



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 40
Issue 985

The So-Called "Acts Period" and Its Supposed "Transition"

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Key Points:

The term "Acts Period" is used to denote the timeframe of God's operations from the Day of Pentecost until Paul's imprisonment in Rome.8299
The actions of the book of Acts, depicted as a subset of the "Kingdom of the Heavens," were at first available to Israel but later expanded to include Gentiles.8299

The idea of a "transition period" within the book of Acts is a misnomer, as it suggests a progressive revelation, but it's actually synonymous with the "Kingdom of the Heavens."8306
Paul's writings in Ephesians and Colossians after Acts 28 reveal secrets of the Celestial allotment and other divine concepts not found in his earlier epistles.8306

For years, throughout the pages of the *Bible Student's Notebook* and our many publications, terms such as "Acts Period" (or "Pentecost Period") and "Acts Dispensation" (or "Pentecost Dispensation") have been intended to be viewed simply as efforts to identify God's operations contained within the timeframe covered by the book of Acts. This interval spans the 33-year period from the Day of Pentecost until the time of Paul's imprisonment in Rome.



in his early epistles (Romans 1:1-2; 15:16; 16:25-26; Galatians 5:21; I Corinthians 6:9-10; II Timothy 4:1).

The foretaste of the full establishment of this Kingdom and its manifest benefits (Hebrews 6:4-5) were at first available for *only* the nation of Israel (Matthew 10:5-6; 15:24); yet later in the book of Acts it was expanded to include Gentiles (Acts 10; Romans 11:17) to provoke Israel to jealousy (Romans 10:19; 11:11), with the Jews still retaining their dispensational advantage of "the Jew first" (Romans 1:16; 2:9-10). Spiritual gifts were used throughout the book of Acts to confirm the genuineness of this Kingdom offer, and were given to the multiple local bodies of Christ² (I Corinthians chapters 12-14) without Jewish/Gentile ethnic distinctions (Gala-

(see **TRANSITION**, last page)

However, it is important that our readers recognize that the **actions** of the book of **Acts** were simply a subset of the "Kingdom of the Heavens."¹ This kingdom was foretold in "the Scriptures of the prophets" (Matthew 26:56; Romans 16:26), proclaimed by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-2), confirmed by Christ (Matthew 4:17; Romans 15:8), and heralded by the 12 Apostles (Matthew 10:7); yet officially offered by the Apostle Peter (Acts 3:19-21), as well as by the Apostle Paul in the book of Acts (*i.e.*, "none other things," Acts 26:22; *cf.* 14:22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23) and

1. For more information on this theme, see:
– *Rightly Dividing Israel's Prophetic Kingdom – With Special Emphasis on The Overlooked Pre-Millennial "Kingdom of the Heavens"* (A Comprehensive Compilation), editors: Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., André Sneider, Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under "Compilations").

2. For more information, see:
– ["The Body of Christ" or "The Church Which Is His Body"? A Compilation on the "One Body" of the Current Administration](#), Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under "Compilations.")

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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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Three Spheres of Blessing

by — J. Eustace Mills (1907-1989)

Eastbourne, Sussex, England

The Word of God reveals three spheres of blessing in which different companies of Christ's redeemed ones will show forth His glory.

The first and second spheres are the New Heavens and New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, with the former sin-stained creation having passed away (Isaiah 65:17; Matthew 24:35; II Peter 1:7-18; Revelation 21:1).

THE THREE SPHERES

Earth – Heavens – Super-Heavens

Earth

In the future, the Earth will be populated by nations over which kings will reign (Revelation 21:24; 5:10). These nations are the "sheep" of Matthew 25:32 (see also Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45; Matthew 5:5).

Heavens

In the Heavens, there is a better country (Hebrews 11:16) in which is situated the city for which Abraham looked (Hebrews 11:10), the hope of the heavenly calling (Hebrews 3:1). Those of this sphere are blessed with faithful Abraham (Galatians 3:9, 14); heirs according to the promise (Galatians 3:16, 18, 29); the Israel of God (Galatians 6:16); citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22; 13:14)

which is above (Galatians 1:26), the Bride, and will come down out of Heaven (Revelation 21:2, 9-10).

