

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

1. Note carefully I Peter 2:2 and 3:

“As newborn babes, desire the milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby; If so be you have tasted that the Lord is gracious:”

Whether the sinner receives Christ at the age of ten, forty or eighty, he is a new born babe when regenerated. Then he is to desire the sincere milk of the Word.

2. Note again Hebrews 5:12 to 14:

“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the Word of righteousness; for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

The saved person is to constantly grow by studying the Word of God, and to go from a milk diet to a meat diet. Note: I Corinthians 13:11 and Ephesians 4:14:

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”

3. Now read James 1:22 and Ephesians 2:10:

“But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Believers are to be doers. They are to learn what to do by studying the Word of God. Note the words of Jesus Christ recorded in Matthew 22:29 and in John 5:39:

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God.”

“Search the Scriptures. They are they which testify of Me.”

4. After Jesus Christ was raised from the dead He said to His disciples:

“O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken; Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:25 to 27.

Note also Acts 13:29 and 30:

“And when they had fulfilled all that was written of Him, they took Him down from the tree, and laid Him in a sepulchre. But God raised Him from the dead.”

We learn that for centuries before He was born the servants of God foretold the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Read Matthew 26:24; I Corinthians 15:1 to 4; Acts 2:22 and 23; I Peter 1:18 to 20; Luke 18:31 to 34; I Peter 1:11; Hebrews 2:9.

5. Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, in fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14. He was born in Bethlehem, in fulfillment of Micah 5:2. He was despised and rejected in fulfillment of Isaiah 53:3. He was wounded in the house of His friends, in fulfillment of Zechariah 13:6. He was sold for thirty pieces of silver, in fulfillment of Zechariah 11:12 and 13. He was the Stone rejected by Israel, in fulfillment of Psalms 118:22. He was nailed to the cross of Calvary, in fulfillment of Psalms 22:16. He cried on the cross, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" in fulfillment of Psalm 22:1. Christ made intercession for the sinners in fulfillment of Isaiah 53:12. He made His grave with the rich, in fulfillment of Isaiah 53:9. He was raised from the dead, in fulfillment of Psalms 16:10. Jesus Christ is coming back to earth as the Son of man (Matthew 25:31 to 41), in fulfillment of Isaiah 9:6 and 7.

6. Note in the first Book of the Bible God's prediction concerning the coming of Christ:

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15.

Note how this prediction has been fulfilled in part:

"And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14.

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them, who through fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Hebrews 2:14 and 15.

Read also Galatians 4:4 and 5.

Note how it is to be fulfilled in the future: "And He laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years." Revelation 20:2. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Revelation 20:10. Note the truth of I Corinthians 15:22 to 25: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in His own order: Christ the Firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming. Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule, and all authority and power. For He must reign until He hath put all enemies under His feet."

7. Note God's predictions concerning the coming of Christ in the last book of the Old Testament Scriptures:

"Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, Whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, Whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 3:1.

Gentiles were not delighting in the Lord. Both John the Baptist and Jesus Christ were sent to Israel. Luke 1:16, Luke 1:80; Acts 13:24; Matthew 15:24; Matthew 10:5 to 7 ; Matthew 2:2; Acts 13:23; Romans 15:8; Acts 5:29 to 32.

Note John 1:11: "HE CAME UNTO HIS OWN AND HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT." Christ came unto Israel. Note Romans 9:4 and 5 and John 4:22:

"Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, Who is over all, God blessed for ever, Amen." Romans 9:4 and 5.

“Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship; for salvation is of the Jews.” John 4:22. Read with these verses Romans 15:27. Many Israelites did receive Jesus Christ. John 2:23, John 7:31, John 8:30, John 10:42, John 11:45; Acts 2:41; Acts 4:4; Acts 5:14; Acts 6:7; Acts 14:1. Thus we learn that Jesus Christ, Israel’s Messiah and King, came not only to save individual Israelites, but to save Israel. He will come back again to save Israel:

“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 the Holy Prophets since the world began” Acts 3:20 and 21.

