



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 11:25-36
- Colossians 1:27-28
- Ephesians 4:11-16

Title:

IRREVOCABLE DESTINY

- Full Stature
- An Irrevocable Plan
- The Mind of God

SEED:

“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should **be ignorant** of this mystery, **lest you should be wise** in your own opinion, that **blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**” Romans 11:25 NKJV

FRUIT:

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of **this mystery among the Gentiles**: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, **that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.**” Colossians 1:27-28 NKJV

“My little children, for whom **I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,**” Galatians 4:19 NKJV

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY’S MESSAGE:

Are we talking numbers or substance? Is it a question of quantity or quality? Blindness in part has overtaken those of the natural bloodline of Israel, until the fullness of the Gentile converts materializes. The idea of fullness is what holds all the weight here, so to what is Paul referring? Is it the pastoral perspective on fullness, as in all those who will ever come into the faith have been evangelized—the complete number? Or, is it the prophetic perspective on fullness, as in the state of being complete and whole—the mature transformation?

The pastoral point of view has dominated the Christian landscape for centuries and has been the driving force for world-wide outreach and evangelism. That is a very good thing save one potential glitch, and Paul does his best to make sure you recognize it; that you not be ignorant of the mystery. And yet, despite Paul’s warning, the pastoral overemphasis has sparked a nearly universal ignorance of the prophetic perspective. Sure, the Gospel of Salvation, the Gospel that invites the world into the family of God, has rightfully been primary for two thousand years, but primary was not intended to mean exclusive! And that mistake has been the hidden cost of a myopic evangelical approach. Y’shua was clear throughout His earthly ministry, as is dominant in His parables, that it is the Kingdom of Heaven that must be primary, especially in

the end. In fact, before the end can come, the message of the Gospel of the Kingdom must reach the whole world—and that message is very different than the one spread while evangelizing.

The distinction between the two Gospels is what best explains two very different priorities: the pastoral emphasizes evangelism, the number of conversions and the well-being of those converts. The prophetic requires intense discipleship and is about maturing converts into serious disciples. Return to the New Testament and read it with prophetic eyes and you will notice that both sides of this story are critical. With an exclusively evangelical approach, the church is built a mile wide and an inch deep. On the other hand, if the prophetic destiny of God's people is also magnified, the church will additionally grow a mile deep. That will require moving beyond evangelism to highlight the necessary transformation of Christians into the fullness, stature and image of Christ.

For God's people to grow into mature adult Christians is not optional; it's required and is precisely the mystery to which Paul refers when he says, "until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." It speaks of a time at which Christ will be fully manifest in His people; it is our irrevocable prophetic destiny. Paul warned of the consequences of being ignorant about this. He preached about it and taught about it throughout his ministry. Why? So he could "present every man perfect in Christ Jesus!" And he would not relent until he could—perfectly expressed with this sentiment; "I will labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you."

FULL STATURE

1. The Fullness of the Gentiles

A. Waiting on the Change

(1) It's Time to Grow Up

(a) The Age of Maturity

1. "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should **be ignorant** of this mystery, **lest you should be wise** in your own opinion, that **blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**" Romans 11:25 NKJV
2. "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that **your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.**" Romans 1:8 NKJV
3. "**although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God**, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." Romans 1:21 NKJV
4. "brethren (for **I speak to those who know the law**), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?" Romans 7:1 NKJV
5. "For **I speak to you Gentiles**; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles..." Romans 11:13 NKJV

- (2) Paul continues in his narrative here with a word for the Gentiles who have come into the faith and his admonition is that they not be ignorant.

- (a) Ignorant of what?
 1. "For they being **ignorant of God's righteousness**, and seeking to **establish their own righteousness**, have not submitted to the righteousness of God." Romans 10:3 NKJV

B. PROPHETIC OUTTAKE

(1) Spiritual Detectives:

