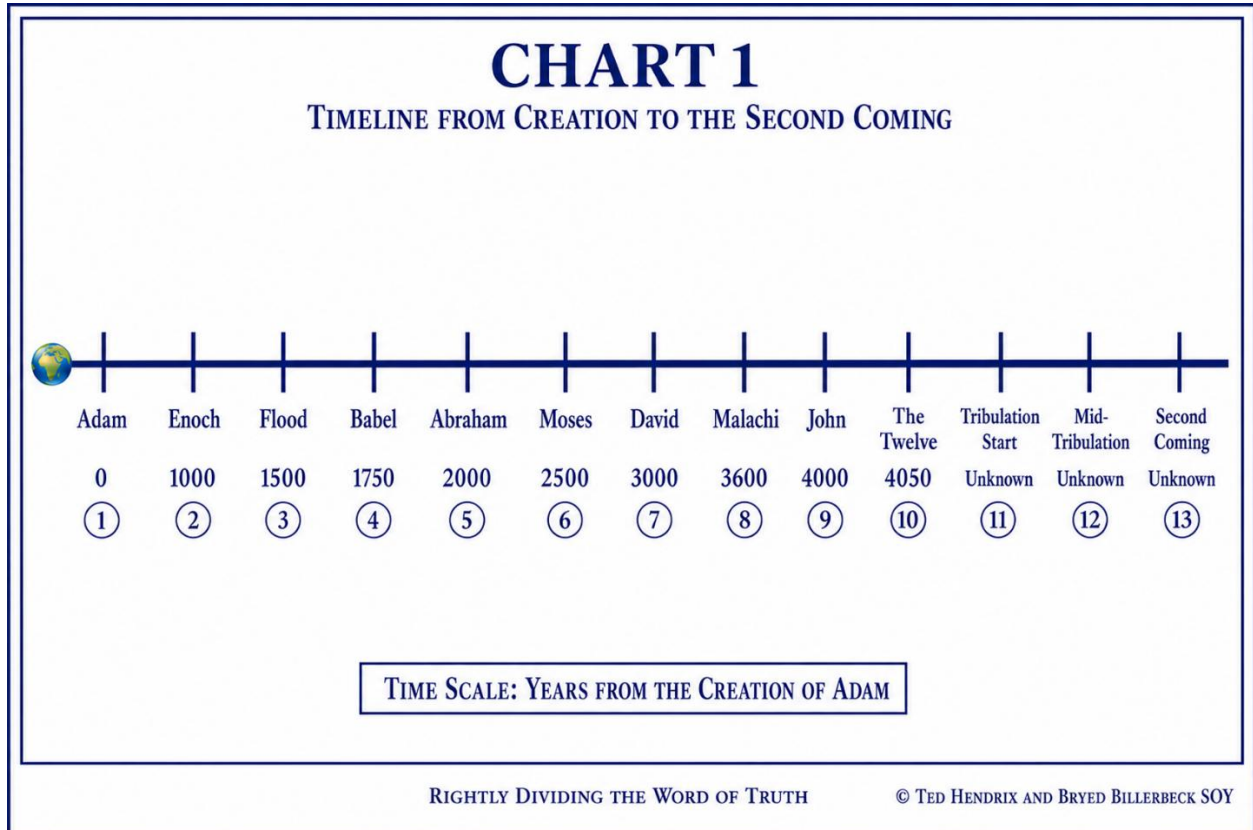
Verses that belong to different parts of God's plan can be combined as if they were addressing the same situation. Instructions given in one context can be applied in another.

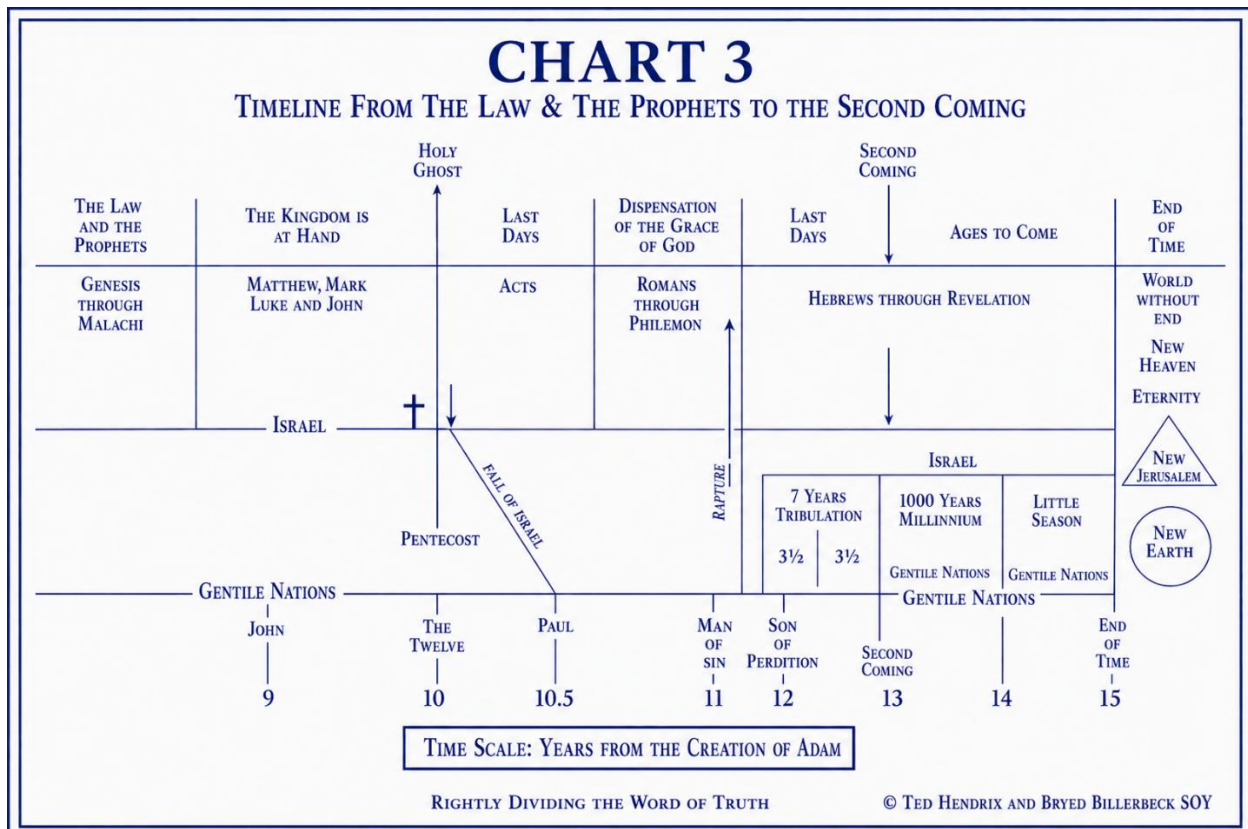
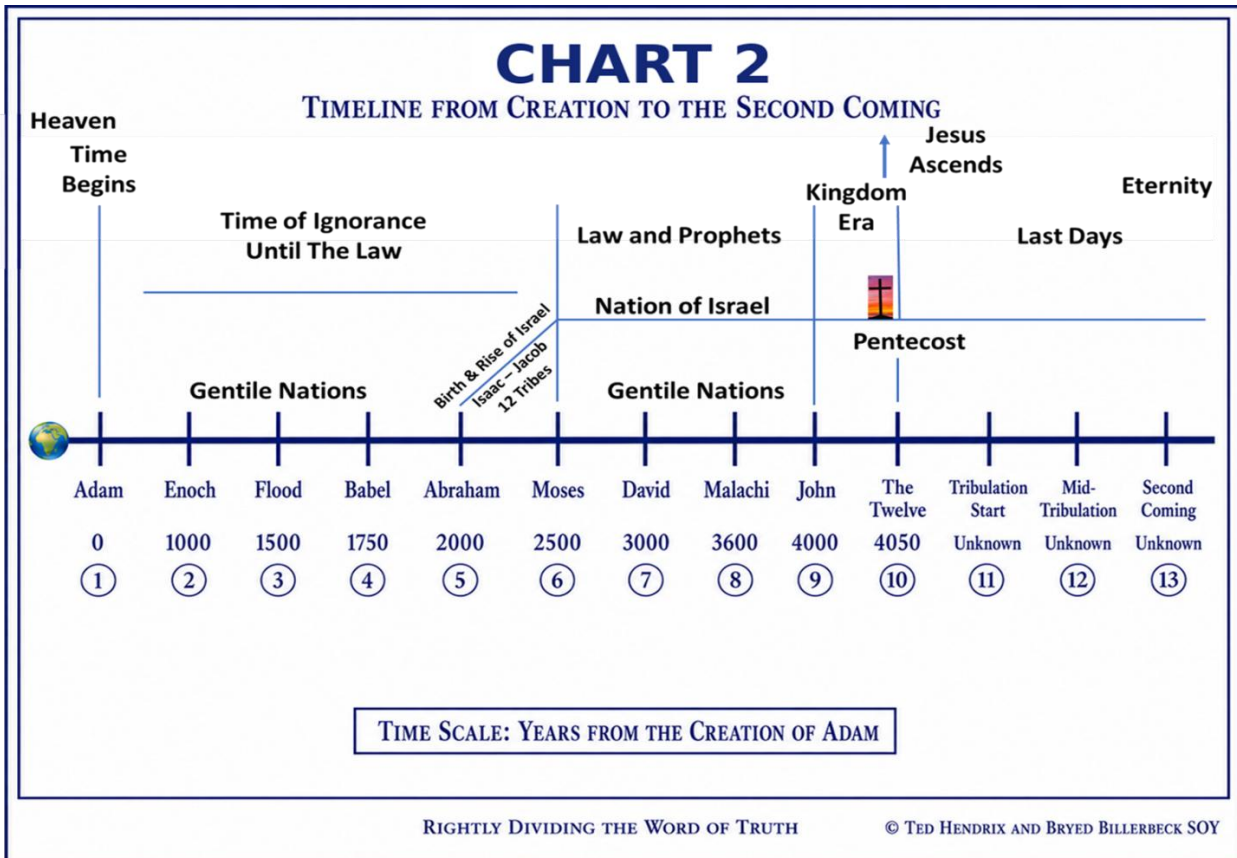
Over time, this creates the appearance of contradiction—when in reality, the issue is **placement**.

God's Plan as a Single Timeline

The Bible is not a random collection of teachings. It is the record of **God's plan unfolding across time**.

To understand it clearly, we must begin to see it as a **timeline**:





At the most basic level, this timeline can be understood in three major movements:

1. The Prophetic Program (Since the World Began)

From Genesis through the Gospels, God's plan is revealed through prophecy.

Promises are made.

A nation is formed.

A kingdom is foretold.

The prophets speak repeatedly of a coming Messiah who will reign on the earth and restore Israel.

Luke 1:70

“As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began.”

This phrase—“**since the world began**”—describes the prophetic program. It was openly spoken, gradually revealed, and consistently pointing forward to the same promised outcome.

2. The Mystery Program (Kept Secret Since the World Began)

In contrast to prophecy, the New Testament reveals something that had been hidden.

The apostle Paul writes:

Romans 16:25

“Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,”

This mystery was not part of the prophetic timeline. It was not revealed through the prophets. It was something God introduced at a specific moment in history.

It involves the creation of a new body—the Church—made up of both Jews and Gentiles together, with a heavenly calling.

This marks a distinct phase in God's unfolding plan.

3. The Fulfillment of All Things

The final movement of the Bible brings both prophecy and mystery to their ultimate fulfillment.

The book of Revelation describes the return of Christ, the judgment of the world, and the establishment of God's kingdom.

What was promised in prophecy is fulfilled.

What was revealed in mystery reaches completion.

The plan that began in Genesis reaches its intended conclusion.

A Simple Way to See the Whole

When these three movements are placed together, the Bible can be seen as a unified structure:

Prophecy → Mystery → Fulfillment

This simple framework allows readers to locate where any passage belongs within the larger plan.

- Does the passage speak of Israel, the Law, or the coming kingdom?
It belongs within the prophetic program.
- Does it speak of the Body of Christ, grace, and a heavenly position?
It belongs within the mystery program.
- Does it describe the return of Christ and final judgment?
It belongs within the fulfillment of all things.

