

**THE
OVERALL
PLAN
OF GOD**

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PREFACE

With the truth, being objective perhaps many will be teased from the development of the truths of this study. I am not against any person but against the delusion, which has occurred with the passing of time.

This study is addressed as a help to those who have already know and love the Lord, but also to those who are wandering and searching to study further and deeper the wealth contained within the pages of the Scriptures, the written Word of God.

I would persuade the reader to search and find all the references given from his/her own bible – even though I went through and listed them all – if he/she wants to continue a more systematic study and benefit more from it. All it needs is attention and perseverance in the study of the Word and mainly a clear, sincere and searching mind.

My own rule has always been and is, “**do not take it from me, search it for your self**”.

Many are the themes that climax the interest of every Christian. He who is prepared to go through the pages of this study must also be prepared to open the pages of the Scriptures. Then he/she will discover that God “*is not a God of confusion*” as it often has been proclaimed but one of order and wants all His children to come to the knowledge of His wonderful blessings that He has prepared for them in the Above Heavens

Before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4)

RIGHT DIVISION

One of the ways that others will distinguish between a Bible Student and a Christian is the method of interpreting the Bible.

Now, in maths we must follow the pattern of the formulae either wise the problem will not be solved correctly. In chemistry, we mix things together to get the results of the particular combination. eg. H₂O.

Same with the Bible.

We are given instructions not by man but by God, of how to handle the Scriptures.

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word** of truth. (2 Tim 2:15)*

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and **is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**: That the man of God may, **be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works**. (2 Tim 3:16-17)*

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; **comparing spiritual things with spiritual**. (1 Cor. 2:12-13)*

*And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may **approve things that are excellent**; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ (Phill. 1:9-10)*

Now the Lord himself gave us a beautiful example of Right Division.

You will remember when the Lord stood up in the Temple to read

And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. (Luke 4:17-21)

Why did the eyes of all were fastened upon Him? Was there anything special that the Lord did or said?

If we turn to Isaiah 61:1-2 where the Lord opened for to read, we read the same verses

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,

and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; (Isaiah 61:1-2)

You see the Lord stopped in the middle of the last verse and He said “*This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears*”. If He had read more He could not have said “This scripture is today fulfilled in your ears” as the day of vengeance of our Lord was a future day. So the Lord stopped to the point where the fulfilment took place.

Then again in Matt. 5:5 we read *...the meek shall inherit the earth* and in Eph. 2:6 we read *...seated together in Heavenly places*, both cannot be right at the same time.

Right division distinguishes dispensations it does not combine:

Kingdom with Church
Gentile with Jew
Mystery with Gospel
Earth with Heaven

We know that all scripture is inspired, but that all scripture does not speak
to the same people
at the same time
with the same message

All Scripture is **for us**, but all Scripture is **not about us**.

To discover that part of scripture, which is for us, about us and to us, we must rightly divide the word of truth.

It shall greatly help you to understand Scripture

*if you note not only what is spoken or written
but of whom,
and to whom,
with what word,
at what time,
where and to what intent
with what circumstances;
considering what goes before and what follows.*

THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

To be able to better understand **the purposes of Creation, the way** by which God thinks, of **what He expects** from His creatures and **what are His future plans** for this creation we must examine this from the Scriptures and allow them to point us to the truth. Let us put aside for a moment what we have learned in the past and let us with open mind allow the scriptures themselves to guide us.

In the epistle of Ephesians, Paul through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit writes:

*According as he hath chosen us in him **before the foundation** of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love (Eph. 1:4).*

If we search for all the occurrences of the words “**before the foundation**” we shall find that they are used in the following verses:

*Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me **before the foundation** of the world. (John 17:24)*

*But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained **before the foundation** of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, (1 Peter 1:19-20)*

However, there is also another term used which is “**from or since**” the foundation of the world.

*That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept **secret from the foundation** of the world. (Matt. 13:35)*

*Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you **from the foundation** of the world: (Matt. 25:34)*

*That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed **from the foundation** of the world, may be required of this generation; (Luke 11:50)*

*For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished **from the foundation of the world**. (Heb. 4:3)*

*For then must he often have suffered **since the foundation** of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (Heb. 9:26)*

*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain **from the foundation** of the world. (Rev. 13:8)*

We can tabulate the above as follows:

From or since the foundation	Before the foundation
Matt 13: 35 Matt 25: 34 Luke 11: 50 Hebrews 4: 3 Hebrews 9: 26 Revelation 13: 8	Ephesians 1:4 John 17:24 1 Peter 1:19-20

The word used for foundation in the above verses is the Greek word – **KATABOLE**. But there is another Greek word being translated as foundation, which is – **THEMELION**.

THEMELION - FOUNDATION

Let's examine now this word **Themelion** used for foundation to distinguish the difference between **Katabole** and **Themelion**.

If we turn to the first book of the Bible that was written, we read

*Where wast thou when I **laid the foundations** of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. (Job 38:4)*

Prophet Isaiah also tell us

*Mine hand also hath **laid the foundation** of the earth, (Isaiah 48:13)*

And prophet Zechariah

*which stretcheth forth the heavens, and **layeth the foundation** of the earth, (Zech. 12:1)*

we read about the "**laying the foundation of the earth**".

When Paul speaks of creation in Hebrews 1:10 he quotes from Psalm 102:25 saying

*And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast **laid the foundation of the earth**; and the heavens are the works of thine hands (Heb. 1:10)*

and the word there is **themelion** the proper word for "foundation". The Greek word for foundation is **THEMELION**.

Also Luke tell us

*He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and **laid the foundation** on a rock: and when the flood arose (Luke 6:48)*

Paul in Ephesians says

*And are built upon the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; (Eph.2:20)*

To Timothy Paul writes

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, (2 Tim.2:19)

HOWEVER, when we turn to the above passages where the words “**from or since**” and “**before**” occur, themelion is not found, but instead the word “**KATABOLE**” is being used.

Now Paul, the writer of Ephesians, could have used the word themelion, as he had done quite a number of times before, so there must be a good reason for choosing so different a word as **KATABOLE**.

In Greek is **KATA** which means **DOWN** and **BALLO** which means **TO THROW**.

In Biology is used as metabolism. A name given to a process in an organism or a living cell, by which nutritive material is build up into living matter, and this process is divided into:

- 1) Constructive metabolism, which is called anabolism by which protoplasm, is broken down into simpler substances to perform special functions.
- 2) Destructive metabolism, which is called *katabolism*.

In its biological use, **KATABOLE**, indicates "destruction" The *verb* KATABALO is used 3 times in N.T only.

*Cast down but not **destroyed** (2 Cor.4:9)*

*The accuser of our brethren is **cast down**. (Rev.12:10)*

*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not **laying** (themelion) again the **foundation** (Katabalo)of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,(Heb.6:1)*

the word **KATABOLE** here is used with **THEMELION** the true word for foundation and there appears to have its primitive meaning of "cast down" but not in a sense of overthrowing, but of laying a foundation.

In a lexicon of Liddle and Scott KATABALO means

to throw down
Cast down,
overthrow
to strike down, kill
to bring down to nothing
to let fall, to cast off
reject, neglect, abandon.

KATABALO in the L.X.X. occurs some 30 times and always has the above terms, and meaning, and if we examine the original Hebrew words that are translated in the LXX as **Katabole** their meaning is also "to destroy, to cast down, to crush, to tear, to hate, to break down".

It is used of a siege of a city

*And they came and beseiged him in Abel of Bethmaachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that were with Joab battered the wall, **to throw it down.** (2 Samuel 20:15)*

Of the overthrowing of Israel in the wilderness

*Therefore he lifted up his hand against them, **to overthrow** them in the wilderness: **To overthrow** their seed also among the nations, and to scatter them in the lands. (Psalm 106:26-27)*

Concerning the destruction of Tyre

*And they shall **destroy** the walls of Tyrus, and **break down** her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. (Ezekiel 26:4)*

So this is proof positive that from every point of view the word **KATABOLE** in Ephesians 1:4 should be translated "**OVERTHROW**"

We may then ask the question:

WHERE and **WHAT** is intended by the words "the overthrow of the word?"

Having established that **KATABOLE** is "overthrow" we must try to find

WHEN this overthrow took place and

WHY

Did it include only a certain part of the earth, or the whole world? And if true answers can be given to these questions then we are able to understand the unique calling, purpose and character of the present administration or dispensation which is called the Church of the One Body.

In Luke 11:50 we read

*That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed **from the foundation** of the world, may be required of this generation; (Luke 11:50)*

and in verse 51 we read

From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

To my knowledge, only one person in the whole Bible has such a name Abel.

And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.(Gen.4:2)

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. (Heb.11:4)

Like a night that follows the day, only one time and place (prior to Abel) will suffice for that overthrow. (Gen 1:2a). If we say that, it was at the flood of Noah then that occurs at Gen. 6 whilst the birth and murder of Abel occurred much earlier than then.

GENESIS 1: 1 - 2a

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1)
and the earth was without form and void. (Gen 1:2a)*

NOTE: the Earth was without form and void, not Heaven and Earth, as in Gen 2:1

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. (Gen 2:1)

The earth was not created without form and void (a chaos) as Gen 1:2a may suggest. You see that little word

WAS

is but a translation of the Hebrew word **HAYAH** meaning to be, exist, become, come to pass. This word also indicates a previous state and a change having taken place. Let us compare

*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man **became** a living soul. (Gen 2:7)*

this is true as until God "breathed" man was not a living soul but he became one.

*And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more **become** a flood to destroy all flesh. (Gen.9:15),*

*But his wife looked back from behind him, and she **became** a pillar of salt. (Gen. 19:26),*

Lot's wife was not a pillar of salt but she became one.

*And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, **make us** gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. (Exodus 32:1)*

*And Moses and the priests the Levites spake unto all Israel, saying, Take heed, and hearken, O Israel; this day thou art **become** the people of the LORD thy God. (Deut.27:9).*

Here the people of Israel were not God's people but they became one.

*For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art **become** their God. (2 Sam.7:24)*

The Lord was not the God of Israel until He became one.

So we read now in Gen. 1:2a that ...*the earth **became** without form and void*

The translation "was" is perfectly good for in our own usage we often mean "became" when "was" is written ie

If writing on two occasions concerning a friend we should say *He "was a man"* and *He "was" very ill*. Everyone would understand that in the second case, this friend had "become" ill and so "was" ill at the time spoken of, but it would be impossible to think that anyone would understand by the words "he was ill" that he had been created, or born in that state.

The words form and void are the Hebrew words **TOHU** (form) and **BOHU** (void).

TOHU

Occurs 30 times in the OT translated "without form, waste, vain, vanity, nothing, in a wilderness, the empty place, confusion.

BOHU

Occurs 3 times and is translated void or emptiness.

We could say whatever we like about these words, but it will be safer and more convincing if we allow the scriptures to show us the meaning of these words. The only one who can supply us with information about creation is God Himself.

So in Isaiah 45:18 we read.

