


Ecclesiology

Session 15




Dr. Andy Woods

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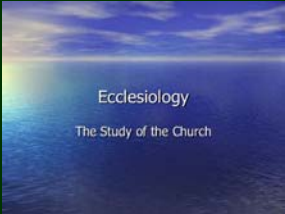
Areas of Systematic Theology

- Prolegomena – Introduction
- Theology – Study of God
- Christology – Study of Christ
- Pneumatology – Study of the Holy Spirit
- Anthropology – Study of Man
- Hamartiology – Study of sin
- Soteriology – Study of salvation
- Angelology – Study of angels
- **Ecclesiology – Study of the Church**
- Eschatology – Study of the end



Ecclesiology Overview

- I. Definition
- II. Universal vs. local
- III. Word pictures
- IV. Origin
- V. Israel – Church differences
- VI. **Intercalation**
- VII. Purposes
- VIII. Activities
- IX. Government
- X. Officers
- XI. Ordinances
- XII. Purity



Intercalation

1. Unconditional program for Israel
2. Unfulfilled program for Israel
3. Literal program for Israel
4. Truthful program for Israel
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7. God is at work today
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6. Three Inadequate Ways of Explaining Away Israel's Future

- Because Israel broke God's covenant God canceled Israel's promises (Jer. 31:35-37)
- Israel's promises have already been fulfilled (Joshua 15:63)
- Israel's are being now spiritually fulfilled in a and through the church (Deut. 30:3)

6. Three Inadequate Ways of
Explaining Away Israel’s Future

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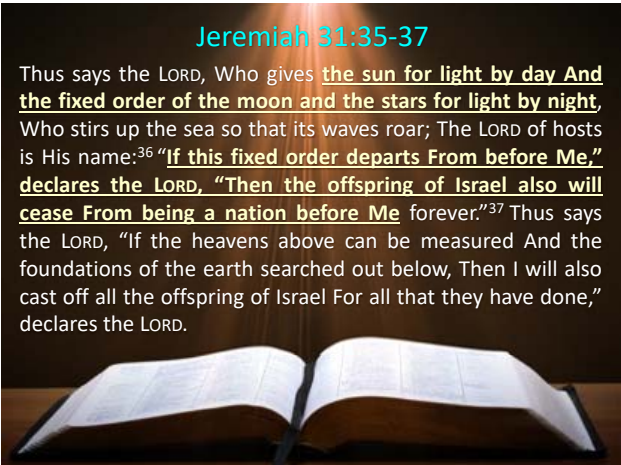
Evidence of Abrahamic Covenant’s
Unconditional Nature

- ANE covenant ratification ceremony (Gen 15)
- No stated conditions for Israel’s obedience (Gen 15)
- Covenant's eternality (Gen 17:7, 13, 19)
- Covenant's immutability (Heb 6:13-18)
- Trans-generational reaffirmation despite perpetual national disobedience (Jer. 31:35-37)

Walvoord, *The Millennial Kingdom*, 149-52

Jeremiah 31:35-37

Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name:³⁶ “If this fixed order departs From before Me,” declares the LORD, “Then the offspring of Israel also will cease From being a nation before Me forever.”³⁷ Thus says the LORD, “If the heavens above can be measured And the foundations of the earth searched out below, Then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel For all that they have done,” declares the LORD.



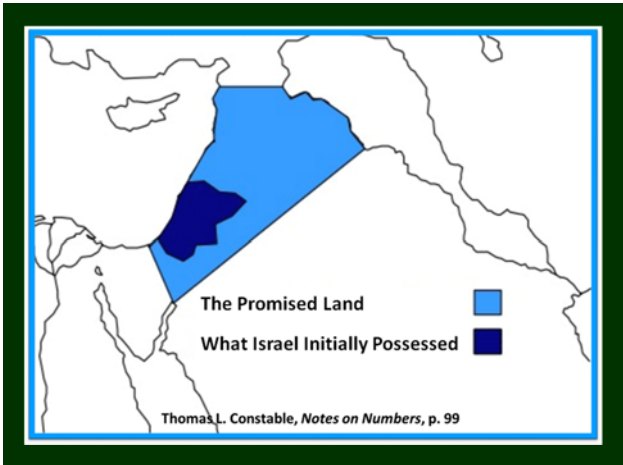
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Land Promises Fulfilled in the Time of Joshua
(11:23; 21:43-45) or Solomon (1 Kgs. 4:21)?

