



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 38
Issue 936

Things I Misunderstood

Part 5

7 Things I Misunderstood about Prophecy

An Exposé of Evangelical Prophetic Interpretation

Personal Reflections by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.



Key Points:

Because the current administration was an absolute secret, it is not the subject of prophecy whatsoever..... 7907.
Israel's prophetic clock has stopped, and there has been no prophecy fulfilled in the past 2,000 years..... 7908
The signs and portents that accompany Christ's unveiling will

not occur during our days, and our expectation will be fulfilled before they take place..... 7909
The current Dispensation of Grace was hidden in the Heart of God and was never made known in other ages or dispensations. It had been God's Secret which He shared with no one.... 7911

What about the end times?
What about the end of the world?

What about the last days?
What about the rapture?

Are any of these near?

Section 3

I Misunderstood the Unprophetic Nature of the Secret Administration

For most of my life I was ignorant that Paul revealed the *Secret Administration* in Ephesians and Colossians. This current administration¹ stands in *complete* contrast to all of Israel's prophetic program, as well as all of the administrations of the past and future. Except for the first,² all other admin-

istrations are founded upon the presence of the *Barrier Wall* (i.e., "middle wall of partition" Ephesians 2:14),³ which established a (continued on page 7907)

1. Throughout Scripture we are presented with various administrations. These administrations, sometimes called "dispensations," or "economies," are divine managements, or stewardships. They are the organization and implementation of specific divine purposes. There are seven basic administrations.

For more information on the seven administrations, see,

Book:

– [The Seven Administrations](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (On the [order form](#) under "Pilkington.");

Video:

– [The Seven Administration](#)s, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Basics #7](#);

Article:

– [The Seven Administrations](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.; [Bible Student's Notebook #891, #892](#).

2. I.e., the Administration of Dominion, which was established before the call of Abraham and the covenant of circumcision with him. This administration deals with procreative domestic dominion.

3. When God called Abraham, He placed a *division* between his descendants and all of the rest of humanity. God established a "barrier" between Jew and Gentile, Israel and the Nations. Paul called this division a "middle wall of **partition**" in Ephesians 2:14 (KJV). The *Concordant Version* calls it "the central wall of the **barrier**." The *Dabhar Version* renders it "the middle wall of the **blockage**."

When reading the Scriptures it is vitally important that you ask yourself the simple question: Is the middle wall of partition up, or is it down? Recognizing and answering this crucial question is an important key in following Paul's instruction found in II Timothy 2:15 of "rightly dividing" (KJV), "correctly cutting" (CV, 1976 – 6th Edition) or "correctly partitioning" (CV, 1927 – 2nd Edition) the "Word of truth."

It's not until you get to the pinnacle writings of Paul – Ephe-

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The Ache	7910



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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- 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 through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);

- union in His death, burial and resurrection and ascended seated position among the celestials (Romans 6; Ephesians 2:6);
- adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. 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."

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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Where internally we are full of peace and joy, outward surroundings are of comparatively little account. – H.W. Smith (1832–1911)

distinction between Jew and Gentile. This divide in humanity was instituted by the Abrahamic Covenant of Circumcision.⁴

The present, Secret Administration, was “*hid in God*” (Ephesians 3:9), “*hid from the ages and generations*” (Colossians 1:25-26). It unveils “*the unsearchable riches of Christ*” (Ephesians 3:8) not found elsewhere in Scripture. It involves “*The Dispensation of the Grace of God*” (:2), a despotism of grace, committed only to Paul, not associated with any covenant, new or old (Ephesians 2:14-15; Colossians 2:14), nor to human merit or rules (:8), ordinances, holy days, etc. (:16).

sians and Colossians – that you see this barrier removed. Read these letters that reveal the Secret Administration, and enjoy God’s truth for today.

For a further look at the “*middle wall of partition*,” see:

Video:

– [\(The Divine Barrier\) An Overview of the Acts Period - Lesson 1](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see Biblical Resources channel on YouTube)

Articles:

– The Divine Barrier, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #574](#);

– Paul’s Timeline of Right Division (Right Division: An Overview of Dispensational Truth) Part 12, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #795](#);

– The Middle Wall, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #550](#);

– The “Middle Wall” of Ephesians 2:15 – and How It Relates to Acts 15, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #574](#);

– To the Jew First (Tidbits of Truth), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #877](#).

4. For information on the Jewish rite of circumcision, the sign of the Abrahamic covenant, see:

– *Right Division (An Overview of Dispensational Truth)*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Part 3 – Israel’s Place in God’s Plan: An Introduction to Israel’s Covenants and a Survey of the Abrahamic Covenant, [Bible Student’s Notebook #553](#).