- (a) Mandated by Yahweh to solve the mysteries.
 1. "For **whoever has, to him more will be given**, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him." (Matthew 13:12)
- (b) Can you really know what Paul is saying if you are not willing to "search it out" for yourself?
 1. That's what they did in Berea: "They received the word with all readiness, and **searched the Scriptures daily** to find out if what Paul was saying was true." Acts 17:11 NKJV
 2. "**All Scripture [Old Testament]** is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**" II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV
- (2) Read Ephesians 2:20-22 again and contemplate these two essential structural elements of the church, the spiritual temple.
 - (a) Ponder the two bronze pillars that held up the entrance to Solomon's temple (I Kings 7:15-22).
 1. "Then he set up the pillars by the vestibule of the temple; he set up the pillar on the right and called its name **Jachin**, and he set up the pillar on the left and called its name **Boaz**." (v. 21)
- (3) Y'shua teaches His disciples that they need to apply new revelation to their existing knowledge of Scripture to understand the deep mysteries of God, to understand the Kingdom.
 - (a) Even scribes, the biblical lawyers of the day, the experts, need to be "instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven."
 1. "Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" [Are you getting new revelation] They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He said to them, "Therefore **every scribe INSTRUCTED CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new [new revelation] and old [applied to existing knowledge]."" (Matthew 13:51-52)
 2. "However, when He, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, **He will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." (John 16:13)

C. The mystery they were to unpack in Romans 11:25!

- (1) Those of the natural bloodline of Israel were temporarily blinded by God—on purpose.
 - (a) These handicaps are only healed in Christ who imparted, by grace, this remedy:
 1. “**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8 NKJV
- (2) And maybe the greatest mystery of all.
 - (a) Paul calls this “the fullness of the Gentiles”!
 1. “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **till we all come** to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a perfect man**, to the measure of the stature of **the fullness of Christ**; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may **grow up in all things into Him who is the head**—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV
 2. “My little children, for whom **I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you**,” Galatians 4:19 NKJV
 3. “*Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are being **transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*” II Corinthians 3:17-18 NKJV
 4. “*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and **has given us the ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us**: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” II Corinthians 5:18-21 NKJV
 5. “**blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**” Romans 11:25

D. Waiting on a Change

- (1) What are the necessary changes?
 - (a) Mature people who can discern both good and evil

1. "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. **But solid food belongs to those who are of full age**, that is, those who by reason of use have **their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**" Hebrews 5:12-14 NKJV
- (b) Who came to know good and evil without training by way of disobedience...
1. "Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; **but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."" Genesis 2:15-17 NKJV
 2. "And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, '**You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it**, lest you die.' " Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. **For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**" So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, **and a tree desirable to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and **they knew that they were naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings." Genesis 3:2-7 NKJV
- (c) Go on to perfection! Human stages of development from infancy to adulthood.
1. "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, **let us go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. **And this we will do if God permits.**" Hebrews 6:1-3 NKJV
 2. **Be Perfect:** "Therefore you shall **be perfect**, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48 NKJV
 3. **Made perfect in one:** "*I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: {23} I in them, and You in Me; **that they may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*" John 17:20-23 NKJV

4. **Unity of the faith:** *“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep **the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; **one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God** and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”* Ephesians 4:1-6 NKJV

(d) There are “Things that accompany salvation!”

1. “But, beloved, we are confident of **better things** concerning you, yes, **things that accompany salvation**, though we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And **we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end**, that you do not become sluggish, **but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**” Hebrews 6:9-12 NKJV

(e) Something more abundant for the heirs (beyond the promise to Abraham!)

1. “For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, **after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.** For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them **an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel**, confirmed it by an oath, that **by two immutable things**, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to **lay hold of the hope set before us.**” Hebrews 6:13-18 NKJV
2. **Before the resurrection:** *“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. **As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.**”* John 17:17-18 NKJV
3. **After the resurrection:** *“So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, **“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”**”* John 20:21-23 NKJV

(2) Become LIKE the perfect priest.

(a) The Anchor

1. “**This hope we have as an anchor** of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and **which enters the Presence behind the veil**, where **the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus**, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” Hebrews 6:19-20 NKJV

AN IRREVOCABLE PLAN

2. It will happen...

A. All Israel will be saved?

(1) Or, of who are saved are Israel?

(a) Answer: All who are redeemed are Israel...

