



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

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The Acts Dispensation

Part 1 of 3

by — Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992)

It is my conviction that ninety percent of all confusion and contradictions that exist in Christendom are the result of ignoring the true character of that thirty-three year period of which the book of Acts¹ is the history.

Those who never make a penetrating study of the Word of God will never have any problems, questions or difficulties in regard to it. They can exist for a lifetime on the few things they learned before they were ten years of age, and they do not want to add anything to the very little they already know.

However, the constant reader and diligent student of the Bible who takes to heart what he finds there will discover that he is faced with numerous problems, questions, difficulties and apparent contradictions. He then will yearn and even pray for the discovery of some major truth that will resolve all of these.

Familiarity with the Bible, a working knowledge of its pages, the ability to turn to any verse that comes to mind, is one of the greatest assets that can be pos-



essed by the believer in Christ Jesus.

After gaining a good degree of familiarity with the New Testament and experiencing great frustration because of inability to find answers to questions, to solve problems and to resolve the apparent contradictions that increased in number with every reading, I came upon one great idea that did more to make the Bible a living and relevant book than anything I had ever discovered before. This was the recognition of the true character of the Acts period, and of the distinct program and purpose of God during that time.

Related to this and in collocation with it is the great truth that Paul's declaration in Acts 28:28² marks a definite change in God's method of dealing with men and that his words there mark an administrative (dispensational) boundary line.

Failure to recognize this great truth makes it impossible to properly understand many portions of the New Testament. This is especially true of the six epistles written by Paul during this period. These are First and Second Thessalonians, First and Second Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans.³ All of these ►

1. [Editor:] For more on the period covered by the Book of Acts, see:
 - The Acts Transition and the Pentecostal Dispensation, Sir Robert Anderson, [Bible Student's Notebook #507](#);
 - The Acts of the Apostles And Paul's Epistles: Considered Historically and Dispensationally, J.J.B. Coles, [Bible Student's Notebook #613](#);
 - The Earlier and Later Chapters of the Book of Acts, Sir Robert Anderson, [Bible Student's Notebook #526](#);
 - The Acts Period and the Acts Period Epistles, Tom Ballinger, [Bible Student's Notebook #604](#);
 - The Dispensational Frontier of Acts 28:23-31, Charles H. Welch, parts 1-3: [Bible Student's Notebook #639](#), [#640](#), [#641](#);
 - *The Dispensation of the Grace of God, and Acts 28:28 – A Dispensational Boundary Line*, Otis Q. Sellers (see order form).

2. [Editor:] For more information on Acts 28, see:
 - Acts 28: The Dispensational Boundary, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook #550](#);
 - Before and After Acts 28, Oscar Baker, [Bible Student's Notebook #595](#);
 - Acts 28: The Dispensational Crisis, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook #642](#);
 - *The Dispensation of the Grace of God, and Acts 28:28 – A Dispensational Boundary Line*, Otis Q. Sellers (see order form).
3. [Editor:] For more information on Paul's early epistles (letters),

take on the character of the time in which they were written. They contain many timeless truths which are not subject to change, and every word in them is beneficial for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness (II Timothy 3:16), but they also contain dispensational truths which changed⁴ when that dispensation came to an end.⁵

The foundation of the Acts dispensation was laid down by the Lord Jesus in Mark 16:15-18.

He said unto them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized⁶ shall be saved; but he

see:

- The Chronological Order of Paul's Epistles (Their Dispensational Significance), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #319](#);
 - Paul's Earlier Epistles, F. H. Robison, Part 1, [Bible Student's Notebook #669](#); Part 2, [Bible Student's Notebook #670](#);
 - The Letters of Paul, Danny Russino, [Bible Student's Notebook #502](#);
 - The Nature of Paul's Early Epistles, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #505](#);
 - The Lord's Coming in the Early Epistles, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook #486](#);
 - Paul's Previous Epistles Need Minor Modifications, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #490](#);
 - Right Division Includes Paul, Stephen Hill, [Bible Student's Notebook #487](#);
 - Organically the Same: Constitutionally Different – The Distinction Between the Pre-Prison and Prison Epistles, Vladimir Gelesnoff, [Bible Student's Notebook #509](#);
 - The Acts Period and the Acts Period Epistles, Tom Ballinger, [Bible Student's Notebook #604](#);
 - The Acts of the Apostles and Paul's Epistles: Considered Historically and Dispensationally, J.J.B. Coles, [Bible Student's Notebook #613](#).
4. [Editor:] For a look at Paul's Perfection Epistles, see:
- Paul's Perfection Epistles, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #310](#);
 - Paul's Previous Epistles Need Minor Modifications, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #490](#);
 - Present Truth Is Found in Paul's Latest Epistles, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #515](#);
 - Organically the Same: Constitutionally Different – The Distinction Between the Pre-Prison and Prison Epistles, Vladimir Gelesnoff, [Bible Student's Notebook #509](#);
 - The Ranking Revelation of the Prison Epistles, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #524](#).
5. For example, see I Corinthians 1:7; 5:5, 8; 6:4; 7:8, 27; Romans 1:16 (last clause); 3:1-2; 15:27.
6. [Editor:] For a closer look at Israel's water baptisms, see the following titles on our order form:
- *Water Baptism, A Compilation* (listed under Compilations)
 - *On Baptism*, A.E. Knoch (listed under Knoch);
 - *The Glory of the One Baptism*, Otis Q. Sellers (listed under Sellers);
 - *Real Baptism: Religious Ritual or Spiritual Reality*, Charles F. Baker (listed under Baker);
 - *Baptism And the Bible*, C.R. Stam (listed under Stam);

that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs⁷ shall follow them that believe: In My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

These are the words that set the character for the Acts period. They were fulfilled to the letter during that time, and they describe the normal, daily experiences of those who believed. This is demonstrated by Mark's final words:

And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the Word with signs following (Mark 16:20).⁸

The chief characteristic of the Acts dispensation was that God-commissioned men went forth at His direction speaking a God-inspired⁹ message, each word of which was given to them each time they spoke it (I Thessalonians 2:13), and which was always given in the mother tongue of those for whom it was intended. The Word they spoke was always confirmed by signs that followed (Hebrews 2:4), and when anyone believed his faith was accredited and confirmed by miraculous signs (Mark 16:17). This was the unvarying pattern of the Acts period. It was entirely different from God's method of dealing with men today.

About 650 years before the birth of Christ the prophet Habakkuk, anticipating the dispersion of Israel

– *Bible and Baptism*, Harry Bultema (listed under Bultema).

7. [Editor:] For more information on sign gifts, see:

– *The Present Truth Concerning Sign Gifts: A Comprehensive Compilation* (see order form under Compilations).

8. It is a constant trick of exposition to cast doubt upon these passages by saying that they are not found in the two most ancient manuscripts. This is only about one percent of the information available concerning this passage. Before anyone casts a shred of doubt upon this portion of the Word of God, let them read with care Dean Burgon's monumental work *The Last Twelve Verses of Mark*. [Editor:] A *Bible Student's Press* reprint available at [StudyShelf.com](#), see order form under Other Authors.

9. [Editor:] "Inspired by God" (II Timothy 3:16). Θεόπνευστος (*theopneustos* [Strong's G2315]), a compound word, "God" (θεός, *theos* [Strong's G2316]) and "breathe" (πνεύω, *pneō* [Strong's G4154]); thus "God-breathed": given by God, divinely inspired. See:

– *God's Eonian Purpose*, by Adlai Loudy, chapter 1 (The Sacred Scriptures), chapter 2 (How We Got Our Bible). A concise history of 53 pages covering everything from the original Greek text to the Concordant Version (see order form).

“among the nations” declared that a time would come when God would work a work of such incredible nature among the dispersed ones that His hearers would not believe it even if He told them of it (1:5). His prophecy still awaits its final and definitive fulfillment, yet there can be no doubt but that there was a precursory fulfillment in the Acts period. The words of Paul are proof of this:

Beware therefore, lest that come upon you which is spoken of in the prophets: “Behold, ye despisers and wonder and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work in which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you” (Acts 13:40-41).

The Israelites who lived in the Acts period, those in Palestine as well as those scattered among the nations, not only heard what God was doing, they saw what He was doing (Acts 2:33). They were the objects and witnesses of a work of God that is unparalleled in human history. Thus that thirty-three year period covered by the book of Acts stands apart and is different from all other periods of divine activity.

