



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

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

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

NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS

Let's systematically reverse engineer this one verse, as it is the platform from which we must dive to complete this chapter effectively, and to set the stage for yet another great transition in the next. "You should not be ignorant of this mystery!" Who is the "you" here? We know Rome, and thus Paul's audience, consisted of a mixture of peoples of many origins. At times the Romans' discourse is speaking to all believers; "Your faith is spoken about in all the world." At times Paul is writing about unbelievers; "Although they knew God they did not glorify Him as God." At times he is targeting the Jews: "And now I speak to those who know the law..." And at other times Paul focusses his attention on the Gentile converts, as he has been doing in these present sections; "For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles."

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. Ignorant of what? Earlier Paul wrote of how devastating ignorance can be as it was that very deficit that inspired the people of Israel to place confidence in their own strength as a means to righteousness, and that caused them to miss the righteousness of Christ. Here ignorance will blind the Gentiles to one of the great mysteries God wants to reveal, one that we will

come to learn allows access to the mind of God, an understanding necessary if they are to fulfill their prophetic destiny.

The call on all Christians, even presently, is to be spiritual detectives. It is given to us that we know and be good stewards of the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. And this is the mystery they were to unpack immediately. Those of the natural bloodline of Israel were temporarily blinded by God—on purpose. Their eyes were veiled; their ears were stopped up; and the work of their hands was thwarted. These handicaps are only healed in Christ who imparted, by grace, this remedy: Seek and your veil shall be lifted; ask and you will hear the answer; knock and your hands will open doors that no one can shut.

And maybe the greatest mystery of all, and the most difficult to comprehend with the human mind is this... the temporary blindness of natural Israel will persist only until the prophetic destiny of the Gentiles grafted into the original olive root is fulfilled. Paul calls this “the fullness of the Gentiles,” and this might be better understood with language he used elsewhere when to the Ephesians he wrote that the five-fold ministry of the Church is 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.” The body of Christ consists of many parts, each doing its share for this one

ultimate purpose: Christians unite into one perfect body; we look into the mirror and see only Y'shua in our reflection. That is how we become His perfect ambassadors, as He manifests in us and speaks through us. We literally become His human initiative partners, part of the equation as He uses the Church to judge and reconcile the world. And the mystery uncovered here is that it is the Gentile converts who must take the lead in this prophetic calling.

All Israel will be saved, or might it be more accurately portrayed in our language that it is heavenly Israel who is redeemed. We've been careful to discover that there are two Israels, the natural line and the spiritual line, and it is the unification of those who come from the natural bloodline with the Gentiles who have no previous bloodline inheritance, but have come to faith in Christ, that combine to form heavenly Israel, or as Paul says, "all of Israel who are redeemed." Paul again depends on the prophet Isaiah to explain the portion of this process that relates specifically to those who come from the natural bloodline of Jacob and how their redemption is connected to their ministry to the Gentiles. The Redeemer comes to them as they turn away from transgression. This can only happen as the Spirit of Yahweh comes upon them, and by grace His words are placed in their mouths. From then on they will never again turn away from His Word, becoming a light as they are unified with their converted Gentile brothers!

If you step in deeper still, the magnificence of Isaiah's imagery is in perfect alignment with all we have learned in this chapter thus far. "When I take away their sins," Yahweh declares! And now you know how that can only occur in Christ. This is the image painted on the canvas of your soul. On that day it will be a vineyard of beauty! Whatever is of thorns and briars is removed as Yahweh's divine protection has come. Natural Israel and converted Gentiles will graft in to the spiritual root and will blossom and send out shoots and they will fill the face of the world with fruit. Atonement is made for them in the Messiah and their sins are removed as all pagan worship is destroyed. And this shall happen on that day: Yahweh will separate the wheat and the tares and all of Israel, now identified as the redeemed natural branches, along with the redeemed wild branches, will be gathered one by one. In the final day the great trumpet will blow, and all who were once lost to the world will come together as one and bow down to Yahweh—every knee will bow and tongue confess that Y'shua is Lord and Redeemer of all who are called to be overcomers with God—Israel!