*For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it **not in vain**, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. (Isaiah 45:18)*

that God created the earth NOT in vain "**tohu**" but it became in vain "**tohu**".

...that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was (2 Peter 3:5,6)

Therefore, the earth was not created a chaos but rather became one. You see God is not a God of confusion

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. (1 Cor.14:33)

The two words **TOHU** and **BOHU** come together in Isaiah 34.

For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. (v.2). Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their

*carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. (v.3) And all the host of heaven shall be **dissolved**, and the heavens shall be **rolled** together as a scroll: and all their host shall **fall down**, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree. (Isaiah 34:4)*

Here we have in v.2 the words "indignation", "fury", "destroyed", "slaughter". Verse 4 takes us to the Day of which Peter speaks in 2 Peter.3:10,12

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? (2 Peter 3:10-12)

This is not creation but dissolution. This is the result of curse and judgment, for it **IS** the Day of the Lord's vengeance

For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.(Isaiah 34:8)

this land is to *lie waste*

*It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall **lie waste**; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.(Isaiah 34:10)*

and to describe this utter desolation the prophet uses the words TOHU and BOHU in v. 11

*and He shall stretch out upon it the line of **confusion** and the stones of **emptiness** (Isaiah 34:11)*

Prophet Jeremiah tell us

*I beheld the earth, and, **lo, it was without form, and void**; and the heavens, and they had no light.(Jeremiah 4:23)*

and lo it was (BECAME) without form and void,

I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. v.24

I beheld, and, lo, there was no MAN (ie ADAM having to do with race, like adamic race), and all the birds of the heavens were fled v.25

And where Isaiah says the land to *lie waste*, Jeremiah says *the whole land shall be desolate*

For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end. (Jeremiah 4:27)

Question 1: When was there a time when there was no ADAM? the pre-adamic creation.

Question 2: Since there was no ADAM, who build the cities which were destroyed by the anger of the Lord?

*And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, **three men** stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, (Gen.18:1, 2)*

here are called men but they are angels as in Gen 19:15 are called angels

*And when the morning arose, then **the angels** hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. (Gen 19:15).*

There are some features here in Jeremiah that we cannot pass aside.

- The Lord was present
- There was no Adam
- The judgment was sudden and covered everything
- It could not refer to the flood of Noah as Noah was an Adamic man
- It must therefore refer to before Adam.

SO without form and void are terms NOT of Creation but of Judgment.

Gen.1:2 must therefore refer to an "**OVERTHROW**" and the word in Eph. 1:4 must be so translated.

HOW?
BY WHOM?
WHEN ?

It is clearly established from scriptures that there was a fall among the angels.

ANGELS SINNED:

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; (2 Peter 2:4)

ANGELS REVOLTED

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. (Jude 6)

ANGELS AT WAR

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, (Rev 12:7)

PRINCIPALITIES (authorities)

Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him. (1 Peter 3:22,)

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (Col.2:15)

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Eph.6:12)

PRIDE OF ANGELS

Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. (1 Tim.3:6-7)

Also

Prophet Isaiah speaks of another status of Eosforos (Satan) and I would like to persuade you to read the whole of chapter 14, I will just give you some idea from verses 12 to 16

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; (Isaiah 14:12-16)

also Ezekiel tells us

Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (Ezekiel 28:1)

Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. v.12

Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. v.13

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. v.14

Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. v.15

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. v.16

Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. v.17

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. v.18

All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more. v.19

We need to read the whole chapter of Ezekiel 28 and will realize that the prince of Tyre was a well-known king at that time. However, on verse 11, the King of Tyre we discover he is not a mortal man but Satan himself.

Firstly, he is a created person

Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. v. 13

Before his fall his name was LUCIFER
son of the morning (Isaiah 14:12)

his TITLE was

...the anointed cherub that covereth (Ezek. 28:14)

Son of the morning,

Anointed is one of the titles of Christ

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, (Psalm 2:2)

Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, (Luke 1:78)

You see after all Satan is the famous counterfeiter.

Secondly he was the sum of wisdom and perfect beauty (Ezek.28:12)

He was perfect in all His ways **UNTIL**...(Ezek.28:15)

He was in EDEN the garden of God (must have been a garden previously).

Thirdly, His dwelling place was on the Holy mountain of God amidst the stones of fire. (Ezek.28:14).

Do you know what was **BAAL**?

The SUN, Satan must have his base of operation there on that planet. The heat has no effect upon him. Recall that Satan lived amidst the stones of fire upon the Holy mountain of God.

What I would like you to understand is this:- THE PLACE WHERE GOD SITS, IS THE PLACE WHERE THESE PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS WERE. OF COURSE, GOD IS ABOVE ALL. THIS PLACE IS CALLED HEAVENLIES AND DIFFERS FROM THE HEAVENS.

In Gen.1:7

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

Here we are told that God made the firmament which is called "Heaven", and is this Heaven and the earth reconstructed in the 6 days that are spoken of as passing away in Rev. 21:1.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.(Rev. 21:1)

Let us summarize what we have seen from scriptures so far :

- Satan, now fallen, and yet to be destroyed, once held a high position before the overthrow of Genesis 1:2
- He aspired to be like God, and was cast out as profane
- He was the anointed "Cherub"
- The fall took place before the present creation.
- So Satan's fall was so great that it caused the destruction of the original creation.

That's why Peter says in 2 Peter 3:5-6 "*The world that then was... but the heavens and the earth which are now...*"

Why did God created at all?

Now after the "overthrow" there must have passed some hundreds / millions of years. The Bible does not tell us much about it. You see the Bible is a Book of Redemption (buying back) and is only concerned with the things that God has for Man. However, we can pick up a few lines here and there, and try to understand about it.

The Bible commences with the words of creation, or rather of **REFORMATION** of the Heavens and the Earth, and of course, the beginning of time commences. You see God lived in Eternity past, in no time.

So why did He created at all?

If God is self sufficient, all-powerful, Author of all things, why did He create at all? We can assume anything we like but we read

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (Rev. 4:11)

Here we get our first answer to our question.

For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. (Isaiah 45:18)

Part of God's purpose is to have the Earth inhabited.

Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men. (Prov. 8:31)

Creation, then is "for His pleasure"

"He formed it for a habitation: and ..."He delights in its inhabitants".

And again we ask WHY did He created at all?

For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. (Rom 11:36).

Also God is LOVE.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. (1 John 4:8)

and it is impossible for love to live alone, with no opportunity to express itself, no one else to love, and no one to share the gifts. So here, we must answer that God created because He is Love. Nevertheless, there is also another reason why I believe God created at all.

And this is to REDEEM, to buy back **THAT** which was lost before the "overthrow"

So He created MAN. Man means likeness (Gen 1:26) so that through him He may accomplish His purposes.

Adam was created in the likeness and image of God. Christ is the image of God.

Adam was the figure of Him that was to come (Rom. 5:14)

Adam was to have dominion **over** the works of God's hands. The Creation over which he was placed saw no image of God other than Adam in his image.

And what happened?

All through the 6-day creation, Satan did not interfere with God's work, not *even* when He created Adam.

But when did he interfere?

When Adam was given DOMINION.

*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (Gen.1:28)*

You see **this** dominion that was given to Adam, before the overthrow was Satan's.

So what does he do?

"He attack Man and causes him to fall".

HOW?

By changing, by twisting scripture, the words that God said to man were:

Compare

*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof **thou shalt surely die**. (Gen.2:16-17)*

*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die**: (Gen.3:1-4)*

Also God's order not to eat of the fruit of the Tree.

Today we change the word of Scripture and make them say what ever we want them to say, believing man rather than God.

Immediately *after* the fall, God promises a Messiah

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

TO DO WHAT?

To redeem, to buy back, what Man had lost.

That's why Eve when she had her first child she said

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. (Gen. 4:1)

The original Hebrew text says "I have gotten a man from the Lord, even Yehovah", i.e. the promised Messiah that is why they named their first child Abel that means "the promised one". Of course Abel was not the promised one and many thousand years went by until the coming of the real Messiah, and every Jewish woman in a pregnancy state had the hope that through her God would fulfil his promises.

You see, Man who originally was created for redemptive purposes, and destined to fulfil the plans of God, now he; himself needs a Saviour to redeem him because of his disobedience towards God.

And what God said to Satan?

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

How true is this verse really? Upon the cross thousands of years later Satan leading Christ to His suffering death thought that he will finish with Him but little did he know that through death Christ won over him who had the power of death ie the Devil, and the day will come when He Christ will crush Satan's head once and for all and will fulfil the above prophecy.

The fall of man is the second rupture in the plan of God, the first is the overthrow.

Well, the people of the earth started to multiply, and sin having entered in made God to destroy them. Note: destruction of surface of the earth and man.

HOW?

By the flood.

8 people were saved. 8 is the number of resurrection. Who were they?

In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark;. (Gen. 7:13)

Noah had 3 Sons. Shem (godly line), Ham, Japheth

These 8 people began to multiply.

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. (Gen 9:1)

And we reach the formation of the Nations and the Tower of Babel

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. (Gen 11:1)

And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. (Gen. 11:4)

What happened there is not as much of the building, but of the various idolatrous and Satanic worships that were taken place. Therefore, God decides to destroy them

HOW?

Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. (Gen. 11:7-8)

So here, we have the formation of the **NATIONS** and different languages. Up to then they all were united with one language and living together.

From the Godly line of Shem we have the genealogical line which is described in Genesis 12 v. 10. You see God is not interested in the other lines of the son's of Noah but only of the Godly line

And we read in Gen 11:27.

Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot.

I would persuade the reader to read the first 12 chapters of Genesis where he will discover the wisdom of God and how He tries to bring into pass His promises to man.

So God makes a promise

*Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto **a land that I will shew thee:***

*And I will **make of thee a great nation**, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

*And **I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.***

So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. (Gen.12:1-4)

What a wonderful promise this is. After the formation of the Nations we see the wisdom of God working toward His plan to prepare the coming of the Messiah. To do this He chooses a man and gives him his promises.

- *a land that I will shew thee*
- *make of thee a great nation*
- *I will bless them that bless thee, curse him that curseth thee*
- *in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed*

Why does God make these special promises?

Remember that man has fallen. Sin has entered. A Messiah has been promised who is to redeem, to buy back, that which has been lost, and the way that this redemption is to take place in the plan of God is through **A NATION**.

So God selects a man, tests him, and makes a promise to him that through him, and his seed HE will accomplish His plans.

For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee. (Gen 13:15-16)

After that God seals His promise by changing the name of Abram to Abraham meaning “the father of many nations”.

As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. (Gen 17:4)

Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. (Gen 17:5)

And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. (Gen 17:6)

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee (Gen 17:7)

And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. (Gen 17:8)

And what is the covenant?

*This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between **me and you** and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. (Gen 17:10)*

God chose a man, Abraham, and through him the formation of a NATION. This nation was special in the plan of God and bring them into fulfilment, that's why they had to be different to the other NationS as a people and this was the reason for the circumcision.

