

THE RICHES OF THE LORD OF GLORY

‘PAST-TRACING-OUT’

The faithful steward of the mysteries of God (I Corinthians 4:1 to 4), to whom the Holy Spirit has taught the truth of the great dispensational crisis recorded in the eleventh chapter of Romans, will understand why Paul closed the chapter with, “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How ‘UNSEARCHABLE’ (‘ANEXEREUNTOS’) are His judgments, and His ways ‘PAST-TRACING-OUT’ (‘ANEXICHNIASTOS’).”

The Greek words in this verse translated ‘UNSEARCHABLE’ and ‘PAST-TRACING-OUT’ are rather long words. The first word ‘ANEXEREUNTOS’ is the negative of the Greek word, in I Peter 1:10, translated ‘SEARCHED DILIGENTLY’ (‘EXERUNAO’). The second word ‘ANEXICHNIASTOS,’ translated ‘PAST-TRACING-OUT’ (revised version), is the negative of ‘ICHNOS’ which means ‘STEP’ or ‘TRACK.’ This word ‘ANEXICHNIASTOS’ is, in Ephesians 3:8, translated ‘UNSEARCHABLE.’ ‘PAST-TRACING-OUT’ is perhaps a better translation, as in the verse the Holy Spirit, through the apostle Paul, is informing members of the Body of Christ that the truth concerning ‘THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD’ and ‘THE JOINT-BODY’ (not ‘same Body’) of Ephesians 3:1 to 11 cannot be TRACED in or through the thirty-nine Books from Genesis to Malachi. The Holy Spirit would have every Christian know that ‘THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD’ (Ephesians 1:11 . . . Ephesians 1:4 and 5), concerning ‘THE CHURCH OF THE MYSTERY,’ recorded in the Epistle to the Ephesians, is an unpropheied Divine program. It was ‘KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN’ (Romans 16:25), ‘HID IN GOD FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD’ (Ephesians 3:9), ‘HID FROM AGES AND FROM GENERATIONS’ (Colossians 1:26). Having been God’s own unrevealed SECRET, it was called ‘THE MYSTERY.’

This ‘UNPROPHEIED’ Divine program is mentioned in Ephesians 1:9 as ‘THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S WILL.’ In Ephesians 3:3 Paul declared “THAT BY REVELATION HE (CHRIST) MADE KNOWN UNTO ‘ME’ THE MYSTERY.” In II Timothy 1:12 we learn, in the Greek, that Paul wrote of ‘MY DEPOSIT’ (‘PARATHEKE’). Because Paul received that ‘DEPOSIT,’ that ‘DISPENSATION’ (‘OIKONOMIA’) (Ephesians 3:2 . . . Colossians 1:23 to 26), and because he was faithful in proclaiming it, he was ‘THE PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST FOR GENTILES’ (Ephesians 3:1 . . . Ephesians 4:1), ‘AN AMBASSADOR IN BONDS’ (Ephesians 6:19 and 20 . . . Colossians 4:3 and 4). Paul wrote, “WHEREIN I SUFFER TROUBLE, AS AN EVIL-DOER, UNTO BONDS.” (II Timothy 2:9).

Paul urged members of the Body of Christ to pray for open doors, open mouths and open minds and hearts for the proclamation and acceptance of this ‘UNPROPHEIED,’ ‘PREDESTINATED,’ ‘ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD,’ which he called ‘THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST,’ ‘THE PREACHING OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN’ . . . (Ephesians 6:19 and 20 . . . Colossians 4:3 and 4 . . . Ephesians 1:15 to 19 . . . Romans 16:25 . . . Ephesians 1:11). The Holy Spirit, by the pen of Paul, has informed members of the Body of Christ that something extra special is needed to comprehend this profound and glorious truth concerning God’s inheritance in the saints, as well as the inheritance of the saints in Christ; namely, ‘THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM.’ (Ephesians 1:17).

