

## UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (II Tim. 2:15).

In Eph. 2 the Apostle Paul sets forth the basic three-fold division in God's dealings with mankind: **Time Past** (vs. 11,12), **But Now** (v:13), the **Ages to Come** (v:7). When the Bible is "laid out" according to this divinely inspired design we easily get an overview of not only *what* we are reading but *when* and *to whom* it was written. Thus the Word of God itself provides us with the key to its own proper understanding and right division:

**Time Past:** Eph. 2:11,12 sets forth the basic issue in *Time Past* as the division between the Circumcision and the Uncircumcision, between the nation Israel and the Gentiles. When you find this issue governing the way God was working with men, you know you are in *Time Past*. This covers the "*Old Testament*" (see Gen. 17:9-14, Deut. 4:5-8, Num. 23:9) as well as *Matthew thru John* (see Rom. 15:8, Matt. 10:5,6; 15:24, John 4:22) and the *early Acts* period (see Luke 24:47, Acts 1:6,8; 2:14,22,36; 5:32; 11:19).

**But Now:** Eph. 2:13 indicates that in the *But Now* portion Gentiles are no longer "far off" but rather the "middle wall of partition" between Israel and the Gentiles has been eliminated and now "*those who were far off are made nigh*." *Romans thru Philemon* provide the doctrine for the dispensation of grace (Rom. 11:13; 15:16; 16:25; I Cor. 14:37, Eph. 3:1-9).

**The Ages to Come:** God will bring His purposes to fruition and thus Eph 2:7 points to the *Ages to Come*. The books of *Hebrews thru Revelation* focus on this.

This chart has a *foldout section* to demonstrate the importance of the secret, hidden nature of the present dispensation of grace (Eph. 3:1-9). Fold the chart to hide the "mystery" section and you will see the perfect continuity of that "which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets *since the world began*" (Acts 3:21). Open the chart to reveal the *mystery program* and you will visualize how the prophetic program has been temporarily interrupted by "the revelation of the mystery, which was kept *secret since the world began*, *But now is made manifest*" (Rom. 16:25,26).

The present dispensation of grace is "*the mystery*" hid in God until first revealed to the Apostle Paul (Eph. 3:1-9, Col. 1:24-26, Rom. 16:25,26, I Tim. 2:4-7, Tit. 1:2,3, etc.). Thus in Paul's writings *alone* we find the doctrine, position, walk and destiny of the Body of Christ. Remember: While *all* Scripture is *for* us, all Scripture is *not* written *to* or *about* us. This is the key to understanding the Bible.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND HELP  
WRITE:**

PUBLISHED BY

*Grace School of the Bible*

P.O. Box 97, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

Phone: 630.529.0520

[www.GraceImpact.org](http://www.GraceImpact.org)

**Rightly  
Dividing  
the Word  
of  
Truth**



# "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth"

**"Time Past"**  
(Ephesians 2:11, 12)

**"For Us"**  
(II Timothy 3:16)

(II Timothy 2:15)