- Extended context *Josh 13:1-7*
- Judges 1:19, 21, 27, 29-36
- Land gained was a fraction of what was promised *Num. 34 vs. Gen. 15*
- Jerusalem unconquered by Joshua *Josh 15:63*
- Border of Egypt; Tributary (1 Kings 4:21)
- Forever? *Gen 17:8*
- Amos 9:11-15 Reaffirms land promises

Fruchtenbaum, *Israelology*, 521-22, 631-32



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Deuteronomy 30:3

"Then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you."



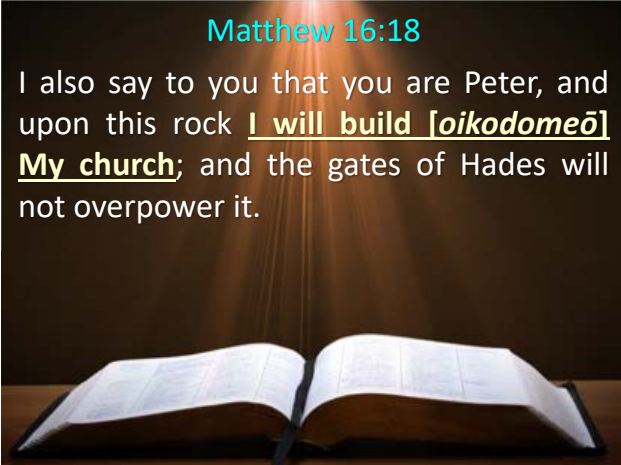
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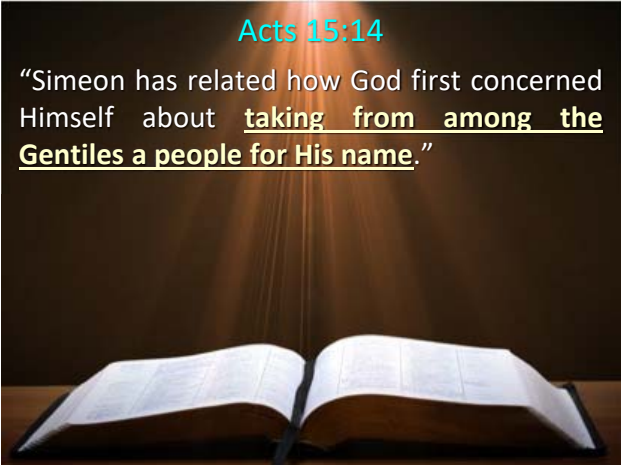
Matthew 16:18

I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build [oikodomeō] My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.



Acts 15:14

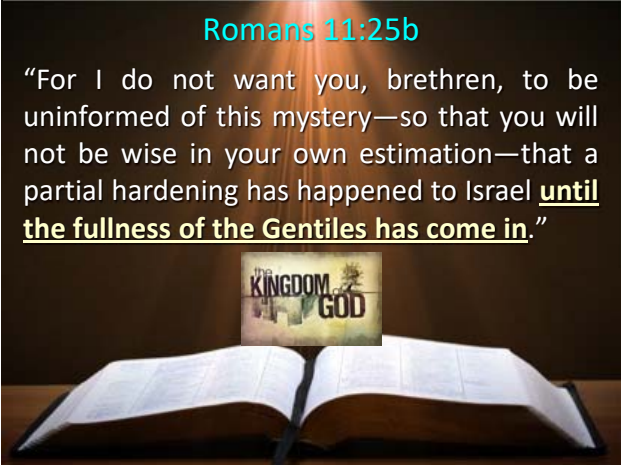
“Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.”



Romans 11:25b

“For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”

THE KINGDOM OF GOD




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Ephesians 2:15-16

“by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.”