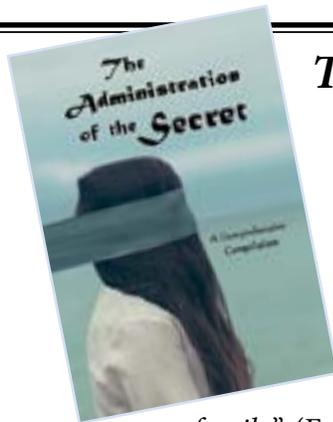
All things emphasized in the past under Israel’s administrations (Promise, Law and Pentecost) have been removed. We now live under an administration where the Barrier Wall has been removed (*cf.* Ephesians 2:14, CV), and in the absence of that wall, we are “*complete in Him*” (Colossians 2:10). There is nothing that needs to be added.

Believers of this present Secret Administration are a “*Joint-Body*” (Ephesians 3:6), called the “*One New Man*” (:15), and share Christ’s Universal Headship inherent in the Heavens (4:15-16; Colossians 1:16-19; 2:10).

The Secret Administration is the divine revelation concerning what God is doing regarding the *One Body* and its celestial destiny. This *One Body* (Ephesians 2:16; 4:4; Colossians 3:15) is the Post-Acts “church” of which Christ alone is Head (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23; Colossians 1:24; 2:19). This current administration began only after the judicial decree of the blinding of Israel in Acts 28:28.

Because the current administration was an absolute secret, it is *not* the subject of prophecy whatsoever. What this means is that Israel is currently in abeyance (*Lo-ammi* – “*Not My People*,” *cf.* Hosea 1:9), and her prophetic clock has now stopped, resulting in any timetable of prophecy being paused for the past two millennia.

Ephesians and Colossians are the present truth for the current dispensation. Ephesians introduces the Secret Administration in which we live, while Colossians,



The Administration of the Secret

A Comprehensive Compilation

308 pages

See [order form](#) under “*Compilations*.”

The Secret Administration, revealed through Ephesians and Colossians, is characterized and empowered by the dispensing of transcendent grace (Ephesians 1:7; 2:7; 3:2). Now, believing Gentiles are “*no longer guests and sojourners*,” as they were in the Pentecostal and Readjustment Administrations, but are “*fellow-citizens of the saints and members of God’s family*” (Ephesians 2:19). This outstanding work includes 45 chapters, by 17 authors, spanning nearly 200 years. Author’s include: Oscar M. Baker, Tom L. Ballinger, J. R. Caldwell, E. H. Clayton, J.J.B. Coles, John Essex, J.H. Evans, H.W. Fry, Vladimir Gelesnoff, William B. Hallman, Richard Holden, John H. Kessler, A.E. Knoch, Adlai Loudy, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., and Charles H. Welch.

its companion epistle, completes the Word of God. There are no other Secret Administration⁵ letters beyond Ephesians and Colossians.⁶

I misunderstood that we now live under the *Secret Administration*, completely outside of the subject of prophecy. I was unaware that, when God revealed this Secret Administration, the hands of Israel's prophetic clock stopped. The nation of Israel and her prophecies entered into *absolute* abeyance.

We currently live outside of Israel's prophetic times. The last prophecy fulfilled was that of Isaiah 6:9-10 nearly 2000 years ago as recorded in Acts 28:25-28.⁷

5. For detailed studies on the *Secret Administration*, see,
 - [The Administration of the Secret](#) (see [order form](#) under “Compilations”);
 - [A New Administration at the Close of Acts](#), Adlai Loudy, (see [order form](#) under “Loudy”).
6. For a consideration of these post-Acts epistles of Paul, and their uniqueness in contrast with his earlier epistles, see the books:
 - [Ephesians and Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see [order form](#) under “Pilkington”);
 - [“Pastors” – The Ascension Gifts, the Higher Powers of Romans 13, and the Secret Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see [order form](#) under “Pilkington”).
7. For more information on Acts 28, see:
 - Acts 28: The Dispensational Crisis, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook #642](#);
 - Before and After Acts 28, Oscar Baker, [Bible Student's Notebook #595](#);
 - Different Conditions Before and After Acts 28, David Tavender, [Bible Student's Notebook #747](#);
 - The Hope of Paul's Acts Epistles, Tom L. Ballinger, [Bible Student's Notebook #580, #581](#);
 - The Acts Transition and the Pentecostal Dispensation, Sir Robert Anderson, [Bible Student's Notebook #507](#);
 - The Pentecostal Dispensation Was Brought to a Close in Acts 28, Sir Robert Anderson, [Bible Student's Notebook #625](#);
 - The Three Stages of Paul's Ministry, Vladimir Gelesnoff, [Bible Student's Notebook #717](#);
 - Gentiles During the Acts Period, David Tavender, [Bible Student's Notebook #733](#);
 - When Was Israel as a Nation Set Aside? John H. Kessler, [Bible Student's Notebook #629](#);
 - The Earlier and Later Chapters of the Book of Acts, Sir Robert

