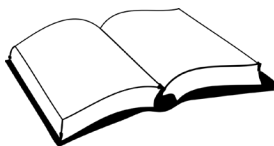


HOW TO
RIGHTLY
DIVIDE
THE
WORD

PART 1



by

DR. BILLYE BRIM

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How to Rightly Divide the Word (Part 1)

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Chapter 1

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.
—2 Timothy 2:15*

I had been a born-again Christian more than 30 years before I had any idea that the Word of God had to be “rightly divided,” to be correctly understood.

I had read my daily Bible readings from childhood without realizing God had instructed us to “rightly divide the Word of Truth.”

I shall never forget the evening the light of this Scripture illumined my spirit and soul. The revelation came to me, in of all places, my own kitchen.

My Kitchen Revelation

In the late 1970s I was a busy woman. I was a wife and mother of four, and I had a wonderful, though demanding, job as the Editor of Publications at *Kenneth*

Hagin Ministries in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

We lived about 30 miles north of Broken Arrow, where the ministry offices were actually located. So my daily routine included a morning and evening commute. In the evenings, just as soon as I changed clothes, I gathered up the family's dirty clothes and set the washer to humming in the laundry room right next to the kitchen, and only a few steps from the kitchen sink.

Then, almost every weekday, I would take up my position at the kitchen sink to begin preparing our evening meal. We never thought of going out to eat. In fact, there were very few places one could do that in the small town of Collinsville where we lived. Preparing supper meant a daily peeling of potatoes as the family's favorite side dish.

This evening, like almost every evening, before I began to peel potatoes, I placed a cassette recorder on the shelf above the sink. And, like almost every evening, I popped a cassette of Brother Hagin's teaching to the *Rhema Bible Training Center* students that day. My aim in this multi tasking was to see if I

could get an article for *The Word of Faith* magazine. This also satisfied my strong desire to hear everything he taught at RBTC.

I punched play, picked up a potato, and began to pare away.

Brother Hagin opened the class saying, "Today I am going to teach you on the subject of Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage."

My ears perked up. In the almost 10 years I'd worked for the ministry, I had never heard him broach that subject. Granted, it was a second year class of more advanced students, but it was not something I'd heard him mention. His next statement brought my potato peeling to a standstill.

"Do you know why what Paul wrote in First Corinthians does not seem to agree with what Jesus said on the subject in the Four Gospels?"

I was shocked. A disturbing thought crossed my mind. *Do you mean Paul and Jesus didn't agree!* I laid down my knife.

Brother Hagin knew the Rhema students didn't have any idea as to *why*, (and neither did I). So he answered his

rhetorical question, "It was because they were speaking to two different groups of people. Jesus was talking to Jews living under their covenant, and Paul was writing to the church living under a covenant whose only law was the law of love. Paul was interpreting various situations in the light of love."

Then he read Second Timothy 2:15 to the students, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

He went on to say that the Bible is the Word of Truth. And that it is to be rightly divided. He pointed out that if it can be rightly divided, it can also be wrongly divided. He stated that all error is the result of a wrong division of the Word of God.

He pointed out to the students that God commanded us to "Study." And he cautioned the students, most of whom at that time were preparing to enter the ministry, to pay attention to what this verse says would be the result of not studying.

Rules for Rightly Dividing

In a supernatural way, the Lord downloaded Brother Hagin's words into my very being. For it was more than 20 years later that Rhema published the book, *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage*. And throughout those 20 years I was blessed to learn and to teach the Bible from the perspective of correctly dividing the Scriptures as I began to learn that memorable day.

As I listened to the cassette, almost spellbound, for lack of a better word, the rules Brother Hagin gave for rightly dividing the Word were etched by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of my heart.

He said that Scriptures should be studied in context. He pointed out that it was possible to take a Scripture out of its setting and make it say almost anything someone wanted it to say. A Scripture, he said, must not be taken out of context and assigned some isolated meaning. But it must be considered in harmony with every other Scripture on the subject.

He gave these helpful rules of Bible interpretation which I remembered ver-

batim long before I read it as follows on page 18 of his book:

When I first got saved and started in the ministry, I heard someone give this simple rule of Bible interpretation, and it registered on me. In studying the Bible, always ask yourself: "Who's doing the speaking? "What are they speaking about?" "And to whom are they speaking?"

It's very easy to take some of the things that God said and say, "Well now, *God* is saying this." But you have to look at whom God was talking to [sic]. Sometimes He was speaking to the Jews; and what He said didn't even apply to anyone else.¹

•Key to Rightly Divide: *Who is doing the speaking?*

Everything recorded in the Bible was truly said. But not everything said is truth. You have to know who said it. For instance, Job's so-called comforters. I remember three sermons where the speakers' texts were taken from something one of these men said. One

sermon, I literally squirmed through. I wanted to shout, but I didn't, "The guy got into trouble with God for saying that. Don't preach it to me that I have to live by it." The other two were not so bad, but they could have preached the same sermon using better references. (See Job 42:7-10.)