Super-Heavens

Over, or above, the Heavens is the Heavens, or the Super-Heavens, translated "Heavenly Places" in the KJV. This is where "the Church which is His Body" is "blessed with all spiritual blessings in **Heavenly Places in Christ**" (Ephesians 1:3). Concerning this Body, Paul prayed,

*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know ... what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward, who believe ... which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the **Heavenly Places** far above all ... gave Him to be Head over all things to the Church, which is His Body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all (Ephesians 1:18-23).*

For God,

*Hath raised us up together and made us sit together in **Heavenly Places** in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).*

These three spheres are brought together in the following verses:



80 pages

The Three Spheres of Glory

A Compilation

Very few know and understand the three spheres of age-abiding (or eonian) glory that belong to the three distinct classes of saints. For the first time this crucial compilation brings together five groundbreaking works from 3 valued authors of the past: Dr. E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913); Henry William Fry (1848-1939); Charles H. Welch (1880-1967).

See [order form](#) under "Compilations."

Will God indeed dwell on the **Earth**? Behold, the **Heaven**, and the **Heaven of Heavens** cannot contain thee (I Kings 8:27);

Behold, the **Heaven**, and the **Heaven of Heavens** is the Lord's thy God, the **Earth** also (Deuteronomy 10:14; cf., II Chronicles 6:18; Nehemiah 9:6).

The Lord Jesus Christ left this Earth, having "ascended up **far above all Heavens** that He might fill all things" (Ephesians 4:10); God "set Him at His own right hand in the **Heavenly Places**" (Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1). When all things shall be finished, He will be the Headstone of the corner, over each sphere: the difference being their nearness to Him. "The Church which is His Body" occupies the most glorious position, that of being seated with Him in the Super-Heavens.¹

When He ascended up on high He led a multitude of captives captive (Ephesians 4:8, KJV margin).

Having spoiled principalities ... openly, triumphing over them in it (Colossians 2:15).

He is far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion, and every name ... all things under His Feet and Head over all things to the Church which is His Body (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 2:10).

Christ is Head now to the One Body in the Super-

1. [Editor:] For more information see,

– ["The Body of Christ" or "The Church Which Is His Body"? A Compilation on the "One Body" of the Current Administration](#), Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under "Compilations.")

Heavens, and because of His Headship, members of His Body will partake of the "out-resurrection from among the dead" (Philippians 3:11), while those of the Thessalonian calling will continue to sleep until the Lord Himself shall meet them in the air (I Thessalonians 4:16).

When our exalted Lord and Savior takes His great power and reigns, He will commence operations where He is now, in the Super-Heavens; the Body having been gathered together in one (Ephesians 1:10).

The hope of the coming kingdom on Earth is the subject of many Old Testament prophecies; while that of the better country, that heavenly city, was revealed to Abraham and others (Hebrews 11). Such continued to be the earnest expectation of all those of faith **UP UNTIL the time when Israel as a nation was temporarily set aside in Acts 28**.

In the book of Acts, Paul taught "none of other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come" (Acts 26:22), "the hope of Israel" (Acts 28:20).²

After Israel was set aside, God's revelation was completed, which He made known through Paul:

Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all see what is the dispensation [administration] of the mystery, which from

2. [Editor:] For more information see the book:

– [None Other Things](#), Charles Welch, Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under "Welch.")



"None Other Things"

by — Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

This is a study of Acts 26:22, "Saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come." It demonstrates that Paul had two ministries and that the end of his first ministry and the beginning of his second was Acts 28.

84 pages

See [order form](#) under "Welch."

the beginning of the world hath been hid in God (Ephesians 3:8-9).

1:4), to show forth His glory in the Super-Heavens (Ephesians 1:3; 1:6).

Upon Israel's rejection of the truth, Paul was,

Made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to 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: to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this Mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ among you, the hope of Glory (Colossians 1:25-27).

The epistles of Ephesians, Philippians,³ and Colossians were written after Acts 28, and in these the Mystery is revealed, a Body chosen in Christ before the overthrow⁴ of the world (Ephesians

DURING ACTS, the Gentiles were “Blessed with faithful Abraham” (Galatians 3:9). Their position was illustrated as that of a wild olive grafted, contrary to nature, into the good olive of Israel's covenant privileges, and partaking of the root and fatness of the good olive-tree (Romans 11:17-24). But in the epistles of the Mystery, written **AFTER ACTS**, believers chosen from both Jew and Gentiles in spirit are made of “twain one new man,” both in one Body blessed in the Super-Heavens (Ephesians 2:11-22). It had been revealed to the prophets that the Gentiles should be blessed (Romans 15:8-12); but “that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs,⁵ and of the same Body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel, whereof I (Paul) was made a minister” was not made known as “it is now” (Ephesians 3:3-7).