THE PAST IS DEFLATED AND THE PRESENT INFLATED

In view of this the most careful study needs to be given to the divine purposes and activities that made it so unique. This is a sorely neglected study. It has ever been the practice of theologians to minimize, depreciate and stultify the truth concerning the work that God was doing in the Acts period. This has been done both wittingly and unwittingly. The actual divine history of this time has been rewritten

by commentators on the book of Acts. They are determined to see nothing in this period of time except the founding and development of what they call “the Christian church.”¹⁰ They read this into every passage, they interpret it into every event, and they even translate so it will be found throughout this period. They actually minimize everything that belongs to this period of time; then they magnify everything in Christendom today so that both might meet on a common level, one being a continuation of the other. Thus, they insist that it was “the church” that began at Pentecost; then they make the organized religious establishments of today to be “the church” that began there – the outgrowth of what began at Pentecost.¹¹ They make the ecclesia of God (the out-called ones) of the Acts period to be nothing more than church members; then they make the church members of today to be the out-called of God. The divinely commissioned and inspired heralds of that time are made to be preachers and pastors; then the preachers and pastors of today are made to be divinely called and commissioned servants of God. Thus past posi- ►

10. [Editor:] The Greek word often translated as “church” in most English versions is ἐκκλησία (*ekklesiā*, or *ecclesia*). The word is a compound word meaning “called-out” (*ek* = “out”; *kaleō* = “called”). The ecclesia is God’s “called-out” ones. The ecclesia is not a building or denomination; not a meeting, or doctrinal creed; it is not somewhere we go, or something we do, it is who we as believers are. For more information see:

- *The Outsiders*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form);
- *The “Ecclesias” (Churches) of the Scriptures*, Adlai Loudy (see order form).

11. For more information on Pentecost, see:

- Did the Body of Christ Begin at Pentecost? Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., *Bible Student’s Notebook* #1;
- [14 Reasons Why] Pentecost Was Not the Beginning of the Body of Christ, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., *Daily Goodies* [book], August 28 (see order form).
- Pentecost, H.W. Fry, *Bible Student’s Notebook* #666;
- *A Study on Pentecost & The Gift of Tongues*, Tom Ballinger (see order form under “Ballinger”).



80 pp, PB

See order form.

The Outcome of Infinite Grace

by — Loyal F. Hurley

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death!” It was this verse which caused the author, a pastor, to study afresh the subject of the fate of the wicked. The three choices apparent from a surface reading of various biblical texts were eternal torment, extermination or ultimate reconciliation. The author studied to find which one was true.

“A helpful introduction to the great truth that God is the Savior of all mankind.” — A.E. Knoch, *Unsearchable Riches Magazine*

tions are deflated and present positions are inflated, so they will appear to be the same. An apostle, such as Paul, is made to be a “missionary” and his travels are made to be “missionary journeys.” The divinely-inspired proclamations of the apostles are made to be “sermons,” and the chief purpose of these men is said to have been “the founding of churches.” We are further told that all the great miracles that these men performed could also be performed by us if only we had sufficient faith. Yes, we are now being told that the God-given ability to speak in a foreign language was only an ecstatic and unintelligible babble, and that the head-jerking, eye-rolling, unintelligible uttering of meaningless sounds experienced today is the biblical gift of tongues. Thus it is that the past is deflated and the present inflated; God's highest is made to be man's lowest, and man's lowest is made to be God's highest, so that everything that happened in the Acts period is made to be the same as denominational programs today.

Even Dr. C.I. Scofield fell into this trap, giving in his reference Bible such paragraph headings in the Book of Acts as “The First Church,” “Peter's Second Sermon,” “The First Missionaries,” “Elders Appointed in Every Church,” “Founding of the Church at Thessalonica,” and “Founding of the Church at Corinth.” Thus a modern denominational and organized religious program is stamped upon every page of the Book of Acts when in reality it cannot be found there.¹²

12. [Editor:] For a closer look at “Church History” see:

- Three Groups in Church History: To Which Do We Belong? Gene Edwards, *Bible Student's Notebook* #24;
- Brief Notes on Church History, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Part 1, *Bible Student's Notebook* #28; Part 2, *Bible Student's Notebook* #29; Part 3, *Bible Student's Notebook* #55; Part 4, *Bible Student's Notebook* #56;

In the years that I have given to the study of the history of the Acts period I have sought to saturate myself with the life and spirit of that time. These studies have brought the conviction that certain great truths related to this period stand out like mountain peaks and that these need to be recognized and emphasized by all who would deal honestly with the history recorded in the Book of Acts and the epistles written during that time. These mountain peaks of truth must not be bulldozed away.