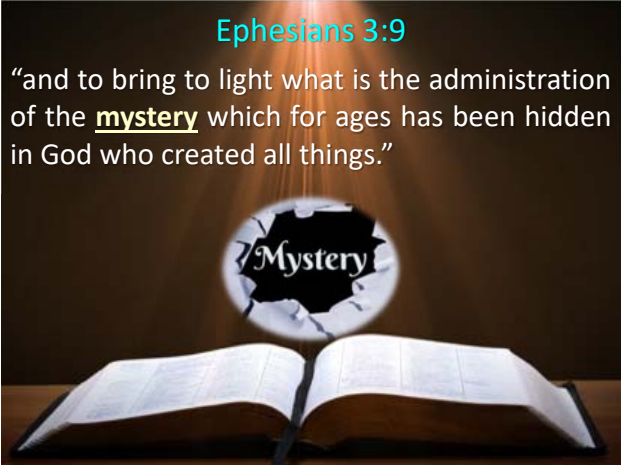
Ephesians 3:3-6

“that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.⁴ By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,⁵ which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;⁶ to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel”.



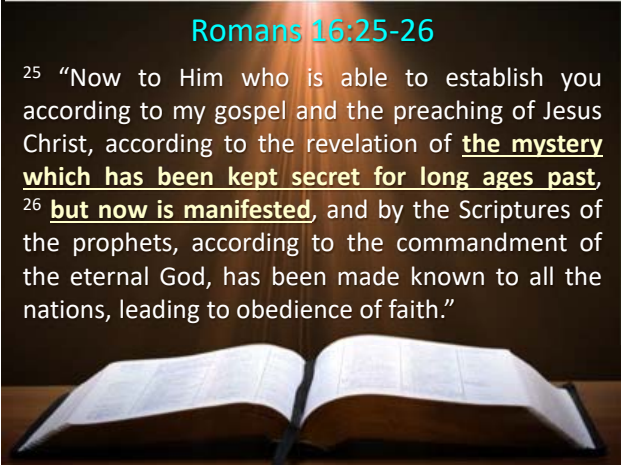
Ephesians 3:9

"and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things."



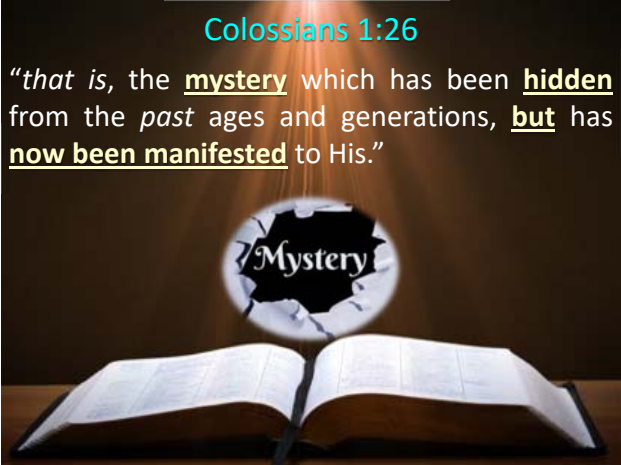
Romans 16:25-26

²⁵ "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,
²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith."



Colossians 1:26

"that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His."



“Mystery” Defined

“In the N.T, it [*mystērion*] denotes, not the mysterious (as with the Eng. word), but **that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation**, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those who are illumined by His Spirit.”

W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of the Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Nelson, 1996), 424.



Lewis Sperry Chafer

vol. 4, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 41.

“In fact, the new, hitherto unrevealed purpose of God in the out calling of a heavenly people from Jews and Gentiles is so divergent with respect to the divine purpose toward Israel, which purpose preceded it and will yet follow it, that the term *parenthetical*, commonly employed to describe the new age purpose, is inaccurate. A parenthetical portion sustains some direct and indirect relation to that which goes before or that which follows; but the present age-purpose is not thus related and therefore is more properly termed an *intercalation*.” ...