The first 12 chapters of Genesis occupy a period of 2000 years and they deal with

- The reformation of the Heavens and the Earth
- Man's creation
- His fall
- The flood up to the
- Call of Abraham

From chapter 13 of Genesis to Malachi (the end of O.T) is a period of another 2,000 years, and they deal with

- **A NATION,**
- **A PROMISE,**
- **A LAND.**

ABRAHAM had 8 Sons. Of them 7 after the flesh and 1 after the promise.

And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. (Gen.17:19)

And of course Abraham laughed and wondered of the promise of God due to his age and wanting to assist God in his plan he slept with Hagar and the result of this union was ISHMAEL.

The seed of Ishmael are the today Arabs.

But God's promises will not pass away and a little later Sarah had ISAAC according to God's promise.

In Gen 22 Abraham through trust in God, was enabled to meet the test and God promised him a seed "as the stars of Heaven" and as the sand upon the seashore, and that in his seed all NationS of earth shall be blessed.

After the test God again gives His promises to Abraham saying

*And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying **I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore;** and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; **And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;** because thou hast obeyed my voice. (Gen 22:16-18)*

We know now that this seed are the today's Jews who one day will bring to pass all the promises given by God.

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; You will agree with me that such a thing has not happened yet therefore it is future.

So these are the promises that God gave to Abraham who sojourned the Land and lived as a nomad never building a city. We are not told why he never build a city. Many years later Paul comes to the scene and in Hebrews 11:10 we get the answer to this question

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (Heb 11:9-10)

After Abraham God gives the same promises to his son ISAAC.

*And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; And **I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven**, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and **in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed**; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. (Gen.26:2-5)*

Isaac had two sons Esau and Jacob.

To Jacob God once again gives the same promises He had given to his father Isaac and grandfather Abraham. Late on his name was changed by God from Jacob to **ISRAEL**, which means **GOD RULES**.

And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. (Gen. 32:28)

Jacob had 12 children

1	Reuden	(Gen.29:32)
2	Simeon	(Gen 29:33)
3	Levi	(Gen 29:34)
4	Judah	(Gen 29:35)
5	Dan	(Gen 30:6)
6	Napthali	(Gen 30:8)
7	Gad	(Gen 30:11)
8	Asher	(Gen 30:13)
9	Issachar	(Gen 30:18)
10	Zebulun	(Gen 30:20)
11	Joseph	(Gen 30:24)
12	Benjamin	(Gen 35:18).

They are the 12 sons of Israel (Jacob). The beginning of fulfilment of the promise. THE NATION (they constituted the nation at that time) IS IN THE LAND.

Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than the others because he was the son of his old age. His brothers hated him even more when he told them about his dreams.

And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. (Gen 37:5)

They tried to kill him, and only by the interference of the eldest Reuben they threw him into a pit. A little later they sold him to the Ishmaelite (note that the Ishmaelites were the descendants of Ishmael the son of Abraham and Hagar, product of the flesh, and the Word of the Lord tell us that

the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other Gal. 5:17.

So they sold him for 30 pieces of silver. Does that remind you anything? Joseph was sold to the Ishmaelite who brought him to Egypt where they sold him to the Pontiphar an officer of Pharaoh's and captain of the guard. With the passing of time, Joseph was trusted and became chief of the palace. You need to read from Genesis chapter 37 to get the whole picture, and at chapter 39 where these events occur we read "and **the Lord was with Joseph**", and **the Lord was with Joseph**", and **the Lord was with Joseph**" over and over again.

Do not forget that all this is in the plan of God.

All the story of Joseph is but a picture of Him who was to come. The events in Pharaoh's palace, his dreams, his meeting with his brothers and later his recognition by them at the second time of their visit, are a shadow of the reality which appeared in the person of Jesus Christ.

Joseph was seeing dreams, the butler had a dream, years later the Pharaoh had a dream. Read Gen 40, 41, 42 to 46:1-4.

The years went by until famine fell on the land.

And the famine was over all the face of the earth: and Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt. And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands. (Gen 41:55-56)

The 10 brothers of Joseph came to buy corn too. The youngest, Benjamin left with Israel (Jacob) their father who would not let him go. And after many events Joseph appeared to his brothers and asked them to bring his father with them.

And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac. And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I. And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes. (Gen 46:1-4)

So now, **the whole of ISRAEL** is in a **STRANGE LAND**. Do not forget that the entire **NATION** consisted of those people at that time.

The good Pharaoh dies and another one takes his place that hated the Israelites who by now have multiplied and become strong.

Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. (Exodus 1:8-10)

Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour (Exodus 1:11-14)

The Nation of Israel was oppressed and in slavery for 400 years under the Egyptians.

*And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and **they cried, and their cry came up unto God** by reason of the bondage. And **God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant** with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them. (Exodus 2:23-25)*

What wonderful moments, just think after many years of oppression and slavery suddenly they turn their cry to God. Is not this a reality of today, we live our lives with out any thought for God and when something happen to us if it good we just pass it over if it is bad we curse Him and blame Him as the reason.

They returned to Him and the Lord

heard their groaning

And the Lord

remembered his covenant to them

In the book of EXODUS we have the deliverance of the people of Israel from the bondage of Egypt.

The main theme is “**Let my people go**”. The instrument is Moses a prophet and deliverer of the nation who finally will deliver them into their exodus from Egypt.

*And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, **Israel is my son, even my firstborn:** (Exod. 4:22)*

*And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Out of Egypt have I called my son.** (Matt 2:14-15)*

Exodus chapter 33 describes the tasks God placed upon Moses after their successful exodus from Egypt and in the first verse we read

And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I swear unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it: (Exod. 33:1)

And Moses replies:

And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. (Exod. 33:12-13)

A little later in wilderness, God gives Moses the 10 commandments, the Law. **NOT FOR YOU, TODAY !** It was specifically given to the NATION.

Let me bring your attention here to the fact that up to now God is only working with a particular Nation, a Nation that He had chosen between other NationS and people in other words the Nation of Israel. The rest of the NationS are scattered around the face of the earth and they take no part in the happenings of the selected Nation and people of Israel, they don't even know of the events which are taking place at that time.

He also gives them the Feasts which they had to observe.

*And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Speak unto the children of Israel** (not to the NationS), **and say unto them,** Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. (Leviticus 23:1-2)*

The first feast is the Sabbath

Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. (Deut. 23:3)

Then the feast of Passover

In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD's passover. (Lev. 23:5)

During this feast, the Israelites were remembering the preparations they did prior to their exodus from Egypt and the ceremonial slaying of the lamb and the spreading of its blood over their door post. That night death entered into every house in Egypt but to the houses which were covered by the blood of the lamb, death did pass over, as death had already taken place through the slaying of the lamb. What a wonderful picture of the sacrifice of the coming Messiah whose blood would redeem every believer so

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:15)

The feast of Unleavened bread,

And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. (Lev. 23:6)

The feast of Pentecost,

And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD (Lev. 23:15-16)

The feast of Trumpets,

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD (Lev. 23:23-25)

The feast of Atonement

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath. (Lev. 23:26-32)

The feast of Tabernacles or Booths.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD. On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and

ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.(Lev. 23:33-36)

As you can see, there was not only the seventh day of the week, the Sabbath that the Jews had to observe but

- Seventh day, Sabbath (Lev. 23:3)
- Every 7 weeks would be another Sabbath (Lev. 23:15)
- Every 7 months would be another Sabbath (Lev. 23:24)
- Every 7 years would be another Sabbath (Lev. 25:4)
- Every 49 years (7x7) another Sabbath (Lev. 25:8-13) and
- Every 490 years (70x7) another Sabbath (Daniel 9:24)

Each and every one of these feasts were another Sabbath in the life of the Israelite.

Now, God **never** intended to have His chosen people wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. The whole journey would have lasted about 11 days but due to their disobedient to Him they wandered for that long.

*These be the words which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain over against the Red sea, between Paran, and Tophel, and Laban, and Hazeroth, and Dizahab. (There **are eleven days' journey** from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadeshbarnea.) (Deut. 1:1-2)*

And it is interesting to know that ALL that came out of Egypt died in the wilderness and only Joshua entered the Land, even this Moses died without entering into the promised Land but having seen it from afar.(That's why Moses has to be resurrected in the last days to enter the Land).

In the book of Deuteronomy Moses recounts for the younger generation the history of their people, and is full of the instructions that the Lord had given to Moses, to deliver to the Nation of Israel.

Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? (Deu. 4:5-8)

Read what else God is telling them

*Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and **make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth: And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou***

seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven. But the LORD hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day. (Deu. 4:15-20)

How opposite to the word of the Lord is the position of the “Christian” Church (Catholic, Orthodox and the like) today which even it lacks of Jewish inheritance but established it self as a descendant of the Nation without at least observing the above orders.

He also tells them

When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.

Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them. (Deut. 7:1-10.)

What wonderful promises and instructions from God Himself to His chosen people.

In the next chapter of Deuteronomy He seals His covenant with the words

Hear Oh Israel... (Deut. 9:1a)

From this point on throughout the whole of the O.T is

- **THIS PEOPLE,**
- **THIS NATION**

that is in-view.

It is the history of this Nation that is given, and no other nations history is touched upon in the scriptures but only as these NationS encounter the NATION called **MY PEOPLE**.

JOSHUA

After Moses Joshua the son of Nun, who was blessed by Moses to continue the work in bringing the Nation back into the Land.

Promises of God to Joshua:

*There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: **as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee:** I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (Joshua 1:6)*

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. (Joshua 1:9)

After the death of Joshua, there are the twelve judges.

During this time Israel is oppressed by enemies. In those days there was no King in Israel and every man did that which was right in his own eyes. Until SAMUEL comes into the scene, and at old age

And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. (1 Sam 8:1)

What happened then?

*Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: **now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.** (1 Sam 8:4-5)*

*And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, **but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.** (1 Sam. 8:7)*

Samuel tried to change the mind of the people telling them that they will be slaves of a human King, that they will pay taxes, that the King will take their best animals and much more, but the people responded saying

*Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That **we also may be like all the nations;** and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. (1 Sam. 8:19-20)*

They wanted to be like the other Nations. What a people eh? The Lord had done so many things for them, miracles, deliveries from oppression, etc and these people now want a KING, like the other Nations. God had in mind a GREAT KING for them, but they wanted to be like the others. Ignorant, Silly, Hardened people that they were...

What about you? It is easy to Judge .Do you want to be like your friends? You are special to God and unique to Him.

So God says.... Let them have a King, I have promised a special King for them but they do not want HIM.

Israel rejects God. Demands a King. They get a King.

SAUL the 1st King.

DAVID 2nd King

The scripture calls him a man after God's own heart. Scripture tell us that man's heart is deceitful (crooked) above all things and desperately wicked (Jer.17:9), but David was one who ruled according to God's will.

And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: (Acts 13:22.)

To David God made great unconditional promises, and these like those to Abraham embrace a Seed, a Kingdom, a City, and a Throne

And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. (2 Sam.7:12-16).

SOLOMON 3rd King

The builder of the Temple. This Temple was fitting for a people intended by God to be

- "an Holy Nation", and
- "a Kingdom of priests".

Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. (Exo. 19:4-6)

Let us make a small parenthesis here to summarize what we have studied up to now.

We have seen that the plan of God for the restoration of the human race is the creation and choice of **ONE** and **ONLY** Nation through which the rest of the NationS would learn of the glory and love of God.

This Nation was chosen to be a Holy Nation and its people a Kingdom of priests who would carry to the end of the world to the other Nations the instructions of God of Israel. That's why in the book of Deuteronomy God guides and instructs the people, not only as priests what to do during the service, but of what to wear, and how to accomplish all ceremonials, with great detail.

Does today's established "religion" as we have inherited and as it developed with the passing of time has "stolen" from Israel those instructions with the pretence that Israel has ceased being God's elect and chosen people, and has taken over the task into bring to pass the plans of God? The Word of the Lord is quite clear about it, that

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. (Matt. 24:35)

Now, let us continue

So closely was the history of the nation tied up with the Temple that the Lord said

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! **Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.** For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. (Matt. 23:37-39).*

But Solomon did not heed the instructions of God,

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites: Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. (1 Kings 11:1-3)

The Nation becomes involved in idolatry and divided into two

- **Israel**
- **Judah**

and sent into captivity.

God had said in the past

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: (Deut. 28:13)

yet they become the tail under Gentile dominion. Judah served Babylon for 70 years and then was carried away to Babylon by King Nabuchadnezzar. That is why Isaiah prophesies starts with the words

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Isaiah 1:1.

Now each time the Nation is taken captive or under the slavery of the other NationS (the Gentiles) the word of the Lord tell us that the Nation is in a **LO-AMMI** period, in other words **NOT MY PEOPLE**

*Then said God, **Call his name Lo ammi**: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God. (Hosea 1:9.)*

Below is a tabulated form of the number of years of Lo Ammi period.

Judges 3:8	Mesopotamia	8 years
Judges 3:14	Moab	18 years
Judges 4:3	Canaan	20 years
Judges 6:1	Median	7 years
Judges 13:1	Philistine	40 years
Total of		93 years

Today we have a **LO-AMMI** period, which has lasted over 2000 years. This does not mean that God has forsaken His promises to His chosen people, as the Word of the Lord tell us that there will be a time that these people, this Nation, will be again **AMMI** which means **MY PEOPLE** and then God will again start to operate through this Nation.

*Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, **Ye are not my people**, there it shall be said unto them, **Ye are the sons of the living God**.(Hosea 1:10)*

*Say ye unto your brethren, **Ammi**; and to your sisters, **Ruhamah**. (Hosea 2:1)*

In mean time, we have what the scripture declares the “dispensation of the Mystery” as revealed to Paul and described for us in Ephesians. We shall have a better look at that when we get there.

Moreover, the last book of the Old Testament is of the prophet Malachi.

After this, there are some 400 years before we come to what we know today as the New Testament. It is difficult to find out who introduced this division between the Old Testament and the New Testament, but only one is for sure; it was done by human instigation. Whoever did it certainly calculated that if there was such a space of time of 400 years between Malachi and Mathew therefore without doubt this is the division. However, is it so? We shall check this out as we move on with this study.

THE GOSPELS

We now come to the Gospels, which are as we know in the so called New Testament.

What we find here?

If you have understood what its being said in the previous pages of this study and you have read the Gospels in the N. T, then you will realize that they contain nothing different to the O.T and it is the continuation of the events and promises of God that has given to the Nation, the people of Israel.

In the first chapter of Matthew we read

*The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
(Matt. 1:1)*

And we discover a continuation from where we have left the O.T and contain its vital signs, in other words

The same Nation – Israel

The same Land – the Promised Land, which God had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

The same city – Jerusalem

The same people

However, there is only once difference.

The promised Messiah that God almost 2,000 years ago had promised to Adam and Eve and to all the fathers of the Nation, is now PRESENT. Whilst the OT was describing and pointing to His coming the NT describes and confirms His coming. This is the difference between these two books.

Christ coming to do what?

To fulfil ALL that the O.T was declaring He would do.

Jesus was born of the tribe of Judah. He was a Jew. That's why when we read John's Gospel we read

*He came unto **his own**, and **his own** received him not. (John 1:11)*

What does this mean?

All the NationS are scattered around the world, they have no relationship with the Nation and its promises from God, they don't even know of the happenings at that time and of what was expected to happen with the coming of the Messiah, at least in Israel.

Let us look at some interesting points in the Matthew Gospel.

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (Matt. 1:23)

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene. (Matt. 2:23)

In the above verses we have the announcement of His coming.

*These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:** But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (Matt. 10:5-6)*

*And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.** Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. (Matt. 15:22-28)*

This same Jesus knowing the reason of His coming and of His work to accomplish He refers for whom He came and to whom.

All that the Lord did in His life time on earth, His healings, His miracles, His words etc were nothing else but confirmations and affirmations of the prophecies of the O.T. He himself said

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. (Matt. 5:17)

What they did to Him?

The Lord was trying to re affirm with signs and wonders all that the prophets had said He would do, and the people, not only did not accept His teachings and Himself, but they tried even to kill Him.

And you know, it was not the simple Jewish citizen that wanted to hurt the Lord, but the **religious leaders** of their time, who had studied the scriptures of the O.T, they knew the scriptures and they had deep knowledge of the prophecies, even so they did not accept Him, saying

We will not have this man to reign over us. (Luke 19:14)

Therefore, Jesus rejected and condemned by His own people and Nation what does He do?

He started speaking to them in parables.

We have been told that the parables convey a “heavenly message” with “earthly meaning”, that they contain a story that the simple man can understand its message, that is what we have been taught, that’s what we know. Is this the truth though?

The word parable consists of the word “para” that means close, near and the word “balo” which means to throw down, to dissolve.

In Psalm 78 David prophesises

*Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. **I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:** (Psalm 78:1-2)*

In other words, God had anticipated that Christ would speak in parables.

In Matthew chapter 12 we read that Jesus had been proclaimed Messiah and King. He had claimed these titles according to the prophecies saying

*But I say unto you, That in this place is **one greater than the temple.** (Matt.12:6)*

*The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a **greater than Jonas is here.** (Matt. 12:41)*

*The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a **greater than Solomon is here.** (Matt. 12:42)*

Even though He had told them that He was

- **Greater than the temple**
- **Greater than Jonas**
- **Greater than Solomon**

He had been scoffed and rejected

The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. And great multitudes were gathered together unto him....

And he spake many things unto them in parables saying...

*And the disciples came, and said unto him, **Why speakest thou unto them in parables?***

*He answered and said unto them, Because **it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.***

For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

*Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, **By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and***

seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. (Matt. 13:1-16)

You see, up to now Jesus was speaking in a simple way so that the simplest man could understand. After His many scoffing, rejections and persecutions against Him, He started speaking in parables to a point that His own disciples came to Him and asked Him,

Why are you speaking in parables?

And He answers them.

*Because **it is given unto you** (ie the disciples) to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, **but to them** (the people and all that were persecuting Him) it is not given.*

And immediately He refers to the prophecy of Isaiah which is being used 3 times in the Scriptures, and each time it's being referred to the Nation enters a **LO-AMMI** period – Not my people.

- The first time that prophet Isaiah refers to his prophecy in chapter 6:9 the Nation of Israel entered a LO-AMMI period having been conquered by enemies.
- The second time is when Jesus refers to here in Matthew and hides the truth from the people, and
- The third time – which we will examine later – just before the destruction of Jerusalem at 70 AD, it is being referred to by Paul in Acts 28:26 when the Nation enters a LO-AMMI period which is still valid.

In other words, parables hide the truth, they cover it with a veil and they refer to the **Mysteries** of the Kingdom of Heavens and not for the **Kingdom** of Heavens alone.

HIS SECOND COMING

It may seem strange that the promises given by Jesus to His disciples in relation to His second coming have not been fulfilled.

*But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall **not have gone over the cities of Israel**, till the Son of man be come. (Matt. 10:23)*

*Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which **shall not taste of death**, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom (Matt. 16:28)*

*For I say unto you, Ye **shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say**, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. (Matt. 23:39)*

What He is saying to His disciples is that they will not get over the cities of Israel, some of you will not die till you see the Son of Man coming again. However, over 2,000 have gone pass since then and Christ has not returned yet.

Was He mistaken?

Some may wonder how is it possible to promise all these and not been fulfilled, others have taken the task to accomplish themselves the promises that Christ gave to His disciples and they believe that through today's religious organisations, God has and will fulfil His promises toward the Nation and to mankind in general.

But let us allow the scriptures to guide us on this.

*And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, **Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?** (Matt. 24:1-3)*

We have to look at the previous chapter of Matthew chapter 23 and see what is happening there before we move on.

There we read that Jesus speaks before the people accusing and reproach the Scribes and the Pharisees (the religious leaders of that day) saying

- That they sit on Moses seat and whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not,
- For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

- But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,
- And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.
- But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men
- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer
- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.
- Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!
- Ye fools and blind:
- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.
- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.
- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.
- Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.
- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,
- Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers,

Eight times Jesus is telling them “Woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees hypocrites” and calls them serpents, vipers, blind, murderers and announce punishment and condemnation against them and finally chapter 23 closes with Jesus saying

*Verily I say unto you, **All these things** shall come upon **this generation**. (Matt. 23:36)*

After these His disciples come to Him in chapter 24 and they ask Him

Tell us thy ask Him,

When will these things happen?

What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the world?

And Jesus explains HOW the end of the world will take place and the events that will precede before and after and then He points out

*Verily I say unto you, **This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.** (Matt. 24:34)*

(Please note the word “till” is the conditional Greek word “an” meaning “IF”.)

in other words, all that He told them that will happen they will happen “IF” and only “IF” something comes to pass. And what is the main event that should have happened at this time so that His words come true?

What else but the acceptance of the Messiah !

By whom?

By the Nation, the Nation of Israel.

Did you notice the term, the Nation? **The Nation** had to accept the Messiah, not just the simple people. Many were those who accepted and believed in Him in a personal way who had discovered that He was the promised Messiah, but the whole promise and plan of God was conditional that the Nation of Israel, as a Nation, and I am emphasising this, had to recognise Him as the promised Messiah.

That is the reason why Jesus condemns and shouts “Woe” against the scribes and Pharisees because they as the religious leaders of that time, if their eyes were not blinded from the awe of power they exercised upon the people and if they just had listened to what Jesus had to say, then they may had accepted Him.

This is why Jesus gave His promises to His disciples regarding His second coming. You see, the second coming of Christ was to take place back **THEN** and not some 2.000 years later. That’s why in His promises, He was telling them that some of you will not have the time to go to the other cities of Israel, and that some of them will not see death until you see the Son of Man coming again.

Apostle Peter in the book of Acts just after Pentecost he addresses the people of Israel saying

*And now, brethren, I wot that through **ignorance** ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. **Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: **Whom the heaven must receive until the times of*****

restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:17-21)

Take note of his words

In ignorance, he tells them, you did what you did You and your leaders, that you crucified Christ, but this had been prophesied according to God's plan.