1. "And **so all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And ***He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;** For **this is My covenant with them**, When I take away their sins.'" Romans 11:26-27 NKJV
2. We've been careful to discover that there are two Israels, the natural line and the spiritual line. "But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are **not all Israel who are of Israel**," Romans 9:6 NKJV
3. Leading up to Paul's reference: "**Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob;** **Israel shall blossom and bud**, And fill the face of the world with fruit. Has He struck Israel as He struck those who struck him? Or has He been slain according to the slaughter of those who were slain by Him? In measure, by sending it away, You contended with it. He removes it by His rough wind In the day of the east wind." Isaiah 27:6-8 NKJV
4. *"**Therefore by this the iniquity of Jacob will be covered;** And this is all the fruit of **taking away his sin**: When he makes all the stones of the altar Like chalkstones that are beaten to dust, Wooden images and incense altars shall not stand." Isaiah 27:9 NKJV
5. ""The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the Lord. "As for Me," says the Lord, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, **and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth**, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the Lord, "from this time and forevermore." Isaiah 59:20-21 NKJV
6. "Arise, shine; For **your light has come!** And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And **His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light**, And kings to the brightness of your rising." Isaiah 60:1-3 NKJV

(2) Step in deeper into the magnificence of Isaiah's imagery by going even further back...

(a) Perfect alignment with all we have learned in this chapter thus far.

1. "In that day the Lord with His severe sword, great and strong, Will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent; And He will slay the reptile that is in the sea. **In that day sing to her, "A vineyard of red wine! I, the Lord, keep it, I water it every moment;** Lest any hurt it, I keep it night and day. Fury is not in Me. Who would

set briers and thorns Against Me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together. Or let him take hold of My strength, That he may make peace with Me; And he shall make peace with Me.”” Isaiah 27:1-5 NKJV

(b) And this shall happen on that day:

1. “Yet the fortified city will be desolate, The habitation forsaken and left like a wilderness; There the calf will feed, and there it will lie down And consume its branches. When its boughs are withered, they will be broken off; The women come and set them on fire. For it is a people of no understanding; Therefore He who made them will not have mercy on them, And He who formed them will show them no favor. **And it shall come to pass in that day** That the Lord will thresh, From the channel of the River to the Brook of Egypt; And you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel. **So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, And shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.**” Isaiah 27:10-13 NKJV
2. *“that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* Philippians 2:10-11 NKJV

(3) All who are redeemed are Israel...

(a) Once Gentiles: The blood of Christ makes us part of the covenants of Israel.

1. “Therefore remember that you, **once Gentiles in the flesh**—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— **at that time** you were without Christ, being **aliens from the commonwealth of Israel** and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ** Jesus you who once were far off have been **brought near** by the blood of Christ.” Ephesians 2:11-13 NKJV

(b) One New Man: In Messiah we are ONE NEW MAN! And that new man has no enmity for the commandments contained in ordinances!

1. “For He Himself is our peace, **who has made both one**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having **abolished in His flesh the enmity**, that is, **the law of commandments contained in ordinances**, so as to **create in Himself one new man** from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby **putting to death the enmity**. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.” Ephesians 2:14-18 NKJV

2. *“For **there is no distinction between Jew and Greek**, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.””*
Romans 10:12-13 NKJV

B. Enemies but Beloved

- (1) Yahweh’s Grand Design
 - (a) This was not by accident!
 1. **“Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved** for the sake of the fathers.” Romans 11:28 NKJV
 2. By divine design, much like what Joseph experienced when he said to his brothers...
*“But as for you, **you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good**, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”* Genesis 50:20 NKJV
 - (2) Y’shua: As such, if those natural branches had never rejected Y’shua as the Messiah, there would have been no reason for the message to go to the Gentiles.
 - (a) Remember, Y’shua first sent out His disciples to those of the natural stock of Israel.
 1. **“Do not go into the way of the Gentiles**, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather **to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**” Matthew 10:6-7 NKJV
 - (b) But, He also prepared them to be rejected.
 1. **“And whoever will not receive you nor hear** your words, when you depart from that house or city, **shake off the dust from your feet.**” Matthew 10:14 NKJV
 - (c) He longed for those of the bloodline of Israel, but they would not have it.
 1. **“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem**, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! **How often I wanted to gather** your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!** See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, **you shall see Me no more till you say**, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’” Matthew 23:37-39 NKJV
 - (3) Paul: He also had a similar experience with the people of his bloodline, whose rejection then turned him toward the Gentiles.
 - (a) It was necessary!
 1. **“It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’”** Acts 13:46-47 NKJV
 2. *““I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, **As a light to the Gentiles,**”* Isaiah 42:6 NKJV
 3. *“Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also give You as a light***

to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' "" Isaiah 49:6 NKJV

- (b) And all those to whom this salvation will come, Paul, as he had done earlier in the ninth chapter of Romans, reiterates their calling as God's elect.
 - 1. "When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. **From now on I will go to the Gentiles.**" Acts 18:5-6 NKJV
- (c) Natural Israel failed and it opened the door for the nations to come into the faith!
 - 1. "Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, **how much more their fullness!** For **I speak to you Gentiles;** inasmuch as I am an **apostle to the Gentiles,** I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them." Romans 11:12-14 NKJV

