



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 41
Issue 1013

God Reveals Himself Progressively

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: God / Unit 4: God as Father/ Lesson 5: God Reveals Himself Progressively

by — Mark D. Vogt

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the Heavens are higher than the Earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Key Points:

We don't get it all at one time.....8523
Nature and the cosmos serve as a testament to God's existence and attributes, communicating with humanity before the advent of written Scripture.....8523
Jesus embodies the most direct and complete revelation

of God, showcasing His nature and intentions through His life.....8529
The writings of Paul, particularly his letters to the Ephesians and Colossians, extend God's revelation, offering deep insights into His plans and desires for humanity.....8529

God reveals Himself progressively through the ages and through the Scriptures. His ways are so much higher than our ways and His thinking so much deeper and complete than our thinking that it would be impossible for God not only to be able to tell us all that He knows, but what He has decided to tell us has to be given to us piecemeal – in other words, a little at a time.



Because of this, God has schooled mankind through the physical creation, as evidenced in the story told by the stars.¹ There in the stars God is telling us something, and this was far more important to those of humanity who didn't have the written Word of God in their possession, because none was available. Nevertheless, God was talking to them and revealing Himself to them. Psalm

19:1 says,

(see BSC, page 8529)

The prophet Isaiah lets us in on a secret. We don't and can't get it all at one time. Isaiah 28:10 says,

For instruction is added to instruction, instruction to instruction, principle to principle, a bit here, a bit there (CV).

The KJV uses the phrase, "precept upon precept." We are incapable of understanding God's way in large doses.

1. [Editor:] One should read E.W. Bullinger's [The Witness of the Stars](#) (see the [order form](#) under "Bullinger").

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

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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 (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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“Abram the Hebrew”

His Call out of Ur of the Chaldees

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

By the time Abram shows up on the stage of human history, God had already turned the nations over to heathenism (Romans 1:21-32).¹ Out of this scene God calls Abram, who would later have his name changed to Abraham (Genesis 17:5). God called him out from his pagan family and nation to be the divine vessel to form a new nation (Israel) to stand in contrast to the rest of the nations.

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, “Get yourself out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father’s house, unto a land that I will show you” (Genesis 12:1).

This *getting out* by Abram was a *crossover* journey for him and his descendants, one from paganism to the knowledge and worship of the true God, Who would be known as the “*God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*” – “*the God of Israel,*” which the rest of the nations were “*without*” (Ephesians 2:12).

This *crossover* gave him the name “*Abram the Hebrew*” (Genesis 14:13). This is the first use of the word “*Hebrew*” (עִבְרִי, *ibrîy*, SEC H5680) meaning “to pass



on,” “he who passed over from beyond” (CB), “one from beyond” (DBD).

Concerning the “*Ur of the Chaldees*” from which Abram came out, we learn more historically.

Ur of the Chaldees, whence Abraham set out upon his journey to Canaan ... was always the center of the worship of the moon-god in Southern Babylonia. (L.W. King.) — *Hastings’ Dictionary of the Bible*

Ur – that is, “light,” or “fire.” Its name probably derived from its being devoted to the rites of fire-worship. Terah [the father of Abraham] and his family were equally infected with that idolatry as the rest of the inhabitants (Joshua 24:2, 15). — *Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary*

Ur of the Chaldees. This was the land of his [Abraham’s] nativity, an idolatrous country. ... His father was Terah, of whom it is said (Joshua 24:2) that he served other gods. ... His departure out of Ur of the Chaldees ... in obedience to the call of God, of which we shall read more, Genesis 12:1, etc. — *Matthew Henry Commentary*

(see **ABRAM**, last page)

1. For more on this theme, see:

– [World Affairs and National Politics: And the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student’s Press, on the [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington.”



Water Baptism

A Compilation

This work answers the question as to whether or not water baptism is a part of this current dispensation. Nine chapters from the following authors: Oscar M. Baker, Denis Durham, Stephen Hill, Richard Jordan, Kenneth J. Morgan, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Ike T. Sidebottom.

94 pages

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

God as He Reveals Himself to the Nation Israel

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: GOD / Unit 4: God as Father / Lesson 6: God as He Reveals Himself to
the Nation Israel

by — Mark D. Vogt (with Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.)