So now, he tells them repent and be converted again to Him, and if you do that, then times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord and God will send again to you Christ who has to remain in heavens till the time of restitution take place as has been told by the prophets.

In other words, whilst Christ is in heavens, here on your Land will happen the events that Isaiah and all the other prophets are prophesising especially the writings of the book of Revelation.

You see, the book of Revelation is not the last book which wrongly we believe it was written because is at the end of the N.T, but one of the first, so that the Nation of Israel to be fully informed of the future events as the second coming of Christ was to happen **THEN**.

And what did they do?

They chased the Apostles and put them in prison forbidding them to speak about the Messiah.

Did they repent?

Of course not.

How was it possible for Christ to return if the Nation did not repent and did not accept the preaching of the disciples?

So let us go now to the Book of Acts and see there some events which will help us understand better the whole situation.

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Coming into the book of Acts we see but a continuation of the Gospels.

The same Nation – Israel

The same Land – the Promised Land, which God had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

The same city – Jerusalem

The same people

In the first chapter we note that Christ after His resurrection and having appeared to His disciples in many ways, He stayed with them for 40 days, and for 40 days He was explaining to them the things pertaining of the Kingdom of God. And whilst he was with them eating He told them not to draw away from Jerusalem but to wait the fulfilment of the promise of the Father, i.e. the sending of the Holy Spirit to them.

After Christ had spoken His disciples came to Him and asked Him

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? (Acts 1:6)

I would like to ask you a question here. If you were there in front of Christ that day how many questions would have asked Him? I would have very many at least myself.

But the disciples after a teaching of 40 days from Christ Himself they had only ONE question to ask

Lord, will you restore the kingdom to Israel at our time?

You see, under the light of His resurrection and having preached to them for 40 days now at least they can understand all that had been spoken of by the prophets and this same Christ about the course of the Nation and its future events that were to take place **THEN**.

And Christ answers them

It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. (Acts 1:7)

That is why a little later the 11 come together, once Judas has committed suicide, to cast ballots so that to bring the number of the disciples again to 12, and the vote fall upon Matthias.

You see, twelve tribes of Israel, twelve must be the Apostles. The number twelve (12) in scripture stands for Governmental perfection. The events of the end of the world, the end of the world was near and all had to be in place.

There are many who support that the disciples were in a hurry because they could wait for Paul to come in the scene, and then their number would be 12. This idea has not the support of the scriptures.

In Matthew we read

....all things are ready.....(Matt. 22:4)

The disciples had to go to Jerusalem to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and if Israel believed and repented and the Kingdom of God was established, then the Lord would have fulfilled His promise that the 12 would sit at the 12 thrones and govern the Nation. This is what the disciples understood after 40 days of teaching from Christ, and so the hurry to bring out their number to 12.

And the day of Pentecost was fulfilled

Today's religious organisations, which through tradition claim and teach and want us to believe that the day of Pentecost is the day of commencement of the Church, today's Church.

Is this the truth though? Let us examine what the scripture; the Word of the Lord has to say.

The word Church is derived from the proposition “**ek**” and the verb “**klio**”. In other words, the gathering of a chosen people for a reason, a called out assembly. It is not the building or any other place.

This word is used in scripture when is referring to the Nation of Israel in Acts 7:38.

*This is he, that was **in the church in the wilderness** with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us: (Acts 7:38)*

Here a called out and special Nation, special to God, is chosen from all other NationS and is called “Church”. There are many verses using this word for different gatherings, therefore there are more that one Church unlike to each other. It is not the same the Church “His Bride” which we read of in the Gospels with the Church which “is His Body” as Paul describes in Ephesians. Let us check the things that differ.

Pentecost is associated with the O.T as it is one of the feast given by the Lord to Israel, as we have already seen.

On that day, as it was the custom, they were gathering from all parts of the world the Israelites to celebrate their feast in Jerusalem. These were the Jews of the diaspora, the dispersed Jews. The Gentiles, the other NationS, had no relationship with the feasts of the Nation. These feasts were given to the Nation of Israel and they were exclusively only for them.

When the scriptures tells us in Acts 2:9 that there were gathered to celebrate the feast of Pentecost from all parts of the world, it gives us a list of those parts and the people who had gathered.

Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. (Acts 2:9-11)

You see the places listed are summed up to twelve (12). All the rest are proselytes ie they had accepted the Jewish teachings and they had become Jews, and becoming a Jew by the custom they were assigned a tribe, they were circumcised and were keeping all the feasts and the Sabbaths etc. There is not a hind that Jews and Gentiles were joined that day and became the church “**which is His Body**”.

Peter in his speech says:

Ye men of Judaea... (Acts 2:14)

Ye men of Israel... (Acts 2:22)

Men and brethren... (Acts 2:29)

Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly... (Acts 2:36)

For the promise is unto you... (Acts 2:39)

These are the people, the Nation that Paul addresses. The whole of the Nation. Its imposible to pertain to the Gentiles, to non Jews. So let us allow the words of the scripture to explain for themselves and not trying to add or change situations and conditions.

Peter knew very well that the Nation had to accept that Christ was indeed the Messiah and as a repentant Nation, then to go to the end of the world proclaiming the good news to the rest of the Gentile world.

A little further, the following event takes place

*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there **were added** unto them about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41)*

were added....added to the already existing number of believers another three thousand. If the day of Pentecost was the beginning of the Church which is called “**His Body**” there would be no addition because it would have been something new.

Let us not forget that all the Jews were expecting the Messiah. The Messiah came, preached and did all that the prophets foretold He would do. Many during His life on earth believed in Him and accepted Him, and now under the light of all the events of those days and under the influence of the Holy Spirit, Peter preaches that this Jesus of Nazareth is the same Messiah that the prophets had said would come.

Of those who heard him, some believed others not, but those who believed did not do anything but to assure themselves that truly the Messiah had come. They did not change religion or the way of worship and continued to keep the same religious obligations as before.

Listen to what Peter had to say on the Day of Pentecost.

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but

*the third hour of the day. **But this is that** which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass **in the last days**, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:*

*And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable **day of the Lord** come: (Acts 2:14-20)*

The reference of Peter is from prophet Joel chapter 2:28-31 who had prophesied the events which were to happen during the Day of Pentecost and it should be expected something like this to happen.

And he tells them

But this is that....

which is **this**?

What you see happening today, he tells them, to prophecy and to speak in tongues is nothing strange, even though you claim that they are drunken men. What you see today is **THIS** that has been prophesied by the prophets that will happen, and continues with the reference to the prophecy of Joel, which was being fulfilled that day.

If you notice, the prophecy is divided into two parts. The first part was fulfilled exactly on that day, but the second part **even though was to be fulfilled at that time** it was not and has not yet been fulfilled to this day, even though is referring **to the last days**.

And what the prophecy is saying that would happen then?

*And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before the great and notable day of the Lord come:***

These events are events of the last days that Jesus Himself announced in Matthew 24. The book of Revelation in its chapters is describing those events, the Apostles are narrating these in many instances in their epistles and Peter under the influence of the Holy Spirit declares that they will happen.

Notice the point **before the great and notable day of the Lord come**. The Day of the Lord is referred to His second coming and is the day of the destruction of the enemies of the Nation and of God being a tremendous day and a day of justice.

and in the last days... Peter says referring to prophet Joel, these things will happen. The fulfilment of this prophecy was to take place **THEN** and not 2,000 years later. You see there was a condition that the Nation had to believe and accept the Messiah but due to their

disobedience and blindness, **these last days** were postponed for some other time in the future.

It is interesting when Apostle Paul a little later after his conversion from his meeting with Christ on the way to Damascus, he writes in the letter to the Hebrews.

*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath **in these last days** spoken unto us by his Son, (Hebrews 1:1-2)*

He explains that in many ways in the past God has spoken to US (Hebrews) through the fathers and the prophets and in these last days (don't forget that Hebrews was written THEN sometime around 35-40 AD and not today year 2,003) He spoke to us through His Son.

Therefore I am asking, if the period of time from His coming, His sufferings, His resurrection, and the 40 years from His ascension until the destruction of Jerusalem at 70 AD from Emperor Tito, were the last days and they were not fulfilled, either the Scriptures are lying, (something unacceptable) or something should have happened and it did not, so as to fulfil them and the these last days, which were to come then, were postponed for a later date.

Did you notice what Peter says a little later when together with the rest of the disciples, they healed the lame man outside the Temple and the gathered crowd witnessed the miracle, He tells them

And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you (Acts 3:12-20)

Once he condemns them for what they did, Peter forgives them because

through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers

Repent therefore he tells them and be converted so that your sins may be forgiven and times of refreshing will come from the Lord and He will send Jesus Christ which was before preached to you.

What is the condition for the coming of times of refreshing and the return of Jesus Christ?

Their repentance and their conversion to God, **as a Nation and as a people!**

Did this repentance and conversion took place?

Of course NOT.

Therefore, the times of refreshing and redemption together with the coming of Christ were postponed for a future date.

When this postponement took place?

To answer this question, we must speed up to the last chapter of Acts namely Acts 28 and to examine the events which are described there. But before we get there, I would like to have a look at the most important events that take place during the Acts period and to emphasise some, following their course so as to get a better picture of our subject.

So, after the healing of the lame man outside of the Temple, Peter is called upon to plea to the rulers, the elders, the scribes, and chief priests Annas and Caiaphas and all who had a kindred of the high priest together with John because they were preaching Jesus and His resurrection.

So, Peter full of the Holy Spirit said to them:

*If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.
(Acts 4:9-10)*

And they decided not to punish them as they scared of the crowd.

It was not just a coincidence for Peter and John to heal the lame man. You see nothing just happen in the Word of God all is for a reason. The lame man is a picture of the condition of the Nation, with its unbelief at that time.

The Lame Man	The Nation
40 years lame (<i>Acts 4:22</i>)	40 years in the wilderness
Weak and unable	The Nation weak and unable
Outside the Temple	Outside of the Kingdom.
Near the Temple	So close to the Kingdom

The lame man stood, jumped and walking praised God.

The Nation as it has been prophesied would do the same during the thousand years reign of the Kingdom of Christ.

*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall **the lame man leap as an hart**, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. (Isaiah 35:6-7)*

At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD. (Zephaniah 3:20)

In other words, Peter is saying to them

Look at this man; he has been healed by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth and stands before you as a prophetic anticipation of Israel restoration.

Israel of course did not heed the message as the lame man and was set aside, was cut off, at Acts 28:28 just before the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple at 70 AD, but it has not been cast away as we read in the epistle to the Romans

I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. (Romans 11:1-2)

A little later after these events, Paul comes into the scene.

Let us examine for a little the services of this faithful man of God.

THE SERVICES OF PAUL

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: (Galatians 1:15-16)

And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. (Acts 9:1-2)

Peter's service commenced in Jerusalem and ended in prison there. Paul's service commenced in Antioch and ended in prison in Rome.

Peter's first miracle was the healing of a Jew, the Lame man (Acts 3)
Paul's first miracle was the blindness of a Jew. (Acts 13:11).