This does not reduce the depth of scripture. Instead, it provides a **map** that allows that depth to be explored without confusion.

Why This Changes Everything

When the Bible is seen as a whole, several things begin to happen.

First, passages that once seemed to conflict begin to align.

Instructions that appeared contradictory are recognized as belonging to different parts of God's plan. Promises that seemed inconsistent are understood within their proper context.

Second, the movement of scripture becomes clear.

The Bible is no longer a collection of isolated teachings. It becomes a story—a plan moving forward with purpose and direction.

Third, confidence in scripture increases.

Rather than struggling to reconcile difficult passages, readers begin to see how those passages fit together naturally.

The Bible begins to read not as a puzzle to be solved, but as a design to be understood.

From Pieces to Perspective

Most believers spend their lives gathering pieces of scripture.

They learn verses.

They memorize passages.

They study individual books.

But the turning point comes when those pieces are finally seen **from above**—when the entire Bible comes into view as a single, unified plan.

That perspective changes everything.

It allows the reader to move from confusion to clarity, from tension to harmony, and from uncertainty to understanding.

And once the whole can be seen, the parts begin to make sense in ways they never could before.

That is what it means to begin **seeing the whole Bible at once**.

Chapter 3

The One Mistake That Causes Most Biblical Confusion

If you ask sincere Christians why there are so many disagreements about the Bible, the answers are usually similar.

Some say the problem is translation.

Others say it is denominational bias.

Some blame theological traditions, while others suggest that certain passages are simply difficult to understand.

Yet the deeper problem is often much simpler.

Most confusion about the Bible comes from **one foundational mistake**.

It is the mistake of **treating God's program with Israel and God's program with the Church as if they were the same thing**.

When these two are blended together, scripture begins to appear inconsistent. Commands that were given to one group are applied to another. Promises intended for Israel are interpreted as promises to the Church. Instructions meant for a specific time are assumed to apply universally.

Over time, this mixing produces doctrinal tension throughout the Bible.

But when the distinction between Israel and the Church becomes clear, many of those tensions begin to disappear.

God's Covenant Nation: Israel

From the time of Abraham onward, God worked in a very specific way through a very specific nation.

God called Abraham and made promises concerning his descendants.

Genesis 12:2–3

“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: 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.”

That nation was Israel.

Through Israel, God revealed the Law.

Through Israel, God sent the prophets.

Through Israel, the Messiah would come.

The promises given to Israel were concrete and earthly. They included a land, a kingdom, and a throne.

The prophets repeatedly spoke of a future day when Israel would be restored and the Messiah would reign.

Jeremiah 23:5

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper.”

These promises were not vague spiritual ideas. They described a real kingdom on earth, centered in Jerusalem.

Throughout the Old Testament, this earthly kingdom for Israel is the dominant expectation.

The Kingdom Message of the Gospels

When the New Testament opens, the same expectation continues.

John the Baptist begins his ministry with a very specific announcement:

Matthew 3:2

“Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Soon after, Jesus Himself proclaims the same message.

Matthew 4:17

“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

This was not the introduction of a new concept. It was the announcement that the long-promised kingdom to Israel was drawing near.

Jesus' ministry was focused on that nation.

He stated plainly:

Matthew 15:24

"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Even when sending out the twelve apostles, the instructions were clear:

Matthew 10:5–6

"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."

Everything about this ministry reflects the continuation of God's prophetic dealings with Israel.

A New Work Revealed

Later in the New Testament, however, we encounter something unexpected.

The apostle Paul describes a revelation that had not been known in earlier ages.

Ephesians 3:3–5

"How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."

Paul explains that this mystery involved something entirely new:

a body composed of both Jews and Gentiles together.

Ephesians 2:15

"For to make in himself of twain one new man."

This new body is called **the Church, the Body of Christ**.

Unlike Israel, this body is not defined by nationality, covenant law, or earthly kingdom promises. Instead, it is described as a spiritual body with a heavenly calling.

Paul writes that believers in this body are:

Philippians 3:20

"Our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven."

This is a striking contrast to Israel's earthly kingdom hope.

When the Two Programs Are Mixed

If Israel and the Church are treated as the same entity, several problems quickly arise.

Readers begin to encounter passages that seem to conflict with one another.

For example:

Jesus tells His followers to keep the commandments of the Law.

Matthew 23:2–3

“The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do.”

Yet Paul writes:

Romans 6:14

“For ye are not under the law, but under grace.”

Similarly, the kingdom message proclaimed by John the Baptist and Jesus focuses on the restoration of Israel's promised kingdom.

Yet Paul speaks of believers being part of a spiritual body with a heavenly destiny.

Without recognizing the distinction between these programs, readers often conclude that scripture contradicts itself.

But when the difference between Israel's prophetic program and the Church's mystery program is understood, these passages fall into place.

One Plan, Revealed in Stages

Recognizing the distinction between Israel and the Church does not divide the Bible against itself. Instead, it allows the scriptures to be seen as **one plan unfolding in stages**.

First came the promises and prophecies concerning Israel.

Then came the revelation of the mystery concerning the Body of Christ.

In the future, prophecy will once again move toward its fulfillment as Christ returns and establishes His kingdom.

The Bible, therefore, is not a collection of conflicting teachings. It is the progressive unfolding of God's purpose throughout history.

Understanding that progression is the beginning of rightly dividing the word of truth.

And once that distinction becomes clear, many of the Bible's most difficult passages suddenly begin to make sense.

Part II — The Seven Realizations That Unlock Scripture

Chapter 4

Aha Moment #1: Not Every Verse Is Written to You

For many believers, this is the moment everything begins to change.

Up to this point, the Bible may have been read with a single, deeply ingrained assumption:

That every verse in the Bible is written directly to you.

It is an understandable assumption. After all, the Bible is the Word of God, and it is given for our learning, instruction, and growth.

But there is a critical distinction that, once seen, becomes impossible to ignore:

Not every verse in the Bible is written to you—even though every verse is written for you.

That difference is small in wording, but massive in impact.

The Source of the Confusion

Most confusion in scripture begins when this distinction is overlooked.

Commands given to one group are applied universally.

Promises made to a specific people are claimed by all.

Instructions tied to a particular time are treated as timeless requirements.

This leads to questions that seem difficult to resolve:

Are believers required to keep the Law of Moses?

Should all Christians sell everything they have?

Is water baptism necessary for salvation?

Are we commanded to heal the sick and raise the dead?

Each of these questions can be answered directly from scripture—but depending on which passages are used, the answers can appear to conflict.

Why?

Because different passages are addressing **different people at different times within God's plan**.

A Simple but Powerful Example

Consider God's command to Noah:

Genesis 6:14

"Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch."

This was a direct command from God. It was clear, specific, and absolutely true.

But no believer today feels obligated to build an ark.

Why not?

Because that command was not written **to us**.

It was written to Noah, for a specific purpose at a specific time.

Yet the passage is still written **for us**. It teaches us about God's judgment, His provision, and His faithfulness.

This simple example reveals a principle that applies throughout the entire Bible.

When Instructions Change

As God's plan unfolds, the instructions He gives also change.

At one point in history, God commands Israel to follow the Law of Moses.

Exodus 20:3

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Leviticus 19:19

"...Thou shalt not wear a garment mingled of linen and woollen."

These commands were real, binding, and given directly to Israel.

But later, the apostle Paul writes:

Romans 6:14

"For ye are not under the law, but under grace."

If every verse in the Bible is assumed to be written directly to every believer, this creates an immediate problem.

Are believers under the Law, or not?

The answer becomes clear when we recognize the distinction:

The Law was given **to Israel** as part of God's prophetic program.

Grace is revealed **to the Church** as part of the mystery program.

The verses do not contradict each other. They belong to **different parts of God's plan**.

Jesus' Earthly Ministry

This distinction becomes even more striking when we look at the ministry of Jesus.

Jesus made a clear statement about His mission:

Matthew 15:24

"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

During His earthly ministry, Jesus operated within the prophetic program. He came as Israel's Messiah, fulfilling promises made to that nation.

He instructed His disciples accordingly:

Matthew 10:5–6

"Go not into the way of the Gentiles... but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Yet today, the gospel is preached to all nations.

This shift is not a contradiction. It reflects a change in God's program as new revelation was given.

The Letters Written Directly to the Church

One of the most clarifying realizations for many readers is identifying where the Bible speaks **directly to them**.

The apostle Paul writes specifically to the Church—the Body of Christ.

His letters, from Romans through Philemon, are addressed to believers living under grace in this present phase of God's plan.

In these letters, we find direct instruction concerning:

- salvation by grace through faith
- the believer's position in Christ

- the unity of Jews and Gentiles in one body
- the practical outworking of the Christian life

This does not make other parts of the Bible irrelevant. Far from it.

But it does provide clarity regarding **where direct instruction for the Church is found**.

When This Becomes Clear

When this principle is finally understood, it produces a moment many believers describe as an **“aha” moment**.

Passages that once seemed confusing begin to separate naturally into their proper places.

The Bible no longer feels like a collection of competing instructions. Instead, it reads as a carefully structured revelation, with each part contributing to the whole.

Questions that once caused tension begin to resolve:

Why do some passages emphasize works, while others emphasize grace?

Why do some instructions focus on Israel, while others include all nations?

Why do certain practices appear in one part of the Bible but not in another?

The answer, again and again, comes back to the same truth:

Not every verse is written to you.

Written for You, Not Always to You

This principle does not diminish the importance of any part of scripture.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...”

Every verse teaches. Every passage has value. Every part of the Bible contributes to understanding God’s character and plan.

But clarity comes when we recognize **who is being addressed** in each passage.

When that question is asked consistently, confusion begins to give way to understanding.

And for many readers, this becomes the first major breakthrough:

The realization that the Bible has been speaking clearly all along—they simply needed to recognize **who it was speaking to**.

Chapter 5

Aha Moment #2: The Bible Is Not Written in Chronological Order

For many believers, the second major breakthrough comes shortly after the first.

Once it becomes clear that not every verse is written directly to them, another question naturally follows:

If the Bible is structured, where exactly am I in it?

And that question leads to a realization that is both simple and profound:

The Bible is not arranged in strict chronological order.

The Assumption Most Readers Make

Most people approach the Bible with an unspoken assumption:

That as they move from left to right—from Genesis to Revelation—they are moving steadily forward through time.

While this is partly true, it is not entirely accurate.

The Bible is arranged **thematically as well as historically**, and at key points, books that appear later in the Bible actually describe events that took place earlier.

Without recognizing this, readers can unintentionally place themselves in the wrong part of God's timeline.

A Clear Example: The Gospels and Paul's Letters

One of the most important examples of this involves the relationship between the Gospels and the writings of Paul.

At first glance, it appears that the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—contain the foundational teaching for believers today. After all, they come first in the New Testament.

But when we look more closely, something becomes clear.

The Gospels record the earthly ministry of Jesus **before** the full revelation of the mystery given to Paul.

In other words:

- The events in the Gospels take place **within the prophetic program**.

- Paul's letters explain truths revealed **after that period**, within the mystery program.

This means that although the Gospels appear first in the New Testament, they do not fully describe the present phase of God's plan.

Understanding the Timeline

To see this clearly, consider the sequence of events:

1. **Old Testament**
God reveals His plan for Israel through prophecy.
2. **The Gospels**
Jesus ministers to Israel, proclaiming the kingdom promised by the prophets.
3. **Transition (Acts)**
The rejection of the kingdom message leads to a shift in God's dealings.
4. **Paul's Letters**
The mystery is revealed—the formation of the Church, the Body of Christ.
5. **Revelation**
God's prophetic plan resumes and moves toward fulfillment.

When viewed this way, it becomes clear that the Bible is not simply a straight timeline from page one to the last page.

Instead, it is a **structured revelation**, with different sections focusing on different parts of God's plan.

Why This Matters

This realization answers questions that often trouble readers.

For example:

Why does Jesus in the Gospels instruct His followers differently than Paul does in his letters?

Why are certain commands emphasized early in the New Testament but not later?

Why do the Gospels focus on Israel, while Paul's letters address both Jews and Gentiles equally?

The answer is not contradiction.

The answer is **placement in the timeline**.

The Gospels describe a time when God was still dealing primarily with Israel under the prophetic program.

Paul's letters describe a later revelation—something that had been hidden and then made known.