Those of the natural bloodline of Israel had become enemies of God and the Lord allowed it for a grand purpose. By divine design, much like what Joseph experienced when he said to his brothers, "What you intended for evil, God utilized for good. He has sent me before you to preserve life, so that all of Israel could be

saved.” What astounding imagery! Salvation came to Israel, by way of a pagan nation, Egypt—by divine design! 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.

Remember, Y’shua first sent out His disciples to those of the natural stock of Israel. “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.” But, He also prepared them to be rejected. “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.” He longed for those of the bloodline of Israel, but they would not have it. “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!’”

Paul also had a similar experience with the people of his bloodline, whose rejection then turned him toward the Gentiles. “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.'" "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." And all those to whom this salvation will come, Paul, as he had done earlier in the ninth chapter, reiterates their calling as God's elect. Let me remind you to what that refers.

First, abandon the idea that it means God is predetermining man's personal eternal salvation, and focus instead on God's sovereignty, and the diverse cast of characters who fill the earth and make history. Then you will see through the clouds of smoke created by the controversy over election and predestination. It would be easier to comprehend if we remove the charged emotions associated with how "the human will" interacts with the will of an eternal God, and how that might yield life or death in perpetuity. To help you understand how human choice is at play, think again of the nature of a cat. God installs that nature and a cat acts like a cat. Yes, God does orchestrate things for His elect purposes, but He need not choose how humans act. He installs, within each of us, a unique human nature and then that nature interacts with the sinful fallen world, and that yields a result, "that the purpose of God according to election might stand." Sin infects each personality

differently, but we all remain with the will to choose. God does not predetermine the specific interaction of your nature with sin; but He does allow whatever you choose, and He does know in advance precisely what that will be. How? He is the God of the past, present, and future simultaneously. He is not bound by linear time, so He has the foreknowledge of every decision you will make even before you were born—that is election! Yes, God is all knowing; but He does not decide things for you! The question each of us must ask ourself; “Whose way will I choose, my way or Yah’s way?”

This is all part of God’s irrevocable plan. He sees the end from the beginning, as each of your days is numbered and each hair on your head is counted in advance. He has also installed within you a unique nature, a set of gifts and talents designed specially for you as an individual and for you to discover, activate, and utilize in your calling as one, but significant, cell in the whole body of Christ. The makeup of that body consists of every eternally redeemed human who has or who will ever live. You are both an infinitesimally small piece and an indispensably important part of the whole. Nothing you can do can deny that reality; that is the irrevocable part.

Although, you can certainly ignore your job description and neglect your duties; that would be tragic. This topic is so critical that Paul will soon expand on the idea of God’s irrevocable gifts and calling later in this very letter and He will dedicate an entire section to this

topic in his first letter to the Corinthians—both of which are summarized here.

Coming up in Romans we see that God has apportioned a measure of faith to each one of us. Just as in one human body we have many body parts, and yet all those body parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many individual parts of the Body of Christ are unified into one body in Christ. Yes, each of us is a specific body part working together, having different functions—gifts imparted according to God’s grace. And the purpose of it all is that we transform into Yahweh’s divine nature—Love! And you must do so without hypocrisy.

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. Paul introduces former pagans to some of the gifts that fall into the spiritual category—spiritual gifts he calls them. Be reminded, it is Gentile converts whom he is also presently addressing in Romans. He insists that they must be educated on such things. He writes that there are varieties of gifts that come from the one Spirit, and it God who decides who gets what. We are to manifest the gifts of the Spirit for specific ministry purposes and to govern every activity of our lives, and to do so for the benefit of others.

Paul then lists some of these Spiritual gifts: wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues. He emphasizes that it is God alone who assigns these gifts as He wishes. And then, as Paul is the master allegorist, and knowing the critical importance for each of us to understand that we are an essential part of the Body of Christ, he compares those gifts to human body parts. And maybe the most consequential piece here, if we are to walk in unity, is to learn that each body part has equal significance. And that is true no matter if Paul's analogies utilize bloodlines, social status, or human body parts to make his point. We all need each other to be the fully functioning healthy Body of Christ. In other words, a pinky toe is equally as important as the brain. As a matter of fact, because some parts seem naturally less significant, the parts that have less obvious roles God showers with honor because those with obvious significance need no such acknowledgment. This equals the playing field. And hear this, because we are one body, if one part suffers, we all suffer!