In comprehending and proclaiming this wonderful truth God's saints are viciously opposed by the ruler of the world darkness, spiritual wickedness in the heavenlies, because Satan's principalities and powers are involved in the message and program. (Ephesians 6:12). To these principalities and powers in the heavenlies the Church is expected to make known the manifold wisdom of God. (Ephesians 3:10). But Satan, up to the present time, has been eminently successful in keeping most Christian workers from obeying Ephesians 3:9 and 10. In fact he has so hindered many Christian preachers that they perhaps ignorantly, but uncompromisingly, repudiate the most wonderful truth for saints in all of the Bible and stir up ungracious opposition to God's servants who strive to measure up to God's requirements in I Corinthians 4:1 to 4. Does or does not the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit desire that every Christian should see what is the dispensation of THE MYSTERY (Ephesians 3:9)?

Of course, Christian workers should know the full meaning and truth of I Corinthians 2:6 . . . "WE SPEAK WISDOM AMONG THEM THAT ARE PERFECT." The 'PERFECT' are Christians of 'FULL AGE,' numbered with those to whom belongs 'THE STRONG MEAT' (Hebrews 5:12 to 14), 'NO MORE CHILDREN, TOSSED TO AND FRO' (Ephesians 4:14), 'ESTABLISHED BY THE PREACHING OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY' (Romans 16:25), 'OF POWER AND LOVE AND A SOUND MIND' (II Timothy 1:7), 'UNASHAMED WORKMEN, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH.' (II Timothy 2:15).

THE HIDDEN WISDOM

Note the wisdom among them that are perfect . . . "we speak the wisdom of God in a MYSTERY (SECRET), 'THE HIDDEN,' which God ordained 'BEFORE THE WORLD' unto our glory, Which none of the rulers of this world knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the LORD OF GLORY." (I Corinthians 2:7 to 8). The Lord directed Peter to tell Israel that it must have been ignorance that caused them to KILL THE PRINCE OF LIFE. (Acts 3:14 to 17). Later on the Holy Spirit directed Peter to write that Christ's death on the cross was foreordained and planned by God before Adam sinned, before the world began. (I Peter 1:18 to 21).

When the rulers of this world crucified THE LORD OF GLORY, when the religious leaders of Christ's own chosen nation fulfilled the Scriptures, all that was prophesied concerning the Saviour's once-for-all suffering on the TREE (Acts 13:29), they did none other things concerning the death of the Son of God than God's hand and counsel determined before to be done. (Acts 4:26 to 29). If you will read carefully John 12:37 to 41 and Acts 17:3, you will see that in fulfillment of Psalm 118:22 and 23, the rejection and crucifixion of Christ was the Lord's Doing . . . "And it is marvelous in our eyes." (Matthew 21:42). When wicked men with wicked hands put Christ to death He was delivered according to the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God. (Acts 2:23).

When the Lord of Glory came down from heaven He came unto His own and His own received Him not. (John 1:11). The Holy Spirit and God's heavenly messengers declared that Christ was born of the virgin Mary, in fulfillment of the Scriptures, that He was born to occupy David's throne and reign over Israel (Luke 1:27 to 33), to give to Israel 'the sure mercies of David' (Acts 13:34 Luke 1:67 to 77), delivering Israel from sin and from Caesar. He was 'THE SON OF GOD!' . . . 'THE KING OF ISRAEL' (John 1:49), sent to Israel (Matthew 15:24 . . . Acts 13:23). the Minister of the circumcision, to confirm promises to Israel recorded in the

thirty-nine Books from Genesis to Malachi. (Romans 15:8). He was Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews, their promised Messiah. As He came to fulfill Isaiah 35:4 to 6, 61; 1 to 3, Ezekiel 34:11 to 13 and 22 to 31, He began His ministry in the midst of Israel by proclaiming the time at hand, 'The Kingdom of God at hand' (Mark 1:14 and 15 . . . Matthew 4:17). He went into Israel's synagogues preaching the gospel of the kingdom, healing all manner of disease (Matthew 4:23), in fulfillment of Isaiah 35:3 to 6, and proclaiming the fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1 to 3. (Luke 4:16 to 23).