1. Kenneth E. Hagin, *Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage*, Faith Library Publications, Kenneth Hagin Ministries, PO Box 50126, Tulsa, OK 74150. 2001. Page 18.

Chapter 2

THREE GROUPS OF PEOPLE

*Give none offence,
neither to the Jews,
nor to the Gentiles,
nor to the church of God:
—1 Corinthians 10:32*

•Key to Rightly Divide: *To or about whom is the Scripture speaking?*

Kenneth Hagin pointed out that a Scripture could be speaking to or about an individual. It can also, he emphasized, be speaking to or about a group of people. Then he said there are three groups of people addressed in the Word of God. And he read First Corinthians 10:32 to the students. His book, published 20 years after I heard it, records what I heard him say that day my life changed with the revelation.

Notice that there are three classes of people addressed in the Word of God: 1) the Jews, God's covenant

people; 2) the Church, God's own family; and 3) the Gentiles, heathen people (everyone who's not either in the Church or a Jew.)¹

My “End Time Doctrine” Commission

After I'd listened to the entire cassette teaching, to say the least, I was mesmerized. As I was pondering on these three groups and First Corinthians 10:32, I heard another Voice. I don't know if it was audible or not, but to me it was audible. It seemed to be a male voice, in the baritone range. I can still remember the inflection in the words:

*If you will remember that
verse of Scripture,
it will keep your end time
doctrine straight.*

I hadn't even thought about needing “*an end time doctrine.*”

I just thought my short-term needs were to get a lesson for *The Word of Faith* and to get the supper on the table. I did know that eventually I was called to teach the Word of God full time. But

that “*an end time doctrine*,” was a part of it had not crossed my mind.

If you had told me that day what my future held, I literally could not have wrapped my mind around it. If you had told me that I would travel and preach behind the Iron Curtain for 10 years, that I would study Hebrew in the Land of Israel, and even eventually build a *Prayer and Study Center* in Israel, I simply could not have believed it.

You see, at that time it was a stretch to make the \$65.00 a month house payment on the old two-story home we’d bought to bring up our rather large, for the times, family at 624 South 13th Street in Collinsville, Oklahoma.

What would I have thought if I’d somehow seen that evening that one day in the future we would have a 300-acre *Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks* near Branson, Missouri? Or a multi-million dollar *Prayer and Study Center* in the Galilee? With everything based out of a thriving local church dedicated to being a part of the prophesied “Glorious Church” of Ephesians. And all of it tied to the end of days prophetic events.

Witness to End of Days Events

Once I sought the Lord as to what my specific call was. His answer was: *I have called you for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee.* (See Acts 26:16).

He spoke to me that I was called as a “*witness*” to end of days events. He would actually take me to the places of these happenings to *witness* them. Then I was to *witness* to His people about what I had seen and what it meant.

To fulfill this *witness* ministry, it was absolutely imperative that I know how to rightly divide the Word of Truth. A “*spirit of wisdom and revelation*” came upon me as I read the Scriptures. It was so easy to see to which group of people they applied.

Many times a passage in Isaiah, or Ezekiel, or one of the other Prophets is clearly directed to Israel, Judaea, Jacob, Jerusalem, etc.

Much harm has been done by something that arose in the early days after Rome adopted Christianity. It's a long

story, but something known as *replacement theology* came into being. It taught that God was through with the Jews and all the promises made to them belong now to the Roman Church. All the curses, however, were still meant for the Jews. This was so confusing, and difficult to be understood, that the common people were forbidden to read the Word. It was locked away. And with the Light locked away, civilization entered and endured the terrible dark ages.

With the invention of the printing press and the Book coming into the hands of the common people, the promises were again discovered, and one of the first groups to find them and realize that they still applied to Israel and the Jews were the Puritans. That's a glorious story. But it's too long to go into in a minibook.

I just want to point it out here, because the effects of *replacement theology* have terribly discolored the reading of especially the Old Testament.

Another thing I heard Brother Hagin say was, "Remember all the Bible is for the Church, but not all the Bible is about

the Church. Some of the Bible is about other people. The part of the Bible that is 'to,' 'for,' and 'about' the Church is the New Testament Letters."