Reading the Bible in the Right Place

Once this becomes clear, a powerful shift occurs.

Instead of reading every part of the Bible as if it directly describes the present, readers begin to ask a different question:

Where does this passage belong in God's timeline?

That single question brings clarity to countless passages.

- A command in the Law is recognized as part of Israel's covenant.
- A kingdom instruction in the Gospels is seen within the prophetic program.
- A teaching in Paul's letters is understood as direct instruction for the Church today.

The Bible begins to organize itself naturally.

The Turning Point

For many believers, this realization produces a second “aha” moment.

They begin to see that confusion did not come from the Bible itself, but from reading different parts of God's plan as if they were happening at the same time.

Once the timeline is recognized, those parts fall into place.

The Bible begins to read not as a flat collection of teachings, but as a **multi-layered revelation moving through time**.

From Sequence to Structure

This does not mean the Bible is disorganized. Quite the opposite.

Its arrangement serves a purpose. The Gospels are placed at the beginning of the New Testament because they introduce the person of Jesus Christ. Paul's letters follow because they explain truths revealed later.

But understanding the **difference between order and timeline** is essential.

The Bible's order helps us navigate it.

The Bible's timeline helps us understand it.

Seeing Clearly at Last

When this principle is understood, many lingering questions begin to resolve.

The teachings of Jesus and the writings of Paul are no longer seen as competing voices, but as parts of a larger plan revealed at different times.

Instructions that once seemed inconsistent are recognized as belonging to different stages of that plan.

And for the reader, something powerful happens:

The Bible begins to open—not just verse by verse, but **as a complete and ordered revelation**.

This is the second great breakthrough.

The realization that to understand the Bible clearly, it is not enough to read it in order.

It must be understood **in its proper place in time**.

Chapter 6

Aha Moment #3: Israel and the Church Are Not the Same

At this point, the structure of the Bible is beginning to come into focus.

We have seen that not every verse is written directly to us.

We have seen that the Bible must be understood according to its timeline.

We have seen that God is working through distinct programs within one unified plan.

Now we come to one of the clearest and most transformative realizations of all:

Israel and the Church are not the same.

For many believers, this is the moment when confusion finally gives way to clarity.

The Assumption That Causes Confusion

One of the most common assumptions in biblical interpretation is that the Church has replaced Israel, or that the two are simply different expressions of the same group.

Under this assumption:

- The promises made to Israel are applied to the Church

- The laws given to Israel are interpreted as spiritual principles for believers today
- The prophecies concerning Israel are redefined as symbolic descriptions of the Church

While this approach attempts to unify scripture, it often creates tension instead.

Passages that describe a physical nation are spiritualized.

Promises tied to land and kingdom are reinterpreted.

Instructions given under one set of conditions are applied under another.

The result is a blending of distinctions that the Bible itself maintains.

Israel: A Nation with Earthly Promises

From the beginning, Israel is presented as a specific, chosen nation.

God called Abraham and made a covenant concerning his descendants:

Genesis 12:2

“And I will make of thee a great nation...”

That nation—Israel—was given promises that were concrete and earthly.

They were promised:

- A land
- A kingdom
- A throne
- A future restoration

God later reaffirmed these promises through David:

2 Samuel 7:16

“And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.”

The prophets consistently spoke of a future day when these promises would be fulfilled.

Ezekiel 37:21

“...I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen... and bring them into their own land.”

These promises are not symbolic descriptions of a spiritual reality. They are specific commitments made to a specific people.

The Church: A New Body with a Heavenly Calling

In contrast, the Church—the Body of Christ—is described in entirely different terms.

It is not a nation.

It is not tied to a specific land.

It is not defined by covenant law.

Instead, it is described as a **spiritual body**, composed of believers from all nations.

1 Corinthians 12:13

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body... whether we be Jews or Gentiles...”

This body did not exist in the Old Testament. It was part of the mystery revealed through the apostle Paul.

Colossians 1:26

“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints.”

The Church’s identity is not earthly, but heavenly.

Ephesians 2:6

“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”

This is fundamentally different from Israel’s promised kingdom on earth.

Two Identities, Two Destinies

When Israel and the Church are placed side by side, the differences become clear.

Israel:

- A physical nation
- Defined by covenants and law
- Promised an earthly kingdom
- Centered in Jerusalem

The Church:

- A spiritual body
- Defined by grace through faith
- Given a heavenly position

- Composed of all nations

These are not two descriptions of the same group.

They are two distinct identities within God's plan.

Why This Distinction Matters

When Israel and the Church are treated as the same, several problems arise.

Promises given to Israel are claimed by the Church, leading to confusion about their fulfillment.

Instructions given under the Law are applied to believers under grace, creating tension in doctrine and practice.

Prophecies concerning Israel's future are reinterpreted, often losing their original meaning.

But when the distinction is recognized, these issues begin to resolve.

Israel's promises remain intact.

The Church's identity becomes clear.

Each passage of scripture finds its proper place.

One Plan, Rightly Understood

Recognizing that Israel and the Church are not the same does not divide the Bible.

It allows the Bible to be understood **as it was written**.

God's plan includes both:

- a prophetic program centered on Israel and the earth
- a mystery program centered on the Church and heavenly places

Both are part of His purpose.

Both are revealed in scripture.

Both move toward fulfillment in Christ.

The Clarity That Follows

For many readers, this realization brings a deep sense of clarity.

Passages that once seemed to overlap or conflict begin to separate naturally.

The Bible no longer feels like it is shifting between meanings. Instead, it becomes consistent, precise, and ordered.

Promises stay where they were given.

Instructions remain in their proper context.

The overall structure becomes visible.

The Final Shift

This is one of the most important turning points in understanding the Bible.

Not because it introduces something new, but because it removes a long-standing source of confusion.

The Bible has always made a distinction between Israel and the Church.

Once that distinction is seen, the reader is no longer trying to force everything into a single category.

Instead, they are free to see the Bible as it truly is:

A perfectly ordered revelation, where every part fits exactly where it belongs.

Chapter 7

Aha Moment #4 — The Gospels Are Still Part of Israel's Kingdom Program

For many readers, this is one of the most surprising—and transformative—realizations in the entire journey.

The Gospels are often viewed as the direct foundation for Christian doctrine today. They introduce Jesus Christ, contain His teachings, and stand at the beginning of the New Testament.

Because of this, it is commonly assumed that everything in the Gospels is written directly to and about the Church as it exists today.

But when the Bible is carefully examined in light of what we have already seen, a different picture begins to emerge:

The Gospels are still operating within Israel's kingdom program.

The Setting of the Gospels

The New Testament begins with four accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus:

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

These books record real events, real teachings, and the appearance of the long-promised Messiah.

But they do not begin a new program immediately.

They continue the one already in progress.

Everything about the opening of the New Testament is rooted in what came before it:

- The promises to Abraham
- The covenants with Israel
- The prophecies of a coming kingdom

The Gospels do not replace these things—they **fulfill and advance them**.

The Message of the Kingdom

The central message of the Gospels is clear and consistent:

Matthew 3:2

“Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

This was the message of John the Baptist.

It was also the message of Jesus:

Matthew 4:17

“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

This was not a new or unexpected idea.

It was the direct continuation of what the prophets had spoken for centuries—the promise of a coming kingdom in which the Messiah would reign over Israel and the nations.

Jesus' Declared Mission

Jesus made His mission unmistakably clear:

Matthew 15:24

“I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

This statement is direct and specific.

His earthly ministry was focused on Israel.

He came as their Messiah, in fulfillment of the promises made to their fathers.

Even when sending out His disciples, the instructions reflected this same focus:

Matthew 10:5–6

“Go not into the way of the Gentiles... but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

This is not a universal mission to all nations—at least not at this stage.

It is a targeted call to Israel within the prophetic program.

The Nature of the Teaching

Many of the teachings in the Gospels reflect this kingdom context.

For example:

Matthew 19:21

“If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor...”

Matthew 5:40–41

“...whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

These teachings are often applied directly to believers today without distinction.

But within the context of the kingdom program, they reflect a specific expectation tied to Israel's preparation for the coming kingdom.

They are not general philosophical sayings—they are instructions given within a defined program and timeframe.

The Absence of the Mystery

One of the clearest indicators that the Gospels belong to the prophetic program is what they **do not contain**.

The mystery—the formation of the Church, the Body of Christ—is not revealed in the Gospels.

There is no clear teaching of:

- one body composed equally of Jews and Gentiles
- a heavenly position “in Christ”
- salvation described in the terms later revealed by Paul

Instead, the focus remains on Israel, the kingdom, and the fulfillment of prophecy.

This is exactly what we would expect if the Gospels are still operating within the prophetic timeline.

A Transition Still to Come

The shift to the mystery program does not fully occur within the Gospels.

It begins to unfold later, particularly in the book of Acts, and is then clearly explained in the letters of Paul.

This means that while the Gospels are part of the New Testament, they do not fully describe the present phase of God’s dealings with humanity.

They are positioned at the beginning of the New Testament because they introduce the person of Christ—but they are still rooted in the **continuation of Israel’s program**.

Why This Is So Important

This realization answers one of the most common sources of confusion in the Bible:

Why do some teachings of Jesus seem difficult to reconcile with the writings of Paul?

The answer is not contradiction.

The answer is **context**.

Jesus’ earthly ministry took place within Israel’s kingdom program.

Paul’s letters explain truths revealed later, within the mystery program.

Both are true.

Both are inspired.

Both belong exactly where they are.

Reading the Gospels with Clarity

Understanding this does not diminish the importance of the Gospels.

They remain essential.

They reveal:

- the character of Christ
- the fulfillment of prophecy
- the foundation of God's redemptive plan

But they must be read **in their proper context**.

When they are, their teachings become clearer—not more confusing.

The Fourth Breakthrough

For many readers, this is the moment where everything begins to align at a deeper level.

The teachings of Jesus and the writings of Paul are no longer forced into the same framework.

Instead, they are seen as parts of a larger, ordered plan.

The Gospels are no longer misunderstood as direct instruction for every aspect of the present age.

They are recognized for what they are:

**The continuation and fulfillment of Israel's kingdom program—
set at the precise moment before a new revelation would unfold.**

And with that realization, another layer of confusion falls away.

The Bible continues to open—
not by changing its meaning,
but by revealing its structure.

Chapter 8

Aha Moment #5 — The Mystery Revealed to Paul

By now, the structure of the Bible is no longer hidden.

We have seen that not every verse is written directly to us.
We have seen that the Bible must be understood according to its timeline.
We have seen the distinction between Israel and the Church.
We have seen that the Gospels continue Israel's kingdom program.

All of these truths point forward to one of the most important turning points in scripture:

The revelation of the mystery to the apostle Paul.

This is not a small detail.
It is one of the central keys to understanding the present phase of God's plan.

What Is "The Mystery"?

In everyday language, a mystery is something confusing or difficult to understand.
But in the Bible, the word has a very specific meaning.
A mystery is not something hard to figure out.
It is something that was **previously hidden and has now been revealed.**

Paul describes it clearly:

Colossians 1:26

"Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints."

This means that the mystery was not revealed in the Old Testament.
It was not spoken by the prophets.
It was not part of what had been made known "since the world began."
It was something God kept secret—until the appointed time.

The Moment of Revelation

Paul repeatedly emphasizes that this mystery was given to him by direct revelation.

Ephesians 3:2–3

"...the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: how that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery..."

This is a critical point.

The mystery was not discovered.

It was not developed over time.

It was revealed—intentionally and specifically.

And it marked the beginning of a new phase in God’s dealings with humanity.

What the Mystery Reveals

At the heart of the mystery is something entirely new:

A body composed of both Jews and Gentiles together, united in Christ.

Ephesians 3:6

“That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.”

This was not foretold in prophecy.

In the Old Testament, Gentiles could be blessed through Israel—but they did not become equal members of one unified body.

The mystery reveals something different:

Equality in one body, apart from Israel’s covenant structure.

A New Identity

The believers who are part of this body are given a new identity.

They are described as:

- **In Christ**
- **Members of His body**
- **Seated in heavenly places**

Ephesians 2:6

“...and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

This is not language used of Israel.

It reflects a new position, a new relationship, and a new calling.

Salvation by Grace

Another defining feature of the mystery is the clarity of salvation by grace.

