

Cornelius and the Mystery

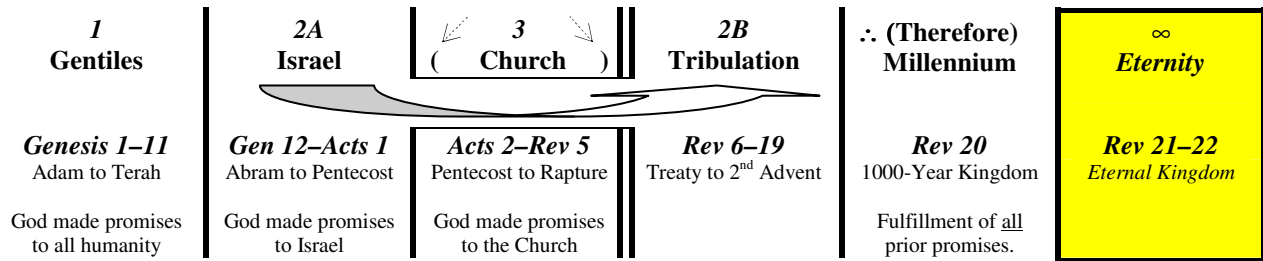
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14 Mar 2013

Review:

1. Outline of Biblical History:



1. God made promises to all humanity (Genesis 1–11)

2A. God made promises to Israel (Genesis 12–Acts 1)

Did making promises to Israel nullify God’s promises to all humanity?

3. God made promises to the Church (Acts 2–Revelation 5)

Did making promises to the Church nullify God’s promises to all humanity or Israel?
Daniel 9 predicted events during (A) years 1-483, (B) years 484-90, and
(C) between years 483 and 484, so there must be a gap in the timetable.

2B. God promised Israel that 490 years of working w/ it would bring the Kingdom (Rev 6–19)

Therefore, (A) God must allow Israel’s last seven years (the Tribulation) to happen

(B) God must bring about the Kingdom (the Millennium)

∴ The Kingdom (Millennium) will be the dispensation that will fulfill the ages (Rev 20)

- (A) That will be when He fulfills all remaining promises to all humanity (1)
- (B) That will be when He fulfills all remaining promises to Israel (2A-B)
- (C) That will be when He fulfills all remaining promises to the Church (3)

During history God will fulfill the promises He made *during history*

Rev 20 is the only passage specifying 1000 years; other passages discuss it

∞. The Bible says far less about eternity than it does about the Millennium (Rev 21–22)

Many passages besides Rev 20 discuss the Millennium

Few passages besides Rev 21–22 even make passing remarks about eternity

Review: The Church as a Mystery

Daniel 9 spoke of events between the 483rd year and the 484th year of a timetable

Eph 3:4-6 says the church was an unrevealed mystery until revealed thru apostles & (NT) prophets

What was the mystery? That Gentiles would have equal-access to God in the same body as Jews

Therefore, last week, we saw that Matthew 24 distinguishes the unannounced Rapture from the super-announced Second Advent (but Jesus did not reveal the mystery)

The foregoing is the reason for viewing the Church as a parenthesis

We have seen that end of the Church on earth (the Rapture) will come as a surprise. Not surprisingly, the mystery was not revealed the moment the Church began

Cornelius and the Mystery

Changes of dispensations (Gentiles ⇔ Israel ⇔ Church ⇔ Tribulation ⇔ Millennium) happen at times of great human failure:

If He did not shorten the Tribulation to 7 years, no one would survive (Mat 24:22)

The absolute fullness of the Gentiles (nothing left to glean) will lead to Rapture

Israel's national rejection of Jesus put it on back burner (Church then began)

Failure of humanity at Babel was (in my view) what led God to choose Israel

Strategic national rejection of Jesus by Israel's leadership (Matthew 12)

Jesus did a sign (casting out a demon), leading some to believe (Mat 12:22-23)

Leaders branded the sign a satanic counterfeit (Mat 12:24)

Jesus defended His sign (Mat 12:25-30)

Jesus pronounced the unpardonable sin upon that generation (Mat 12:31-32)

That was a national sin with national implications;
not an individual sin with individual consequences.

The key: Unpardonable means that God will not change His mind, as when Nineveh repented (and God did not destroy the city).

Israel's sin was unpardonable, meaning that _____

Questions:

The sign of Jonah (Resurrection) is the only sign yet to be given to that generation (12:38ff)

Preaching is not the sign of Jonah: Resurrection is that sign

Note that Jesus said that only one sign would be given to that generation;
 He did not say that He would not give other signs for individuals.
 (He speaks of a generational sin, not an individual sin)

Explaining the disciple's puzzlement in Matthew 13:10-11 about His use of parables

Preparing to introduce the Mystery**Who was absent from the group on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:10)?****Acts 2:36ff.****When do the people believe?****Who is told to repent and be baptized?****What benefits do they receive?****Acts 8 and Samaria (God viewed Samaritans as Jews)****Acts 8 and the Ethiopian Eunuch (God viewed him as a born-Jew or proselyte)****Acts 10 & Cornelius (Cornelius was the first uncircumcised Gentile in the Church)****When did he believe?****When did he receive the Holy Spirit?****Why was Peter shocked? Why were the Jerusalemites shocked?****GOD CANNOT PUT GENTILES UNDER A JEWISH CURSE**

Acts 19 and Twenty-Questions

Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?

Luke 3:16

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Acts 2

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Acts 10

|

Acts 19

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We have not even heard if there is a Holy Spirit

What does this mean?

Luke 3:16

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Acts 2

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Acts 10

|

Acts 19

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Into what were you baptized?

Luke 3:16

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Acts 2

|

Acts 10

|

Acts 19

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1 Corinthians 12:13 and Romans 8:9 speak of the way things are after Cornelius

The idea that Gentiles would have equal-access to God was a mystery (even to Peter) until God revealed it to him (through the vision of the sheet being lowered in Acts 10). Between Acts 2-9 the Church existed, but God did not immediately reveal the mystery

THE CHURCH IS UNIQUE: We must not impose its uniqueness onto other ages

Next week: Propitiation. Memory verse: 1 John 2:2