**"Ages to Come"**  
(Ephesians 2:7)

**"For Us"**  
(II Timothy 3:16)

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

**GREAT WHITE THRONE**

**Moses**  
(Ex. 19:3-6)  
(Isa. 61:6)  
(I Pet. 2:9)

**David**  
"THRONE"  
(Luke 13:31-33)

**John the Baptist**

**JESUS**  
12 Apostles

**Peter**  
**Stephen**

**"DAN. 70TH WEEK"**  
Anti Christ

**WRATH**

**Judgment**  
(Rev. 20:11-15)

**7 YEARS of Tribulation**  
(Matt. 3:7)  
(Jer. 30:7)  
(Dan. 9)

**1000 Years**  
(Matt. 25:34)  
(Matt. 6:10)  
(Dan. 2:44)

Gen. 12:1-3  
Gen. 13:14-18  
Gen. 15:1-21  
Gen. 17:1-8

Abraham



**"Promise"**  
"Nation"  
"Land"

**Kingdom Prophesied**  
(Dan. 2:44)

**Ministry of Israel Under the Law**

**Kingdom at Hand**  
(Matt. 3:2, 4:17, 10:7)

**Earthly Ministry of Christ To Israel Only**  
(Matt. 10:1-7) (Matt. 15:24)

**"Gospel of Kingdom"**  
(Matt. 24:14)

**"Gospel of Circumcision"**  
(Gal. 2:7)

**"Gospel of Kingdom"**  
(Isa. 2:1-4)

**Kingdom Offered**  
(Acts 1:6, 3:19, 20)

**Ministry to Israel First - Fall of Israel; Salvation to Gentiles**

**Kingdom Established**  
(Rev. 11:15, 20:4-6)

**Eph. 1:10**



Adam

**Gentiles**

**Gen. to Mal.**

(Romans 1)

**Matt. to John**

(Romans 15:8)

(Romans 11:11, 12)

**Hebrews to Revelation**

(Romans 11:25-29)

Matt. - KING  
Mark - SERVANT  
Luke - MAN  
John - GOD



**"Time Past"**  
(Ephesians 2:1,12)

**"For Us"**  
(II Timothy 3:16)

**"Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth"**  
(II Timothy 2:15)

**"But Now"**  
(Ephesians 2:13)

**"To Us"**

**RAPTURE**  
(I Thess. 4:13-18)

**"Ages to Come"**  
(Ephesians 2:7)

**"For Us"**  
(II Timothy 3:16)

The Main Sphere of Influence for the Body of CHRIST is the Heavenly Places - Eph 1, Col. 1

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**  
**GREAT WHITE THRONE**  
(Rev. 20:11-15)

Moses (Ex. 19:3-6) (Isa. 61:6) (I Pet. 2:9)  
David  
John the Baptist  
JESUS  
12 Apostles

Peter  
Stephen

**"DAN. 7 10TH WEEK"**  
**WRATH**  
7 YEARS of Tribulation (Matt. 3:7) (Jer. 30:7) (Dan. 9)  
1000 Years Kingdom (Matt. 25:34) (Matt. 6:10) (Dan. 2:44)  
Kingdom Established (Rev. 11:15, 20:4-6)  
Eph. 1:10

**Israel Law**

**Acts**

**"Grace"**

**"Peace"**

**WRATH**

**Judgment**

Gen. 12:1-3  
Gen. 13:14-18  
Gen. 15:1-21  
Gen. 17:1-8



Abraham

**"Promise"**

**"Nation"**  
**"Land"**

**"PROPHECY"**

**Gen. to Mal.**

(Romans 1)

Kingdom Prophesied (Dan. 2:44)

Ministry of Israel Under the Law

Kingdom at Hand (Matt. 3:2, 4:17, 10:7)

Earthly Ministry of Christ To Israel Only (Matt. 10:1-7) (Matt. 15:24)

**"Gospel of Kingdom"**  
(Matt. 24:14)

Kingdom Offered (Acts 1:6, 3:19, 20)

Ministry to Israel First - Fall of Israel; Salvation to Gentiles

**"Gospel of Circumcision"**  
(Gal. 2:7)

Kingdom Postponed (Rom. 11:25)

**Paul and "The BODY OF CHRIST"**

**"Gospel of Uncircumcision"**  
(Gal. 2:7)

**"Gospel of Grace"**  
(Acts 20:24)

**"The MYSTERY"**

**Acts 28 Romans to Philemon**

(Romans 11:13)

Cross Church Coming Congregation  
ROMANS EPHESIANS THESS.  
COR. PHILIPPIANS TITUS  
GALATIANS COLOSSIANS PHILEMON  
(FAITH) (LOVE) (HOPE) (FELLOWSHIP)

**"PROPHECY"**

**Hebrews to Revelation**

(Romans 11:25-29)