Ephesians 2:8–9

“For by grace are ye saved through faith... not of works, lest any man should boast.”

While grace is present throughout the Bible, Paul’s writings reveal it in a distinct and complete way within this program.

Salvation is not tied to covenant law, national identity, or kingdom preparation.

It is received freely, through faith.

The Dispensation of Grace

Paul refers to this present phase as a **dispensation**—a stewardship or administration of God’s grace.

Ephesians 3:2

“...the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward...”

This does not mean God has changed His character.

It means He is working in a different way at this point in His plan.

The focus is no longer on a nation.

It is on a body.

The focus is no longer on preparing for an earthly kingdom.

It is on a heavenly position in Christ.

Why This Was Hidden

One of the most striking aspects of the mystery is that it was deliberately concealed.

Paul writes:

1 Corinthians 2:7–8

“...the hidden wisdom... which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

This suggests that the timing and revelation of the mystery were part of God’s precise plan.

What was hidden was not an oversight.

It was intentional.

The Center of the Present Age

Understanding the mystery revealed to Paul answers a crucial question:

Where are we in the Bible today?

We are not living in the time of the Law given to Israel.

We are not living during the earthly ministry of Jesus to Israel.

We are not yet in the final fulfillment described in Revelation.

We are living in the period where the mystery is being carried out—the dispensation of grace.

This is where the direct instruction for believers today is found.

The Fifth Breakthrough

For many readers, this is the moment where the Bible finally becomes clear in a way it never has before.

They realize that Paul's letters are not just additional teachings.

They are **the explanation of the present phase of God's plan.**

The confusion that once existed between different parts of scripture begins to disappear.

The timeline is clear.

The distinctions are clear.

The structure is clear.

The Bible Opens Fully

With this understanding, the Bible is no longer approached as a collection of teachings to be blended together.

It is read as a structured revelation:

- Prophecy revealed since the world began
- Mystery revealed through Paul
- Fulfillment yet to come

Each part has its place.

Each part has its purpose.

And at the center of the present age is this truth:

The mystery, once hidden, has now been revealed.

And through that revelation, the Bible opens—not partially, but fully—as a unified, ordered, and perfectly revealed Word from God.

Chapter 9

Aha Moment #6 — The Present Dispensation of Grace

With the revelation of the mystery given to the apostle Paul, one final question naturally rises to the surface:

What time are we living in right now—according to the Bible?

The answer to that question is one of the most liberating and clarifying realizations in all of scripture:

We are living in the present dispensation of grace.

This is not simply a theological idea.
It is the key to understanding how God is dealing with humanity today.

What Is a Dispensation?

The word *dispensation* refers to a stewardship, an administration, or a specific way in which God is carrying out His plan at a particular time.

Throughout the Bible, God has dealt with humanity in different ways:

- Before the Law
- Under the Law
- Through prophecy
- Through the mystery

These are not contradictions.

They are **distinct administrations within one unfolding plan.**

Paul describes the present one clearly:

Ephesians 3:2

“...the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward...”

A Shift in How God Is Working

In the past, God worked primarily through a nation—Israel.

He gave them the Law.

He established covenants.

He dealt with them as a people set apart.

But in the present dispensation, something has changed.

God is not dealing with humanity through a nation.

He is forming a **body**—the Church, the Body of Christ—made up of individuals from every nation.

This is a fundamental shift.

The focus is no longer national.

It is spiritual.

Grace as the Defining Character

The defining feature of this present dispensation is **grace**.

Romans 6:14

“For ye are not under the law, but under grace.”

Grace means unmerited favor.

It means that what is given is not earned.

It is received.

This does not mean that God’s standards have changed.

It means that His present way of dealing with humanity is characterized by **offering salvation freely through faith**.

Salvation Clearly Defined

In this dispensation, the message of salvation is presented with clarity and simplicity.

1 Corinthians 15:3–4

“...Christ died for our sins... was buried, and... rose again the third day...”

This is **the gospel Paul** preached.

Salvation is not based on:

- keeping the Law
- national identity
- participation in a covenant system

It is based on faith in the finished work of Christ.

No Distinction Between Jew and Gentile

Another defining characteristic of this dispensation is the removal of distinction between Jew and Gentile within the Body of Christ.

Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Greek... for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

This does not erase the identity of Israel within God’s prophetic plan.

But within the Church—the Body of Christ—there is complete unity.

This was not revealed in prophecy.

It is part of the mystery.

A Heavenly Position

Believers in this dispensation are given a position that is described in entirely new terms.

Ephesians 2:6

“...and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

This is not an earthly kingdom promise.

It reflects a heavenly identity and calling.

While Israel’s hope is centered on a kingdom on earth, the Church’s position is described as being **in Christ, in heavenly places**.

Why Grace Matters Now

Understanding that we are living in the dispensation of grace answers many practical questions.

Why are believers not under the Law?

Why is salvation offered freely to all nations?

Why is the emphasis on faith rather than works?

Why is there unity across all people in Christ?

Because this is how God is working **right now**.

This is the current phase of His plan.

What This Does Not Mean

It is important to understand what this realization does not mean.

It does not mean that the Law was wrong.

It does not mean that Israel's promises are canceled.

It does not mean that other parts of the Bible are irrelevant.

It means that those things belong to **other parts of God's plan**.

They are still true.

They are still important.

But they are not the direct administration under which we live today.

The Clarity of the Present

For many readers, this is the moment where everything settles into place.

The Bible is no longer approached with uncertainty about which instructions apply.

The present becomes clear.

We are living in:

- the dispensation of grace
- the time of the mystery revealed through Paul
- the formation of the Body of Christ

This provides a stable foundation for understanding scripture.

The Sixth Breakthrough

This realization marks the sixth major “aha” moment.

It answers the question:

Where am I in the Bible?

And once that question is answered, everything else begins to align around it.

The reader is no longer trying to apply every passage directly to the present.

Instead, they are able to:

- recognize where each passage belongs
- understand its purpose within the plan
- apply it appropriately

Living in the Right Place

Understanding the dispensation of grace is not just about interpretation.

It is about living with clarity.

It allows the believer to stand firmly in what God is doing now, without confusion or contradiction.

And it brings the journey full circle:

From confusion...

to structure...

to clarity.

Because once you know where you are in the Bible,
you can finally understand how the whole of it fits together.

We are living in the dispensation of grace.

And with that understanding, the Bible no longer feels distant or fragmented.

It becomes immediate, ordered, and clear—
revealing exactly where we stand within the unfolding plan of God.

Chapter 10

Aha Moment #7 — Prophecy Will Resume

By this point, the structure of the Bible has come into clear focus.

We have seen the prophetic program revealed since the world began.

We have seen the mystery revealed through the apostle Paul.

We have seen that we are living in the present dispensation of grace.

This leads to the next and final realization in this series:

What happened to prophecy?

Did it end?

Was it fulfilled spiritually?

Or is something still yet to come?

The answer, when seen clearly, is both simple and profound:

Prophecy has not been canceled.

It has been paused—and it will resume.

The Prophetic Program Was Not Completed

From Genesis through the Gospels, the Bible consistently points toward a coming kingdom.

The prophets spoke of:

- Israel's restoration
- A reigning Messiah
- A kingdom on earth
- Peace among the nations

These promises were not vague. They were specific, repeated, and central to God's dealings with Israel.

Yet when we look at the world today, it is clear:

Those promises have not yet been fulfilled.

Israel has not experienced the full restoration described by the prophets.

The Messiah is not presently reigning on David's throne on earth.

The nations are not living in the peace described in prophecy.

This raises an important question:

If prophecy has not been fulfilled, what happened to it?

A Pause in the Timeline

The answer becomes clear when we recognize the introduction of the mystery.

When God revealed the mystery to Paul, He did not cancel prophecy.

He introduced something that had been **hidden from it**.

This created a pause—a temporary interruption—in the prophetic timeline.

The prophetic program, which had been moving forward steadily, was set aside for a time while God carried out the dispensation of grace.

Paul alludes to this shift:

Romans 11:25

“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.”

The word “**until**” is critical.

It indicates that the current condition is temporary.

The Certainty of Fulfillment

Because prophecy was spoken by God, it must be fulfilled.

Isaiah 55:11

“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

Every promise made to Israel still stands.

Every prophecy spoken will come to pass.

The pause does not weaken prophecy—it preserves it until the proper time.

Where Prophecy Picks Up Again

The Bible makes clear that prophecy will resume after the present dispensation of grace.

The book of Revelation describes events that align directly with Old Testament prophecy:

- A time of tribulation
- The return of Christ
- The establishment of His kingdom

These are not new ideas.

They are the continuation and fulfillment of what was spoken **since the world began**.

The Return to Israel's Program

When prophecy resumes, God's focus will once again center on Israel.

The promises made to that nation will move toward fulfillment.

The kingdom will be established.

The Messiah will reign.

The covenants will be completed.

This does not diminish what God is doing today.

It simply means that His plan includes **both a present phase and a future continuation**.

Why This Matters Now

Understanding that prophecy will resume brings clarity to several important questions.

Why are there so many unfulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament?

Why does the world not yet reflect the kingdom described in scripture?

Why does Revelation describe events that have not yet occurred?

Because the prophetic program is not finished.

It is paused—and it will continue.

The Relationship Between Mystery and Prophecy

At first glance, the mystery and prophecy can seem disconnected.

But they are not.

They are two parts of the same plan, revealed at different times.

- Prophecy reveals what God would do through Israel on the earth
- The mystery reveals what God is doing through the Church in heavenly places
- The future will bring both into their final fulfillment in Christ

This is not disorder.

It is design.

The Final “Aha” Moment

For many readers, this realization completes the picture.

The Bible is no longer seen as unfinished or confusing.

It is understood as a plan that includes:

- what has been revealed
- what is happening now
- what is still to come

The apparent gaps in prophecy are no longer troubling.

They are understood as part of a deliberate pause within God’s timing.

The Full View of Scripture

When all of these truths are brought together, the Bible can finally be seen in its entirety:

- A prophetic program revealed since the world began
- A mystery program revealed through Paul
- A future fulfillment where prophecy resumes and is completed

Every part fits.

Every promise stands.

Every phase has its place.

Looking Forward with Clarity

Understanding that prophecy will resume does more than explain the future.

It completes the structure of the Bible.

It shows that nothing has been lost.

Nothing has been forgotten.

Nothing has been left unfinished.

God’s plan is moving forward exactly as intended.

And what has been spoken will come to pass.

Prophecy will resume.

And when it does, it will confirm what the Bible has revealed all along:

That every part of God's Word is true, ordered, and perfectly aligned within His eternal plan.

Part III — Three Passages That Make the Distinction Unmistakable

Chapter 11

The Twelve Sent to Israel — Paul Sent to the Gentiles

By the time the reader reaches this point, the structure of the Bible is no longer abstract—it is visible.

We have seen the distinction between Israel and the Church.

We have seen the prophetic program and the mystery program.

We have seen that not every passage applies directly in the same way.

Now we come to one of the clearest, most unmistakable contrasts in all of scripture:

The Twelve apostles were sent to Israel.

The apostle Paul was sent to the Gentiles.

This is not a subtle difference.

It is stated directly in the Bible.

And once it is seen, it becomes impossible to ignore.

The Commission of the Twelve

During His earthly ministry, Jesus chose twelve apostles.

These men were not randomly selected.

They were appointed within the context of Israel's prophetic program.

Jesus gave them specific instructions:

Matthew 10:5–6

“These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles... but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

This instruction is clear.

They were not to go to the Gentiles.
They were sent specifically to Israel.

Their message matched that mission:

Matthew 10:7

“And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

This was the same kingdom message proclaimed by John the Baptist and by Jesus Himself.

Everything about their commission is consistent with the prophetic program:

- The audience: Israel
 - The message: the kingdom
 - The context: fulfillment of prophecy
-

The Future Role of the Twelve

Jesus also told the twelve apostles that they would have a specific role in the coming kingdom:

Matthew 19:28

“...ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

This promise is significant.

It ties the twelve directly to Israel—not to a generalized global church, but to the twelve tribes.

Their ministry, both present and future, is connected to that nation.

A Different Apostle Appears

After the Gospels and into the book of Acts, something unexpected happens.

A new apostle is introduced:

Paul.