God, Who at various times and in diverse manners, spoke in time past unto the fathers [of Israel] by the prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He has appointed allotee of all, by Whom also He made the ages; Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power, when He had by Himself cleansed our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Key Points:

God revealed Himself to humanity through various methods over time, including direct communication and miraculous acts, demonstrating an evolving interaction with the nation of Israel..... 8526
The Pentateuch, authored by Moses, documents God's laws and the history of Israel, serving as a foundational text for understanding God's relationship with His people and their successes and failures..... 8526

The ultimate revelation of God as Father was made through Jesus Christ, who, by His teachings and life, presented a more intimate and personal understanding of God to humanity..... 8527
Jesus Christ's revelation significantly shifted the perception of God to a Father-child relationship, paving the way for all humanity, including Gentiles, to connect with God beyond the traditional confines of the nation of Israel..... 8527

In the course of history, God has chosen a number of ways to reveal Himself to mankind. He spoke directly to some of the saints in Genesis. Examples of this are Adam, Noah and Abram. God also revealed Himself to people by public manifestations of His wisdom and power. When Moses went into Pharaoh's court to plead for the release of the Israelites after hundreds of years of bondage, he performed miracles in front of the dignitaries in that same court. Moses was the instrument, but obviously it was God's power that brought about these miracles. God communicated to Israel as a whole, when parting the Red Sea and demonstrating to them His power, wisdom and watchful care.

Job, during the later chapters, God asks Job approximately eighty questions which are designed to magnify God's wisdom and knowledge, as opposed to man's extremely limited understanding.

The Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) comprises the first five books of the Scriptures and deals with creation up to the death of Moses and prior to Israel crossing the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land. In it we find a methodical recording of God's revelation to Israel, and with that a recording of God's precepts and laws, as well as their obedience and failures (mostly failures). All five books were written by Moses and are foundational for our understanding of the beginnings of God's plan of the eons concerning Israel, and the callings and the failures of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph and many others, including Moses himself.

After God called the nation of Israel to be His people,

He commenced His written revelation to that nation and the recording of their history, flaws and all. While doing this He continued to reveal Himself in increments so that His people would get an increasingly bigger picture of Who their God was and that they would know their God progressively better – not just know *about* Him, but *get to know* Him. Since Abraham was called out from “Ur of the Chaldees,” God progressively moved Abraham and his descendants from a pagan view of God (Joshua 24:2), to the ultimate reality of Him as “Father,” which process found its culmination in Christ.

But the Word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little ... (Isaiah 28:13).

Thus, the apex of God's revelation to His chosen nation was when the Son of His love entered the stage, beginning in the little town of Bethlehem. He was Israel's promised Messiah and His entrance was foretold by the prophets in the Old Testament. The Lord Jesus Christ was God's iconic revelation (Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3). He embodied God's revelation of Himself. The definitive declaration is given in John 14:9 where Jesus says,

He who has seen Me has seen the Father (CV).

Though there were slight hints of the revelation of God as “Father” in the Hebrew Scriptures, it was our Lord Jesus Christ Himself Who came to reveal God's true identity and nature as such.

“Father” is an advanced revelation concerning God,

super-abounding that of any previous one. With radical boldness Christ personally calls God “Father” over 150 times in the gospel accounts.

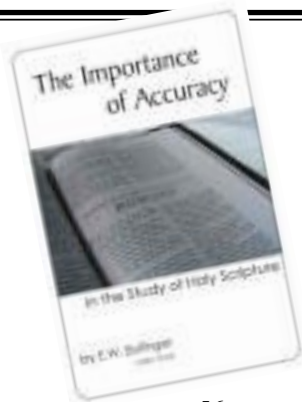
Jesus Christ came to reveal a Father relationship between God and man, just as He has that relationship with God. He bridged the gap of separation, providing a loving Father-child bond with God.

What a rich and wonderful relationship with Father into which the Lord Jesus Christ brought Israel. It paled all others! The revelation progressed from God being merely Christ's “My Father,” to Him teaching them to embrace Him as “our Father.”