But the builders rejected the Stone (Luke 19:41 to 44). However, the Stone (Christ) assured Israel He would return in the clouds with power and great glory for their redemption (Luke 21:27 to 33). He told them that when He returned to earth it would be in the midst of Israel's great TRIBULATION, prophesied centuries before Christ was born in Bethlehem. He told them that after the prophesied TRIBULATION He would sit on the THRONE of His glory, as Judge as well as King. (Matthew 25:31 to 34). Later on we are told in Romans 11:25 to 29 that the KING will not return to redeem the 'kingdom' nation and establish the prophesied KINGDOM, PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION (OVERTHROW) OF THE WORLD (Matthew 25:34), until this present reign and age and dispensation of grace for the nations has run its course. After the revelation of the mystery of Romans 11:25, the risen Lord, through Paul, revealed the truth of Ephesians 1:4 and 5 and Ephesians 2:15, showing the great difference between the PROPHESED KINGDOM OF GOD PREPARED FROM THE OVERTHROW OF THE WORLD, and THE BODY OF CHRIST, PURPOSED IN CHRIST, FROM BEFORE THE OVERTHROW OF THE WORLD.

THE TREE . . . THE TRIBULATION . . . THE THRONE . . . THE MYSTERY BODY

As we compare Genesis 2:21 to 24 and Genesis 5:2 with Ephesians 5:31 and 32, we will learn that the truth of Christ and the Church, 'ONE FLESH' was just once 'HID IN THE SCRIPTURES.' Then as we compare Genesis 15:6 to 8 with Galatians 3:6 to 8, concerning 'THE GOSPEL OF THE UNCIRCUMCISION' we will see that Galatians 2:7 was 'HID IN THE SCRIPTURES.' Then compare Deuteronomy 32:21 and Romans 10:19. There is a difference between Divine truth 'HID IN THE SCRIPTURES', and truth 'HID IN GOD FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD,' 'HID FROM THE AGES AND FROM GENERATIONS' (Ephesians 3:9 and Colossians 1:26). Romans 16:25, Ephesians 3:9 and Colossians 1:26 should convince any steward of the mysteries of God that the 'AS' of Ephesians 3:5 does not suggest comparative revelation; for no prophet of Israel knew anything or said anything concerning Christ as the Head of the Church, Which is His Body, the Filling-up of Him that filleth all in all (Ephesians 1:19 to 23), 'THE ONE NEW MAN' of Ephesians 2:15, or that members of Christ's Body would be raised up and seated in the heavenlies in Christ (Ephesians 2:5 and 6 . . . Colossians 3:1 to 3), and there blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies. (Ephesians 1:3).

Not one of Israel's prophets knew the SECRET of Romans 11:25, the truth of Romans 11:7 to 15 and Romans 11:30, that God would send blindness upon Israel, let them stumble (Romans 9:29 to 33) and FALL (Romans 11:11), cast them away in unbelief (Romans 11:15 and Romans 11:30), postponing their guaranteed national redemption (Romans 11:26 to 29), usher in 'THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES' 'SPIRITUALLY,' bring in this present parenthetical 'grace' dispensation to end with the realization of 'THE BLESSED HOPE' of Titus 2:13, I Corinthians 15:51 to 54, Colossians 3:1 to 4. During this age God, Who worketh all things after the counsel

of His own will, will accomplish His own 'ETERNAL PURPOSE,' not prophesied but predestinated, that PURPOSE being the making of 'THE ONE NEW MAN' of Ephesians 2:15, the 'FILLING-UP OF CHRIST,' 'THE CHRIST' of I Corinthians 12:12, 'THE SPOTLESS CHURCH' OR 'THE SPOTLESS CHRIST' of Ephesians 5:25 to 27 . . . Ephesians 5:31 and 32. Thus we see what is meant by the dispensational crisis recorded in the eleventh chapter of Romans; and what is meant by 'THE MYSTERY' filling up, completing, the Word of God, 'THE MYSTERY' which was 'HID' until it was revealed to the chosen apostle, one born out of due time, who laid the foundation. (Colossians 1:23 to 26 . . . Romans 11:13 . . . I Corinthians 15:8 and I Corinthians 3:10).