But Paul’s calling is not the same as the twelve.

He describes it in his own words:

Romans 11:13

“I am the apostle of the Gentiles...”

This is a direct contrast.

The twelve were sent to Israel.
Paul is sent to the Gentiles.

A Distinct Commission

Paul's commission is not only different in audience—it is different in origin.

Galatians 1:11–12

“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Paul did not receive his message from the twelve.

He received it directly by revelation.

This aligns with what we have already seen:

The mystery was revealed specifically to Paul.

Recognized Distinction

This difference between Peter (representing the twelve) and Paul is not implied—it is explicitly acknowledged.

Galatians 2:7–8

“But contrariwise, when they saw that the **gospel of the uncircumcision** was committed unto me, as the **gospel of the circumcision** was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)”

Here we see two distinct ministries:

- Peter and the twelve: to the **circumcision** (Israel)
- Paul: to the **uncircumcision** (the Gentiles)

This is not a disagreement.

It is a division of responsibility within God's plan.

Two Messages, One Plan

At first, this distinction may seem like a conflict.

Why would God have different apostles with different audiences?

But when understood within the framework we have developed, the answer becomes clear:

These are **two parts of one unified plan**.

- The twelve continue within the prophetic program centered on Israel
- Paul carries the revelation of the mystery to the Gentiles

Both are true.

Both are necessary.

Both are placed exactly where they belong.

Why This Matters

This distinction explains many of the differences readers encounter in the New Testament.

Why do the teachings of the twelve emphasize the kingdom and Israel?

Why do Paul's letters focus on the Body of Christ and unity among all nations?

Why do some passages appear to operate under different expectations?

Because they are addressing **different audiences within different programs**.

The Passage That Makes It Clear

When these verses are placed side by side, the distinction becomes unmistakable:

- The twelve sent only to Israel
- Paul sent to the Gentiles
- Two commissions, clearly defined

This is not interpretation.

It is direct statement.

The Resulting Clarity

For many readers, this is one of the most decisive moments in understanding the Bible.

It confirms everything that has been building:

The Bible is structured.

The distinctions are intentional.

The differences are meaningful.

What once appeared confusing is now precise.

One Plan, Perfectly Ordered

God did not create confusion by sending different apostles with different missions.

He revealed order.

Each apostle had a role.

Each message had a place.

Each audience had a purpose.

And when those are recognized, the Bible reads not as a contradiction—
but as a **perfectly ordered revelation**.

The Distinction Made Unmistakable

This is why this passage stands as one of the clearest in all of scripture.

It does not require interpretation.

It does not depend on inference.

It simply states the truth:

The twelve were sent to Israel.

Paul was sent to the Gentiles.

And with that, another layer of understanding locks into place—

bringing the reader one step closer to seeing the Bible as a complete, unified, and perfectly structured whole.

Chapter 12

The Mystery Hidden Since the World Began

At this stage, the structure of the Bible is no longer theoretical—it is demonstrable.

We have seen the distinction between Israel and the Church.

We have seen two different commissions.

We have seen the prophetic program and the mystery program.

Now we come to the passage that anchors it all:

The mystery was hidden since the world began.

This is not a minor statement.

It is one of the most important declarations in all of scripture.

And once it is understood, it makes the distinction between prophecy and mystery unmistakable.

The Defining Verse

Paul writes:

Romans 16:25

“Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.”

Every word of this matters.

- **Revelation** — something now made known
- **Mystery** — something previously hidden
- **Kept secret** — not revealed before
- **Since the world began** — throughout all prior scripture

This means that the mystery was not present in the Old Testament in any revealed form.

It was not partially explained.

It was not hidden in symbols to be decoded.

It was **kept secret**.

In Contrast to Prophecy

This stands in direct contrast to prophecy.

Prophecy is described as something that has been spoken openly:

Luke 1:70

“As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began.”

Notice the difference:

- Prophecy: **spoken since the world began**
- Mystery: **kept secret since the world began**

These are opposites.

Prophecy was revealed.

The mystery was concealed.

Prophecy was known.

The mystery was hidden.

This distinction alone explains why the mystery cannot be found in the prophetic writings.

Not Hidden in Plain Sight

A common assumption is that the mystery was present in the Old Testament, but simply not understood.

But that is not what scripture says.

It does not say the mystery was misunderstood.

It says it was **not made known**.

Ephesians 3:5

“Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men...”

This is a clear statement.

The mystery was not revealed in earlier times—not even partially.

It was intentionally withheld.

Why This Matters

This truth has enormous implications.

If the mystery was truly hidden, then it cannot be read back into earlier scripture.

It cannot be found in:

- the Law
- the prophets
- the Psalms
- the **teachings of Jesus** during His earthly ministry

Those passages belong to the prophetic program.

The mystery belongs to a different revelation, given at a different time.

What Was Hidden

So what exactly was kept secret?

Paul summarizes it clearly:

Colossians 1:27

“...Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

And more fully:

Ephesians 3:6

“That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body...”

This is the heart of the mystery:

- Jews and Gentiles united in one (spiritual) body
- Equal standing in Christ
- A new identity not tied to Israel’s covenants

This was not foretold in prophecy.

It was something entirely new.

The Timing of the Revelation

The mystery was not revealed gradually.

It was revealed at a specific moment, to a specific apostle.

Ephesians 3:3

“...by revelation he made known unto me the mystery...”

That apostle was Paul.

This aligns perfectly with what we have already seen:

- The twelve were sent to Israel
 - Paul was sent to the Gentiles
 - Paul received a new revelation
-

The Precision of God’s Plan

The fact that the mystery was hidden is not accidental.

It demonstrates the precision of God's plan.

Everything unfolds exactly when it is intended to unfold.

Nothing is revealed too early.

Nothing is revealed too late.

Even the concealment of the mystery serves a purpose.

1 Corinthians 2:8

“Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

The timing of the revelation was essential.

The Passage That Makes the Distinction Clear

When Romans 16:25 and Luke 1:70 are placed side by side, the distinction becomes unmistakable:

- Prophecy: spoken since the world began
- Mystery: kept secret since the world began

This is not interpretation.

It is direct statement.

The Resulting Clarity

For many readers, this is one of the most decisive moments in understanding the Bible.

It confirms that:

- Not everything in the Bible was revealed at the same time
- Some truths were intentionally hidden
- The present dispensation is built on that later revelation

The confusion that comes from trying to blend prophecy and mystery begins to disappear.

The Mystery Now Revealed

What was once hidden is now fully revealed.

It is no longer secret.

It is no longer concealed.

It is written clearly in the letters of Paul.

And it stands as the defining feature of the present age.

The Structure Fully Visible

With this final piece in place, the structure of the Bible becomes unmistakable:

- Prophecy revealed since the world began
- Mystery hidden since the world began, now revealed
- Fulfillment yet to come

Every part fits.

Every distinction holds.

Every passage has its place.

The Unmistakable Conclusion

This chapter brings the distinction into sharp focus.

The mystery was not always known.

It was not always available.

It was not always revealed.

It was hidden—by design.

And now that it has been revealed, the Bible can be read with clarity that was not possible before.

The mystery, once hidden since the world began, now stands as one of the clearest keys to understanding the entire Word of God.

Chapter 13

Jews, Gentiles, and the Church of God

At this point in the journey, the structure of the Bible has been revealed from multiple angles.

We have seen two programs.

We have seen two distinct apostleships.

We have seen the difference between prophecy and mystery.

Now we come to one of the simplest—and most powerful—statements in all of scripture:

1 Corinthians 10:32

“Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.”

In a single verse, Paul identifies **three distinct groups**.

Not two.

Not one.

But three.

And this distinction brings everything we have studied into sharp, unmistakable focus.

The Threefold Division

Paul’s statement divides humanity, from a biblical perspective, into three categories:

1. **The Jews**
2. **The Gentiles**
3. **The Church of God**

This is not a cultural observation.

It is a doctrinal framework.

And it provides one of the clearest ways to rightly divide the word of truth.

The Jews

The Jews are the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the nation of Israel.

They are the people to whom God gave:

- the covenants
- the Law
- the promises
- the prophets

Romans 9:4

“Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants...”

Throughout the Old Testament, God’s dealings with humanity are centered on this nation.

The prophetic program is largely focused on them:

- their calling
- their failure
- their future restoration

They are not simply one nation among many.

They are a **chosen nation within God’s plan**.

The Gentiles

The Gentiles are all nations outside of Israel.

In the Old Testament, they are largely separate from the covenant promises given to Israel.

They could be blessed through Israel—but they were not the central focus of God’s dealings.

Paul describes their former position:

Ephesians 2:12

“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.”

This does not mean they were without hope entirely, but their relationship to God was not the same as Israel’s.

They were distinct.

The Church of God

Then we come to the third group:

The Church of God.

This is neither Israel nor the Gentile nations.

It is something new.

Paul describes it as a body:

1 Corinthians 12:13

“For by **one Spirit** are we all baptized into **one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into **one Spirit**.”

Here, the distinction between Jew and Gentile is removed—not by eliminating their identity, but by forming something new:

a unified body in Christ.

This is **the Church—the Body of Christ**—revealed as part of the mystery.

Not Two Groups, But Three

Many systems of interpretation divide humanity into two categories:

- Israel and the Church
or
- Believers and unbelievers

But Paul’s statement introduces a third category that must be accounted for:

Jews, Gentiles, and the Church of God.

This means:

- The Church is not simply Israel
 - The Church is not simply the Gentiles
 - The Church is a distinct entity
-

Why This Distinction Matters

This threefold division clarifies how different parts of the Bible should be understood.

When reading a passage, one of the most important questions becomes:

Which group is being addressed?

- Is the passage directed to Israel?
- Is it describing the nations?
- Or is it instruction for the Church, the Body of Christ?

When this question is asked consistently, confusion begins to disappear.

Examples of Clarity

When this distinction is applied, many passages fall into place.

Commands given under the Law are understood as directed to Israel.

Prophecies concerning land and kingdom are recognized as belonging to Israel's future.

Instructions in **Paul's letters** are understood as directed **to the Church**.

Each passage retains its full meaning—without being forced into the wrong category.

Unity Without Confusion

This distinction does not divide the Bible.

It preserves its unity.

Each group has a role.

Each role fits within the larger plan.

Each part contributes to the whole.

God is not the author of confusion.

He is the author of order.

The Final Alignment

By this point, the pieces align completely.

- Israel belongs to the prophetic program
- The Gentiles are the nations outside that covenant
- The Church is the body revealed through the mystery

These are not interchangeable terms.

They are distinct, defined, and intentionally revealed.

The Simplicity of the Truth

What makes this realization so powerful is its simplicity.

It does not require complex interpretation.

It does not depend on theological systems.

It comes directly from the text:

“Neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.”

Three groups.

Clearly stated.

The Structure Made Visible

With this final distinction, the structure of the Bible becomes unmistakable.

Every passage has a place.

Every instruction has an audience.

Every promise has a recipient.

The confusion that once came from blending these categories is replaced with clarity that comes from recognizing them.

The Unmistakable Framework

This is one of the clearest frameworks in all of scripture.

Not complicated.

Not hidden.

But plainly stated.

Jews.

Gentiles.

The Church of God.

And with that framework in place, the reader is equipped to see the Bible as it was written—
ordered, structured, and perfectly clear.

Chapter 14

From Creation to the Kingdom Offer

To understand the Bible, it is not enough to know individual verses.

We must see the **flow of God’s plan through time.**

When the events of scripture are placed in order, a pattern emerges—clear, consistent, and intentional.

This chapter walks through that pattern from the beginning:

From creation... to the moment the kingdom is offered to Israel.

The Beginning: Creation

The Bible opens with a simple but profound statement:

Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

From the very first verse, two realms are established:

- **Heaven**
- **Earth**

This distinction will remain throughout scripture and becomes foundational to understanding God’s plan.

God creates man and places him on the earth, giving him dominion:

Genesis 1:26

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

From the beginning, man is connected to the **earthly realm**.

The Fall and Its Consequences

Very quickly, the original order is disrupted.

Adam sins, and with that act, sin and death enter the world:

Romans 5:12

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

From this point forward, humanity is no longer in harmony with God.

The need for redemption is introduced.

Early Humanity and Judgment

As generations pass, corruption spreads.

Genesis 6:5

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

God responds with judgment through the flood.