3. [Editor:] While all three (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians) were written post-Acts:28, Philippians was the gateway epistle for Ephesians and Colossians, which alone reveal the Mystery.

For a look at the uniqueness of Paul's letters of Ephesians and Colossians, see:

– [Ephesians and Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under “Pilkington.”)

4. [Editor:] For more information on this “overthrow” see:

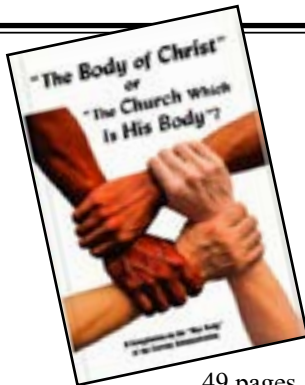
– [The Disruption of the World: A Compilation](#), Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under “Compilations”).

EACH SPHERE OF BLESSING HAS AN INHERITANCE

There is in each sphere of blessing an inheritance⁶ to be possessed. Abraham believed what God had revealed concerning that better country, and “He

5. [Editor:] “Joint enjoyers” (CV).

6. [Editor:] “Allotment” (CV).



49 pages

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

“The Body of Christ” or “The Church Which Is His Body”?

A Compilation on the “One Body” of the Current Administration

In the *Pentecost Administration*, during the Acts period, there were many *ecclesias*, in the plural – “all the *ecclesias*” (Romans 16:4, 16; I Corinthians 7:17; 14:33; II Corinthians 8:18; 11:28, CV). Each of these *ecclesias* were, in and of themselves “the *body of Christ*” – an integrated “*one body*,” while today in the *Secret Administration* there is but one single *ecclesia*, in the singular – “the *Ecclesia which is His Body*” (Ephesians 2:22-23, CV). This *ecclesia* is universal and not local. This *ecclesia* of the *Secret Administration* has no bearing whatsoever on locality, and is of necessity, the only “One Body” universal (Ephesians 4:4).

This “*One Body*” of Ephesians and Colossians (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 is the *only Ecclesia* of the *Secret Administration*.

This short compilation has works from three authors: Tom L. Ballinger, G.J. Pauptit (1889-1962), and Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

looked for the city which hath the foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10-16, RV). Today, the truth concerning the present Headship of Christ in the Super-Heavens, and the Body blessed with Him, is to be received,

That their hearts may be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the Mystery of God (Colossians 2:20).

Giving thanks unto the Father, Who hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance⁶ of the saints in light (Colossians 1:12).

Note: This was published as a color pamphlet and had wide circulation, being mentioned by both Charles H. Welch (1880-1967) and Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992) in their respective periodicals, *The Berean Expositor* and *The Word of Truth*. The diagram is from the cover of the pamphlet.

For a closer look at this important theme, see the comprehensive compilation, [The Three Spheres of Glory](#) on the [order form](#) under “Compilations.”

See Mills’ other material in the *Bible Student’s Notebook*:

– “The Mystery of this Dispensation,” BSN 62;

- “The New Covenant,” part 1: [BSN 701](#); part 2: [BSN 725](#); part 3: [BSN 726](#);
- “Acts 28:28, Before and After,” [BSN 916](#);
- “The Only Source of Truth,” (Excerpt) Tidbits of Truth #43, [BSN 931](#);
- “The Mystery Hid from Ages and Generations,” part 1 [BSN 965](#); part 2 [BSN 969](#).

TOPICS:

Major: Earth; Heavens; Spheres, Three; Super Heavens
Minor: Allotment; Calling; Dispensational

MAILBOX (continued from last page)

The clarity that this undeniable explanation of Matthew 24⁷ provides is so very encouraging. The way that this passage is mis-used in order to manipulate/motivate toward an expectation of inapplicable prophetic Scripture is truly shameful. I’m so grateful to be shown the true meaning of this Scripture.

I really appreciate the insight into the hysteria that took place in Europe at the close of the first millennium. I had never realized the madness that had so taken hold of the masses like it did.

Thank you for your steadfast approach to better understanding and sharing truth. – IN

BSN

7. [Bible Student’s Notebook 944](#).