At some point, with Israel's prophetic clock⁸ still motionless, Christ will reveal Himself among the Celestials. At that time, we will join Him there in His appearance as co-regents, the new aristocracy of Heaven.

This manifestation has no prophetic signs or indicators pointing to its arrival. Living completely outside of prophecy, our “*hope*” (confident expectation) is “*pre-expectant*” (Ephesians 1:12). There are no timetables for this unprophesied event whatsoever.

I would come to understand that, with **Israel's prophetic clock stopped, no prophecy has been fulfilled in the past 2,000 years**. So, even if Seven-Millennialism were not just a theory, it would have been on pause for the last two millennia.

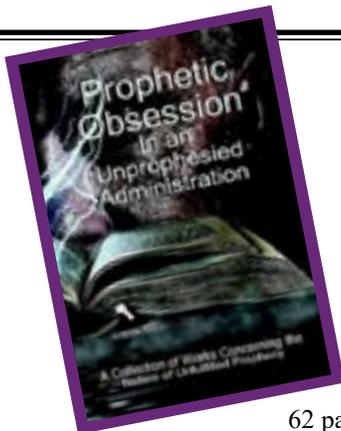
A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) wrote,

... *Signs are not for us and cannot occur so long as we are on the scene.* ... Wars are no sign, for these have raged again and again among the nations. Even earthquakes and famines and disturbances are no

Anderson, [Bible Student's Notebook #526](#);

- 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](#) under “Sellers”);
- The Acts Dispensation, Otis Q. Sellers, Parts 1-3, [Bible Student's Notebook #727, #728, #729](#);
- Paul's Message After Acts 28, William B. Hallman, [Bible Student's Notebook #867](#);
- The Pentecostal and Secret Dispensations, William B. Hallman, [Bible Student's Notebook #866](#).

8. For more information on Israel's Prophetic Clock, see:
 - Christ's Appearing and Israel's Prophetic Clock, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #567](#);
 - Living Outside of Prophecy, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #656](#);
 - The Prophetic Clock Has Stopped, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #821](#);
 - “End Times” Prophecy, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #822](#).



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 pages

See [order form](#) under “Compilations.”

sign, since the Earth is seldom without them. It is the relation of these things to our Lord's Jewish disciples at the time of the end which will make them signals of the approaching Kingdom. ... The presence of signs would indicate that we had missed our upward call.

The signs and portents that accompany Christ's unveiling will not occur during our days, and our expectation will be fulfilled before they take place. Faith, unsupported, unaided, unadulterated *faith* is the only intimation that is given of our grand and glorious expectation.

Those who *watched for signs* to precede His presence during all these many centuries missed its power, for the only signs they could have seen would be deceptive and disappointing, just as *the dates that have been set and have caused so much harm*, not only in the lives of the saints, but in their testimony to the world, which ridicules the faith and derides God's Word because His people have *watched* events and calculated years.⁹

When Paul wrote Ephesians, after the heralding of the Kingdom as recorded in the book of Acts had closed, God once more changed His way of dealing, continuing the trend in the era of Readjustment. Then the nations were blessed through Israel, in their defection. Now the character and place of blessing is changed from physical and earthly to spiritual and celestial, hence it cannot come through that nation, but is independent of them. From being guests at Israel's board the nations become fellow members of God's family. From being aliens in God's Kingdom they become fellow citizens. From being split into two bodies by fleshly rites, they become joint members of One

Body.¹⁰

Rex B. Grant (1941-2013), a Concordant conference speaker wrote,

The “*mystery*” which was “*hid from ages and generations*” (Colossians 1:26), and “*hid in God*” (Ephesians 3:9), was revealed to Paul the apostle and teacher of the Gentiles. He alone is the one to whom and through whom the risen, ascended and seated Lord in glory revealed the surprise of the ages (Ephesians 3:8-11; Colossians 1:24-27).