Afterward, humanity again spreads across the earth, but rebellion continues, culminating in events like the tower of Babel.

The Call of Abraham

A major shift occurs in Genesis 12.

God calls one man:

Abraham.

Genesis 12:2–3

“And I will make of thee a great nation... and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

From this point forward, God’s plan becomes centered on a specific nation:

Israel.

This is the beginning of the **prophetic program** in a structured, national form.

The Formation of Israel

Through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the nation begins to take shape.

Jacob’s descendants become the twelve tribes of Israel.

God delivers them from Egypt and establishes them as a nation under His authority.

The Giving of the Law

At Mount Sinai, God gives Israel the Law through Moses:

Exodus 19:5–6

“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. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”

Israel is set apart.

They are not just a nation—they are meant to be a **kingdom of priests**, representing God to the world.

The Law governs their relationship with God and defines their national identity.

The Prophetic Expectation

From this point forward, the prophets speak of a coming kingdom.

They foretell:

- a coming King
- a restored Israel
- a reign of righteousness on earth

Isaiah 9:6–7

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, **upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom**, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

This kingdom is not vague or symbolic.

It is an **earthly kingdom**, centered in Israel, ruled by the Messiah.

Israel’s Struggle

Despite their calling, Israel repeatedly fails.

They turn away from God, face judgment, and are eventually scattered.

Yet the promise of the kingdom remains.

The prophets continue to point forward.

The Arrival of the Messiah

Then, at the appointed time, Jesus appears.

His message is direct and unmistakable:

Matthew 4:17

“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

This is not a new message.

It is the fulfillment of everything the prophets had spoken.

The kingdom is being offered.

The Ministry of Jesus

During His earthly ministry, Jesus operates entirely within the context of Israel.

Matthew 15:24

“I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

He teaches, heals, and performs miracles—all confirming His identity as Israel’s Messiah.

He sends out the twelve with the same focus:

Matthew 10:6–7

“...go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel... The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Everything is aligned with the prophetic program.

The Kingdom Offered

At this point in the timeline, the situation is clear:

- The Messiah has come
- The kingdom has been announced
- Israel has been given the opportunity to receive it

This is the moment toward which the entire Old Testament has been pointing.

A Critical Turning Point

But this moment also introduces a tension.

Not all Israel does as we might expect and accept Christ & the kingdom. (plot twist)

Opposition grows.
Rejection increases.

The offer of the kingdom stands—but acceptance is not universal.

This sets the stage for the next phase of God’s plan.

The Importance of This Timeline

Understanding this portion of the timeline is essential.

It establishes:

- The foundation of the prophetic program
- The role of Israel
- The nature of the kingdom
- The context of Jesus’ earthly ministry (during His first coming)

Without this framework, the rest of the Bible becomes difficult to interpret correctly.

The Structure Begins to Emerge

When viewed in order, the progression is clear:

1. Creation
2. The fall
3. Early humanity
4. The call of Abraham
5. The formation of Israel
6. The giving of the Law
7. The prophetic promises
8. The arrival of the Messiah
9. The offer of the kingdom

Each step builds on the one before it.

Nothing is random.

Nothing is out of place.

The Unmistakable Flow

This is the first major segment of God's plan.

It moves steadily from the beginning of creation to the moment the kingdom is offered to Israel.

And it does so with precision.

The Stage Is Set

At the end of this chapter, we arrive at a pivotal moment in history:

The kingdom has been offered.

What happens next will determine the course of the rest of the Bible.

And as we will see, it leads to a development that was not revealed in prophecy—

but was hidden until the appointed time.

Chapter 15

The Present Age of Grace

At the end of the previous chapter, we arrived at one of the most critical moments in all of scripture:

The kingdom had been offered to Israel.

The Messiah had come.

The message had been proclaimed.

The prophetic timeline had reached its long-awaited fulfillment point.

And yet—

the kingdom was not established.

Instead, something unexpected occurred. (plot twist)

Something not spoken by the prophets.

Something not revealed since the world began.

A new phase in God's plan began:

The present age of grace.

A Sudden Shift in the Timeline

If the prophetic program had continued uninterrupted, the kingdom would have followed the coming of the Messiah.

But the timeline does not proceed as we might have expected.

Instead, there is a pause—a break in the prophetic sequence.

This is not a failure of God’s plan.

It is the unfolding of a hidden part of that plan.

The Rejection of the Kingdom

The Gospels and early Acts show increasing rejection of Jesus as Messiah.

This rejection culminates in His crucifixion.

Yet even after the resurrection, the offer to Israel continues.

Acts 3:19–21

“**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 heaven 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.”

The kingdom is still being offered.

But Israel, as a nation, does not accept it.

The Turning Point

As the book of Acts progresses, a clear transition begins to take place.

Israel’s rejection becomes more pronounced.

And then, something entirely new is introduced:

A new apostle—Paul.

The Revelation of Grace

Paul is not simply another messenger within the existing system.

He is given a new revelation.

Ephesians 3:2

“...the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward.”

This marks the beginning of a new administration—a new way in which God is dealing with humanity.

This is not the continuation of the prophetic kingdom program.

This is the **dispensation of grace**.

What Defines This Age

This present age is defined by several key truths:

1. Salvation by Grace Through Faith

Ephesians 2:8–9

“For by grace are ye saved through faith... not of works...”

Unlike Israel under the Law, salvation is not based on works, ordinances, or covenant obedience.

It is entirely by grace.

2. No Distinction Between Jew and Gentile

Romans 10:12

“For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek...”

In this age, the dividing line between Jew and Gentile is removed within the Body of Christ.

3. A New Identity — The Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:13

“...baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles...”

Believers are not placed into Israel.

They are placed into something new:

the Body of Christ.

4. A Heavenly Calling

Philippians 3:20

“For our conversation is in heaven...”

This is distinct from Israel’s earthly kingdom promises.

The Church has a **heavenly position and destiny**.

The Mystery Fully Active

Everything about this age is rooted in the mystery that was once hidden.

- A new (spiritual) body
- A new identity
- A new administration
- A new calling

None of this was revealed in prophecy.

All of it was made known through Paul.

Not a Replacement, But a Parenthesis

It is important to understand:

The present age does not replace Israel.

It does not cancel the prophetic promises.

Instead, it functions as a **parenthesis** in the prophetic timeline.

The prophetic program is paused—not ended.

Why This Age Exists

This age demonstrates the depth of God’s grace.

It reveals:

- salvation apart from works
- spiritual unity across all nations
- a direct relationship with Christ

It is an unfolding of something that had been hidden—but always part of God’s plan.

The Duration of This Age

Unlike the prophetic timeline, which is marked by specific events, the present age is not defined by a set duration in prophecy.

It continues until a specific event occurs:

the catching away of the Church.

Living in This Present Age

This is the age we are currently in.

Understanding it changes how the Bible is read:

- Paul’s letters become central for doctrine
 - The distinction between Israel and the Church becomes clear
 - The confusion between Law and grace disappears
-

The Importance of Recognizing This Dispensation

Failure to recognize this age leads to confusion:

- Mixing Law and grace
- Misapplying promises
- Misunderstanding identity

But when it is recognized, everything aligns.

The Timeline Expanded

With this chapter, the timeline now includes:

1. Creation
2. The fall
3. The formation of Israel

4. The prophetic program
5. The offer of the kingdom
6. **The present age of grace**

This was the hidden portion—the part not revealed since the world began.

The Unmistakable Reality

We are not living in the kingdom.

We are not under the Law.

We are not in Israel's prophetic program.

We are living in:

The dispensation of the grace of God.

The Next Event

This age will not continue indefinitely.

It will conclude with a sudden event—

one not tied to prophecy, but to the mystery:

the catching away of the Body of Christ.

And when that happens, the prophetic program will resume.

The Structure Becomes Complete

With this chapter, the reader can now see the full framework:

- What was revealed
- What was hidden
- What is currently active

The Bible is no longer a collection of disconnected teachings.

It is a unified plan, unfolding exactly as intended.

The Present Moment

This is where we live.

Not in prophecy fulfilled.

Not in prophecy pending.

But in a period that was once hidden—

the present age of grace.

Chapter 16

The Future Program of God

At this point, the full structure of God's plan is nearly visible.

We have traced the timeline from creation...

to Israel...

to the offer of the kingdom...

to the present age of grace.

Now we turn to what lies ahead:

The future program of God.

This is not speculation.

It is not guesswork.

It is the continuation—and completion—of what has already been revealed.

The Return to Prophecy

One of the most important truths to understand is this:

The prophetic program has not been canceled.

It has been paused.

Everything spoken by the prophets still stands.

Every promise to Israel remains intact.

Every detail will be fulfilled.

When the present age of grace concludes, the prophetic timeline will resume exactly where it left off.

The Next Event: The Catching Away

The next major event is not found in prophecy.

It belongs to the mystery.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17

“...the Lord himself shall descend from heaven... then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds...”

This is often referred to as the **rapture**.

It is the moment when the Body of Christ is removed from the earth.

This event marks the end of the present dispensation of grace.

The Resumption of the Prophetic Timeline

With the Body of Christ removed, God’s dealings return to Israel and the nations.

The prophetic clock begins again.

What follows is a period of intense significance:

The Tribulation.

The Tribulation

This period is described throughout the prophets and in the book of Revelation.

It is a time of:

- judgment
- purification
- preparation

For Israel, it serves a specific purpose:

Jeremiah 30:7

“...it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble...”

This is not the Church’s program.

This is Israel’s prophetic program moving toward fulfillment.

The Purpose of the Tribulation

The tribulation accomplishes several things:

- It brings judgment upon the world
- It prepares Israel for restoration
- It leads to the recognition of Jesus as Messiah

It is a necessary phase in bringing the prophetic promises to completion.

The Second Coming of Christ

At the climax of this period, Jesus returns to the earth.

Revelation 19:11

“...behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True...”

This is not the same as the catching away.

This is Christ returning **to the earth**, not calling believers up to meet Him.

This event fulfills numerous prophecies concerning the Messiah’s return.

The Establishment of the Kingdom

Following His return, Christ establishes the long-promised kingdom.

Revelation 20:4

“...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

This is the fulfillment of what was spoken by the prophets:

- The throne of David established
- Israel restored
- Righteous rule on the earth

The kingdom that was offered in the Gospels is now established.

Israel Restored

At this point, Israel is no longer in unbelief.

They are restored, both spiritually and nationally.

Zechariah 12:10

“...they shall look upon me whom they have pierced...”

The promises given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are fulfilled.

Israel takes its place as the center of God’s earthly kingdom.

The Nations and the Kingdom

The Gentile nations are also part of this future program.

They are governed under Christ’s rule and are blessed through Israel.

This fulfills the original promise:

Genesis 12:3

“...in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

The Completion of God’s Plan

The future program brings together everything that has come before:

- The prophetic promises are fulfilled
- The mystery has accomplished its purpose
- Both heaven and earth are brought into alignment

Nothing is left incomplete.

Heaven and Earth United in Purpose

From the beginning, God created both heaven and earth.

Throughout scripture, His plan has involved both realms.

In the end, both are brought under His authority:

Ephesians 1:10

“...that he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth...”

This is the ultimate goal.

The Full Timeline Revealed

With this chapter, the complete structure is now visible:

1. Creation
2. The fall
3. Israel and the prophetic program
4. The offer of the kingdom
5. The present age of grace
6. The catching away of the Church
7. The tribulation
8. The second coming
9. The kingdom

Each stage flows into the next.

Each fulfills a purpose.

The Certainty of What Is to Come

The future program is not uncertain.

It is established in the same way that past events were established.

Just as creation occurred...

just as Israel was formed...

just as Christ came the first time...

So these future events will occur.

Why This Matters Now

Understanding the future clarifies the present.

It shows:

- where we are in the timeline
- what is yet to come

- how the Bible fits together

It removes confusion and replaces it with expectation.

The Unmistakable Conclusion

The Bible does not end in uncertainty.

It ends in fulfillment.

Every promise is kept.

Every prophecy is completed.

Every part of God's plan is brought to its intended conclusion.

The Final Perspective

When the future program is understood, the Bible is no longer a mystery of disconnected parts.

It becomes a complete and unified revelation:

- perfectly ordered
- perfectly timed
- perfectly fulfilled

From creation... to the kingdom... and beyond—

God's plan stands complete.