The prophets of Israel, before Christ came, could have SEARCHED DILIGENTLY concerning the PROPHESED TREE, TRIBULATION AND THRONE, 'THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST AND THE GLORY THAT SHOULD FOLLOW' (I Peter 1:10 and 11). This was confirmed by Christ in John 5:39 and Luke 24:25 to 27 and Luke 24:46. When Paul preached to Israel 'NONE OTHER THINGS' than Divine truth concerning Christ, foretold by Moses and Israel's other prophets (Acts 26:22 and 23 and Acts 17:3), 'Israel could have searched their Scriptures to learn if Paul was telling the truth. (Acts 17:11). Peter told Israel that they had a more sure Word of Prophecy. (II Peter 1:19). Christ on earth was confirming that Prophecy. (Romans 15:8). Peter and James used this language in assuring Israel that Christ would return to build the tabernacle of David: "Saith the Lord, Who doeth all these things." Yes, the zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform all these things. (Isaiah 9:6 and 7). When? When the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. (Romans 11:25). Compare Matthew 21:42 . . . Acts 4:26 to 29 . . . Isaiah 9:7 . . . Acts 15:17 and 18 and Ephesians 1:11, with Romans 11:25, and you will better understand the why of Romans 11:33, "O THE DEPTH OF THE RICHES BOTH OF THE WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE OF GOD! HOW UNSEARCHABLE ('ANEXEREUNTOS') ARE HIS JUDGMENTS, AND HIS WAYS PAST-TRACING-OUT ('ANEXICHNIASTOS')."

For Abraham's sake, for Isaac's sake, for Jacob's sake, (Romans 11:28), and for the Lord's sake (Ezekiel 36:21 to 32). and because God's gifts and calling are without repentance (Romans 11:29), Israel will yet be saved, and the THRONE will be established. In the meantime all of our sins are forgiven, for Christ's sake. (Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 2:13). God is this age and dispensation of grace is reconciling all believing sinners in one Body by the cross. (Ephesians 2:15 to 18).

Now do we understand Ephesians 3:8 to 11:

"UNTO ME (PAUL), WHO AM LESS THAN THE LEAST OF ALL SAINTS IS THIS GRACE GIVEN, THAT I SHOULD PREACH AMONG THE NATIONS THE 'UNSEARCHABLE' ('PAST-TRACING-OUT') RICHES OF CHRIST (THE LORD OF GLORY) . . . AND TO MAKE ALL SEE WHAT IS 'THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY,' WHICH FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD HATH BEEN 'HID IN GOD' . . . TO THE INTENT THAT NOW UNTO THE PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS IN THE HEAVENLIES MIGHT BE KNOWN BY THE CHURCH THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD, ACCORDING TO THE 'ETERNAL PURPOSE' WHICH HE PURPOSED IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD?"

Two other questions: will you pray for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation mentioned in Ephesians 1:17 and then will you do your duty as a Christian and MAKE ALL SEE WHAT IS THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY? Remember you must first be taught by the Holy Spirit concerning the dispensational crisis in the eleventh chapter of Romans, knowing that Israel did not FALL when Christ said, "your house is left unto you desolate (Matthew 23:38)," that the

ministry of Peter and the Eleven, recorded in the first chapters of Acts, was BEFORE 'ISRAEL'S FALL, and the message and program of grace and membership in the Body of Christ, committed unto Paul, was AFTER ISRAEL'S FALL.