C. Gifts and the Calling

- (1) God's plan is unalterable!
 - (a) What are the gifts and calling of God?
 - 1. "For **the gifts** and **the calling** of God are irrevocable." Romans 11:29 NKJV
 - 2. "Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, **Declaring the end from the beginning,** And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, '**My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,**'" Isaiah 46:9-10 NKJV
 - 3. "**For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.** I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. **And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.**" Psalms 139:13-16 NKJV
 - 4. "But **the very hairs of your head are all numbered.** Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." Luke 12:7 NKJV
- (2) Coming up in Romans we see that God has apportioned a measure of faith to each one of us.
 - (a) Just as in one human body we have many body parts.
 - 1. "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as **God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.** For as we have **many members in one body,** but **all the members do not have the same function,** so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. **Having then gifts differing according to the**

grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **Let love be without hypocrisy.** Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.” Romans 12:3-9 NKJV

(3) It is worth the effort to add Paul’s sentiments from his first letter to the Corinthians to seal the idea of what some of these irrevocable gifts and callings look like.

(a) Paul introduces former pagans to some of the gifts that fall into the spiritual category—spiritual gifts he calls them.

1. **“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:** You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. **There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God** who works all in all. But the **manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:** for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. **For as the body is one and has many members,** but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? **But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.** And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. **And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor;** and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But

God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. **And God has appointed these in the church:** first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? **But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.**" I Corinthians 12:1-31 NKJV

2. *"Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord,** And He shall give you the desires of your heart. **Commit** your way to the Lord, **Trust** also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass."* Psalms 37:3-5 NKJV
3. **Fleeing the presence (calling) of the Lord:** *"**Arise, go to Nineveh,** that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." **But Jonah** arose to **flee** to Tarshish **from the presence of the Lord.** He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord." Jonah 1:2-3 NKJV*
4. **Apprehended by God even in the midst of rebellion:** *"So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows. **Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.** And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." Jonah 1:15-17 NKJV*
5. **Violently placed back in alignment with his calling:** *"So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land." Jonah 2:10 NKJV*
6. **His gifts and calling reiterated and this time obeyed:** *"Now the word of **the Lord came to Jonah the second time,** saying, **Arise, go to Nineveh,** that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you." **So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.** Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent." Jonah 3:1-3 NKJV*

D. It had to happen like this!

- (1) After a pointed exclamation...
 - (a) God's gifts and calling are irrevocable...
 1. "For as **you were once disobedient to God,** yet have **now obtained mercy through their disobedience,** even so these also have now been disobedient, **that through the mercy**

shown you they also may obtain mercy. For **God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.**" Romans 11:30-32 NKJV

2. "I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to **provoke them to jealousy**, salvation has come to the Gentiles." Romans 11:11 NKJV
3. "But now the **righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the **righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ**, to all and on all who believe. For **there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," Romans 3:21-24 NKJV

THE MIND OF GOD

3. The Great Mystery

A. Who can know the mind of God?

- (1) The Wisdom and Knowledge of God
 - (a) God's irrevocable plan.
 1. "Oh, **the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?"**" Romans 11:33-35 NKJV
- (2) Wisdom (Excerpts from above Proverbs Teachings)
 - (a) The Purpose of Proverbs!
 1. "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: **To know** wisdom and instruction, **To perceive** the words of understanding, **To receive** the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; **To give prudence** to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion—" Proverbs 1:2-4 NKJV
 - (b) Who will heed these words?
 1. "A **wise man** will hear and **increase learning**, And a **man of understanding** will attain **wise counsel**, To understand a proverb and an **enigma**, The words of the wise and their **riddles.**" Proverbs 1:5-6 NKJV
 - (c) You can sum up all 31 Proverbs with this simple, yet infinitely profound, idea:
 1. "The **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7 NKJV
- (3) Knowledge (To find the knowledge of God.)
 - (a) Paul was certain that the knowledge of God was the top priority...