Rightly Dividing Israel’s Prophetic Kingdom – With Special Emphasis on The Overlooked Pre-Millennial “Kingdom of the Heavens” (A Comprehensive Compilation)

Editors: Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., André Sneider

342 pages

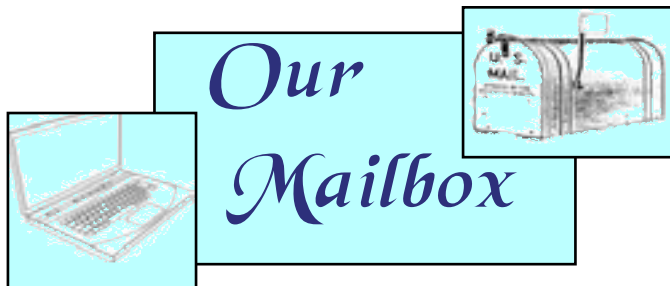
1st Ed., A4 (8.3” x 11.7”), 87 chapters, with charts and appendices, from 22 authors.

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

There are enormous amounts of prophecy that were given to Israel in the Hebrew Scriptures that are yet to be fulfilled. Most believers simply follow some version of Christendom’s eschatology, futilely attempting to force the enormity of Israel’s prophetic scene into a few extremely abridged time periods. From this shallow vantage point, it is believed that more time has passed in God’s ages than remains. This couldn’t be further from the truth. Multiplied millennia remain, more than have yet transpired, for the fulfillment of all of the glorious plans that God has revealed in His Word. Far from being near the “end” of something prophetic, the span of God’s eonian plan is immense, and our placement is early in its timeline. Much more of God’s prophetic program remains than man’s feeble eschatologies allow.

The intention herein is to present an alternative view to the confusing message of the traditional Evangelical concept of prophecy, thus opening the door to a consideration of the idea of a Pre-millennial Kingdom as the fulfillment of many of God’s promises to Israel to have their kingdom in the Earth.

All of the material in this book, taken together, is a wonderful resolution to the confusion of the conventional religious theology that has muddled the minds of sincere Bible students for centuries. While we may live in the Secret Administration, that doesn’t necessarily mean that God’s Word regarding His plans for Israel must be a mystery to us.



Titans (held beliefs) falling one at a time! I'm reading books from StudyShelf.com and being reprogrammed to a much more sensible (truth) understanding of things. Lovin' it! Cannot read these books fast enough!

I like the way in which you write, your verses are so spot on and seamless! God bless you brother! At this time in my life ... you're my open channel to Father! – *NE*

Your book [Nothing Will Be Lost](#)¹ is outstanding. I love how you teach the stages of where people are, with the greatest being perfect love casting out fear. – *WI*

I thank you for all that you do for us, the saints, and wish you and yours well in both mind and body. – *VA*

A simple thing I noticed in Scripture. You hear the statement "Heaven and Hell" from preachers, but from what I see the Bible only says "Heaven and Earth." – *ME*

This is a wonderful issue of the *BSN* [947]. Hannah Whitall Smith² is ALWAYS so very thoughtful and encouraging, I really like reading her. Stanislas Van

1. See the [order form](#) under "Pilkington."
2. "The God of All Comfort" Part 8 - Sources of Discouragement.

Mierlo³ is yet another example of someone who is lesser known, but who shouldn't be. Tradition has overshadowed, by design, those who are powerful messengers of the truth for today. That fact alone is encouraging, and the doctrine is spot on. Thank you for printing these precious brethren. – *IN*

Thank you so much for all of your work and help in rightly dividing the beautiful Word of God. – *TX*

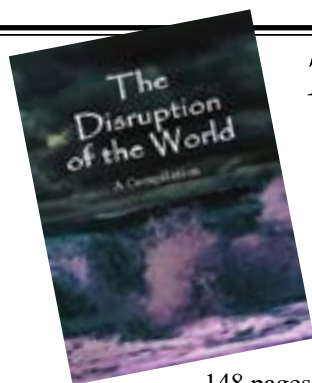
[The Salvation of All](#)⁴ is better than any book I've ever read. It is fantastic. It has changed my wrong thinking about God. – *NE*

Absolutely loved the "Superabounding Love" [[BSN 983](#)] article. I have found it to be true. I also saw this in Paul's ministry, and this of course fits in with the differences [between] his early [and late] epistles ... It also perfectly fits in with the differences in the book of Acts as the rejection of the Kingdom grew nearer. – *TN*

I appreciate all you do, not only making difficult-to-find documents and books available, but also your tireless efforts with regard to the *Bible Student's Notebook*! – *HI*

I really appreciate reading these literal translation works.⁵ It gives further clarity to our current understanding. I've read the *KJV* so much that as I read the literal translation works I'm recognizing right where we are in the *KJV* relative to the understanding that

3. "Characteristics of the Church of the Mystery."
4. See the [order form](#) under "Pilkington."
5. "The Derived Version," *Bible Student's Notebook*: (Ephesians) [974](#), (Colossians) [975](#), (Philippians) [976](#).