At the close of the Acts period God had accomplished everything that He set out to do. No purpose is left unfinished, no project is incomplete. The message has gone forth to the ends of the earth, all Israel has heard, the remnant¹³ has been established, a company for His name has been called from among the Gentiles.

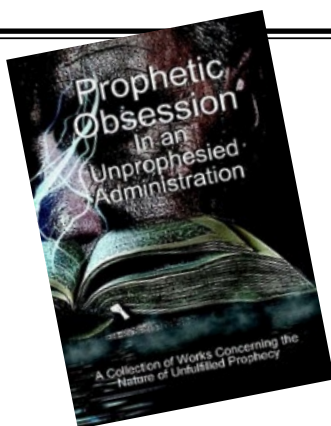
The blade stage and the ear stage of the Kingdom of God have run their course (Mark 4:28). The next stage of “*the full grain in the ear*,” the manifest Kingdom of God, is ready to burst upon mankind, but it did not come. God's Kingdom purposes are held in suspension while He accomplishes a purpose which had never before been revealed. He will take time to write into the history of His long dealings with mankind a complete record of the grace that is inherent in His character. This is now being done in a dispensation of absolute grace.¹⁴

- The Paulicians – Additional Historical Information, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., *Bible Student's Notebook* #77;
- The Torch of His Testimony, John W. Kennedy, *Bible Student's Notebook* #78;
- *The Church in Ruins*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., (book, see order form).

13. [Editor:] For more information on the Remnant of Israel, see:

- The Remnant, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook #579](#).

14. [Editor:] For more information about “*the Mystery*” and it's “Se-



Prophetic Obsession in an Unprophesied Administration

(A Collection of Works Concerning the Nature of Unfulfilled Prophecy)

List of authors contained in this work are: Sir Robert Anderson (1841-1918), Cecil J. Blay (1906-1976), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), J. Vernon McGee (1904-1988), Andrew Miller (1810-1883), Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992) and C.R. Stam (1909-2003).

62 pp, PB

See order form.

The truths that were applicable in the Acts period may or may not be applicable today. As Paul tells us in Philippians 1:10, we must be testing the things that carry through (see the Greek). We must study “rightly to divide the Word of Truth” (II Timothy 2:15).¹⁵

17 TRUTHS CONCERNING ACTS

Truth is that which accords with the facts. Divine facts are declared in the Word of God, and what we believe must be in harmony with them. Seventeen facts representing the same number of truths will be set forth in this study. These can be accepted or rejected. What will the reader do with them? A request is made for honest consideration.

1. The 120 that assembled on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:15) were without exception Jews who believed that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah¹⁶ and the Son of God.

This fact and truth had been generated in them by the Father in heaven (Matthew 16:17). They were the result of the personal ministry¹⁷ of Jesus Christ, Whose words and works had led them to this belief. They did not cease to be Jews because of this new-

cret Administration,” see:

– *The Administration of the Secret: A Comprehensive Compilation* (see order form under Compilations).

15. [Editor:] For a foundational study of “Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth,” see:

- *God’s Eonian Purpose*, Adlai Loudy (see order form);
- *The Foundations of Dispensational Truth*, Dr. E.W. Bullinger (see order form);
- The continuing series Right Division (An Overview of Dispensational Truth), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Part 1, [Bible Student’s Notebook #551](#); Part 2, [Bible Student’s Notebook #552](#); Part 3, [Bible Student’s Notebook #553](#); Part 4, [Bible Student’s Notebook #554](#); Part 5, [Bible Student’s Notebook #555](#); Part 6, [Bible Student’s Notebook #556](#); Part 7, [Bible Student’s Notebook #557](#); Part 8, [Bible Student’s Notebook #558](#); Part 9, [Bible Student’s Notebook #559](#); Part 10, [Bible Student’s Notebook #570](#).
- The Address on the Envelope, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #326](#); also found in *God’s Holy Nation: Israel and Her Earthly Purpose*, Appendix 3, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form);
- Parallel, Not Identical, C.F. Baker, found in *God’s Holy Nation: Israel and Her Earthly Purpose*, Appendix 5, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., (see order form).