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.” Romans 11:26

8. We have learned in the first Book of the Bible that Jesus Christ was to be the Seed of the woman. We have learned in the last Book of the Old Testament Scriptures that He was to be the Lord. We learned in Romans 9:5 and John 4:22 that God in human form was an Israelite, a Jew. In Hebrews 2:16 to 18 and Galatians 3:16 to 19, and in Matthew 1:1, we learn that Jesus Christ was the Seed of Abraham. In John 8:58 we learn that Jesus Christ said, “Before Abraham was I AM:” Then note John 1:1 to 3; Colossians 1:15 to 18; Philippians 2:5 to 8; John 17:3; John 17:25; John 8:58, and Hebrews 2:9. In these verses we learn that Christ was God before Adam was created, before the world was; and that He became a man to reveal God, and die for the children of Adam.

9. Note again I Corinthians 15:21 to 23:

“For since by man-came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead, For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the Firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at His coming.”

With these verses note I Corinthians 15:45 and 47:

“And so it is written, The first man Adam, was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening Spirit.” . . . “The first man is of the earth, earthy; the Second Man is the Lord from heaven.”

Then note Romans 5:12 and 15, 18 and 19: “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: (For until the law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law.” . . . “But not as the offense, so also is the free gift: for if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by One Man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.” . . . “Therefore, as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of One the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were sinners, so by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous.”

In this sense the Bible is the story of two men, the first man, Adam; the Second Man, Jesus Christ.

Now note II Corinthians 5:17:

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Now note Ephesians 2:13 to 15:

“But now, in Christ Jesus, ye who sometime were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our Peace, Who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of

partition between us; Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain One New Man, so making peace.”

Here we learn that redeemed Israelites and redeemed Gentiles saved by grace through faith during the present age, are in One Body, and that God calls them “One New Man.”

Adam is the head of the old creation, the human race, in him. Christ is the Head of the Church, of the new creation, those who are in Him, accepted, complete and without condemnation. Ephesians 1:6 and 7; Colossians 2:10; Romans 8:1.

10. Now let us note when, how, and why salvation and reconciliation was sent to the Gentiles “For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? Romans 11:15. “I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles for to provoke them to jealousy.” Romans 11:11. “For as ye (Gentiles) in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their (Israel’s) unbelief.” Romans 11:30 “Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you (Jews); but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.” Acts 13:46.

Quite interesting, is it not? Reconciliation was preached to the Gentiles when and because Israel was cast away. Salvation was sent to the Gentiles when and because Israel stumbled and fell. The Gentiles obtained mercy when and because of Israel’s unbelief.

Let us note in this connection the plain statements of Acts 13:23, Matthew 15:24, Matthew 10:5, Acts 5:29 to 31:

“Of this man’s (David’s) seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus.” Acts 13:23.

“But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Matthew 15:24. “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.” Matthew 10:5

“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, Whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.” Acts 5:29 to 31.

Here we learn that in incarnation and in resurrection Jesus Christ was raised up to be Israel’s Saviour. About thirteen years after the death of Christ, this message was sent to Israel “but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.” Acts 13:46.

11. Now let us compare Romans 1:21, 22, and 28 with Romans 11:15 and 25:

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.” . . . “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which were not convenient.” Romans 1:21, 22 and 28.

“For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?” . . . “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.” Romans 11:15 and 25.

What happened to the Gentiles when God gave them up? They were alienated from the life of God. Ephesians 4:18.

Note Matthew 15:26 and Ephesians 2:17 and 18: "But He (Christ) answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs."

"And came and preached peace to you which were afar off and to them that were nigh. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."