Paul concludes his teaching on gifts by naming how some of these gifts operate in various church functions. Of course this is not a conclusive list: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healing, helps, administrations, and tongues. Your job remains to discover your unique gifts and calling and then to walk in them to the best of

your ability, empowered by the Holy Spirit, of course. And once again, as he does in Romans, Paul highlights the highest calling of all. In his letter to the Corinthians he dedicates the entire next section to the most excellent calling of all, to walk in God's divine nature—Love!

You can ignore your job description by neither taking the time nor making the effort to discover it, as it is only when you delight in the Lord and seek to obey Him that you will both uncover and fulfill the divine desires that God planted within you. Or, you might avoid seeking those very things altogether and thus live your entire life, from birth to death, in complete darkness. And maybe the only thing more tragic than that is to have discovered your calling and yet have chosen to run in the opposite direction like Jonah. But, even Jonah was spit up on dry land with Nineveh, his calling, staring him straight in the face—a calling he reluctantly fulfilled. If your heart is harder than even his, you might just jump back into the ocean and swim toward your Joppa—neglecting your Nineveh forever. If you insist, God will allow it, and you will eventually die treading water, having never walked in your divine calling. You may choose that path, but that does not make God's gifts and calling irrevocable, just sadly unfulfilled.

After a pointed exclamation... God's gifts and calling are irrevocable, for which we drilled down in granular detail, Paul is

still highlighting former Gentiles, but paints with broad brushstrokes. No one is more special than anyone else, regardless of how they came to the Lord. And one thing we all have in common is that we all came from a place of rebellion and that should remind us that we all needed God's mercy to save us. The mechanism is the same although the path might be different. Pagans experienced God's mercy because natural Israel first rebelled against Yahweh. And natural Israel will experience the same mercy, their desire for such being sparked by witnessing how it transformed even the worst of pagans. This intimate relationship you Gentiles obtained with Yahweh will provoke them to jealousy and they too will desire such a relationship. It had to be that way! They had to reject, so you could accept! And for that they are beloved!

And again, although each comes from a different background, the playing field is leveled. Gentiles simply represent a more noticeable example of how God operates, and that is why Paul went to them after his brethren rejected the Gospel. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God; all come from the same pool of disobedient humans; all require God's mercy; and all are saved by grace through faith, not works.

God's irrevocable plan to place the Gentiles in such an instrumental prophetic position is so complex and so mysterious that it perfectly showcases His incomparable wisdom and

knowledge. And the Bible has no shortage of teachings on wisdom and knowledge. Spiritually speaking, wisdom is the godly application of godly knowledge and thus knowledge is the essential prerequisite. Knowledge is the acquisition of God's intent on any matter; in other words, to gain understanding of His heart or thoughts about a thing.

Assume such knowledge is unapproachable, and you'd be correct—before you had unfettered access to the Holy Spirit. But, what about after? Paul again draws from His expertise of the prophets and the Torah. Who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has become His counselor? That is how Paul interprets Isaiah when he says, “Who has measured the Spirit of Yahweh or informed Him as His counselor?” And this is because Paul acknowledges that all of creation can be held in the palm of God's hand. Naturally, Yahweh did not consult with man, nor find it necessary to enlighten him on His plan. God was not bound to make His ways understandable to us. Paul chooses Job as an example. We watched Job suffer and of such we learn God felt no obligation to Job because of it—He owed Job nothing in return. And yet, for Job the end of the matter was better than the beginning, as Yahweh blessed Job's latter days more than his former days, not because He had to, but because He wanted to. For us, as His chosen vessels, the same applies. We suffer for Him and God owes us nothing. But

something happened when Y'shua made access for us to the Holy Spirit. There was a new resolution to Isaiah's question; "Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ." When you take every thought captive unto obedience to Christ, you can know the mind of God as Christ knows. You can be one with Him as He is One with Yahweh!

Let's seal the deal. From Christ all things originate, and through Him all things live and exist, and to Him are all things directed. And for these He is worthy of all the glory and honor. He existed in the beginning and all of creation came into being from His hands. Only through Him is there redemption; there is no other name under heaven that can provide eternal salvation. And to Him you must surrender your entire life. It's all about Him; and it's all about becoming like Him. Fix your eyes on Him alone and step into the fullness and stature and image of Christ.