When Christians asked him how to study the Bible, he advised them to spend much time in the New Testament Letters to discover and meditate on *who they are*, and *what they have* because they are *in Him*. He recommended underlining every scripture that had a phrase such as: in Him, through Him, in Christ, etc. I had the privilege of putting Brother Hagin's wise counsel on this subject into a minibook entitled "*In Him*." It would behoove you to get that minibook and put it into practice. In so doing you, as a born again believer, would be rightly dividing the Word as to who you are, what you have, and what your future holds.

Some years after hearing Brother Hagin that eventful day in my kitchen, I found the writings of Clarence Larkin. And I suspect Brother Hagin had also found them.

The Scriptures treat of "Three Classes" of Persons. The "Jews," the Gentiles," and the "Church

of God.” The Jews and the Gentiles are distinct from each other, while the Church of God is composed of both Jews and Gentiles, but not as Jews or Gentiles but as a “New Body.”

All the human race that are not Jews are Gentiles. The Jews date back to Abraham, and... most of the Old Testament is taken up with their history. They are an **earthly** people, while the “Church of God” are a **heavenly** people.... When the “Church of God” is taken out of the world, the Jews will again be restored to their own land [Larkin died in 1924 and did not get to see what we have seen of the Jews coming back to their Land and the State of Israel reborn.] and become the “Head of the Nations.” Nationally the Gentiles now govern the earth. This is what the Scriptures speak of as the “Times of the Gentiles.” Luke 21:24.²

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1. Kenneth E. Hagin, *Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage*, Faith Library Publications, Kenneth Hagin Ministries, PO Box 50126, Tulsa, OK 74150. 2001. Page 18.
 2. Clarence Larkin, *Rightly Dividing the Word*, Rev. Clarence Larkin Est., PO Box 334, Glenside, PA 19038. 1920. Page 29.

Chapter 3

THE NATIONS

*These are the families of the sons of Noah,
after their generations,
in their nations:
and by these were the nations divided
in the earth after the flood.
—Genesis 10:32*

First Corinthians 10:32 reads “Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.”

English translations either translate the second group mentioned as “the Gentiles” or “the Greeks.” At the time the New Testament was written, the entire Gentile world had been Hellenized. “Hellenized” means “Greekalized.” After Alexander the Great conquered the prophetic world, the Greek language and culture swept over it.

The word *Gentiles* is used throughout the Old Testament to translate the Hebrew word *goyim*. *Goyim* means *nations*.

So I say, when speaking of the three groups: The Jews, the Nations, and The Church. This is more in keeping with God's meaning in the biblical introduction of this group of peoples.

The Nations: First Mention

The first group introduced in Scripture is the nations. So we will look at them first. They are introduced in Genesis 10 where they are described as coming into being from the offspring of the three sons of Noah. Read that chapter and notice how often the word *nations*, or as it literally reads in the Hebrew *goyim*, is used.

By the law of first mention in interpreting Scripture, the original thought and meaning is always to be kept in mind. Therefore the biblical account of the roots of the nations, the *goyim*, is of utmost and continuing importance.

Before the flood, God saw "the wickedness of man was great" (Genesis 6:5). Love brought the flood, for only one man and his family retained knowledge of God. If Love had delayed judgment, the knowledge of God could have disap-

peared from the earth.

Eight people were saved: Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives. After the flood, the Bible introduces the nations (*goyim*) in the progeny of Noah's three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

In the 10th chapter of Genesis where we first see the word *goyim* (nations), seventy foundational nations are introduced. (To arrive at 70, do not count Noah's three sons, nor the Philistines of verse 14.)

The Nations Rebel

God had given command as to what was to be done after the waters receded:

Genesis 9:1

And God blessed Noah and his sons,
and said unto them, Be fruitful, and
multiply, and replenish the earth.

To replenish the earth, they would have had to move throughout the earth, but 340 years after the flood they were still together in one place. They were concentrated in Shinar. Shinar is synonymous with Babylon. This area became known in the 20th Century as Iraq.

Genesis 11:1-4

1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

This was open rebellion against the commandment of God. He wanted them to scatter. They refused. So in judging them He confounded their language and scattered them.

Genesis 11:8,9

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the

earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Instigators of the Rebellion

Satan in Hebrew literally means *adversary*. He is the ancient adversary of God, and the author of confusion. Satan, certainly, was behind the rebellion of the nations. The human instrument he used was Nimrod.

Genesis 10:8-10

8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

The Chumash in Hebrew means the first five books of the Bible. It is often published as one volume. *The Stone Edition of the Chumash* has a very informative comment.

