
ONE OF THE "MYSTERIES" OF GOD

1. *"How that by revelation he [God] made known unto me [Paul] the mystery... That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his [God's] promise in Christ by the gospel" (Eph.3:3,6).*

COMMENTS:...

2. *"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" (Eph.2:11,12).*

COMMENTS:...

3. *"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Eph.2:13).*

COMMENTS:...

4. This number intentionally left blank.

5. *"Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness" (Gal.3:6).*

COMMENTS:...

6. *"Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham" (Gal.3:7).*

COMMENTS:...

8. ONE OF THE "MYSTERIES" OF GOD (continued)

9. *"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one. And to thy seed, which is Christ" (Gal.3:16).*

COMMENTS:...

10. *"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal.3:29).*

COMMENTS:...

11. *"But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Rom.2:29).*

COMMENTS:...

12. *"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh" (Rom.2:28).*

COMMENTS:...

13. This same understanding is found in Romans 4:13-17 (Read).

COMMENTS:...

CONTRASTS & COMPARISONS OF OLD COVENANT ISRAEL & THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH

A. Referring to Old Covenant Israel:

"Ye are the children of the Lord your God..." (Deut.14:1).

"...Surely they are my people, children that will not lie..." (Isa.63:8).

"When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt"

B. Referring to the New Covenant church:

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Rom.8:16).

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal.3:26).

CONCLUSION #1: In A & B above, both Israel and the church are referred to as "the children of God!"

C. Referring to Old Covenant Israel:

"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself..." (Deut.14:2).

"...to give drink to my people, my chosen" (Isa.43:20).

D. Referring to the New Covenant church:

"But ye are a chosen generation..." (1 P 2:9).

CONCLUSION #2: In C & D above, both Israel and the church are referred to as God's "chosen people."

CONTRASTS & COMPARISONS OF OLD COVENANT ISRAEL & THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH (continued)

E. Referring to Old Covenant Israel:

"...Every man child among you shall be circumcised" (Gn.17:10).

F. Referring to the New Covenant church:

"For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh" (Philip.3:3).

"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands..." (Col.2:11).

CONCLUSION #3: In E & F above, both Israel and the church are referred to as being circumcised. Old Covenant Israel had a physical circumcision and the church is the recipient of an internal spiritual circumcision.

G. Referring to Old Covenant Israel:

"But made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock" (Ps.78:52).

"He shall feed his flock..." (Is.40:11).

H. Referring to the New Covenant church:

"Feed the flock of God..." (1 P 5:2).

"...being examples to the flock" (1 P5:3).

CONCLUSION #4: In G & H above, both Israel and the church are referred to as "the flock of God."

CONTRASTS & COMPARISONS OF OLD COVENANT ISRAEL & THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH (continued)

I. Referring to Old Covenant Israel:

"My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all my house" (Num.12:7).

J. Referring to the New Covenant church:

"...thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God..." (1 Tim.3:15).

"...as a son over his own house; whose house are we..." (Heb.3:6).

CONCLUSION #5: In I & J above, both Old Covenant and New Covenant believers are referred to as *"the house of God."*

K. Referring to Old Covenant Israel:

"And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests..." (Ex.19:6).

"...of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel" (1 Chron.28:5).

L. Referring to the New Covenant church:

"...and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Col.1:13).

CONCLUSION #6: In both K & L above, Israel and the church are referred to as being *in the kingdom.*

CONTRASTS & COMPARISONS OF OLD COVENANT ISRAEL & THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH (continued)

M. Referring to Old Covenant Israel:

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah" (Jer.31:31).

N. Referring to the New Covenant church:

"Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament [covenant] ..." (2Cor.3:6).

CONCLUSION #7: In N & M above, both Israel and the church are referred to as being partakers of the New Covenant.

O. Referring to Old Covenant Israel:

"And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God..." (Ex.6:7).

"...this day thou art become the people of the Lord thy God" (Deut.27:9).

P. Referring to the New Covenant church:

"...and they shall be my people" (2 Cor.6:16).

"...and purify unto himself a peculiar people..." (Titus 2:14).

CONCLUSION #8: In O & P above, both Israel and the church are referred to as "the people of God."