The Disruption of the World

A Compilation

A broad study of the crucial, but all-too-often overlooked teaching of Scripture of the events between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. Sometimes known as "The Gap," "The Overthrow," or "The Disruption," this key event in God's ages lays the important foundation for the ministry of Paul, the Apostle.

148 pages
See [order form](#) under
"Compilations."

This critical compilation of 13 chapters from 8 authors will be an essential part of a Bible student's library. Authors include: E.W. Bullinger, A.E. Knoch, Edward Clayton and John Essex.

I've already been given. Then further insight reinforces the unique calling that is our precious and glorious gift. Acts 28:28, the new heaven-bound church and its' secret administration, the Sovereignty of Father, and the uniqueness of Christ as the "firstborn from the dead" all reinforce our glorious calling. It is very encouraging to better understand our position and destiny that is a precious gift from The Placer. Thank you for simply seeking truth. – IN

This little treasure [[King Saul & the Witch of Endor](#)]⁶ was my first read after you guys had filled my recent order. Again, the influence through your ministry set

6. See the [order form](#) under "Bullinger."

me straight on paranormal activity in any fashion.

E.W. Bullinger's contribution, as well as A.E. Knoch's, helped steer my way by giving reminders of clear teachings of Scriptures elsewhere in God's Word to illuminate my path!

Thank you for giving us access to these hard-to-find books and the works of those believers who have gone before us – many who had believed in God's bodacious, all-inclusive plan, to save and restore His whole creation! – NE

(see [MAILBOX](#), page 8304)

TRANSITION (continued from front page)

tians 3:28). These gifts³ were withdrawn when God postponed the offer of the "Kingdom of the Heavens" in Acts 28:28, prior to the revelation of the Secret Administration in Ephesians and Colossians.⁴

The idea of a so-called "transition period" (or "Acts transition") within the time covered by the book of Acts is somewhat of a misnomer, as it suggests a progressive revelation of "the Mystery" given to Paul in Ephesians. However, the doctrine of the "Acts period" is nothing less than the "Kingdom of the Heavens," or in other words, "none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come"

(Acts 26:22).⁵

It was not until after Acts 28 that it is given to Paul to write Ephesians and Colossians which reveal the absolute secrets of our Celestial allotment, the universal One Body, the Secret Administration, and the *Plērōma* of God (Colossians 2:9) and of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23), which are NOT revealed in any of Paul's earlier epistles (*i.e.*, those epistles written PRIOR to Acts 28:28).

It is essential to recognize that the pre-millennial "Kingdom of the Heavens" was constantly being offered from John the Baptist (Matthew 3:23) to the end of the book of Acts (28:28). **BSN**

3. For more information, see:

– [The Present Truth Concerning Sign Gifts: A Comprehensive Compilation](#), Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under "Compilations").

4. For a look at the uniqueness of Paul's letters of Ephesians and Colossians, see:

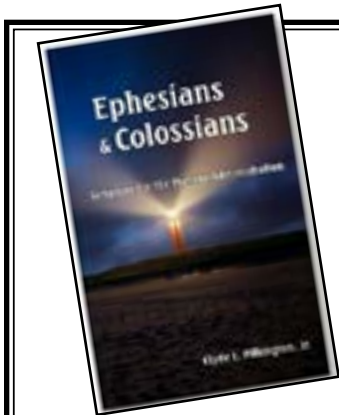
– [Ephesians and Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under "Pilkington.").

Topics:

Major: Acts; Acts 28; Acts Dispensation; Acts Period; Acts Transition; Dispensational; Pentecost Dispensation; Pentecost Period; Progressive Revelation; Transition; Transition Period
Minor: Colossians; Ephesians; Kingdom of the Heavens

5. For more information, see:

– [None Other Things](#), Charles Welch, Bible Student's Press (on the [order form](#) under "Welch."



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