Before Nimrod there were neither wars nor reigning monarchs. He subjugated the Babylonians until they crowned him (v.10), after which he went to Assyria and built great cities (Radak; Ramban). The Torah calls him a mighty hunter, which Rashi and most commentators interpret figuratively: Nimrod ensnared men with his words and incited them to rebel against God (R. Hirsch). His first conquest, which laid the basis for his subsequent empire building was Babel, which became the center of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian Empire. It was one of the greatest cities of the ancient world.¹

With this rebellion began the Babylonian System—and all things Babylon. Kenneth Copeland, in teaching about the Babylonian System called it, “Man’s attempt to meet his own needs without God.

1. *The Chumash, The Stone Edition*, ArtScroll Series, Mesorah Publication, Ltd., Brooklyn, NY. Page 47

Chapter 4

THE JEWS

THE SEPARATED NATION

*But I have said unto you,
Ye shall inherit their land,
and I will give it unto you to possess it,
a land flowing with milk and honey:
I am Jehovah your God, who hath
separated you from the peoples...
And ye shall be holy unto me:
for I, Jehovah, am holy,
and have set you apart from the peoples,
that ye should be mine.
—Leviticus 20:24, 26 (ASV)*

God was not surprised at the fall of the nations. I used to say, "God knows the future better than we know the past." But it's more than that. He dwells in Eternity. (See Isaiah 57:17.) Of course, He had prepared for the fall of the *goyim*.

God already had a plan to reveal Himself to the nations. He had designed a nation that He would separate to Himself for His purposes. God's call upon that separated nation would be to reveal

Him to the fallen nations.

That separated nation would spring from a man of faith. In the very next chapter after the fall of the nations, God introduces that man and that holy nation.

Gen. 12:1-3

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

As a reward for working with God, He promised Abraham and his descendants a land; i.e. The Promised Land.

**God's Promises of the Land
To Abraham**

Gen. 13:14-15

14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from

him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

[Brim note: Notice that the promise is forever.]

Gen. 13:17

Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

Then one notable starry night, God made two outstanding promises to Abraham.

The first promise to childless Abraham, was for a child from his own body to be his heir. And that his seed would be as numerous as the stars he could see in the night sky over Hebron.

Gen. 15:5-6

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

6 And he believed in the LORD; and

he counted it to him for righteousness.

Abraham exhibited such faith for this promise that the New Testament gives it as the foundational example of faith.

Rom. 4:19-22

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

However, on the very same night, God promised something to Abraham that he asked for a sign to believe it. God proclaimed that He brought Abraham out of his homeland to give him an inheritance of a very large land.

Gen. 15:7-8

7 And he said unto him, *I am* the

LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

8 And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?

I don't know that Abraham staggered, but he did ask for a sign. A factor might have been, and I'm only guessing, that in Ur of the Chaldees, according to excavations, the people there had an advanced civilization and lived in brick houses. After Abraham left home to obey God, he lived in tents. And now God was promising him a huge land (and it follows the rule over it) when the land's inhabitants are many and strong while he dwells in tents.

The sign God gave him is called *The Covenant Between the Pieces*.

Gen. 15:9-12, 17-21

9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.

11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcases, Abram drove them away.

12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram...

17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp [torch] that passed **between those pieces.**

18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

19 The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites,

20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims,

21 And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

If you were believing God for something and you heard a voice saying, "Get me a big cow," you would probably respond, "Get thee behind me, Satan." This may be because you are reading the Bible with a western mind. The Bible is an eastern book. Abraham being a man of the east was thrilled and rushed to do God's

bidding. For he knew that the Creator of the Heavens, the Earth, the seas, and the skies and all that in them is, was about to cut a covenant with him.

Let us notice here only a few of the very interesting things about this remarkable covenant. First, the covenant contains the two absolutely necessary elements of a blood covenant: blood and words. The death of the animals in a covenant rite literally says, "If I do not keep this covenant, may it happen to me what has happened to these animals." The speaker of the covenant words was God Himself.

Something amazingly unique about this covenant is that only one party is responsible to keep it. *Only God*. It holds no hint of "If you do this Abraham, then I will do that." No. The words of the covenant are God's words of what He will do.

Israel has never possessed the totality of these lands which are referred to as "Greater Israel." But they will. In the Millennium, Israel will possess these lands and govern the world from Jerusalem.

Greater Israel includes the modern

state of Israel, and lands from the Nile River to the Euphrates, which translates into parts or all of states known today as Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and some of Saudi Arabia.

God's Promise of the Land To Isaac

Abraham had a son by Hagar, Ishmael; he also had six sons by Keturah (Genesis 25:1,2). But he sent them all away from the Promised Land, for the inheritance was to pass to his seed through Isaac.

Gen. 25:5-6

5 And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac.

6 But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country.

The Lord's instruction to Isaac was that he not leave the Promised Land. And lest this fact skip past you: *Gerar is present day Gaza*. God's Word here and in other places clearly shows that He considers

Gaza as part of the Land promised to Israel.