Part V — The Five Most Common Objections

Chapter 17

Objection #1 — “All Scripture Applies to Us the Same Way”

As the distinctions in the Bible begin to come into focus, one objection surfaces more than any other:

“All scripture applies to us the same way.”

At first glance, this sounds reasonable—even faithful.

After all, the Bible is one book.
It is inspired by God.
It is true from beginning to end.

So how could any part of it not apply equally?

The answer requires precision.

Because while all scripture is **true and profitable**, it is not all **directly addressed to the same people in the same way**.

The Verse Most Often Quoted

This objection is usually grounded in one well-known passage:

2 Timothy 3:16

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

This verse is absolutely true.

Every word of scripture is inspired.
Every part is profitable.

But notice what the verse says—and what it does not say.

It says all scripture is **profitable**.
It does not say all scripture is **applied identically**.

Profitable vs. Directly Addressed

This is the key distinction.

All scripture is for us.
But not all scripture is **to us**.

For example:

- The Law given to Israel is profitable—it teaches God’s holiness
- The promises to Abraham are profitable—they reveal God’s faithfulness
- The kingdom teachings of Jesus are profitable—they show God’s plan

But none of those are directly addressed to the Body of Christ as its **doctrinal instruction**.

A Simple Illustration

Consider this:

God commanded Noah to build an ark.

Genesis 6:14

“Make thee an ark of gopher wood...”

That command is true.

It is inspired.

It is profitable.

But it is not a command to us today.

No one reading that verse believes they are required to build an ark.

Why?

Because we instinctively recognize that it was spoken to a specific person at a specific time.

The Same Principle Applies Everywhere

What is obvious in Genesis becomes less obvious elsewhere.

But the principle does not change.

God gave different instructions at different times:

- To Adam
- To Noah
- To Abraham
- To Israel under the Law
- To the apostles during the kingdom offer
- To Paul for the Body of Christ

Each set of instructions is true.

But each is **contextual**.

Scripture Itself Commands Right Division

This is not a man-made idea.

It is commanded in scripture:

2 Timothy 2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God... rightly dividing the word of truth.”

If all scripture applied the same way, there would be no need to divide it.

But the command exists because distinctions exist.

The Problem with Ignoring This

When all scripture is treated as applying the same way, confusion follows:

- Law and grace become mixed
- Israel’s promises are applied to the Church
- Kingdom instructions are treated as present doctrine

This leads to contradictions that are not actually in the Bible—but are created by misapplication.

Real-World Examples

Consider just a few examples:

- Jesus tells a rich man to sell everything he has (Luke 18:22)
- The Law requires sacrifices and dietary restrictions
- Israel is promised land and a throne

If all scripture applies the same way, then all of these must apply equally today.

But they clearly do not.

The Bible Already Distinguishes

We have already seen:

- The twelve were sent to Israel
- Paul was sent to the Gentiles
- The mystery was hidden, then revealed
- There are Jews, Gentiles, and the Church of God

These distinctions prove that not all instruction is directed to the same audience.

Unity Without Uniformity

Recognizing this does not divide the Bible.

It preserves its unity.

Each part of scripture fits into its proper place.

Each instruction applies exactly where it was intended to apply.

The result is not confusion—but clarity.

The Correct Understanding

The correct statement is not:

“All scripture applies to us the same way.”

The correct understanding is:

All scripture is true.

All scripture is profitable.

But not all scripture is directly written to us.

The Resulting Clarity

When this is understood, the Bible opens up in a new way.

Apparent contradictions disappear.

Difficult passages become clear.

The flow of God’s plan becomes visible.

The Unmistakable Conclusion

This objection is based on a misunderstanding of how scripture functions.

It confuses inspiration with application.

But when the distinction is restored, the truth becomes clear:

**God has spoken at different times, to different people, in different ways—
and each must be understood in its proper place.**

The Foundation for Everything That Follows

This is the first and most important objection to resolve.

Because until this is understood, the rest of the Bible will remain difficult to interpret.

But once it is seen, everything begins to align.

And the reader is finally able to approach scripture not as a confusing collection of commands—
but as a perfectly ordered revelation.

Chapter 18

Objection #2 — “You Are Dividing the Bible Too Much”

Once the distinctions in scripture begin to take shape, a second objection often follows:

“You are dividing the Bible too much.”

This concern usually comes from a sincere place.

The Bible is one book.

God is one.

Truth is unified.

So the idea of dividing scripture can feel uncomfortable—perhaps even dangerous.

But this objection misunderstands what is actually being done.

Because the goal is not to divide the Bible—

it is to recognize the divisions that are already there.

Division vs. Distinction

There is a difference between:

- **Dividing incorrectly**
- **Recognizing distinctions correctly**

To divide incorrectly is to force separation where none exists.

To rightly divide is to acknowledge the structure that God Himself has placed within His Word.

2 Timothy 2:15

“...rightly dividing the word of truth.”

The command is not to avoid division.

It is to divide **correctly**.

The Bible Is Already Divided

Before any interpretation begins, the Bible already contains divisions.

It is divided into:

- Old Testament and New Testament
- Law and grace
- Prophecy and mystery
- Israel and the Church

These are not artificial categories.

They are revealed in the text itself.

God Changes His Instructions

Throughout scripture, God gives different instructions at different times.

- Adam was told not to eat from a specific tree
- Noah was told to build an ark
- Israel was given the Law
- The apostles preached the kingdom
- Paul taught grace to all nations

If all of these are treated as identical instructions for today, confusion results.

But when they are recognized as distinct, clarity emerges.

A Practical Example

Consider the Law of Moses.

It contains:

- dietary laws
- sacrifices
- feast days
- civil regulations

Few would argue that all of these are practiced today.

Why?

Because even without formal teaching, most recognize that those instructions belonged to a specific time and people.

That recognition is a form of division.

The Real Question

The question is not:

“Should we divide the Bible?”

The real question is:

“Where has God already made distinctions, and are we recognizing them correctly?”

Too Much — or Not Enough?

Often, the issue is not that the Bible is being divided too much—
but that it has not been divided enough.

When distinctions are ignored:

- Israel and the Church are blended
- Law and grace are confused
- Prophecy and mystery are merged

This creates contradictions that the Bible itself does not contain.

The Balance of Scripture

The Bible presents both unity and distinction.

It is one story—yet it unfolds in stages.

It has one Author—yet multiple administrations.

It reveals one plan—yet different phases of that plan.

Recognizing distinctions does not destroy unity.

It reveals it.

The Example of Jesus

Even during His earthly ministry, Jesus recognized distinctions.

Matthew 15:24

“I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

He did not treat all audiences the same.

He operated within a defined scope.

Recognizing that distinction is not dividing too much—it is honoring what was said.

The Apostle Paul’s Clarity

Paul repeatedly identifies distinctions:

- Jew and Gentile
- circumcision and uncircumcision
- prophecy and mystery

These are not minor details.

They are central to understanding his message.

What Happens When We Resist Division

When people resist these distinctions, they often attempt to force unity where God has placed difference.

This leads to:

- inconsistent doctrine

- selective application of scripture
- confusion about identity and calling

In trying to preserve unity, clarity is lost.

The Proper Approach

The goal is not to divide for the sake of dividing.

The goal is to:

- recognize what God has revealed
- place each passage in its proper context
- allow each part of scripture to speak as intended

This produces harmony—not fragmentation.

The Result of Right Division

When the Bible is rightly divided:

- contradictions disappear
- timelines align
- audiences are clear
- doctrine becomes consistent

The result is not a broken Bible—
but a **perfectly structured one**.

The Unmistakable Conclusion

This objection is based on a misunderstanding of what division means.

Rightly dividing scripture does not tear it apart.

It reveals how it fits together.

The Correct Perspective

The truth is not that the Bible is being divided too much.

The truth is:

**God has already divided His Word by time, audience, and revelation—
and our responsibility is to recognize those divisions faithfully.**

The Foundation Strengthened

Once this is understood, the concern begins to fade.

What once felt like unnecessary division is seen as necessary clarity.

And the reader is able to move forward with confidence—

knowing that the goal is not to divide the Bible,

but to understand it exactly as it was given.

Chapter 19

Objection #3 — “Jesus’ Teachings Must Be Our Primary Instructions”

Among all objections, this one carries the greatest emotional weight:

“Jesus’ teachings must be our primary instructions.”

At first glance, it seems unquestionable.

Jesus is the Son of God.

He is the center of the Bible.

Surely His words must be the direct instruction for believers today.

But this objection, while sincere, overlooks something critical:

Jesus’ earthly ministry had a specific audience and purpose.

And understanding that purpose is essential to understanding how His teachings apply today.

The Central Question

The issue is not whether Jesus' words are true.

They are absolutely true.

The issue is:

To whom were those words spoken, and in what context?

Jesus Defines His Own Mission

Jesus Himself makes this clear:

Matthew 15:24

“I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

This is a direct statement.

His earthly ministry was focused on Israel.

He was operating within the prophetic program—the same program we traced from the Old Testament.

The Message He Preached

Jesus' primary message was:

Matthew 4:17

“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

This is the kingdom message.

It is the fulfillment of prophecy—the long-promised earthly kingdom offered to Israel.

Instructions Given in That Context

Many of Jesus' teachings reflect that context.

For example:

Matthew 5:40–42

“...if any man will sue thee at the law... give to him that asketh thee...”

Matthew 19:21

“...sell that thou hast, and give to the poor...”

Matthew 6:10

“Thy kingdom come...”

These instructions are tied to the expectation of the coming kingdom.

They are not random moral sayings—they are part of a specific program.

A Key Observation

If Jesus’ earthly teachings are our direct primary instructions in every detail, then consistency would require:

- selling all possessions
- praying for the immediate coming of the kingdom
- living under kingdom conditions

Yet most who hold this objection do not apply these teachings in that way.

This reveals an inconsistency—not in scripture, but in interpretation.

The Importance of Timing

Jesus’ earthly ministry occurred **before the cross**.

This is crucial.

The mystery had not yet been revealed.

The Body of Christ had not yet been formed.

The dispensation of grace had not yet begun.

His teachings belong within that timeline.

The Cross Changes Everything

After the cross, a new phase begins.

And with it, new instruction is given.

This instruction comes through the apostle Paul.

Galatians 1:11–12

“...the gospel which was preached of me... I neither received it of man... but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Paul’s message is still from Jesus—

but it is given **after the cross**, through revelation.

Not Replacing Jesus — Receiving Him Fully

This is not about setting Jesus aside.

It is about recognizing **how He chose to reveal His will** at different times.

- Jesus on earth spoke within the prophetic program
- The risen Christ revealed the mystery to Paul

Both are Christ.

Both are true.

But they are directed differently.

Jesus Speaks Through Paul

Paul’s writings are not separate from Christ.

They are Christ speaking from His exalted position.

2 Corinthians 13:3

“...Christ speaking in me...”

This means that following Paul’s instruction is not turning away from Jesus—

it is following Jesus **as He now speaks** in this present age.

The Harmony of Scripture

When this is understood, the teachings of Jesus and Paul no longer appear to conflict.

They align perfectly:

- Jesus' earthly teachings → Israel and the kingdom program
- Paul's teachings → the Body of Christ and the age of grace

Each fits into its proper place.

Why This Objection Persists

This objection often persists because:

- Jesus' words are deeply valued (as they should be)
- The distinction between programs is not recognized
- The timeline of revelation is not fully understood

But once these are seen, the tension disappears.

The Correct Understanding

The correct perspective is not:

“Jesus' earthly teachings are our primary instruction in every detail.”

The correct understanding is:

Jesus' earthly teachings were directed to Israel within the kingdom program, and the risen Christ now provides direct instruction for the Church through Paul.

The Resulting Clarity

When this is understood:

- The Gospels are read in their proper context
- **Paul's letters** become clear as **direct doctrine**

- The unity of Christ's message is preserved

Nothing is lost.
Everything is clarified.

The Unmistakable Conclusion

This objection is rooted in reverence—but corrected by understanding.

Jesus' words are central.
They are authoritative.
They are essential.

But they must be understood **where they belong in God's plan.**

The Final Perspective

Jesus did not leave us without instruction for today.

He provided it—through revelation, through Paul, and through the mystery.