Then peek back into the Garden and you will see that God had a plan all long. We were supposed to grow up first, before partaking in the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We were created to chew solid food, to become spiritual adults. But, it is only with practice that one becomes mature enough to chew, swallow, and digest meat. However, without effort, we will forever be suckling milk—like spiritual infants. Nevertheless, the prophetic destiny for God's people is fullness, having trained our faculties in

the spiritual maturation process to distinguish both good and evil. Only once our collective obedience is complete in such matters, will we be prepared to hold others accountable to do the same!

“Think in Bible.” DJH

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 is 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. “You should not be ignorant of this mystery!”
 - a) Let's systematically reverse engineer this one verse, as it is the platform from which we must dive to

complete this chapter effectively, and to set the stage for yet another great transition in the next.

3. Who is the “you”? Rome, and thus Paul’s audience, consisted of a mixture of peoples of many origins.
 - a) At times the Romans’ discourse is speaking to all believers...
 - 1) *“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
 - b) At times Paul is writing about unbelievers...
 - 1) *“**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
 - c) At times he is targeting the Jews...
 - 1) *“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
 - d) At other times Paul focusses his attention on the Gentile converts, as he has been doing in these present sections...

1) “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

- a) Earlier Paul wrote of how devastating ignorance can be as it was that very deficit that inspired the people of Israel to place confidence in their own strength as a means to righteousness, and that caused them to miss the righteousness of Christ.
- b) The ignorance to which he refers here will blind the Gentiles to one God’s great mysteries, one that we will come to learn allows access to the mind of God, an understanding necessary if they are to fulfill their prophetic destiny.

B. PROPHETIC OUTTAKE

(1) **Spiritual Detectives:** The call on all Christians, even presently, is to be spiritual detectives. It is given to us that we know (Matthew 13:11) and be good stewards (I Cor. 4:2) of the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven.

(a) Paul, the great Hebrew scholar, the expert in the Law, is mandated by Yahweh to solve the mysteries and deliver the Doctrine of Christianity to the world, and he is doing so by using the Old Testament.

1. Ponder these question:

a) Why would Yahweh choose a Hebrew Torah scholar to do so?

b) Why did Y'shua tell his disciples that it was their job to know the mysteries of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:11)?

c) What was the reward for searching, or the risk for staying ignorant, being wise in your own opinion, as Paul so "tactfully" words it?

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

- a) They searched the Scriptures and there were NO SCRIPTURES then, other than the Old Testament.

- 1) *"**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) **Two Pillars:** Pastoral and Prophetic

- (a) The pastoral is only one of the two pillars that hold up the Church. The prophetic is the second pillar. The Pastor operates with power (daily operations) and the Prophet with authority (daily oversight).

1. "...having been built on the foundation of the **APOSTLES AND PROPHETS**, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a HOLY TEMPLE in the Lord, in whom you also are being

built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:20-22)

- a) As a prophetic lawyer, or a biblical pattern scientist, you should minimally be able to recognize that there is a constant prophetic undertone throughout the Word of God, even if you can't quite pinpoint the mystery in every lesson. Now you can, at least, see that there is something more.
 - 1) The Bible is mostly pastoral in its application, meaning that it is about the practical everyday living that results from your born-again encounter with Y'shua and the Holy Spirit. That is what the PASTORAL does. How can we shepherd the sheep to holy and victorious living? Yet, the pastoral is only one of the two pillars that hold up the Church.
 - 2) The APOSTOLIC, or pastor of pastors is one pillar, but notice the second, the prophetic! The functional side of these two interdependent offices is that the Pastor operates with power (daily operations; he moves in strength) and the

Prophet with authority (daily oversight, he establishes directives).