16. [Editor:] For a comprehensive study of Messiah, see:
 - *Messiah in Both Testaments*, Dr. Fred John Meldau (see order form under Other Authors).

17. [Editor:] For a look at Jesus Christ’s earthly ministry, see:
 - The Earthly Ministry of Jesus Christ, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. [Bible Student’s Notebook #6](#), or see the [online article at Study Shelf](#);
 - Our Lord’s Earthly Ministry, W.T. Broad, [Bible Student’s Notebook #607](#).

found faith. As Sir Robert Anderson (1841-1918) has so well said,

The divine religion of Judaism in every part of it, both in the spirit and the letter, pointed to the coming of a promised Messiah; and to maintain that a man ceased to be a Jew because he cherished that hope, and accepted the Messiah when He came – this is a position absolutely grotesque in its absurdity.¹⁸

2. Those who heard the Word on that memorable day of Pentecost were “Jews, devout men out of every nation under heaven” (Acts 2:5).

They had been of the diaspora but had returned to the land of their fathers. The 3000 who became believers on that day (Acts 2:41) were without exception “Jews, devout men.” They remained such after they believed (Acts 2:46).

3. The salvation-bringing [good news] message of God was authorized to everyone in Israel from the Day of Pentecost onward (Acts 2:39; 10:36; 13:26).

This message centered in the fact that the Man Christ Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah (the Christ) and the Son of God.¹⁹ He was presented as an object for faith, offered to Israelites as a Savior. Forgiveness of sins was promised to all who believed in Him (Acts 2:21, 36, 38). This salvation-bringing message could be heralded by any believing Israelite who was commissioned of God to do so. This commission consisted of the Word of God coming to a man as a message intended for another (See Luke 3:2 for an example of this).

18. *The Silence of God*, Sir Robert Anderson. [Editor:] This is a Bible Student’s Press reprint available at [StudyShelf.com](#) (see order form under Sir Robert Anderson).

19. [Editor:] For more information on the *Nature of Jesus Christ*, see:
 - Jesus Christ the Son of God, A.P. Adams, [Bible Student’s Notebook #324](#);
 - God’s Unique Son: The Man Christ Jesus, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #255](#);
 - “There are Many Gods” – “There Is One God,” A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #324](#);
 - The Father and the Son, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #362](#);
 - The Father and the Son, John Essex, [Bible Student’s Notebook #408](#);
 - The Doctrine of the Double Nature of Christ, Don Snedeker, Part 1: [Bible Student’s Notebook #298](#), Part 2: [Bible Student’s Notebook #299](#).

It seems that every believing Jew in the Acts period had the blessing of this experience. The message may have come to them for only one person, but there could be no proclamation apart from such a commission (Romans 10:15).

4. In the eight years that elapsed between Pentecost and Peter's visit to the house of Cornelius, the gospel was to the Jew only. Every believer during that time was a Jew, a man of Israel.

No one was authorized to speak the salvation-bringing message to anyone else. Even if a Gentile overheard it as it was being proclaimed, as Cornelius certainly had (Acts 10:37), it was still not for him.

5. The thrice-repeated vision which Peter saw while on the housetop (Acts 10:9-16) was a special commission and authorization for him to go to the house of Cornelius, a God-fearing, devout Gentile.

This proclamation of Jesus Christ to the household of one Roman centurion represents Peter's entire ministry to the Gentiles. He had no commission to any others outside Israel. He was not God's commissioned one to the Gentiles. This was Paul's prerogative (Romans 11:13). This one act of Peter served to prepare the believers in Israel for the ministry of Paul among the Gentiles, which began six years later.

6. Cornelius did not become a herald of the salvation-bringing message to the Gentiles.

He did not abandon his military position and return to Rome to herald the Gospel. He could not do so without a divine commission. If he had such a commission it would have made him, and not Paul, God's commissioned one to the Gentiles.

7. It was God's purpose and program in the Acts period that every responsible person in Israel should hear the salvation-bringing gospel and have one clear-cut opportunity to receive the Lord Jesus as the Messiah and to believe in Him as a Savior (Romans 15:21).

This witness was made to every Israelite in the land and to the uttermost parts of the Earth (Acts 1:8).