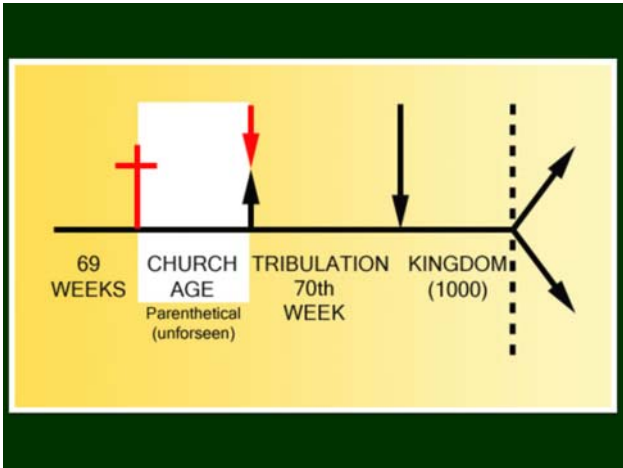


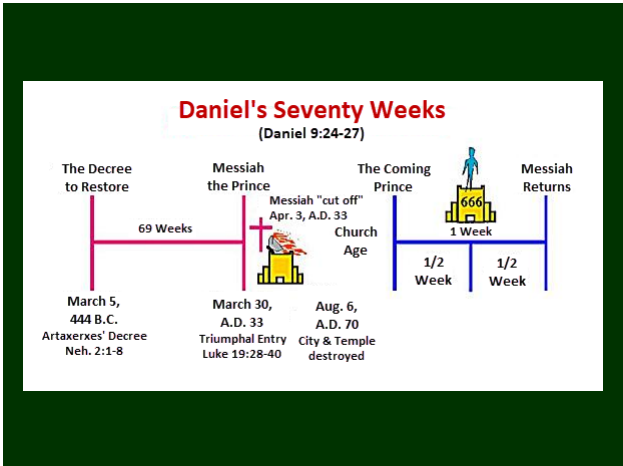
Lewis Sperry Chafer

vol. 4, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 41.

...“The appropriateness of this word will be seen in the fact that, as an interpolation is formed by inserting a word or phrase into a context, so when intercalation is formed by introducing a day or a period of time into the calendar. The present age of the church is an intercalation into the revealed calendar or program of God as that program was foreseen by the prophets of old. Such, indeed, is the precise character of the present age.”

Lewis Sperry Chafer, vol. 4, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 41.





GAP BETWEEN 483rd AND 484th YEAR

A. Prophecy runs successively for 483 years

B. Gap between 483rd and 484th year

69 weeks
483 years

(GAP)

70th week
7 years

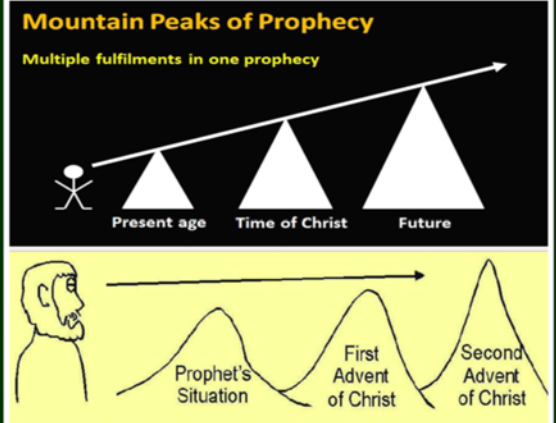
Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.



Mountain Peaks of Prophecy

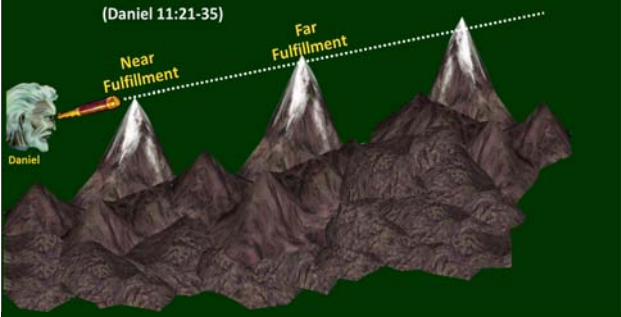
Multiple fulfillments in one prophecy




Understanding Daniel's Prophetic Perspective

Antiochus IV
(Daniel 11:21-35)


Antichrist
(Daniel 11:36-45)





the King's Dream

Statue & Stone





2: A Statue and a Stone

Statue is described by a great stone, which represents Jesus Christ

HEAD: GOLD
NECK: PURPLE
BREAST: BRASS
ARM: IRON
CHEST AND ARMS: SILVER
NECK: PURPLE
PURPLE
STOMACH AND THIGHS: BRASS
NECK: PURPLE
HANDS: IRON
FEET: IRON & CLAY
NECK: PURPLE
FEET: IRON & CLAY

Romans 11:25b

"For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."