Gen. 26:1-6

1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.

2 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:

3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;

4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

6 And Isaac dwelt in Gerar:

[Brim Note: Gerar is Gaza. Gaza clearly belongs to the Jews. See Joshua 15:20,27.]

God's Promise of the Land To Jacob

Gen. 28:10-13

10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.

11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put *them for* his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

God's Purpose and Call For Israel

This chosen and separated nation is God's portion, God's inheritance as a nation from among the nations. Their call and purpose is to reveal God to the nations.

Deut. 32:9

For the LORD'S portion *is* his people; Jacob *is* the lot of his inheritance.

[Brim note: When the Bible refers to Israel as Jacob, it is speaking of the flesh descendants of Abraham. Why not refer to them as Abraham? Abraham had 7 other sons. Why not Isaac? Isaac had another son, Esau. Jacob's 12 sons became the fathers of the 12 tribes of Israel.]

And that call is in effect to this day never to be repented of. Romans 9, 10, and 11 is a revelation of God's plan for Israel. And in it He makes it clear that He will never change His mind about that call.

Rom. 11:25-29

25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this *is* my covenant unto

them, when I shall take away their sins.

28 As concerning the gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes.

29 For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.

That 29th verse is often taught like this. If God called someone to be an evangelist, that call is never taken away, even if the person never preaches a sermon. And that is true. For this verse does indeed reveal the character of God. However, to rightly divide this passage, one must consider the statement in context and see that the first and basic meaning of this verse applies to His call upon Israel.

Plan A

For God's Revealing of Himself To the Nations Through Israel

God's Plan A for Israel to reveal Him to the nations began with the very positioning of The Promised Land.

Deut. 32:8

When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he

shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Israel is a veritable land bridge between Europe and Asia to the north and Egypt to the south. Ancient armies and caravans often took this easier-to-travel route. When Gentiles nations, *goyim*, who worshipped many gods passed through Israel, they were to see with their own eyes the blessings upon this people who worshipped the one true God Jehovah. They include health, wealth, abundance of crops and herds, and strength. The blessings in Deuteronomy 28 are all blessings which can be “seen.” They had to be seen for the nations to recognize them.

Deut. 28:10

And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of

the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

So God's Plan A for the revelation of Himself to the nations through Israel called for the manifestation of the blessings of the one true God upon them in their Promised Land.

Plan B

For God's Revealing of Himself To the Nations Through Israel

If Israel did not "hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all His commandments," then curses would overtake them (Deuteronomy 28:15).

The culmination of these curses, and indeed the most long-lived was the scattering (the diaspora) of the nation among all the Gentile nations.

Deut. 28:64

And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

This scattering at the beginning of “the times of the Gentiles” and the ingathering that would take place at the end of “the times of the Gentiles,” would be God’s method of revealing Himself to the nations.

Luke 21:24

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Quoting David Baron: “...the Babylonian captivity *with which commences ‘the times of the Gentiles,’* which only close with the end of this age, when the Kingdom shall once again be restored to Israel.”¹

1. David Baron, *Israel in the Plan of God*, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, MI, p 111.

Chapter 5

THE JEWS

THE SCATTERING AND THE INGATHERING

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

*That then the LORD thy God
will turn thy captivity,
and have compassion upon thee,
and will return
and gather thee from all the nations,
whither the LORD thy God hath scattered
thee.*

—Deuteronomy 30:3

Yes, Israel disobeyed God and He scattered them from off the Promised Land. But the covenant for the Land is an Everlasting Covenant. In the many promises throughout the Prophets an often used word is that they shall have the Land *forever*. That covenant is called “The Everlasting Covenant.”

Psa. 105:8-10

8 He hath remembered his covenant forever, the word *which* he commanded to a thousand generations.

9 Which *covenant* he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac;

10 And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, *and* to Israel *for* an everlasting covenant:

The following verse is from a chapter describing a future judgment upon the earth. Notice that one of the causes for that judgment is that the inhabitants of earth did not abide by God's everlasting covenant with Israel for the Land.

Is. 24:5

The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

Indeed, the very Ingathering itself is designed to prevent earth's peoples from disregarding God's everlasting covenant with the Jews for their Land. The Ingathering is designed to show the world that God is God and that He keeps His promises—His Word.

Moses, who did not get to go into the Promised Land foretold the Scattering, the Ingathering, the Restoration, and the

Redemption of Israel even before Israel entered the Promised Land as recorded in Deuteronomy 30:1-10.

I am using *The ArtScrolls Stone Edition of the Chumash* which is translated from the original Hebrew by Hebrew speakers. The King James uses “if” in verse 10; the original Hebrew does not. It is “when” not “if” as the *Young’s Literal Translation* corroborates.