8. God's purpose in this period was accomplished. Every Israelite was covered (Romans 10:18; 15:23).

Those outside the land lived in tight pockets and could easily be reached by the herald going to the synagogue in that locality (Acts 17:1-3).

9. In the Acts period the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ was always done by God-commissioned men (Romans 10:15), the message they heralded was always spoken by divine inspiration (I Corinthians 2:13), every word of it was the Word of God (I Thessalonians 2:13), it was always absolute truth (II Corinthians 13:3), it was not written, it was not memorized and repeated over and over, and it was always fresh from God each time it was spoken.

It was varied each time to meet the exact needs of those who heard it, but these variations were inspired by God and were not made by the heralds. One man could proclaim it as well as another. Ignorant fishermen spoke it as well as the educated statesmen.

10. In order to avoid all delays, all misunderstandings and any need for translation, the gospel of God was always spoken in the mother tongue of the one for whom it was intended.

The gift of tongues was a meaningful reality in the Acts period (Acts 2:6, 8, 11).

11. In the Acts dispensation the proclamation of the gospel was always confirmed to the hearers by evidential miracles (Mark 16:20; John 14:12; Acts 2:43; Acts 5:12; Romans 15:18-19; I Corinthians 1:6; Hebrews 2:4).

These might precede the proclamation, accompany it or follow it, but they were always there. No one was asked to believe without seeing. Physical evidence was always a part of the proclamation (I Thessalonians 1:5).

12. Under the divine administration that prevailed in the Acts period a man was given only one opportunity to hear and believe the gospel (Acts 13:46).

✦ *I was going to complain. Then I remembered He is the source of all things, even my disappointments.*— Thomas Watson (1620-1686)

The heralds of the gospel never spoke it twice to the same people. A herald did not go over ground that had already been covered (Romans 15:20-21). The message was at once either a “*savor of life*” or a “*savor of death*” to all who heard it (II Corinthians 2:16). If a man could not immediately believe the testimony of a God-commissioned man speaking a divinely-inspired message, the truth of which was confirmed by signs following, there was nothing more that could be done. All who heard were enlightened, they tasted of the heavenly gift, they were partakers of the Holy Spirit, they had tasted the good Word of God, and experienced the powers of the coming eon (Hebrews 6:4-5). If after all this they fell away it was impossible to bring them back again to the place of submission (Hebrews 6:6-7).

13. In the Acts dispensation the faith of a believer was always publicly accredited and confirmed by God.

“*These signs shall follow them that believe,*” was the promise of Jesus Christ (Mark 16:17), and they did (I Corinthians 1:6-7). A man’s relationship to God was a manifest thing. There were no secret believers. The life of an Acts period believer was not “*hid with Christ in God,*” as ours is today (Colossians 3:3).

14. After Peter’s visit to the house of Cornelius, Paul was the only man commissioned by God to herald His salvation-bringing message to the Gentiles.

This ministry began in Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:46-47). Nevertheless, Paul’s ministry²⁰ even after Acts 13

20. [Editor:] Paul had an early ministry (*diakonia*, G1248) to the members of the nations (Romans 11:13, *cf.* Galatians 2:7; II Corinthians

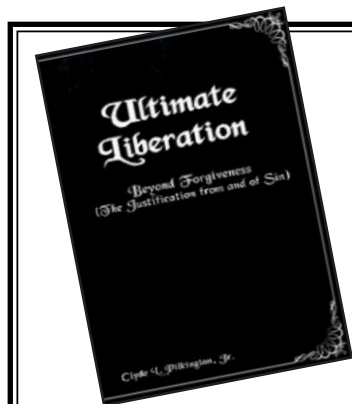
was always to the Jew first and to the Jew primarily (Acts 13:46; Romans 1:16; Acts 17:1-2). He would go straight through a city without stopping if there were no company of Jews in it (Acts 17:1).

The true, biblical picture of the Acts period is one of thousands of heralds carrying the salvation-bringing message of God to every Israelite (Acts 11:19) but only one herald taking it to the Gentiles, and this only after he had fulfilled every obligation to his own people, Israel. This may not be the picture that people want to see, but it is the true Biblical one nevertheless.