1. "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,**" Ephesians 1:15-17 NKJV
- (b) Because the knowledge of God yielded this fruit...
 1. "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that **you may know what is the hope of His calling,** what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is **the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe,** according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ **when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places," Ephesians 1:18-20 NKJV
- (c) Peter was certain that the knowledge of God was the top priority...
 1. "Grace and peace be multiplied to you **in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,** as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue," II Peter 1:2-3 NKJV
- (d) Because the knowledge of God yielded this fruit...
 1. "by which have been given to us exceedingly **great and precious promises,** that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature,** having **escaped the corruption that is in the world** through lust." II Peter 1:4 NKJV

B. If you assume such knowledge is unapproachable, and you'd be correct...

- (1) ...before you had unfettered access to the Holy Spirit. But, what about after?
 - (a) Paul again draws from His expertise of the prophets and the Torah.
 1. "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance? {13}**Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has taught Him?** With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?" Isaiah 40:12-14 NKJV
- (2) Paul chooses Job as an example.
 - (a) We watched Job suffer and of such we learn God felt no obligation to Job because of it—In other words, God owed Job nothing in return.
 1. "Who has preceded Me, **that I should pay him?** Everything under heaven is Mine." Job 41:11 NKJV
 - (b) A quick summary of Job's process...
 1. **God's Sovereign Position:** "On earth **there is nothing like him,** Which is made without fear. **He beholds every high thing; He is king over all** the children of pride." Job 41:33-34 NKJV

2. **Job's Repentance:** "Then Job answered the Lord and said: **"I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.** You asked, **'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?'** Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, **Things too wonderful for me,** which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But **now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.**" Job 42:1-6 NKJV
 3. **Job's Restoration:** "And **the Lord restored Job's losses** when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job **twice as much as he had before.**" Job 42:10 NKJV
 4. **The end is better than the beginning (Ecclesiastes 7:8):** "Now **the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning;** for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys." Job 42:12 NKJV
- (3) For us, as His chosen vessels, the same applies. We suffer for Him and God owes us nothing.
- (a) But something happened when Y'shua made access for us to the Holy Spirit.
 1. "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor? [Isaiah 40:13]"
 - (b) There was a new resolution to Isaiah's question!
 1. "For **"who has known the mind of the Lord** that he may instruct Him?" **But we have the mind of Christ.**" I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV
 2. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,** and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." II Corinthians 10:4-6 NKJV
 3. I in them, and You in Me; **that they may be made perfect in one,** and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." John 17:23 NKJV

C. Of Through and To

- (1) Let's seal the deal.
 - (a) From Christ all things originate, and through Him all things live and exist, and to Him are all things directed.
 1. "For **of Him** and **through Him** and **to Him** are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen." Romans 11:36 NKJV
 2. "*for **in Him we live and move and have our being,** as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'*" Acts 17:28 NKJV

(b) **Of Him... Creation:**

1. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1 NKJV
2. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For **by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.**" Colossians 1:15-17 NKJV
3. "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through Him,** and without Him nothing was made that was made." John 1:1-3 NKJV
4. "He was in the world, and **the world was made through Him,** and the world did not know Him." John 1:10 NKJV

(c) **Through Him... Salvation:**

1. "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other name under heaven** given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12 NKJV
2. "For **whoever calls on the name of the Lord** shall be saved." Romans 10:13 NKJV

(d) **To Him... Perfection:**

1. "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**" Ephesians 4:13 NKJV
2. "looking unto Jesus, **the author and finisher of our faith,** who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2 NKJV
3. "**He must increase, but I must decrease.**" John 3:30 NKJV
4. "I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live,** but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20 NKJV
5. "So likewise, **whoever of you does not forsake all** that he has cannot be My disciple." Luke 14:33 NKJV

(2) Then peek back into the Garden and you will see that God had a plan all long.

(a) Hijacking the knowledge of good and evil...

1. "Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; **but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,** for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Genesis 2:15-17 NKJV

2. "And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, '**You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it**, lest you die.' " Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. **For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**" So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, **and a tree desirable to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and **they knew that they were naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings." Genesis 3:2-7 NKJV
- (b) We were meant to grow up first, before partaking in the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
 1. "For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food **belongs to those who are of full age**, that is, those **who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**" Hebrews 5:13-14 NKJV
 2. "*To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, **that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.***" Colossians 1:27-28 NKJV
 3. "*and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*" II Corinthians 10:6 NKJV