*Stone Edition of the Chumash
ArtScrolls*

It will be that when all these things come upon you—the blessing and the curse that I have presented before you—then you will take it to your heart among all the nations where HaShem, your God, has dispersed you; and you will return unto HaShem, your God, and listen to His voice, according to everything that I command you today, you and your children with all your heart and all your soul. Then HaShem, your God will bring back your captivity and have mercy upon you, and He will return and gather you in from all the peoples to which HaShem, your God, has scattered you. If your dispersed will be at the ends of heaven, from there

HaShem, your God will gather you in and from there He will take you. HaShem, your God will bring you to the Land that your forefathers possessed and you shall possess it; He will do good to you and make you more numerous than your forefathers. HaShem, your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, to love HaShem, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

7. HaShem, your God will place all these imprecations upon your enemies and those who hate you, who pursued you. You shall return and listen to the voice of HaShem, and perform all His commandments that I command you today. HaShem will make you abundant in all your handiwork—in the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your animals, and the fruit of your Land—for good, when HaShem will return to rejoice over you for good, as He rejoiced over your forefathers, 10. when you listen to the voice of HaShem, your God, to observe His commandments and His decrees, that are written in this Book of the Torah, when you shall return to HaShem your God, with all your heart and all your soul.

*Young's Literal Translation***Deut. 30:9-10**

9 and Jehovah thy God hath made thee abundant in every work of thy hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, for good; for Jehovah turneth back to rejoice over thee for good, as He rejoiced over thy fathers,

10 for thou dost hearken to the voice of Jehovah thy God, to keep His commands, and His statutes, which are written in the book of this law, for thou turnest back unto Jehovah thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul.

The Desolation of the Land During the Scattering

Lev. 26:32-34 KJV

32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

33 And I will scatter you among the heathen (*goyim*, nations) and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

34 Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye *be* in your enemies'

land; *even* then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.

Lev. 26:32-33 NASV

32 'I will make the land desolate so that your enemies who settle in it will be appalled over it.

33 'You, however, I will scatter among the nations and will draw out a sword after you, as your land becomes desolate and your cities become waste.

The Fruitfulness of the Land When the Jews Return

Is. 34:16-35:2 KJV

16 Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.

17 And he hath cast the lot for them, and his hand hath divided it unto them by line: they shall possess it for ever, from generation to generation shall they dwell therein.

1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be giv-

en unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.

Is. 34:16-35:1 Young's Literal

16 Seek out of the book of Jehovah, and read, One of these hath not been lacking, None hath missed its companion, For My mouth — it hath commanded, And His spirit — He hath gathered them.

17 And He hath cast for them a lot, And His hand hath apportioned [it] to them by line, Unto the age they possess it, To all generations they dwell in it!

1 They joy from the wilderness and dry place, And rejoice doth the desert, and flourish as the rose,

The Blessings of the Whole World Lie in the Return and Restoration of Blessed Israel (Genesis 12:3)

Is. 27:6 KJV

6 He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.

Is. 27:6 Amplified

6 He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blos-

som and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.

Is. 27:6 Young's Literal

6 Those coming in He causeth to take root, Jacob doth blossom, and flourished hath Israel, And they have filled the face of the world [with] increase.

**Everywhere The Scattering
is Mentioned,
The Ingathering is Prophesied**

Be sure to read all of Jeremiah Chapters 30 and 31. They are a book within a Book that gives God's plan for Israel. But here are a few verses I have chosen.

Jer. 30:3

3 For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel [the 10 tribes of the Northern Kingdom] and Judah [the Southern tribes], saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

Jer. 31:10

Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare *it* in the isles afar

off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd *doth* his flock.

Jer. 31:35-37

35 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, *and* the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts *is* his name:

36 If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, *then* the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever.

37 Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

Zechariah is to the Old Testament much like The Book of Revelation to the New. It is filled with God's ongoing plans for Jerusalem and the Promised Land.

Zech. 10:6-10 KJV

6 And I will strengthen the house of Judah [the southern kingdom], and I will save the house of Joseph [the northern kingdom], and I will bring

them back; for I have mercy upon them; and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am Jehovah their God, and I will hear them.

7 And *they of* Ephraim [the northern kingdom] shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine; yea, their children shall see it, and rejoice; their heart shall be glad in Jehovah.

8 I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them; and they shall increase as they have increased.

9 And I will sow them among the peoples; and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and shall return.

10 I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and *place* shall not be found for them.

From David Baron's book *Zechariah*:
This verb *sharaq* [translated hiss] to "hiss," or "whistle," or "pipe," is used several times in the earlier scriptures to describe God's signal in calling together nations and peoples to accomplish His

purposes...