And the book of Acts commences with the Jews being first, and ends with the Jews being cut off, and set aside.

We have the first introduction of Paul at the stoning of Stephen.

Here Paul condemns Stephen saying

For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us (Acts 6:14)

With similar condemnation Paul was charged years later:

And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. (Acts 21:21)

This hardness and blindness of Paul was due to ignorance. He tells us

*For I bear them record that they have **a zeal of God**, but not according to knowledge. (Romans.10:2)*

Many of the scribes and Pharisees knew that Jesus was the Christ. Look what they were claiming:

This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be our's. (Mark 12:7)

And Paul describes his own behaviour

*Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, **because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.** (1 Tim 1:13)*

And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. (Galatians 1:14)

He caused debacle among the believers. He was dragging men and women to prison and destroyed all who were proclaiming the name of Jesus in Jerusalem. And suddenly he was stricken by a sudden strike and strong light from heaven and heard a voice saying to him:

Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? (Acts 9:4a)

And he asks

Who art thou, Lord? (Acts 9:5a)

And the Lord answers him in a voice

I am Jesus whom thou persecutest (Acts 9:5b)

What a lovely revelation this is!

You see if the voice had said “*I am the Messiah of Israel*” or “*I am the Son of God*” Paul would have denied the charge because he was persecuting someone by the **name** Jesus.

Notice how important is the word **Name** in scripture and in Acts 9 where much blame was imputed upon the persecution that Paul was exercising

*And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy **name**. (Acts 9:14)*

*But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my **name** before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: (Acts 9:15)*

*For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my **name's** sake. (Acts 9:16)*

*Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this **name** in Jerusalem (Acts 9:21)*

*But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the **name** of Jesus. (Acts 9:27)*

*And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. And he spake boldly in the **name** of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. (Acts 9:28)*

In Acts 21 when the believers warned Paul not to go to Jerusalem he replied

*What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the **name** of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 21:13)*

Before King Agrippa he said

*I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the **name** of Jesus of Nazareth. (Acts 26:9)*

And about his mission he says to the Romans

*By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his **name**: (Romans 1:5)*

To the Corinthians he says

*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the **name** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 Cor. 1:10)*

How wonderful he must have felt when he wrote later that this name of Christ was raised

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: (Eph. 1:21)

So, having been blinded from the heavenly vision he had on the road whilst he was persecuting the believers, instructions were given to Anania (a believer) through a vision, to go to his house where Saul was staying to pray for him. Even though Anania was hesitant to go because he feared Saul, he went, prayed and touched him on his head and

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. (Acts 9:18)

How much truth is there in this verse. Paul, a strong believer in the teachings of the fathers was persecuting the believers in Christ, beating them up and putting them in prison, he needed the direct intervention of the resurrected Christ to enable him finally to recognise the Messiah and to “see with other eyes the truth”.

Isn't I wonder, the same with all the unbelievers today that if you tell them about Christ they don't want to listen about Him, how much more then for those who attend church, those who are believing in the teachings of the established organised religion, those who have placed their faith in the “Church”, is this not true? Of those their eyes have been shut by the various ceremonies and all that they are being taught by their religion and they cannot face the truth which originates from the Word of God. They too, if they only allow their spirit to be controlled by the power of the Holy Spirit then like “scales” their blindness which has developed from the teachings and traditions of men will fall, and then and only then, they will be able to face the reality and the truth that is derived only from the teachings of the God breathed Word.

We see that many years after the ascension of Christ His disciples to labor trying to preach the Good News to their people, their own people. Many believed as individuals, but the

Nation, the Nation of Israel, always ignored and persecuted them forbidding them to talk about the Messiah.

There were many times when the disciples seeing the hardness of their people, threaten that these Good News that is for them will be sent to other Nations, the Gentiles. But each time this happened we read that they came back to the Israelites trying to convince them again.

What a surprise Peter had when he learned that the Holy Spirit had gone to Cornilius, a Gentile believer. And don't forget that Gentile believer at this time means a Jewish proselyte who had accepted the Jewish faith.

Also many times we read that Paul would go to the Gentiles when he was persecuted by the Jews who would not believe him. In one circumstance, Paul together with Barnabas preaching Christ in a Synagogue

*But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, **It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you:** but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, **lo, we turn to the Gentiles.** (Acts 13:45-46)*

Did they really turn to the Gentiles? In the next chapter we read

*And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together **into the synagogue of the Jews,**(Acts 14:1)*

Again into a Synagogue, again relating with the Jews.

And we come to Acts chapter 17 where we read

*Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was **a synagogue of the Jews:** And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.(Acts 17:1-3)*

Can you imagine, after three weeks of preaching of the Gospel again they would not believe and blamed them and the crowd turned against them and the believers sent them to Berea in the middle of the night.

And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (Acts 17:10-11)

I wish we could be like the Berean believers.

Not only they received God's word, but they also searched the scriptures daily to check out what Paul was telling them is true.

Would not be correct for today's believers to check out every teaching by any person and by any religion, comparing their saying from the scriptures and to really check out what they are being taught is based on the Word of God and that they are not the product of human account, and then to accept them if they are so or reject them if they are not?

Straight after that Paul goes to Athens where

Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said (Acts 17:22)

There in Athens he saw the idols and the temples that they Athenians had built for their gods and through fear in case some god may appear and they have no idol for him they had built a statue dedicated to the **UNKNOWN GOD**. And of course Paul spoke the well known words that this unknown god is not other than Jesus from Nazareth. Is there any difference to that from today's worship of "All saints day"?

After Athens he comes to Corinth where

*And he reasoned **in the synagogue** every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks....And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean; from henceforth **I will go unto the Gentiles**. (Acts 18:1-6)*

Again in the synagogue of the Jews, again blasphemed, again the unbelief and the warning that he will go to the Gentiles; only

*And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself **entered into the synagogue**, and reasoned with the Jews. (Acts 18:19)*

Immediately even though he had warned them that he will go to the Gentiles we find him to enter another synagogue of the Jews.

You see Paul knew, he knew that the condition in the plan of God was that the Nation to believe as a Nation the Messiah and then the rest of the NationS will hear about Him through the teaching of the Nation of Israel.

And why did he tell them that he will go to the Gentiles and the NationS each time they were persecuting and blaspheming him?

He tells us

If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. (Romans 11:14)

Finally he ended in Caesarea where he preached many things including the resurrection of the dead to a point where there was a great division between the Jews and they condemned him so seriously that they arrested him and led him to the high priests and the leaders of the Jews in Caesarea together with Festus. And after they have called on Paul

And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not

prove. While he answered for himself, Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all. But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me? Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest.....Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go. (Acts 25:7-12)

The next day King Agrippa was in Caesarea and Festus explained to him about Paul and he agreed to see him and talk with him. To him Paul pleaded saying

*I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews: Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently. My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. And now I stand and **am judged for the hope of the promise** made of God, unto our fathers: Unto which promise **our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come**. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. (Acts 26:2-7)*

Please note some vital points here.

We are near the end of the Acts period, we are on chapter 26, around 68 – 70 AD and Paul appeals to King Agrippa says

- ***am judged for the hope of the promise***
- ***our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come.***

In other words, the hope for the salvation of the Nation has not yet been lost. The Nation of Israel always FIRST in the plans of God remains unrepentant and hard against the messengers of God and to His calling.

Paul continuing his appealing to Agrippa he explains to him, how he was converted and believed that really Jesus of Nazareth was the expected Messiah of the Nation after his conversion on the road to Damascus, and all that he suffered for Christ and he tells him

King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. (Acts 26:27-28)

Such was Paul's witness to Agrippa that almost persuaded him to believe in Christ in vain.

And Paul answers him

I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds. (Acts 26:29)

After this Agrippas would have Paul released had not he appealed to stand before the Ceasar, as a Roman citizen that he was.

They put him in a ship and headed for Italy.

When they arrived to Rome the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard but kept Paul by himself with a sodlier to guard him.

After three days whom do you think Paul calls for?

***the chief of the Jews** together: and when they were come together, he said unto them, **Men and brethren**, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. Who, when they had examined me, would have let me go, because there was no cause of death in me. But when the Jews spake against it, I was constrained to appeal unto Caesar; not that I had ought to accuse my nation of. For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that **for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.** (Acts 28:17-20)*

Take heed of these words as we will come back again later.

And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening. (Acts 28:23)

So they came to his house many of the leaders of the Jews and spoke to them about the Kingdom of God explaining and trying to convince them out of the O.T (that's the scriptures that they then had), all the writings of Moses and the prophets concerning the coming of the Messiah. This meeting lasted from morning till evening.

Can you imagine, the leaders of the Jewish Nation ie the high priests, that they knew the scriptures and Paul trying to testify to them through the Word of God, and to sit there and have a Bible Study lasting almost a day?

What was the result of this meeting?

And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not. And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, (Acts 28:24-25a)

And how they departed?

after that Paul had spoken one word,

*Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, Saying, **Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart***

of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it. (Acts 28:25-28)

HERE we have once again the prophecy of Isaiah which we had looked at earlier. If you recall the last two times that this prophecy was mentioned in the past, the Nation entered a LO-AMMI period, Not my people.

And now after Paul's final try to convince the Nation to believe, the Nation having once more deny the offering of salvation enters into a **LO-AMMI** period, Not my people.

Immediately after this accusation

And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves. (Acts 28:29)

Here the word "departed" is the Greek word "apelthon".

This word is the same used in Matthew 1:19 where Joseph wanted to divorce Mary when he heard the news that she was expecting a child.

*Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to **put her away** privily. (Matthew 1:19)*

This was according to the law of Moses as Deuteronomy declares

When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. (Deut. 24:1)

And in Matthew again

It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: (Matt. 5:31)

In other words, the word "departed" in the case of the Jews that leave from Paul's house has a meaning of divorcement ie the Nation there received with the reference to Isaiah's prophecy from Paul, the divorce between itself and God.

Many times so much in the O.T as in the N.T the relationship between the Nation and God is being as of a wedding. God appears to the prophets and tells them that He is the Husband of the Nation. An example will prove that to you that point:

*For **thy Maker is thine husband**; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. (Isaiah 54:5)*

In the N.T you can recall the parable of the groom with the 10 virgins, this is nothing more than the relationship of Christ coming as a Groom to marry His bride, the Nation of Israel.

Many are the references regarding this subject, that creates an interesting study for the really sincere believer to search and find from the Scriptures.

Notice Paul's words just before the departure of the Jewish leaders

Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it. (Acts 28:28)

He is not telling them that Barnabas and I, or Silas and I will turn to the Gentiles and to the NationS as he had done many times in the past but that **the salvation of God** will be sent to the Gentiles, the NationS, and they will receive it **independently of the Nation.**

Where in Scripture this has been told? NOWHERE till now.

In the scriptures we discover the plan of God trying to redeem man to his original state before his fall through the Nation of Israel and the agreement, the covenant, was that through this Nation the rest of the NationS will hear of His majesty and His love.

And now we read that **the salvation of God** is sent to the NationS independently of the condition of the Nation.