15. In the Acts period the children of Israel are likened to being “*as the sand of the sea*” (Romans 9:27). ▶

4:1) which purpose was to provoke Israel to emulation (Romans 11:14). It was a ministry of grace (Acts 20:24), spirit (over against death; II Corinthians 3:8), righteousness (over against condemnation:9), and conciliation (5:18). For a look at the subject of Paul’s priestly ministry, see:

- Paul’s Priestly Ministry, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #721](#);
- Paul’s Priestly Ministry:Supplementary Notes, [Bible Student’s Notebook #721](#);
- Paul’s Priestly Ministry, Adlai Loudy , [Bible Student’s Notebook #532](#);
- The Priestly Ministry of Paul, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #532](#);
- Paul’s Previous Ministries, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #567](#);
- Onward and Upward:Paul’s Priestly Ministry Transitioning Toward His Celestial, Vladimir Gelesnoff, [Bible Student’s Notebook #509](#);
- The Administrations, Adlai Loudy, [Bible Student’s Notebook #497](#);
- The Readjustment Administration, Adlai Loudy, [Bible Student’s Notebook #492](#);
- The Divine Calendar, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #434](#);
- A New Administration at the Close of Acts, Adlai Loudy (Part 1, [Bible Student’s Notebook #562](#); Part 2, [Bible Student’s Notebook #563](#)).



Ultimate Liberation: Beyond Forgiveness (The Justification from and of Sin)

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Many people labor under a heavy weight of guilt and shame. The answer is to be found only in the total provision that God Himself has already provided!

60 pp., PB

See order form.

GLORY (continued from page 6226)

It was God's purpose in these thirty-three years to sift through and test every grain of sand that made up this company. Among these were many true gems that would shine forth the moment they heard the message and saw its confirmation. These gems would have a special place and perform a special service in the day when He makes up His jewels (Malachi 3:17). These become in truth "the Israel of God" (Galatians 6:16).

16. At the close of the Acts period God had accomplished everything He set out to do. He had finished the work. He had cut it short in righteousness.

A conclusive and concise work had been done on Earth (Romans 9:28). Israel had heard the Word and saw the works of God (Romans 10:18). The Israel of God had been discovered (Galatians 6:16). The remnant had been established (Romans 11:5). A definite company from among the Gentiles had been called for His name (Acts 15:14). Everything was ready for the full establishment of the manifest Kingdom of God upon the Earth (Romans 13:11-12), but it did not come. At the close of the Acts period all of God's Kingdom purposes were suspended while He accomplishes a purpose that had never before been revealed.

17. The end of the Acts dispensation is marked by Paul's pronouncement in Acts 28:28.

The Bible student must discover when he comes to this declaration what things come to an end, what things carry through, and what new circumstances and conditions prevail. That the circumstances and conditions set forth above came to an end is obvious. That a new dispensation began is evident. The words of Acts 28:28 are of the utmost importance.

Understanding that the word translated "salvation" (*soterion*) is an adjective, and that no adjective ever stands alone in a sentence; knowing also that the word "sent" is *apostello*, and since it is used as an inanimate thing it means authorized, or, made freely available, I would accurately translate this passage as follows:

Let it then be known unto you that the salvation-bringing message of God has been authorized to the nations, and they will hear it.

(to be continued)

TOPICS:

Major: Acts, Book of; Israel; Right Division
Minor: Kingdom of Heaven

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- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all mankind through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 1:1-3);
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 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);

- union in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6);
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We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

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ABBREVIATION KEY

Scripture Version

AV: Authorized Version
BSV: Bible Student's Version
CV: Concordant Literal Version
DAR: Darby Translation
DT: Dabhar Translation
FF: Ferrar Fenton Bible
KJV: King James Version
NET: New English Translation
RE: Rotherham's Emphasized Bible
WT: Weymouth Translation
YLT: Young's Literal Translation

Reference Sources

AA: Analytical Analysis (Welch)
BDB: Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon
CB: Companion Bible Notes & Appendixes
(Bullinger)
CC: Concordant Commentary (Knoch)
CKC: Concordant Keyword Concordance (Knoch)
CL: A Critical Lexicon and Concordance
(Bullinger)
CWS: Complete Word Study Dictionary (Zodhiates)
FoS: Figures of Speech (Bullinger)
SEC: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance
TGL: Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon
UR: Unsearchable Riches

VED: Vine's Expository Dictionary
YAC: Young's Analytical Concordance

Reference Notations

cf. – compare
e.g. – for example
et al. – and others
etc. – et cetera (and so on)
ff. – and the following
i.e., – that is