- 3) It is much like a well-functioning marriage, the woman has the power, the man the authority. Femininity has all the attributes and characteristics of the Holy Spirit (helper, comforter, guide, persuader, etc.), masculinity all the attributes and characteristics of the Father (“I don’t do anything on My own, only what My Father tells Me to do.” John 5:19, 8:28)
 - 4) It is also a feature of a well-functioning US government, a division of power (separation of powers); one branch is about the people (the power of the legislative branch—Pastoral), One branch is about direction and correction (the judicial branch—Prophetic). And one branch enforces laws (the executive branch—The President)!
- (3) 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)*
 - a) They are both needed; they are interdependent.
 - b) Consider what these names mean: Jachin on the right, “He shall establish,” the authority of the Prophet. And Boaz on the left, “In His Strength,” the power of the Pastor.
- (b) It would seem that for many centuries the pastoral office has dominated the church with little or no emphasis on the prophetic pillar.
 1. This has become even more accentuated in this modern mega-church era.
 2. To be abundantly clear, the prophetic here is not about the demonstration of the prophetic gifts. Those are clearly active in many denominations.
 3. Instead, the prophetic is about the office that oversees the universal direction and correction of God’s people, co-laboring with pastoral power, both offices working for the mutual benefit of the church and the advancement of God’s initiatives on the earth.

4. The pastoral dominance is most demonstrable with the hyper-emphasis on the Gospel of Salvation, with very little advancement of the Gospel of the Kingdom.
 5. Two thousand years, and the Gospel of the Kingdom is still practically undefined by the church worldwide. It's time for a **Prophetic Reformation**.
 6. More than five hundred years ago we had a reformation of theology; this time it will be a prophetic reformation—the restoration of the prophetic authority in the earth.
- (4) 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)

- a) There is always something more! Reread the entire New Testament with new prophetic glasses and you will notice that the over-arching message is about the Gospel of the Kingdom.
 - 1) Paul’s expertise and why he was chosen to be the formulator and disseminator of Christian theology cannot be overlooked.
 - 2) Paul was chosen because he was most equipped to add new revelation to existing knowledge.
That’s precisely what Y’shua was doing every time He said, “It has been written...but I tell you...!” (See The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7)
- b) Whose job us this today? EVERY SCRIBE INSTRUCTED CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.
 - 1) *“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)

- 2) Y'shua is teaching His disciples that they need to apply their existing knowledge of Scripture to understand the deep mysteries of God, to understand the Kingdom.
- 3) Emphasize the subtle, yet, immeasurably important fact about the scribes, the biblical lawyers of the day, the experts! They too need to be “instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven.” If they, as experts, needed to be instructed, what about you? And who better to do it than Paul, an expert in the Law who now has access to the Spirit of all truth—as do you!

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) Their eyes were veiled; their ears were stopped up; and the work of their hands was thwarted.
 - (b) 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

- a) Ask and you will hear the answer.
- b) Seek and your veil shall be lifted.
- c) Knock and your hands will open doors that no one can shut.

(2) And maybe the greatest mystery off all, and the most difficult to comprehend with the human mind is this... the temporary blindness of natural Israel will persist only until **the irrevocable prophetic destiny** of the Gentiles, who are grafted into the original olive root, is fulfilled.

(a) Paul calls this “the fullness of the Gentiles,” and this might be better understood with language he used elsewhere when to the Ephesians he wrote of the purpose of the five-fold ministry of the Church, to the the Galatians for why he was laboring!

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. The body of Christ consists of many parts, each doing its share for this one ultimate purpose: Christians unite into one perfect body—Christ full formed in them! What will that look like?
 - a) We look into the mirror and see only Y’shua in our reflection...
 - 1) *“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*

- b) We become His perfect ministers and ambassadors, as He manifests in us and speaks through us...
 - 1) *“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*
- c) We literally become His human initiative partners, part of the equation as He uses the Church to judge and reconcile the world. And the mystery

uncovered here is that the Gentile converts must take the lead in this prophetic calling.

- 1) “***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) We are not quite there yet!

(a) The Age of Maturity

1. It’s over there, up there, out there, ahead of you, away from you, in the future, separate from you...

a) It is anywhere but HERE NOW.

b) And it’s time to grow up, be perfect, be mature, go onto perfection... to become the Adult Church!

(2) 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

a) This is attained with discipleship training!

1) As opposed to how Adam and Eve attempted to do so...

