

Rightly Dividing the Word

The Jews, the Nations, and the Church

I. The Jews, the Nations, the Church

- A. First Corinthians 10:32

II. The Word Must Be Rightly Divided

- A. Second Timothy 2:15

- B. Kenneth E. Hagin's first rules of Bible Interpretation
(Book - *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage*, pp.15-19)

1. Read the Scripture in context.
2. Be sure it harmonizes with all of God's Word on the matter.
3. Know who is speaking.
4. Know to whom a Scripture is speaking.
 - a. An Individual
 - b. A Group (1 Cor. 10:32)
 - 1) The Jews
 - 2) The Nations
 - 3) The Church

- C. *"If you will remember this verse of Scripture, it will keep your end-time doctrine straight."*

- D. Book, *Dispensational Truth*, Rev. Clarence Larkin Est.,
Box 334, Glenside, PA 19038, U.S.A., pp 4,5

"The Apostolic Church was Pre-Millennial, and for over 200 years no other view was entertained. The writings of the 'Church Fathers' abound in evidence of the fact. But about A.D.250, Origen, one of the Church Fathers, conceived the idea that the words of scripture were but the 'husk' in which was hid the 'kernel' of scripture truth.

At once he began to 'Allegorize' and 'Spiritualize' the Scriptures, and thus founded that school of 'Allegorizing' and 'Spiritualizing' interpreters of Scripture, from which the Church and the Bible have suffered so much. The result was that the Church largely ceased to look for the Lord to return and set up an earthly kingdom.

"When Constantine became sole Emperor of Rome in AD 323, being favorable to Christianity, he united Church and State. A new difficulty now arose in the interpretation of scripture. If, as was at that time believed, Rome was to be the seat of Antichrist, the question arose, or rather was suspiciously whispered-'Is Constantine the Antichrist?' Such a notion was unpalatable to the Roman Emperor, and so a convenient explanation was discovered and adopted, that Antichrist was 'Pagan Rome,' and that the Millennium commenced when Constantine ascended the throne. This was given color by the great gifts and privileges bestowed on the Church by Constantine, and led to the claim that the Millennial blessings of the Old Testament had been transferred from the Jews to the Christian Church. (Billye Brim note: Replacement Theology)

"But the claim that the 'Papal Church' was the Antichrist would not down. When it was found impossible to expunge the Book of Revelation from the sacred canon, it was decided to lock up the Scriptures, and the Bible became a sealed book, and the gloom of night settled down upon all Christendom. The result was the 'Dark Ages.' But amid the gloom God was not without witnesses to the truth. The Paulicians, Albigeneses, Waldenses, and other sects, bore testimony to the Premillennial return of the Lord....

"The sad thing is that this 'false doctrine' of Post-Millennialism is taught in our Bibles by the headings of the chapters in the Old Testament. For illustration the headings of chapters forth-three and four of Isaiah read, 'The Lord comforteth The Church with His promises,' whereas the chapters are not addressed to the **Church** at all, but to **Jacob** and **Israel**, as we see by reading them. The ordinary reader overlooks the fact that the chapter headings of the Bible are put there by the publisher and should be omitted, as they are misleading...."

- E. *Zechariah*, David Baron,
Kregal Publications, Grand Rapids, MI 49501
Foreword by Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., Academic Dean, and Professor of
Semitic Languages and the Old Testament,
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

"David Baron was born in Russia in 1855 and brought up in a strict, devout Jewish family. His education was under the rigorous tutelage of the Rabbinic training of the period...on a...search of the Scriptures...he found the Messiah to be the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Baron launches right into commenting on Zechariah...He is also ever alert to those places where many in the Gentile Church have 'spiritized' or even 'phantomised' Scripture when it refers to Jerusalem or Israel. The reader should avoid, warns Baron, substituting an unnatural and shadowy meaning for what is plain and obvious in the text."

In Order of their Appearance
The Nations, the Jews, the Church

The Nations

Introduction: Creation and the Fall

(See *The Blood and the Glory* by Billye Brim)

The Flood

Judgment: Genesis 6:1-4

I. The Nations Hebrew: Goyim

A. The Seventy Nations (Genesis 10)

Notes from *Artscroll*:

The *Talmudic* tradition that there are seventy nations...is based upon the ensuing list of Noah's descendents. This tradition is deep rooted.

...the most common system of ascribing 14 nations to Japheth; 30 to Ham; and 26 to Shem, totaling 70. Shem, Ham, and Japheth themselves are omitted as are the Philistines who, are designated as a mixed race (v,14).

The seventy bullocks sacrificed on Tabernacles were offered to atone for the seventy nations.

God wants all nations to rise to their greatest spiritual potential.

B. The Line of Japheth (14 Nations)

1. Genesis 9:27 "*May God extend Japheth,*"
i.e., May God extend Japheth's boundaries, and may he inherit many lands (*B'chor Shor*).

2. Genesis 10:5
"*From these the islands of the nations were separated in their lands.*"

Artscroll Notes:

i.e., From these sons of Japheth are descended all those who dwell in the coastlands, each one in his own land (*Hoffmann*).

As Ramban explains, the children of Japheth each dwelt separately and spread far apart on the isles of the sea. This was the blessing of their father Noah who said [9:27] God expand [the boundaries of] Japheth which means that his descendants would be spread over a wide area of the earth.

C. The Line of Ham (30 Nations)

Mitzraim = Egypt

Zidon = Capital of ancient Phoenicia. (Lebanon)

Fact to remember!!! Genesis 10:10

According to the *Midrash*, Shinar and Babylon are synonymous.

D. The Line of Shem (26 Nations)

Notes from *ArtScroll*:

Verse 21

And to Shem, also to him were born; he was the ancestor of all those who lived on the other side....

--He was the father of all who dwelt across the river; whence came Abraham's family (*Ramban*).

v.22

Elam—Mentioned often in Scripture.

According to *Rav Saadiah Gaon*, their territory lay between Shushan in Persia and Media with whom they are often associated.

Asshur—Commonly translated as referring to the Assyrians who dwelt north of Babylon.

Arpachshad—The Chaldeans, who originally lived on the coastland of the lower Euphrates and afterwards moved inland. Abraham was later born in one of their principal cities, Ur.

Aram—The Arameans, who lived on the fertile crescent, played an important role in the lives of the Jews during Scriptural times and later.

The main territory of Aramea was northeast of Eretz Yisrael, roughly in the area of Syria. The capital city of Aramea was Damascus (Isaiah 7:8), sometimes referred to as Aram-Damesek (2 Samuel 8:6). Aram-Zova (Aleppo) was to the northwest of Damascus (ibid. 10:6). Further to the north, across the Euphrates, was Aram Naharaim (Mesopotamia), also called Paddan Aram (28:2);

David in his conquests annexed this territory to Eretz Yisrael. Later the Greeks called the area Syria...

[Eber was one of the righteous men of that time (Midrash). Along with his grandfather Shem, he established a yeshivah.]

II. The Nations Rebel Against God

A. God's Will — Genesis 9:1

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

B. Rebellion — Genesis 11:1-9

1. The year is 1996, 340 years after the Flood (*Seder Olam*).
2. According to Midrash; Shinar and Babylon are synonymous.
3. Nimrod led rebellion.
4. God confused their language.
"That is why it was called Babel, because it was there that HASHEM scattered them over the face of the whole earth."
(Artscroll, verse 9)