Paul, during the book of Acts, went to the Jews first before he turned to the Gentiles. It was during this period that the believing Gentiles partook of Israel's spiritual things (Romans 15:27). When the Gentile believed, he was made to partake of the root and fatness of the olive tree (Romans 11:27). The hope of the Gentiles was linked up with the hope of Israel. This hope must not be confused with the one hope of our calling (Ephesians 1:18; 4:4).

The Great Surprise is not based on covenant blessings, old or new, and does not relate to the seed of Abraham. It was a secret “*hid in God*,” not known by the prophets, and is not found in the Scriptures except in Paul's epistles written after the close of the entire Acts period.

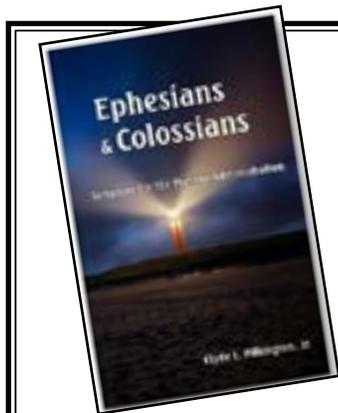
Paul, in writing to the Ephesians, now says that he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles (Ephesians 3:1) and no longer is a prisoner for the hope of Israel (Acts 28:20). The revelation of this mystery was a great surprise. It is the untraceable riches of Christ hid in God (Ephesians 3:8-9; Colossians 1:24-27).¹¹

(see **PROPHECY**, page 7911)

9. *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 34 (1943).

10. [The Problem of Evil](#) (see [order form](#) under “Knoch”).

11. *Fellowship Studies*.



Ephesians & Colossians *Scripture for the Present Administration*

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Ephesians and Colossians are the present truth for the current dispensation. Ephesians introduces the Secret Administration in which we live, while Colossians, its companion epistle, completes the Word of God. There are no other Secret Administration letters beyond Ephesians and Colossians.

62 pages

See [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington.”

The Ache

by — Mark Vogt

In Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, tenth edition, the word "ache" has three different definitions. I will use the third definition because it fits most appropriately with what I want to say. The definition for this word is "to experience a painful eagerness or yearning."



That is exactly what I feel concerning our future Divine Fulfillment. My flesh says that I have suffered enough in this life (although not even remotely what others have suffered) and that God has sufficiently taught me what He needed to teach me in my life to prepare for that day, but then I realize that He is the great Author and that apparently my learning has not yet been completed.

You see, I don't even know what all God is yet going to teach me and, if I am honest, I won't know most of what He has already "taught" me until my resurrection to immortality and the realization of just what He has really taught me and the fulfillment that I am looking for.

Much of what I used to think important in my life is simply (as the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 3:8) refuse and of very little consequence. My vocation, my time in the military, my travels around the world and many other things, while interesting, and I am glad I had those experiences, mean very little to me as I age and hopefully have grown in the grace of God.

It is not healthy to live in the past because it cannot be changed – even if you thought you could change it if only you had the opportunity go back and have another chance to do something different, given the same set of circumstances. You and I wouldn't do anything differently because it is God Who is writing the story of our lives and it has been written down since before the "disruption of the world" (Ephesians 1).¹

1. [Editor:] "The disruption of the world" (CV: Matthew 25:34; Luke 11:50; John 17:24; Ephesians 1:4; Hebrew 4:3; 9:26; I Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8; 17:8), but mistakenly referred to as "the foundation of the world," was the catastrophic overthrow of God's original creation.

¹"A whole eon (age) had gone by before humanity came into

My heart aches for what will be, and the fulfillment that will be ours in resurrection. My heart aches for the day that Christ Jesus our Lord will be magnified, and His name will be held up to be praised by everyone, and that the whole Universe will glorify God and His Son for what They accomplished and Who They are.

My heart aches for the day that all of the critics and naysayers and unbelievers see Christ not as the baby in a manger, or as the Jewish teacher who died on a cross, but as the Son of God in all of His magnificent glory; and that all the Universe, and that includes the celestial beings, owes every good thing, including judgement, to the work of Christ Jesus. What a glorious day that will be.

In my weak and pitiful condition, I see more and more my failure and inability to perform any good, but for the grace of God. One day the whole Universe will see and realize this also. Trust God that He will work all together for our good (Romans 8:28), and that which comes into our lives that may seem grievous and difficult are but building blocks that God is using to execute His wondrous and marvelous plan.

The ache is there, but it will all be worth it in that day, when we, believers during this age, are united with Christ and go on to the task that He has been "preparing" us for during our lives. O, what a glorious day that will be! **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Believer's Walk; Calling; Ecclesia; Expectation; Sovereignty

Minor: Consummation

being, and all the events of that eon, whatever they were, had terminated in 'the disruption of the world,' that is, the disruption of the society as it existed at that time. That society was clearly a Celestial one, for it was in being before the Earth was even founded, as Job 38:4-7 makes plain." – John Essex, "The Vessel of Humanity," *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 73 (1982).

