

# **The Basics of Grace**

## **Part 4: Basic Right Division II**

### **The Two-Fold Purpose of God**

In the last lesson we examined how God deals differently with mankind in different time periods (ages). In this lesson we will look at the different ways God deals with mankind throughout different ages in relation to His purposes. God has two purposes for mankind that are unified in the cross of Christ. One is the subject of prophecy and is focused on earth. The other is the subject of the Mystery and focused in the heavenlies.

- I. Prophecy
  - a. God's purpose progressively revealed
    - i. Redeemer foretold (Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 53, Luke 1:70)—  
important to note this was not understood as salvation through faith in Christ's blood. (Luke 18:31-34)
    - ii. Promises to Israel (Romans 3:1-2)
      1. Abrahamic Covenant. God promised Abraham that his seed would become a great nation, that they would inherit a promised land, and that they would be a blessing to all nations (Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-17, 17:1-8, 22:17-18).  
Note: this covenant was unconditional.
      2. Mosaic Covenant Known as the Law. This Law was God's perfect standard given to His people Israel. It was a conditional covenant with Israel. (Exodus 19:3-6, and chapter 20, Joshua 24:19-27, Romans 3:1-2). See Galatians 3:24 to see the purpose of the Law.
      3. Davidic Covenant. God will establish David's throne forever. Jesus (the seed of David) will be Israel's king forever (II Samuel 7:12-16, Psalm 89:34-37, Isaiah 11:10, Luke 1:33). Note: this covenant was unconditional.
      4. New Covenant. In light of Israel's failure to keep the Law, God promises the one day, He will "write His Law in their hearts" so that they will serve God perfectly and be His people (Jeremiah 31:31, 32:40, Ezekiel 37:21-28, Hebrews 8:8-10). Note: at that time they did not know by what means that covenant would be accomplished. Note also: it is an unconditional covenant.
    - iii. The Tribulation. We know that the Tribulation is part of God's judgment on the earth, but its specific purpose is to purge Israel (Isaiah 1:25-28, 4:2-4, 13:6-9, Matthew 13:26-43).
    - iv. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ. This coming of Jesus Christ (unlike the first) will be triumphant and with power. He will come to establish His Kingdom (Zechariah 14:4, 9, Matthew 24:29-31, Acts 1:11, 3:19-21).
    - v. The Kingdom. This kingdom is the culmination of Israel's hope and God's promises to Israel. The events that have transpired and

will transpire bring Israel to the point of being ready to enter the Kingdom. (Isaiah 2:2-4, 11:5-9, Daniel 2:44, Matthew 25:34, Acts 3:19-21, Revelation 20:4-5).

- vi. Final Judgment. At this judgment, God takes care of the wicked once and for all (Romans 2:16, II Thessalonians 1:9, Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 20:7-15).
- vii. The New Heavens and New Earth (Isaiah 65:17, II Peter 3:12-13, Revelation 21:1-3)
- b. Centered on God's dealings with Israel. Salvation is through Israel (Genesis 22:17-18, Isaiah 2:2-4, 60:3, Matthew 15:27-28, Luke 2:30-32. See also Romans 11:12). Note: Salvation is *not* by faith in Christ's work on the cross (Luke 18:31-34, Acts 2:37-38)
- c. Primarily focused on God's purpose on the earth
  - i. Israel's will inherit the earth (see references above)
  - ii. Israel's hope is an earthly kingdom (see references above)
- d. Was interrupted by the Mystery—but will be resumed in the Ages to Come (Romans 11:25-26)

## II. Mystery (Dispensation of Grace)

- a. Never before revealed (Romans 16:25 contrast with Luke 1:70, Ephesians 3:5, Colossians 1:26)
- b. Centered on God's purpose with the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 3:6, 5:27, Colossians 1:18-22). Salvation is offered *apart* from Israel. Salvation is offered to Jew and Gentile alike on the basis of grace alone.
- c. Focused on God's purpose in the heavenlies. Our hope is the rapture and eternity with God in heaven (I Corinthians 15:51-58, I Thessalonians 4:14-18, Titus 2:13).

## III. Cross of Christ. Both purposes accomplished through the work of Christ (Ephesians 1:10, Colossians 1:20)

- a. Prophecy
  - i. Jesus Christ fulfilled prophecy and fulfilled the Law (Matthew 3:15)
  - ii. Jesus Christ became Israel's King and Messiah (Acts 2:29-31)
  - iii. Israel redeemed but brought to the point of repentance through their guilt. Jesus' death made the New Covenant possible (Zachariah 12:10-14, Matthew 26:28, Acts 2:37-38, Hebrews 9:12)
  - iv. Consider some types in the Old Testament and Jesus Christ's fulfillment of these types; we won't explore these in detail
    - 1. God gave Israel the Law. They failed to keep it. Jesus kept the Law perfectly
    - 2. God established the priesthood to mediate for Israel's sin. Jesus became the perfect High Priest for Israel (Hebrews 7 and 8)

3. Israel brought animal sacrifices to atone for their sin. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 9:12)
  4. Israel desired a king--which God gave. Each demonstrated their sin and shortcomings. Jesus Christ will be Israel's perfect King
  5. Israel understood the concept of a kinsman redeemer (see book of Ruth as an example). Jesus became Israel's kinsman redeemer.
- b. Mystery
- i. Jesus Christ became the Head of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:20-23, Colossians 1:18)
  - ii. Jew and Gentile both "concluded in unbelief" that God might have mercy on all. (Romans 11:32, Galatians 3:28, Ephesians 2:13-16, 3:6, Colossians 1:20-22, 3:11)
  - iii. Salvation offered by grace freely to all (Romans 3:24, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5)

#### IV. Dispensation of the Fullness of Times (Ephesians 1:10)

- a. God's purpose on earth
  - i. Israel inherits the earth (as promised in Genesis 13:14-15)
  - ii. Jesus Christ is Israel's rightful King, and they serve Him perfectly (Isaiah 9:6-7, Hebrews 8:8-10)
  - iii. God with Israel has rest on the earth (Psalm 132:13-14, Hebrews 4:9)
- b. God's purpose in heaven with the Body of Christ (Romans 8:17-18, I Corinthians 6:1-3, Ephesians 1:10, 2:7, 3:10, I Thessalonians 4:17, II Timothy 2:12)

An interesting point of comparison. We are a new spiritual creation now (I Corinthians 5:17), but we are waiting for the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:23). This is part of God's heavenly purpose with the Body of Christ. In the future, God will make a new physical creation as well to complete His purpose on earth.