And when that is recognized, the believer is no longer forced to choose between the words of Jesus and the writings of Paul—

because they are seen for what they are:

perfectly aligned, perfectly placed, and perfectly revealed within the plan of God.

Chapter 20

Objection #4 — “Paul Cannot Be Different From the Other Apostles”

As the distinctions in scripture become clearer, another objection often arises:

“Paul cannot be different from the other apostles.”

This concern is understandable.

All the apostles were chosen by Christ.

All preached truth.

All are part of the New Testament.

So how could one apostle—Paul—have a message or role that is different?

The answer is found not in speculation, but in scripture itself.

Because the Bible does not hide this difference—

it states it plainly.

The Assumption Behind the Objection

This objection is built on an assumption:

That all apostles must have identical roles, identical messages, and identical audiences.

But this assumption is not supported by scripture.

In fact, the Bible shows that God often assigns **different roles to different individuals**, even within the same plan.

Paul's Unique Calling

Paul identifies his role directly:

Romans 11:13

“...I am the apostle of the Gentiles...”

This is not a general statement.

It is a specific designation.

Paul is not merely one apostle among many doing the same work.

He has a distinct apostleship.

A Different Gospel Commitment

This distinction is confirmed in a key passage:

Galatians 2:7–8

“...the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter... the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles.”

Here we see two clearly defined ministries:

- Peter and the twelve → to the **circumcision** (Israel)
- Paul → to the **uncircumcision** (Gentiles)

This is not conflict.

It is division of responsibility.

Recognized by the Apostles Themselves

This distinction was not disputed—it was acknowledged.

Galatians 2:9

“...they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.”

The leaders among the apostles recognized:

- Paul’s mission
- His authority
- His distinct role

This was not a later development—it was established early.

Paul’s Message by Revelation

Paul also explains that his message was not received from the other apostles:

Galatians 1:11–12

“...the gospel which was preached of me... I neither received it of man... but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

This is a crucial point.

Paul did not learn his doctrine from Peter or the twelve.

He received it directly from the risen Christ.

The Mystery Entrusted to Paul

We have already seen that the mystery was revealed specifically to Paul.

Ephesians 3:3

“...by revelation he made known unto me the mystery...”

This further confirms that Paul’s role is not identical to the others.

He was entrusted with something previously hidden.

Different Does Not Mean Contradictory

At this point, an important clarification must be made:

Different does not mean contradictory.

Paul’s message does not oppose the twelve.

It complements the overall plan.

- The twelve continue within the prophetic program
- Paul introduces the mystery program

Both come from the same God.

Both are true.

Both are necessary.

The Pattern Throughout Scripture

God frequently works through different individuals in different ways:

- Moses was given the Law
- The prophets spoke of the kingdom
- John the Baptist announced its arrival
- Jesus offered it
- Paul revealed the mystery

Each had a unique role.

Paul’s distinct role fits this pattern perfectly.

Why This Objection Persists

This objection often arises because:

- Unity is assumed to require sameness
- Differences are seen as potential contradiction
- The structure of God's plan is not fully recognized

But unity in scripture does not come from identical roles—it comes from **perfect coordination within a single plan.**

The Evidence Is Direct

The distinction between Paul and the other apostles is not subtle.

It is stated directly:

- Different audiences
- Different commissions
- Different revelations

This is not interpretation.

It is declaration.

What Happens When This Is Denied

When this distinction is rejected, several problems arise:

- Paul's writings are forced into the framework of Israel's program
- The mystery is minimized or misunderstood
- Apparent contradictions begin to appear

The clarity that comes from recognizing the distinction is lost.

The Correct Understanding

The correct conclusion is not:

“Paul is the same as the other apostles in every respect.”

The correct understanding is:

Paul was given a distinct apostleship, a distinct audience, and a distinct revelation—all within the unified plan of God.

The Resulting Clarity

When this is accepted:

- Paul's letters become clear and central for the present age
 - The role of the twelve remains intact within Israel's program
 - The unity of scripture is preserved without confusion
-

The Unmistakable Conclusion

This objection is resolved not by argument, but by scripture itself.

The Bible clearly shows that Paul's role was different.

And that difference is essential to understanding the structure of God's plan.

The Final Perspective

Paul is not an exception to the unity of scripture.

He is a key part of it.

His distinct role does not divide the Bible—

it explains it.

And when that is recognized, the reader is able to see the Word of God not as a collection of competing voices—

but as a perfectly coordinated revelation,

in which each apostle speaks exactly where and how God intended.

Chapter 21

Objection #5 — “If This Were True Everyone Would Teach It”

After working through the structure of scripture, the distinctions between programs, and the clarity that results, one final objection often emerges:

“If this were true, everyone would teach it.”

This objection does not challenge a specific verse.

It does not dispute a particular passage.

Instead, it appeals to consensus.

If something is true, the reasoning goes, it should be widely accepted.

But this assumption, while intuitive, is not supported by scripture.

Truth Is Not Determined by Majority

The Bible repeatedly shows that truth is not established by how many people believe it.

In fact, the opposite is often the case.

Matthew 7:13–14

“...wide is the gate... and many there be which go in thereat... Because strait is the gate... and few there be that find it.”

According to Jesus, the majority is not the measure of truth.

The majority often follows the broad path—not the narrow one.

A Pattern Throughout Scripture

This pattern appears consistently:

- In Noah’s day, only a few believed
- In Elijah’s time, truth stood against the nation
- The prophets were often rejected by the people they were sent to
- Even Jesus Himself was rejected by many

Truth has rarely been the popular position.

The Apostles and Opposition

The early apostles did not preach widely accepted ideas.

They preached truth that was often resisted.

Acts 17:6

“...these that have turned the world upside down...”

Their message disrupted established thinking.

It was not immediately embraced by the majority.

Paul’s Own Experience

Paul’s message, in particular, faced misunderstanding and resistance.

2 Timothy 1:15

“...all they which are in Asia be turned away from me...”

Even in his own lifetime, many did not fully accept what he taught.

If the standard is universal acceptance, then even Paul’s teaching would be questioned.

The Nature of Progressive Revelation

Part of the reason this objection arises is because not all truth is revealed at once.

God reveals His plan in stages.

When new revelation is given, it is not always immediately recognized or understood by everyone.

This was true when:

- The Law was given
- The prophets spoke
- The Messiah came
- The mystery was revealed

Each time, understanding required recognition—not majority approval.

Tradition vs. Scripture

Another factor is the role of tradition.

Over time, teachings can become widely accepted not because they are fully aligned with scripture—but because they have been repeated.

This creates a powerful influence.

But scripture remains the standard.

Mark 7:13

“...making the word of God of none effect through your tradition...”

Truth must be measured by what is written—not by what is commonly taught.

The Real Question

The correct question is not:

“How many people teach this?”

The correct question is:

“What does scripture say?”

If the teaching aligns with the text, it stands—regardless of how widely it is accepted.

Why This Teaching Is Often Missed

The distinctions we have explored can be overlooked because:

- They require careful study
- They challenge long-held assumptions
- They are not always emphasized in traditional teaching

But difficulty or unfamiliarity does not determine truth.

Clarity Is Still Available

Even if something is not widely taught, it is still accessible.

The Bible remains:

- available
- readable
- consistent

The distinctions we have seen are not hidden in obscure passages.

They are found in clear statements:

- Different apostleships
 - Different audiences
 - Prophecy vs. mystery
 - Jew, Gentile, and the Church
-

Truth Recognized Individually

Understanding often begins individually.

A reader sees something in scripture.

They recognize a distinction.

They follow the text where it leads.

Truth is not validated by numbers—it is recognized by alignment with God's Word.

The Consistency Test

When this framework is applied, it produces consistency:

- The timeline aligns
- The doctrines no longer conflict
- The passages fit together

This consistency is not dependent on how many people accept it.

It is the result of correctly understanding the text.

The Unmistakable Conclusion

This objection is based on a false standard.

Truth is not determined by consensus.

It is determined by scripture.

The Final Perspective

If something is clearly taught in the Bible, it is true—whether widely accepted or not.

And if something is not widely taught, that does not make it false.

It simply means it must be examined carefully.

The Call to the Reader

This final objection brings the responsibility back to the reader.

Not to tradition.

Not to majority opinion.

But to the Word itself.

Search the scriptures.

Compare what is written.

Follow the truth where it leads.

The Closing Clarity

By this point, the reader has seen:

- The structure of the Bible
- The distinctions within it
- The timeline of God's plan
- The answers to the most common objections

What remains is not a question of popularity—

but of clarity.

And that clarity comes from one source alone:

the Word of God, rightly understood.

Conclusion

Seeing the Bible as One Unified Plan

At the beginning of this journey, the Bible may have appeared complex—

a collection of books, written across centuries, filled with different commands, promises, and instructions.

But now, having walked through its structure, something very different comes into view:

The Bible is not a collection of disconnected parts.

It is one unified plan.

And that plan is revealed with clarity when it is **rightly divided**.

The Harmony of Scripture

One of the greatest results of rightly dividing the word of truth is this:

The Bible comes into harmony.

What once appeared to conflict now aligns.

- Law and grace no longer compete
- Israel and the Church are no longer confused
- Prophecy and mystery no longer overlap improperly

Each passage fits exactly where it belongs.

Each instruction speaks to its intended audience.

Each part contributes to the whole.

The contradictions disappear—not because anything was removed, but because everything was placed correctly.

God's Purpose for Israel

Through this framework, Israel's role becomes clear and unmistakable.

Israel is:

- a chosen nation
- given covenants and promises
- destined for an earthly kingdom

From Abraham... to Moses... to the prophets... to the Gospels...

God's dealings with Israel follow a consistent and purposeful pattern.

The kingdom promised to them is real.
The restoration spoken of by the prophets is certain.
The fulfillment of those promises is still ahead.

Israel's program was not canceled.

It was paused.

And it will resume exactly as God declared.

God's Purpose for the Church

Alongside this, the Church—the Body of Christ—comes into full view.

This is not Israel continued.

This is not prophecy fulfilled.

This is something that was once hidden:

the mystery.

The Church is:

- a new body
- composed of Jew and Gentile without distinction
- saved by grace through faith
- given a heavenly calling

Revealed through Paul, this program operates in the present age.

It does not replace Israel.

It does not fulfill Israel's promises.

It exists as a distinct and intentional part of God's plan.

Two Programs, One Plan

At first, these distinctions may seem like separation.

But in reality, they reveal unity at a deeper level.

- Israel → earthly purpose
- The Church → heavenly purpose

Ephesians 1:10

“...that he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth...”

God’s plan has always included both realms.

What appears divided is actually coordinated.

What appears separate is actually unified.

Understanding the Bible from Beginning to End

With these distinctions in place, the entire Bible can now be read with clarity.

From Genesis to Revelation, the flow becomes visible:

- Creation establishes heaven and earth
- The fall introduces the need for redemption
- Israel is formed within the prophetic program
- The kingdom is promised and offered
- The mystery is revealed through Paul
- The present age of grace unfolds
- The future program completes what was spoken

Each stage builds on the last.

Each revelation comes at the appointed time.

Nothing is out of order.

The End of Confusion

Many of the struggles people experience when reading the Bible come from one source:

trying to apply everything the same way.

But once the distinctions are recognized:

- the difficult passages become clear
- the apparent contradictions disappear
- the message becomes consistent

The Bible does not need to be simplified.
It needs to be understood as it was written.

A Final Perspective

This understanding does not diminish scripture.
It magnifies it.

It reveals:

- the precision of God's plan
- the consistency of His Word
- the depth of His wisdom

What once seemed complex now appears ordered.
What once seemed confusing now becomes clear.

The Invitation

The purpose of this book has not been to introduce something new—
but to uncover what has always been there.

The invitation now is simple:

Return to the scriptures.
Read them carefully.
Recognize the distinctions.
Follow the structure.

Let the Bible speak for itself.

The Unmistakable Reality

When the word of truth is rightly divided, one truth stands above all:

God has revealed His plan clearly.

From beginning to end, the Bible is:

- unified

- structured
- purposeful

And fully understandable when approached as it was given.

The Final Word

The journey through scripture does not end here.

But it now proceeds with clarity.

No longer as a puzzle to solve—

but as a revelation to understand.

One Bible.

One plan.

Perfectly revealed.