But now the time to favour Zion having come, this same word is used in our passage...for the signal which He will use for the gathering together of His own dispersed people from the four corners of the earth...it means..."to pipe" and is used of *the shepherd's signal for the gathering of his scattered flock*.¹

Is. 49:12

Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.

Sinim = China, or the Chinese

Is. 49:22-23

22 Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles (*goyim*, nations,) and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in *their* arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon *their* shoulders.

23 And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with *their* face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I

am the LORD: for they shall not be
ashamed that wait for me.

The Ingathering is Foretold By Almost Every Prophet

See Ezekiel 36

The Mountains of Israel (The Mountains
of Israel equal The West Bank)

See Ezekiel 37

The Dry Bones Chapter

Hosea 5:13-6:2

The Return After Two Days (2000 Years)

Joel 3:1-2

1 For, behold, in those days, and in
that time, when I shall bring again
the captivity of Judah and Jerusa-
lem,

2 I will also gather all nations, and
will bring them down into the val-
ley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead
with them there for my people and
for My Heritage Israel, whom they
have scattered among the nations,
and parted My Land.

Amos 9:14-15

14 And I will bring again the cap-
tivity of my people of Israel, and

they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.

15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.

Jesus Said That The Ingathering is The Sign of His Return

Matt. 24:3 English Version

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming (*parousia*) and of the end of the age?"

The Greek word *parousia*, translated *coming* here, always signified the coming of a king or an emperor. Young's Literal translation gives that idea:

Matt. 24:3 Young's Literal

And when he is sitting on the mount of the Olives, the disciples came near to him by himself, saying, "Tell us, when shall these be? and what

[is] the sign of thy presence, and of
the full end of the age?

The *parousia* the disciples asked about, being Jews, was that coming when He would set up His visible kingdom in the earth. Jesus answered His disciples' question:

Luke 21:29-33

29 And he spake to them a parable;
Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

30 When they now shoot forth, ye
see and know of your own selves
that summer is now nigh at hand.

31 So likewise ye, when ye see
these things come to pass, know ye
that the kingdom of God is nigh at
hand.

32 Verily I say unto you, This gen-
eration shall not pass away, till all
be fulfilled.

33 Heaven and earth shall pass
away: but my words shall not pass
away.

Here in Luke Israel is the fig tree. Joel told of Babylon's "barking" Israel.

Joel 1:6-7

6 For a nation is come up upon my
land, strong, and without number,

whose teeth are the teeth of a lion,
and he hath the cheek teeth of a
great lion.

7 He hath laid my vine waste, and
barked my fig tree: he hath made
it clean bare, and cast it away; the
branches thereof are made white.

Israel is God's Time Clock

The "other trees" in Luke 21:29 are the nations spoken of in the Old Testament Prophets. When we see Israel and the nations of prophecy "shooting forth" into their prophetic places, then Jesus said, the setting up of his earthly visible kingdom is not far behind.

The Ingathering began in force with the return of many Jews in the late 1800s. The Promised Land, which had been under the dominion of the Turkish Empire for 400 years, was released into the hands of England at the end of WWI. The Balfour Declaration dated November 2, 1917 called for England to "favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people," and to "use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object..."

By the end of WWII the Jews of Eu-

rope had suffered the loss of 6 million people at the hands of Hitler's Nazi's. In 1945 European Jews were freed from the death camps. Just three years later, Israel was reborn in May 1948. In June 1967 they regained Jerusalem.

Jesus declared that the generation who sees these things shall not pass away until all be fulfilled. That is my generation. I was alive and on the earth for the rebirth of Israel and the miraculous ensuing events. It is assured that people from my generation will indeed see all things fulfilled including the Rapture of the Body of Christ, the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus, and all the God-ordained events to follow ever after.

We can watch Israel and the nations shoot forth into their prophetic places only through the prophecies of the Old Testament Prophets. They are a light shining into the events taking place today.

2 Pet. 1:19-21

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until

the day dawn, and the day star arise
in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no
prophecy of the scripture is of any
private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in
old time by the will of man: but
holy men of God spake *as they were*
moved by the Holy Ghost.

1. David Baron, *Zechariah: A Commentary on His Visions and Prophecies*, Kregal Publications, Grand Rapids, MI, p. 362

Chapter 6

THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST

*become offenceless,
both to Jews and Greeks,
and to the assembly of God;
—1 Corinthians 10:32
Young's Literal Translation*

And now we come to the third group of people whom the Scriptures address as a group. I chose the *Young's Literal Translation* of 1 Corinthians 10:32 because it shows the more literal meaning of the Greek word usually translated church. The following from *The Companion Bible* makes this plain:

The Greek word, *ekklesia* means *assembly*, or a gathering of *called-out ones*.¹

E. W. Bullinger, author of the notes in *The Companion Bible* further states that Paul's usage of *ekklesia* speaks of a *new body* consisting of called-out ones from

both the Jews and the Gentiles.