Here we learn that Christ called Israel "the children" and the Gentiles "the dogs." Later on when Israel was cast away the gospel was preached to the Gentiles. The Gentiles were afar off. The Jews were nigh. But believing Jews and Gentiles found peace in Christ and were reconciled and baptized into one Body, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

12. So in the Epistle to the Romans we learn the interesting facts concerning the casting away of the Gentiles; and the casting away of Israel. After God had cast away the Gentiles, about 2000 years before Christ was born as the Seed of Abraham, God called Abram and gave him some promises, and note Acts 7:8:

"And He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs."

God promised Abram that a great nation would come from him. That nation was Israel, the Jews; and God declared that that nation was created by Him for His own glory. (Isaiah 43:7) Note again Romans 9:4 and 5:

"Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, Who is over all, God blessed for ever."

The Covenant of circumcision cut off the Gentiles. Genesis 17:6 to 18.

Note these most important verses:

"Of this man's seed (David's) hath God according to His promise raised up unto ISRAEL A SAVIOUR, JESUS." Acts 13:23.

"But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Matthew 15:24, Then note again Acts 13:46 and 14:27:

"Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you (Jews), but seeing ye put it from you. and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, LO, WE TURN TO THE GENTILES."

"And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles."

Then what happened?

"For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?" Romans 11:15.

"For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief." Romans 11:30.

Thus we see that Israel was cast away about the middle of the first Christian century, although the fulfillment of Luke 21:24 did not begin until about 70 A.D.

Note Luke 21:24:

"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

13. The times of the Gentiles will come to an end by the coming of the Son of man in the clouds with power and great glory. That will mean Israel's redemption. Luke 21:27 to 31.

Note Romans 11:25 and 26 and Amos 9:13 to 15:

“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. And so all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, there shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. And I will bring again the captivity of My people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.”

Read the glorious future of Israel in Ezekiel 36 and 37. In the last two chapters of Jeremiah and II Kings we learn that “the times of the Gentiles” (politically) began about 600 B.C. In Romans 11:11 to 30 and Acts 28:25 to 28 we learn that “the times of the Gentiles” (spiritually) began about 30 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews. Note the culmination of “the times of the Gentiles” (spiritually).

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:13.

So carefully compare Luke 21:24 and Ephesians 4:13.

14. When “the times of the Gentiles” (politically) began, the Lord revealed His secret to Daniel. Daniel 2:18 to 44. When “the times of the Gentiles” (spiritually) began, the Lord revealed His secret to Paul. Ephesians 3:1 to 11, Ephesians 1:9, Colossians 1:24 to 28, II Corinthians 12:1 to 12. Daniel witnessed to Gentile kings and was delivered from the lion's mouth. Paul preached to Gentile kings and was delivered from the lion's mouth. Acts 9:15, II Timothy 4:14 to 19. Daniel set forth the beginning, the course and the culmination of “the times of the Gentiles” (politically). Paul set forth the beginning, the course and the culmination of “the times of the Gentiles” (spiritually). Paul knew all about Daniel's message, by searching the Scriptures; but Daniel had no Word of Prophecy concerning God's own Secret (Paul's Mystery) which was never made known to Israel's prophets, or to even the twelve apostles. Colossians 1:24 to 28, Ephesians 3:1 to 11.

The culmination of “the times of the Gentiles” (spiritually) will be the Church going to Christ, the Head, in heaven. The culmination of “the times of the Gentiles” (politically) will be the coming of Christ, the Son of man and King to the earth, to take the throne of David. Matthew 25:31 to 44, Matthew 19:28, Isaiah 9:6 and 7.

15. Note Peter's message to Israel, in Acts 3:19 to 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.” When will “the times of refreshing,” “the times of restitution,” come to earth? When God sends Christ back to earth as the Son of man. Note Acts 7:56:

“I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God:”

Quite significant that Stephen, in addressing the rulers of Israel who had killed the Son of man, saw Jesus in the open heavens as the Son of man, standing.

Note Matthew 25:31:

“When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory.”

When Jesus Christ returns as King He will again be the Son of man. He will sit on an earthly throne. Then the kingdom of Daniel 2:44 will be at hand.