And 3 – 4 years later Jerusalem is conquered by Emperor Titus at 70 AD and totally destroyed. The Temple is destroyed and leveled to the ground fulfilling Christ prophecy when He had said that stone will not be left upon a stone on this building and the Nation once again enters a LO-AMMI period, Not my people fulfilling once again Hosea's 1:9 prophecy which we examined earlier.

Here we stand in a tremendous phase in the history of mankind.

As we have studied from the beginning the scriptures, we discovered the plan of God for man, the reason of his fall, the trials of God to reinstate him to his original position choosing a Nation among other NationS so through them to fulfil His plan, and we discovered that the main reason for the fall of mankind is Satan, who knowing the Scriptures, continuously has been trying to lead this plan to destruction.

And not only did he contributed to the fall of man, but also to the disobedience and "hardness of heart" from the Nation's part which for so many years God was trying to lead and convert them to His way.

Now the Nation after all troubles the messengers of God went through even this same Jesus, is standing in a LO-AMMI condition. There is nothing else written in the Scriptures that God has any other plans or ways to continue His work. We have reached the climax of prophecy and the end of all that has been told by all the fathers and prophets.

The Nation of Israel, the beloved this Nation, which for thousands of years had been in His care, have now been cut off from the plan of God. And I just can imagine Satan rubbing his hands happily that finally has won the battle. He knows that the plans of God are dependant only upon those people, this Nation. This Nation is now cut off from the plan and is in a LO-AMMI situation and Satan, through triumph is as if he is asking God

What are you going to do now?

Your plans for the people of Israel are finished.

The Nation now stands in a LO-AMMI situation and according to the Scriptures and the prophesies (which I know very well) you have nothing else in your mind.

Little did Satan knew what the omniscience and the wonderful mind of God as we will examine in the next pages of this study.

What you should also know is that this period of the Acts is a period of about 40 years. Here we have again number 40, which in scripture is the number of testing.

You will remember

40 days and nights was raining at the flood of Noah.

40 years in the wilderness.

40 days of Christ being tested in hunger and thirst.

40 years that the Lame Man was outside the Temple.

40 years the Acts period.

During the period of the Acts many epistles were written by the Apostles and Paul himself. Its important at this point to refer this epistles according to their chronological order, especially the epistles of Paul so as to understand certain things before we move on.

During this period the Apostles wrote the following epistles, namely:

1 Peter
Revelation (One of the first books written)
James
2 Peter
1, 2, 3 John
Jude

Paul from his part wrote 7 epistles:

Galatians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
Hebrews
1 Corinthians
2. Corinthians
Romans

Here we could draw a line as far as the plan of God is concerned. With these epistles ends His only contact with the Nation and He stopped working with the descendants of Abraham,

and Isaac and Jacob, He became exhausted in His patience waiting for the Nation to believe and return to Him.

We know though through the prophecy of Hosea that this LO-AMMI period of the Nation will be for a time unknown which only God Himself knows and then they will once again become AMMI, My people.

In mean time we are in the course of time which the scripture calls **“the dispensation of the Mystery”** and which we shall examine now.

THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY

After the departure of the leaders of the Jews from the house of Paul in Rome and his pronouncement of Isaiah prophecy, the Acts period comes to a close with the following words

And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him. (Acts 28:30-31)

During the period of those two years Paul wrote another seven (7) epistles namely

Ephesians
Philippians
Philemon
Colosians
1 Timothy
Titus
2 Timothy

To the Ephesians, the first epistle to be written after the cut off of the Nation of Israel, we read of some very interesting, fresh and new effects.

We read:

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings **in heavenly places** in Christ: (Ephesians 1:3)*

In heavenly places.....what is this?

For first time in the history of mankind this word is referred to. For so many thousands of years God was saying that all the blessings for the Nation (and the Nations later) would be on the Promise Land, in Israel and suddenly we have a new place of blessings?

Listen to what he is saying

*Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, **making mention of you in my prayers** (Ephesians 1:15-16)*

What Paul is praying for?

*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the **spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him**: The eyes of your understanding being **enlightened**; that ye may know what is the **hope of his calling**, and what **the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints**, And*

what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power (Ephesians 1:17-19)

And which is this power of God working in us? It is the same power

*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 principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:20-22)*

Here we find the location of this new blessings. **THE HEAVENLY PLACES**. The Greek word is **ep + ouranios**. **Ep** meaning above and **ouranios** meaning Heavens. Let us not confuse this heavens with the heavens of the creation – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth - our universe in general. Nowhere in the past this new place has been revealed, and suddenly is telling us that God through His infinite love for us He has placed us in the same position where Christ is sits at the right hand of God, above all principalities and powers and dominions.

*And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to **the church, Which is his body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all (Ephesians 1:22-23)*

Here we find a tremendous change, something new has come up again. Whilst before the believers were called as a church “**His Bride**” now we discover that this church these believers of this new economy they are called “**His Body**”. It is not the same thing and it is not by chance the difference.

And Paul continues:

*According as he hath chosen us in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (Ephesians 1:4)*

He has chosen these believers **before the foundation of the world**, so that we may be before Him holy and without blame.

Whom He has chosen?

US

Who are the **US**?, we will see this shortly.

Listen to what he is saying:

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of

promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (Ephesiand 2:11-13)

The US are the Gentiles, the NationS.

To the Gentiles, to the NationS, who had been scattered around the world, and whilst the plan of God was that they would believe and learn about Him through the Nation of Israel, NOW having entered their LO-AMMI period, these Gentiles can come to God directly by themselves, without the confluence of Israel. In other words, Israel has lost its primacy it had.

Notice **But now**

But now when?

Of course then, at the time when Paul wrote the epistle to the Ephesians straight after the cutting off of the Nation.

And he goes on:

For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. (Ephesians 2:14-18)

What words are these really!!

The two fields – Israel as a Nation – and all the other NationS were living all these thousands of years in separate dimensions as far as God was concerned. **But now** those two have been united into ONE BODY and the middle wall of partition that was barrier separating them has been broken down and abolished the law of commandments that were binding them, break down the enmity between the two. And the Gentiles which were some time in the past so far away from the covenants of promise has brought them near to Him.

Its imposible for anyone to avoid distinguishing a change having taken place in the plans of God.

Notice the word “**for to make**”

The Greek word is “**ktisis**” which means “to built new”, “to create” something new. Its not a continuation of something old. It is something **NEW** created by Him.

This union is something new.

And this new plan has not been referred anywhere in the Scriptures.

No one knew that something such as that would have happened. Listen to what Paul has to say regarding this new plan.

*For this cause I Paul, **the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles**, (Ephesians 3:1)*

What is he saying?

If you recall the time when they brought him bound in Rome not long ago, we read that he said to the leaders of the Jews in Rome that

*because that for **the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain**. (Acts 28:20)*

and now he is telling us that he is in bonds for the sake of you Gentiles? It cannot be but a change has taken place. Its so obvious.

*If ye have heard of the **dispensation of the grace of God** which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he **made known unto me the mystery**;Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; (Ephesians 3:2-5)*

A new dispensation has come, the dispensation of the grace of God, revealed to Paul NOW and this mystery this secret has not been known to other generations.

The word “mystery” does not imply something mysterious, it’s the Greek word from the verb “**muo**” meaning a secret.

And what is this mystery, this secret? It is :

*That the Gentiles should **be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel**: (Ephesians 3:6)*

And continues:

*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 men** (not men the Greek word for men here is – “**believers**”) **see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God**, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: (Ephesians 3: 8-11)*

HERE WE HAVE THE ANSWER OF GOD TO SATAN. Whilst he was rubbing his hands happily that he had destroyed God’s plans, He reveals to Paul a secret which, was hid in His mind **before the foundation** (before the kataboli, as we have seen earlier) of the world and

which opens new chapters in the flow of the human race. He had never revealed this in the past, no prophet had prophesied it, no scripture had written about it. This secret **was hid in God** and when He considered that should be revealed, He reveals it as a revelation to Paul. Maybe the reason of this secrecy was that Satan would not find it.

And what Satan does when this mystery, this secret is revealed?

He is trying to quiten it down.

HOW?

Through established Religion and Traditions.

Whilst God states that My people are in a period of **LO-AMMI** and all my promises to them will be fulfilled one future day, Satan through religion teaches:

Yes, Israel has ceased being and has stopped to be first to have the pre eminance in God's plan, so now we, the Church, we are the "**Spiritual Israel**" and we are to continue the plan that God has assigned to the Nation to fulfill, and through us He will fulfill His promises to His people.

And they take for themselves the promises that God has for Israel and they operate as Israelites wearing their robes and perform services and keep the feasts which God has given for His chosen people.

There is nothing new in the plan of God, they claim. No dispensation of the Mystery, no dispensation of the grace of God, all is but a continuation to the plan of God for man and all continues as it was.

In other words they do not discern the dividing line that God has set Himself and neglect to point to the "**things that differ**", ie **the right division of the Word**. On top of that they have added with the passing of time their own customs and traditions of men which they are not the product of Scripture and by this way they delude the believers, to do and worship God in a way unacceptable to Him.

Idolatry and polytheism triumph in todays established religion as at the times of Babylon.

Paul is telling us

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; (Colossians 1:26)

With the introduction of this new dispensation of God, Paul filfils the scriptures. **NOTHING** else is there to be added to the Word of God.

The creation of Religions is not of God, this is a statement. In His mind He had never intended to create any kind of Religion. Religion is a product of Satan and through it he triumphs, because the worship of the true believer who acts under the instructions of Religion will not reach God but through this ignorance the worship is directed to Satan. If God is telling us the way He wants us to worship Him and we worship Him following the instructions and teachings of Religion we are serving in ignorance His enemy.

So, when we read the rest of the epistles of Paul written after the cutting of of the Nation at Acts 28:28 we find that nothing repeat nothing of the instructions given to the Nation are now in force any longer.

- **The Law, and the ten commandments, have now been abolished.**
- **The fathers of Israel, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are nowhere mentioned.**
- **The words, Israel, Israelite and so on cease to be mentioned.**
- **The Land, the Promised Land, which was the main theme of all the previous epistles is not mentioned any more.**
- **The blessings are not in the Promise Land, but in the Above Heavens.**
- **The Church His bride is now the Church which is His Body.**
- **The services and the feasts are never mentioned.**
- **The Lord's Supper has ceased to be observed. (being a new covenant superseding the old covenant that was related with Israel).**
- **The Second Coming of Christ is postponed for later and instead of this we have "HIS APPEARING".**

and many more.

We conclude then that a new economy, a new dispensation has come in at Acts 28:28 with the pronouncement of Paul of the prophecy of Isaiah.

From the days of Abraham there is not a single point to show us that the Gentiles would be saved independently of the Nation. And I repeat, there is not a single point and I impel anyone to show me such a point.

Pau in Galatians (an epistle written before Acts 28:28, before the cutting of the Nation) tells us:

As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:9)

Little did Paul knew what God intended to show him a few years later.