For more information about "the disruption," see:

- [The Disruption of the World](#), see on the [order form](#) under "Compilations;"
- [Without Form and Void: A Study of the Meaning of Genesis 1:2](#), Arthur C. Custance (see [order form](#) under "Other Authors").



PROPHECY (continued from page 7909)

Tom L. Ballinger¹² wrote,

This dispensation is as if it were placed within a parenthesis in the Chart of the Ages. It was unprophesied, having been hidden in the heart of God since before *the overthrow of the World*.

The current Dispensation of Grace was hidden in the Heart of God and was never made known in other ages or dispensations. It had been God's Secret which He shared with no one.

Not a single prophecy of the Old Testament was directed to the Grace Dispensation. None of the prophetic Scriptures knew anything about the Dispensation of the Mystery. Present Truth for today was revealed only by Paul and was not the subject of any prophecy.

The truth of the Mystery is not associated with the Second Coming of Christ – the *Parousia* – but looks for the glorious Appearing of Christ (Colossians 3).¹³

(to be continued)

FURTHER RESOURCES:

Book:

– [Prophetic Obsession in an Unprophesied Administration – A Collection of Works Concerning the Nature of Unfulfilled Prophecy](#) (see [order form](#) under "Compilations").

12. See [order form](#) under "Ballinger" for available works by this author.

13. *Plainer Words*.



75 pages

See [order form](#) under "Clyde Pilkington."

The modern role of "pastor" is not founded on Scripture, but instead is an institutional fabrication of Protestantism. The Ascension Gifts of Ephesians 4 were prophetically a part of Israel's Old Testament promises. The "higher powers" of Romans 13 were not a reference to civil authorities, but rather the spiritual rulers over the Acts-period churches. Since Acts 28 (the dispensational boundary line) the "powers that be" have been withdrawn. Under the current Secret Administration, all of these "gifts" are inoperative. The One Body has no flesh-and-blood rulers. We are to be submissive only to our Head: the Lord Jesus Christ. To Him alone do we owe our allegiance.

Articles:

- The Prophetic Clock Has Stopped Time: Predictions in this Administration of the Secret are Futile and False, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook 821](#);
- Prophecy Not Now Being Fulfilled (Tidbits of Truth #6), A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook 857](#);
- Living Outside of Prophecy, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook 656](#);
- "Are We in the Last Days?" André Sneidar, [Bible Student's Notebook 811](#);
- "Living in the 'Last Days'?" André Sneidar, [Bible Student's Notebook 888](#);
- The Fallacy of Looking to Israel's Prophetic Signs During an Unprophesied Dispensation, [Bible Student's Notebook 824](#).

NOTE: For the video version of this study, [Things I Misunderstood about Prophecy](#), go to our Biblical Resources channel on YouTube.

NOTE: See the previous installments from this series:

- Part 1 – "3 Things I Misunderstood about God," [BSN 917](#);
- Part 2 – "3 Things I Misunderstood about Salvation," [BSN 918](#);
- Part 3 – "3 Things I Misunderstood about Christ's Sacrificial Work," [BSN 919](#);
- Part 4 – "4 Things I Misunderstood About the Rich Man & Lazarus," [BSN 920](#);
- Part 5 – "7 Things I Misunderstood about Prophecy," Section 1, [BSN 926](#);
- Part 5 – "7 Things I Misunderstood about Prophecy," Section 2, Installment 1, [BSN 933](#);
- Part 5 – "7 Things I Misunderstood about Prophecy," Section 2, Installment 2, [BSN 934](#).

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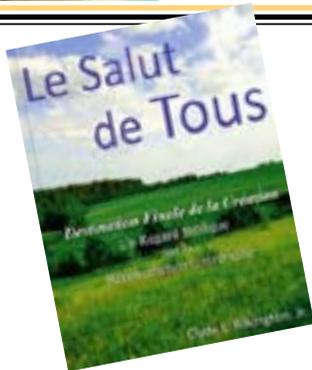
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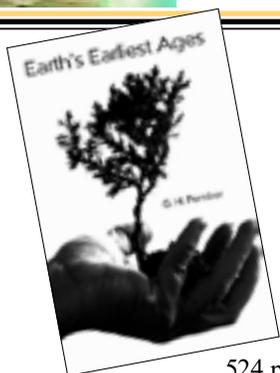
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