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

When the glorified Christ revealed to the apostle Paul the beginning, course and culmination of “the times of the Gentiles” (spiritually), the Messianic kingdom of heaven had to be postponed until after the culmination of “the times of the Gentiles (spiritually).”

So God’s “kingdom” plans have not miscarried, even though there has been an interruption of His kingdom covenants, and He is accomplishing another purpose while the kingdom is in abeyance.

16. Let us note in Jeremiah 31:31 to 35 that God made the Old Covenant with Israel and that He promised to make the New Covenant with Israel. Note Jeremiah 31:31 and 32:

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord.”

Note this most important fact: The (Old) Covenant was made with Israel when God led Israel out of Egypt. God led Israel out of Egypt about 2500 years after He drove Adam out of Eden, or about 1500 years before Christ was born in Bethlehem. In Exodus, the twentieth chapter, we learn when God entered into the “Law” Covenant with Israel. At that time that Covenant was altogether new to Israel. It became Old after Christ died on the cross. Hebrews 8:13.

Many Christians have been taught that the Old Testament (Covenant) Scriptures began with Adam in Genesis instead of with Moses in Exodus, about 2500 years later.

17. Now note Galatians 3:17 to 19:

“And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.”

Here we learn that the (Old) Covenant was added to the Abrahamic Covenant 430 years later. The (Old) Law Covenant was a temporary and parenthetical Covenant added till Abraham’s Seed came.

Note Romans 10:4 and Galatians 3:24 and 25: “Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.”

18. Now note Ephesians 2:14 and 15, Hebrews 10:9, Colossians 2:14, II Corinthians 3:14: “For He is our peace, Who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain One New Man so making peace.” Ephesians 2:14 and 15.

“Then said He, Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God. He taketh away the first that He may establish the Second.” Hebrews 10:9.

“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross.” Colossians 2:14.

“But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which is done away in Christ.” II Corinthians 3:14.

Here we learn that the Law Covenant was broken down, taken away, blotted out and abolished by the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Note Romans 7:4 and 6:14:

“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the Body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to Him Who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.” Romans 7:4.

“Ye are not under the law, but under grace.” Romans 6:14.

19. Thus we learn that Adam, Abel, Seth, Enoch, Noah, Shem, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, (Israel) and Israel’s twelve sons, had all lived and died before the (Old) Testament was added and therefore they were not Old Testament characters.

We also learn that believers are “in Christ” and are not “under the law.” But note Galatians 4:4, Matthew 23:1 to 3, and Matthew 5:17 and 18:

“But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law.” Galatians 4:4.

“Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to His disciples, Saying, The Scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works for they say, and do not.” Matthew 23:1 to 3.

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” Matthew 5:17 and 18.

Here we learn that Jesus Christ on earth, and His disciples with Him, were under the law. Therefore, although we find grace in the teachings of Jesus on earth He was living during the reign and economy of law when He taught His disciples the “Our Father” prayer and preached to them the Sermon on the Mount and the Golden Rule.

20. Compare Acts 17:11 with Ephesians 3:8: “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so:” Acts 17:11.

“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable (untraceable) riches of Christ.” Ephesians 3:8.

Paul preached the “searchable” or prophesied truth concerning the Lord Jesus and then he preached the “unsearchable” (untraceable) or unprophesied truth concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note his statement concerning the “unsearchable” riches of Christ:

WHEREOF I AM MADE A MINISTER, ACCORDING TO THE DISPENSATION OF GOD WHICH IS GIVEN TO ME FOR YOU, TO FULFILL (COMPLETE) THE WORD OF GOD; EVEN THE MYSTERY WHICH HATH BEEN HID FROM AGES AND FROM GENERATIONS, BUT NOW IS MADE MANIFEST TO HIS SAINTS.” Colossians 1:25 26.

So the unsearchable riches (mystery) was given to and through Paul to fulfill (complete) the Word of God.