The repentance, the return and the salvation of the Nation of Israel was the aim of God all these years, of Jesus Christ during His life on earth and of the disciples. This aim has not been fulfilled and has been set aside temporary. Israel is not His people but there will be a day when they will be again His people and then all Israel will be saved and then:

In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. (Zechariah 12:11)

For a small moment (almost 2.000 years) have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.(Isaiah 54:7)

For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. (Jeremiah 30:3)

But now we see not yet all things put under him. (Hebrews 2:8b)

The prophetic clock of God (not man's) will again start to click one day. Then He will again commence His work with His beloved Nation, and then this Nation will again be first and will be AMMI, my people. These of course are for the last days as the prophecies and the book of Revelation are pointing to.

The dividing line in the plan of God is Acta 28:28. There God set and build something new and is demanded by any sincere believer to search the scriptures as the Berean believers in Paul's days, and to discover the blessings that God has in store for him with the introduction of this new dispensation, else if he follows the teachings and guides of the organised Religion he will stand before a tremendous surprise before the Lord.

If we are clear as to the great foundations of dispensational truth and teaching, our feet will be on a rock, and we shall be safe and secure, and unmoved by all the changes taking place around us. True, we shall suffer, as Paul did, we shall know something of the affliction of the Gospel but like Him we shall not be ashamed, for we shall know Him Whom we have believed, and be sure that He will keep secure the blessed "deposit" which He has committed to our faith.

Let His grace allow us to accept His Word as it is, **RIGHTLY DIVIDING IT** and searching it with zeal and with a humble spirit because:

...my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. (Isaiah 55:8)

And as I come to the end of this study I would like to conclude with the prayer of Paul to the Ephesians:

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power (Ephesians 1:17-19)

CONCLUSION

This is the end of this study by which I have shown from Scriptures “the Overall Plan of God”. I urge the reader to accept nothing of what has been written here but to go to the Word of God for themselves to see if these things are so (Acts 17:11). It should not be the end of YOUR study though, or just another book when read placed on the bookshelf, but let it rather be the beginning of a deeper and fuller study of the Word which every sincere, God loving and ever searching child of God should endeavour wanting to grow deeper into the truths and treasures and to see something of the glories associated with that great plan of God .

To the Jew, study of the Torah (the Pentateuch) was of supreme importance. It was considered more vital than prayer and greater than the rebuilding of the temple. Study was itself considered a devotional act and it was recognised that the starting point for “learning the faith was in the home”. We could learn much from this example.

I suggest to the reader to begin by reading Paul’s letters to the Ephesians and the Colossians, to understand the promises and blessings that belong to the present calling of God. Then progress to the practical epistles, Philippians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon.

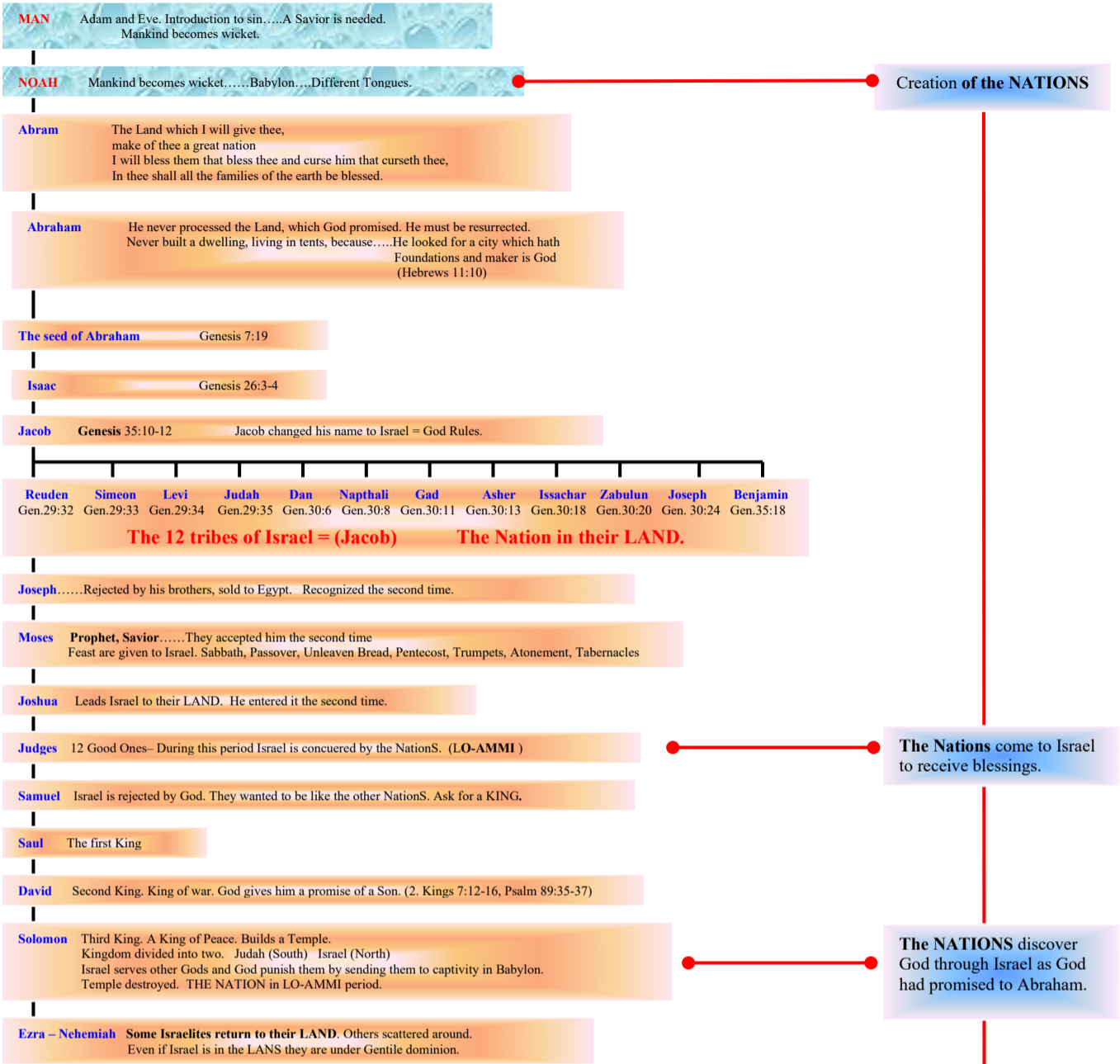
Logic tells us that God must have had a purpose in creation. That purpose may have been delayed by the work of the devil and the disobedience of man, but it will one day be fulfilled. We are privileged to see something of it in the Scriptures in both its earthly and heavenly aspects. We know that the day will come when both aspects of God’s Plan for His people will come together in a way that is at present beyond our comprehension.

Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: (Eph. 1:8-10)

THE NARRATIVE OF THE SCRIPTURES

THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

Genesis 1:1



PROMISES THAT GOD GAVE.

TO MAN: Thy seed shall bruise the serpent. (Genesis 3:15)

To Abraham: The Land which I will give thee, (from Egypt to Euphrates river) make of thee a great nation I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee, In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed. A City (Jerusalem Hebrews 11:9-10).

To David: His Son on the throne of the Nation. His Kingdom forever.

To the Nation: Isaiah 54, 60, 61. Joel 2:31-32, Zephaniah 3:14-20, Zachariah 14:16-21, Essther 34:21, Ezekiel 37:1

"All these promises point to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Savior and King of Israel.
The Son of Adam,
The Son of Abraham
The Son of David.

THE NATION. THE GOSPELS

THE Lord Jesus Christ Born with the name Jesus meaning SAVIOR. (Matthew 1:21)
Son of God
Son of Man. Seed of the woman. (Luke 3:24-38)
Will crush the serpents head.
Son of Abraham (Matthew 1:1) Israelite - Savior of Israel.
Son of David. descendant to the throne of David.
King of Israel. Must be worshiped. (Matthew 2:2,6).
His service for Israel. (Matthew 15:24, Romans 15:8-10)
Some of His teachings Repent.... (Matthew 4:17)
The meek shall inherit the LAND (Matthew 5)
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth (the LAND) as it is in heavens.
His friends Sinners
12 Disciples (Matthew 10:2-6)
12 Thrones (Ματθαίος 19:27-30)
They have to be resurrected to fulfill the prophecy
Rejected by the Nation in the LAND. Crucifixion follows. He died for the sins of the world.
He died as a Savior.
Resurrected from the dead and walked the LAND again.

ACTS Period The second offer of Christ to the Nation of Israel.

The disciples Called upon Israel to repent. (Acts 2:14-39).
Jesus was resurrected to sit on David's throne. (Acts 2:30)
The Lord will return WHEN they repent. (Acts 2:19-20).

The believers Were selling their possessions believing His return will take place THEN. (Acts 2:44,45 4:34).
The Lord would return for them THEN. Back to the... LAND.
Then we, which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds (Matt. 24:30-31, 1 Thes. 4:16).

Israel As a NATION Rejects the Messiah King. (Acts 28:24-29). ..verse 25...apolyo= divorcement (Matthew 5:31) etc

GOD Rejects Israel....for a time. (Acts 28:26-28).
Temple destroyed. Israel out of the LAND for 2.000 years now.

The NATIONS come to the King Savior of Israel as the prophets foretold.
Rom.11:17, 15:27, Gal 3:9.

After Acts 28:28 and the destruction of Jerusalem at 70 A.D

The NATION (LO-AMMI)

THE NATIONS

The TWO became ONE

JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH WHICH IS HIS BODY.

The Mystery (the secret) revealed to Paul only. (Ephesians 3) Unknown in the Old Testament. (Acts 26:22)

Paul Our blessings now in Christ.....Spiritual Blessings (Ephesians 1:3).....before they were....ON the LAND
Place of blessings now in Christ.....In the Heavens (Ephesians 1:3).....before they wereON the LAND.
God has chosen us.....BEFORE THE KATABOLE of the world (Ephesians 1:4)....before they wereFROM THE KATABOLE.of the world

The promises of God for the NEW HOPE.
Ephesians 1:17, 2:6
And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe(Ephesians 1:19)
Which he wrought in Christ (Ephesians 1:20)

Power Working in Christ

Power Working in Us

Raised from the dead. (Ephesians 1:20)
Sat at His right hand.
Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion and every name that is named,, in the heavens.
hath put all things under his feet.
Head over all things to the Church.

hath quickened us together with Christ. (Eph. 2:5)
made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6)
The Church which is His **Body**.

The perfect MAN. (Ephesians 4:13)

Colossians 3:1-4 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth.
Set your affection on things ABOVE, not on things on the LAND (the promised Land).

WHEN
Christ shall APPEAR.....THEN you shall also appear with him in glory

In other words God is telling us:

You are sited in the HEAVENLIES NOW in Christ,

WHEN my SON APPEARS THERE,you will APPEAR with Him.

Let us not be confused therefore with the instructions and with all that God has offered for the NATION. There is a tremendous change in the plan of God. We now have other blessings and another position in Christ, from that of the Nation.

Let every sincere believer study the Scriptures for himself to discover the treasure that is hidden in them.
AMHN