CONTRASTS & COMPARISONS OF OLD COVENANT ISRAEL & THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH (continued)

Q. Referring to Old Covenant Israel:

"And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests..." (Ex.19:6).

R. Referring to the New Covenant church:

"Ye also...an holy priesthood..." (1 P2:5).

"And hath made us kings and priests unto God..." (Rev.1:6).

CONCLUSION #9: In Q & R above, both Israel and the church are called "priests."

S. Referring to Old Covenant Israel:

"...and gavest it to the seed of Abraham..." (2 Chron.20:7).

*"O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen"
(Psa.105:6).*

"...the seed of Abraham..." (Isa.41:8).

T. Referring to the New Covenant church:

"...the promise might be sure to all the seed...is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all" (Rom.4:16).

"...then are ye Abraham's seed..." (Gal.3:29).

CONCLUSION # 10: In S & T above, both Israel and the church are referred to as *"the seed of Abraham."*

CONTRASTS & COMPARISONS OF OLD COVENANT ISRAEL & THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH (continued)

Referring to Old Covenant Israel:

"For thy maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts..." (Isa.54:5).

"For the Lord hath called thee...a wife..." (Isa.54:6).

Referring to the New Covenant church:

"...and shall be joined unto his wife...I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Eph.5:31,32).

CONCLUSION #11: In U & V above, both Israel and the church are referred to as "the wife" of God.

THE ISRAEL OF GOD = THE CHURCH!

RELATIONSHIP OF THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH TO OLD COVENANT ATTRIBUTES

To understand this subject we must first understand the Greek word "*stoicheia*."

"Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements [stoicheia] of the world" (Gal.4:3).

⇒ "*stoicheia*" = "elements" (KJV) = "rudiments"

⇒ "*stoicheia*" = "elements (of learning), fundamental principles or even letters of the alphabet, ABC's, the very elements of the truth of God."

A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament
Bauer, Arndt and Gingrich

OTHER NEW TESTAMENT USES OF THE GREEK WORD "*stoicheia*."

1. *"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements [stoicheia], whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?" (Gal.4:9).*
2. *"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments [stoicheia] of the world, and not after Christ" (Col.2:8).*
3. *"Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments [stoicheia] of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances" (Col.2:20).*
4. *"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles [stoicheia] of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat" (Heb.5:12).*

CONCLUSION: In the preceding passages "*stoicheia*" is referring to the primary meaning of the word which is "religious training, or the ceremonial precepts that are common to the Jewish system of worship, or, in effect, their entire religious system!"

COMMENT #1:...

RELATIONSHIP OF THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH TO OLD COVENANT ATTRIBUTES (continued)

5. *"Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years" (Gal.4:10).*

COMMENT ON #5:...

6. *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Gal.5:1).*

7. *"Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing" (Gal.5:2).*

8. *"Let no man therefore Judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days" (Col.2:16).*

CONCLUSION: Old Covenant practices, ceremonies, rituals and religious activities are not intended to be brought into the New Covenant church!

GOD'S PLAN FOR ALL MANKIND

- 📖 *"...he [the Father] hath chosen us in him [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."*
 - Ephesians 1:4

- 📖 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life"*
 - John 3:16

- 📖 *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body..."*
 - 1 Corinthians 12:13

- 📖 *"And he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church...."*
 - Colossians 1:18

CHRISTIANS ARE "IN CHRIST"

📖 *"God is a Spirit..."*

- John 4:24

📖 *"...as thou, Father, art in me [Christ], and I in thee, that they [believers] also may be one in us..."*

- John 17:21

📖 *"I [Christ] in them [believers], and thou [the Father] in me, that they may be made perfect in one..."*

- John 17:23

📖 *"That good thing, which was committed unto thee [Timothy] keep by the Holy Ghost [Spirit] which dwelleth in us [believers]."*

- 2 Timothy 1:14

THE RESULT OF THE CHRISTIAN BEING INDWELT

A. We have eternal life!

"...God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

1 John 5:11-12

B. We have:

"...who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."

1 Corinthians 1:30

"...by one offering [Christ's death] he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

Hebrews 10:14

C. We are:

"...ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people..."

Peter 2:9

"...partakers of the divine nature..."

Peter 1:4