Reformed Theology's Denial of the Church as an Intercalation

"We're not dispensationalists here....We believe that the church is essentially Israel. We believe that the answer to, 'What about the Jews?' is, 'Here we are.' We deny that the church is God's 'plan B.' We deny that we are living in God's redemptive parenthesis. There, we are again one people. In His holy and heavenly temple there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, pre-mil nor post-mil. There, we are all together, the Israel of God, princes with God, and the *ekklesia*, the set apart ones."

From Table Talk magazine, Spring of 1999, p. 2 (inside cover), by R. C. Sproul Jr., editor, emphasis is mine







The Church is not “Plan B”

“In almost 35 years since I have become a dispensationalist, I have never heard nor read of a dispensationalist teaching a plan B scenario. Yet opponents often present this straw man in their statement of what we supposedly believe. We believe that God’s single plan has always included the Church, but He did not reveal the church age part of the plan in the Old Testament. . . . Paul states specifically that the church age ‘was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (verse 11). This is why dispensationalists have never taught the so-called plan A and plan B theory that critics suppose we hold. Dispensationalists have always taught that there is a single plan carried out in stages.”

Thomas Ice, “The Uniqueness of the Church,” *Pre-Trib Perspectives* 8, no. 6 (September 2003): 4.

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The diagram illustrates the concept of intercalation. It shows a sequence of events: Israel's Unconditional Program, Unfulfilled Program, and Literal Program. These are followed by the Church's role in the millennial kingdom, which is described as an interruption or parenthesis in God's work with Israel. The diagram also notes that the Church's role is not a dispensation and that the Church is not a replacement for Israel.

Prophecy Panorama

The diagram shows the timeline of biblical prophecy. It starts with the Old Testament, followed by the Messiah's Coming & Death. The Church Age is shown as a parenthesis between the Messiah's death and the Tribulation. The Tribulation is followed by the Rapture, the Second Advent, and the Kingdom. The Kingdom leads to the Great White Throne Judgment, which results in the Eternal State. The diagram also includes references to Daniel 9:27, Revelation 6-19, and Revelation 20-22.

1 Corinthians 6:1-3

¹ “Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? ² Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?”

The image shows an open Bible with the text of 1 Corinthians 6:1-3 highlighted in yellow. The text is printed in a serif font, and the background is a dark, textured surface.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

“¹¹It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; ¹²If we endure, **we will also reign with Him**; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; ¹³If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”



Revelation 5:10

¹⁰ “You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and **they will reign upon the earth.**”



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Reformed Theology’s Denial
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“We’re not dispensationalists here....We believe that the church is essentially Israel. We believe that the answer to, ‘What about the Jews?’ is, ‘Here we are.’ We deny that the church is God’s ‘plan B.’ We deny that we are living in God’s redemptive parenthesis. There, we are again one people. In His holy and heavenly temple there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, pre-mil nor post-mil. There, we are all together, the Israel of God, princes with God, and the *ekklesia*, the set apart ones.”

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Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

George Zeller, “Is R. C. Sproul Jr. Really A Jew?,” online:
<http://www.middletownbiblechurch.org/reformed/sprouljr.htm>, accessed 17 February 2018.

“We believe that the answer to, ‘What about the Jews?’ is, ‘Here we are.’ I shared this comment with a friend of mine who is a converted Jew. He was born in Russia after his parents were released from a Communist prison. With the help of the Israeli underground, his family escaped from behind the Iron Curtain. He received Orthodox Jewish training while living in Germany from 1947 to 1951 and then his family immigrated to New York. He is a dedicated servant of Christ and a respected author. When told about Sproul Jr.’s comment ‘Here we are. [We are the Jews]’ he commented, ‘It’s a good thing he was not declaring this on the streets of Berlin, Germany around 1941!’”

Sugar Land Bible Church

16

Conclusion

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