Jesus Christ is the most visible and clearest expression of God's Logos, or blueprint, of the eons (John 1:1). God manifested His plan and purpose which was embodied in the Lord Jesus Christ. If Israel wanted to see the love of God, they needed to see Christ. If they wanted to see the compassion of God, they needed to see Christ. If Israel wanted to know their God, they needed to get to know His Son, their Messiah. Yet, at the time, they didn't. Their refusal to acknowledge and believe their Messiah led to them rejecting Him, and in turn, led to God rejecting them as His nation. Yet, this too was part of God's plan, for it ultimately led to God opening His blessings to the Gentiles apart from Israel. This then enabled the Gentiles to come into the presence of God without going through the Nation of Israel. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Father; God; Progressive Revelation; Revelation
Minor: Icon; Israel; Jesus Christ; Logos; Ur of the Chaldees



56 pages

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

The Importance of Accuracy in the Study of the Holy Scriptures

by — E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

Error in premise equals error in conclusion. In this work, Bullinger stresses the critical importance of accuracy when it comes to the study of Scripture.

www.EWBullinger.com



Bible Student's Primer

(A Reference Resource)

From the Editors of the *Bible Student's Notebook*

Right Division

Not everything in the Scriptures is the same. There are different ages, administrations, gospels, days, callings, hopes, spheres of glory, resurrections, etc.

Thus, according to Paul (Philippians 1:20) there is a critical need to,

- ... distinguish between things that differ (MKJV);
- ... testing things that differ (WT);
- ... proving the things that differ (YLT);
- ... examine the things differing (ED).

Simply put, we must learn to make a difference where God makes a difference.

For articles on Right Division, see the continuing series (in this order):

- An Illustration of “Rightly Dividing,” [Bible Student's Notebook 960](#);
- 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](#);
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 - Part 13, [Bible Student's Notebook #796](#);
 - Part 14, [Bible Student's Notebook #800](#);
 - Part 15, [Bible Student's Notebook #893](#);
 - Part 16, [Bible Student's Notebook #911](#);
- “The Three Stages of Paul's Ministry,” [Bible Student's Notebook 960](#).

For videos on Right Division, see the continuing series:

- Right Division (An Overview of Dispensational Truth), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXXxM1xuIaqltBH5L3fF8DinoBgiq83T>

For books on Right Division, see:

- [The Foundations of Dispensational Truth](#), Dr. E.W. Bullinger (see [order form](#) under “Bullinger”);
- [Dispensational Truth, or, The Place of Israel and the Church in the Purpose](#), Charles H. Welch (see [order form](#) under “Welch”).

TOPICS:

Major: Bible Student's Primer; Dispensationalism; Right Division



Etymological New Testament: An ultra-literal translation of the Bible

Translator — John Michael Wine

350 pages

In this translation God is rendered “Placer.” Etymology is not meaning, but it provides fascinating information about the literal words of the Bible. Thus, the meaning of the Greek word *adelphos* is “brother,” but its etymology is “same-uterus,” from its two Greek components. The insights provided in this translation are thought provoking.

(See [order form](#) under “Bibles.”)

BSC (continued from front page)

The Heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork (KJV).

There is a plethora of information out there that reveals God and what He has created.

Has anyone ever marveled at the simple beauty and complexity of a flower? How about the ferocity of a polar or grizzly bear? Has anyone ever contemplated the physical law that energy is neither created nor destroyed? What about the fact that almost everything shrinks and gets smaller when it is cold except for water? When it gets cold enough water freezes and expands. What about the aerodynamic laws that enable an airplane, helicopter, glider or gyrocopter to fly? What about clouds that form when water evaporates, condenses and turns to rain, and then the cycle repeats itself over and over?

God has never been without a witness. Prior to Moses writing the Pentateuch² God spoke to humanity through His physical creation, and by speaking to chosen ones (Abraham for example) so as to reveal Himself. Later on, God had His prophets and others write down what He wanted recorded as a permanent record of His will and intentions.

The iconic³ revelation of God is the Lord Jesus Christ.

- [Editor:]** The first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.
- [Editor:]** Jesus Christ is the “Icon” of God. “Who is the **Image** of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15). The Greek word here for “Image” is *Eikon* (Icon). *Eikon* is defined as, “representation, resemblance” (G1504, SEC). Thus, the *exeGes* Bible (EB) has, “who is the **icon** of the invisible Elohim.” For more on this theme, see:

He is “the Image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15). In John 14:9 Jesus tells Philip, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (CV). Everything about Jesus was a witness concerning the Father.

Do you want to see the Father’s love? Look at Jesus Christ. Do you want to see Father’s compassion? Observe Jesus Christ. Do you want to see the patience and endurance of the Father? Consider Jesus Christ.