The Old Testament reveals only the first two of the three groups: The Jews, The Nations (The Gentiles). The third group was hidden. *A hidden mystery.* Only to be revealed through the Apostle Paul.

God's Plans God's Mysteries

God's plans are often identified as His mysteries. The English word *mystery* in the New Testament is a transliteration of the Greek word *musterion*, which means a sacred secret.

Several plans of God are identified as His mysteries. Some of these are: the mysteries of the kingdom of God (Mark 4:11, Luke 8:10), the mystery of Israel (Romans 11:25-29). the mystery of iniquity (2 Thessalonians 2:6), the mystery of the catching away of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:51) etc.

By far the outstanding mystery revealed in the New Testament is the mystery of the church (*ekklesia*, assembly). This being, the body of Christ to be, was kept hidden throughout the Old Testa-

ment. In fact, it was still hidden in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

It was first revealed to Paul. And it was only after at least 17 plus years of separation, during which Paul received his revelation, that he “went up by revelation” and shared what the Lord had revealed to him with the leaders of the followers of the Lord.

Gal. 1:15-2:2

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called *me* by his grace,

16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen [nations, gentiles]; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord’s brother.

20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.

21 Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia;

22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:

23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.

24 And they glorified God in me.

1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with *me* also.

2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

What Paul received was the revelation of the hidden mystery, the mystery of the church, the assembly which is the body of Christ.

The Hidden Mystery of The Assembly of The Body of Christ

The following verses speak of a plan in the mind of God from before the world. But a mystery that was hidden in Him.

Rom. 16:25-26

25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **mystery**, which was kept secret since the world began,

26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

1 Cor. 2:7

But we speak the wisdom of God in a **mystery**, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Eph. 3:3-6

3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the **mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words,

4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the **mystery** of Christ)

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and

partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Eph. 3:9-11

9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the **mystery**, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Col. 1:26-27

26 *Even* the **mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this **mystery** among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

1. *The Companion Bible*, Kregal Publications, Grand Rapids, MI, E. W. Bullinger notes, Appendix #186.

End of Part 1

Watch for, *How to Rightly Divide the Word - Part 2*, coming soon.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Billye Brim's Christian heritage is rich. She sensed the call of God in early childhood. However, it was only after an encounter with the Holy Spirit in 1967, that she as a young wife and mother of four began to follow Him to walk out her call. For almost ten years she served as Editor of Publications for Kenneth E. Hagin Ministries where she also taught at Rhema Bible Training Center.

Immediately after ordination in 1980 she traveled to Soviet Russia in what proved to be ongoing ministry there. Since then she has literally ministered around the world several times over.

Kent and Billye Brim with Lee and Jan Morgans founded a local church in Collinsville, Oklahoma. A *Glorious Church Fellowship* is the foundation of *Billye Brim Ministries* and *Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks* in Branson, Missouri, and the soon-to-be-built *Migdal Arbel Prayer and Study Center* in Israel.

When Kent passed away in 1986, Billye was led to “study Hebrew in the Land.” Studying at Ulpan Akiva in Israel led to the unique seminar tours she has guided in the Land from 1986 to now. It also provided a pattern for the prayer and study center in Israel.

“Helping Pray-ers” is a God-given directive in her life. One place this happens is at *Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks* near Branson, Missouri. On 200-plus-acres, log cabins provide places for individual prayer, or small prayer groups. Corporate prayer meetings are held twice a week in the chapel.

On Wednesdays at 12 Noon Central Time, the meeting is streamed live. Pray-ers (who have named themselves World-Wide Prayers) join in united prayer via thousands of computers in more than 60 nations. This prayer is focused primarily on an Awakening to God. For in a corporate prayer meeting in June 2008, Billye Brim and the pray-ers were impressed with these words: *One thing will save America...an Awakening to God. One thing will avail for Israel and*

the nations, An Awakening to God. Several thousand pray-ers from around the world gather in Branson for an Autumn Assembly of Prayer she hosts.

Billye Brim is blessed to work with others across the Body of Christ. She strongly believes in walking out what Scripture teaches that we are one Body, with one Head, one Spirit, one Lord....

First Corinthians 10:32 is foundational in Billye Brim's ministry. The "good works that He has ordained that she should walk in" involve activity among the Jews, the Nations, and the Church—all to the Glory of God.

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