God’s Son was completely dedicated to doing the will of His Father (Matthew 26:39). Thus, to see the Son is to see His Father.

However, after the resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, God was not done with His written revelation. Eventually, He called Saul, whose name was later changed to Paul, and had him pen many letters, and then God gave him the pinnacle written revelation contained in the letters of Ephesians and Colossians. There were other books and letters that he had written previously, but these two letters were God’s *ultimate* revelation to humanity. These letters contain God’s highest revelation to mankind and within these epistles God gives us His fullest revelation as to what is in His heart and mind. These letters unlock the mysteries of His knowledge and represent His grandest desires and plans for mankind. **ESN**

TOPICS:

Major: God; Progressive Revelation; Revelation
Minor: Colossians; Ephesians; Icon; Jesus Christ

- “The Image of God,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr, [Bible Student’s Notebook 362](#);
- “God’s Icon,” André Piet, [Bible Student’s Notebook 343](#).



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

The Fallacy of Post Mortem Punishment in Light of a Successful Savior

by — Mike Owens

This is a summary of the biblical, logical and philosophical reasons by which the author has abandoned the notion of hell or punishment after death. God is an all-powerful God of love Who knows how to win hearts and minds. To assume that He needs to use physical or psychological pain in order to gain the admiration, love or loyalty of His creatures is an insult to His sovereignty and wisdom. Like Thomas and Paul – who came to believe by something they saw and experienced, not by faith – everyone, even the Hitlers and Stalins of this world, will experience PRA – Post Resurrection Amazement.

ABRAM (continued from page 8525)

The oldest king of Ur known to us is Ur-Ba'u (servant of the goddess Ba'u) ... He lived some twenty-eight hundred years B.C., and took part in building the famous temple of the moon-god Sin in Ur itself. The illustration here given represents his cuneiform inscription, written in the Sumerian language, and stamped upon every brick of the temple in Ur. It reads: "Ur-Ba'u, king of Ur,

who built the temple of the moon-god."

Ur was consecrated to the worship of Sin, the Babylonian moon-god. ... The name is Babylonian, and bears witness to its having been founded by a Babylonian king. The same witness is still more decisively borne by the worship paid in it to the Babylonian moon-god and by its ancient temple of Sin. ..." (Sayce). — *Easton's Bible Dictionary*

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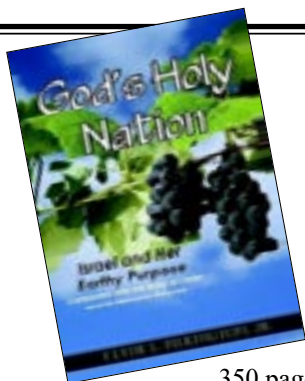
Ur of the Chaldees (Genesis 11:28; Genesis 11:31; Genesis 15:7; Nehemiah 9:7) for two centuries was the capital, and always was held sacred. ... Eupolemos (in Eusebius, Praep. Ev. 9:17) refers to Ur as "the moon worshipping (kamarine; kamar being Arabic for moon) city." — *Fausset's Bible Dictionary* **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Abraham; Hebrew; Ur of the Chaldees

Minor: Idolatry; Paganism

MEN DO NOT
REALLY MAKE UP
THEIR MINDS. THEY
ARE MADE UP FOR THEM.
A.E. KNOCH (1874-1965)



God's Holy Nation – Israel and Her Earthly Purpose

Contrasted with the Body of Christ and Its Heavenly Purpose

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Israel plays a key role in God's plan of the ages. Though currently she has been set aside "until the times of the nations be fulfilled," He is by no means done with her.

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

Today, God is operating His purpose in the ecclesia – the Church, the Body of Christ. The Scriptures provide us with the clear, critical distinction between God's *earthly* nation and Christ's *celestial* body.

Christendom, however, has diminished Israel's divine significance in an attempt to advance their artificial homogenization of Scripture's grand theme, thus obscuring the glorious evangel of our day – "the Good News of the Happy God" committed to the trust of Paul, our Apostle.

This work highlights some of the more prominent distinctions which belong to God's literal, physical, earthly nation. In so doing, it is our desire to allow the reader to see more clearly God's dealings with God's favored nation, so that they may in turn embrace a *far greater* calling and purpose.