(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
 - a) What does perfection (maturity) look like?
 - 1) **Be Perfect:** *"Therefore you shall **be perfect**, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."* Matthew 5:48 NKJV
 - 2) **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*

3) **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

- a) What accompanies being born again that is MORE than being born again? Promises! (See II Peter 1:1-11)
- 1) Abundant Grace
 - 2) Abundant Peace
 - 3) Divine Power (Resurrection power Eph. 1:17-20)
 - 4) Everything you need for a Godly life.
 - 5) Divine nature
 - 6) Escape Corruption caused by evil desires
 - 7) Not Nearsighted or Blind
 - 8) Fruitful and Productive
 - 9) Never Stumble
 - 10) Rich welcome into the Kingdom

(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

- a) What two immutable things (anchors)?
 - 1) Example 1: Abraham endured and received the promise (because God swore on Himself)
 - 2) Example 2: Y’shua our forerunner entered behind the veil for us—so in time, becoming like Him, we too can do for others!

b) Becoming like Him: You have been sent to do the EXACT SAME JOB job He was sent to do, by the POWER of the Holy Spirit! What job is that? (see teaching about Pentecost [A Power-Worthy Church](#))

1) **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

2) **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

(3) 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

- a) We have something to anchor us to this PROMISE!
a certain and dependable anchor...
- b) Y’shua went behind the veil (when it was torn) as a
forerunner.
- c) Christians unite into one perfect body; we look
into the mirror and see only Y’shua in our
reflection.
- d) That is how we become His perfect ambassadors,
as He manifests in us and speaks through us.
- e) We literally become His human initiative partners,
part of the equation as He then uses the Church to
judge and reconcile the world.

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. All Israel will be saved; in other words, it is heavenly Israel who is redeemed.

a) 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

b) It is the unification of those who come from the natural bloodline with the Gentiles who have no previous bloodline inheritance, but have come to faith in Christ, that combine to form heavenly Israel, or as Paul says, “all of Israel who are redeemed.”

3. Paul again depends on the prophet Isaiah to explain the portion of this process that relates specifically how those from the outside (Gentiles) will graft with those who come from the natural bloodline of Jacob.

a) 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. This is part of the redemptive process for Natural Israel!

a) **“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. Also supported later in Isaiah (“*The Gentiles shall come to your light.*”):

a) *““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

b) *“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

- 1) The Redeemer comes to them as they turn away from transgression.
- 2) This can only happen as the Spirit of Yahweh comes upon them, and by grace His words are placed in their mouths.
- 3) From then on they will never again turn away from His Word, becoming a light as they are unified with their converted Gentile brothers!

(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

2. “When I take away their sins,” Yahweh declares! (And now you know how that can only occur in Christ.)
 - a) This is the image painted on the canvas of your soul.
 - b) On that day it will be a vineyard of beauty!
 - c) Whatever is of thorns and briers is removed as Yahweh’s divine protection has come.
 - d) Natural Israel and converted Gentiles will graft in to the spiritual root and will blossom and send out shoots and they will fill the face of the world with fruit.

e) Atonement is made for them in the Messiah and their sins are removed as all pagan worship is destroyed.

(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

a) Yahweh will separate the wheat and the tares and all of Israel, now identified as the redeemed

natural branches, along with the redeemed wild branches, will be gathered one by one.

- b) In the final day the great trumpet will blow, and all who were once lost to the world will come together as one and bow down to Yahweh— *“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
- c) Every knee will bow and tongue confess that Y’shua is Lord and Redeemer **of all who are called to be overcomers with God—Israel!**

(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—that **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. Those outside the covenants of promises, once called Gentiles, have become part of the “Commonwealth of Israel” through faith in the blood of Christ.

- a) Remember, this is not a grafting into the bloodline of Israel, but an Israel that is made up of all those who have come to faith in Y'shua.
 - b) This brings perfect meaning to Paul's words in the "Sinner's Prayer"— *"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
3. Those who have come into this commonwealth have a new appreciation for "the law of commandments contained in ordinances."
- a) What is this new perspective? There is no more enmity of God's commandments; hatred for the law has been put to death.
 - b) Can you say that is true in the Church?
 - c) Can you say that is true in your life?

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. Those of the natural bloodline of Israel had become enemies of God and the Lord allowed it for a grand purpose.

a) 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

b) What astounding imagery! Salvation came to Israel, by way of a pagan nation, Egypt—by divine design!

(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 13:46-47NKJV

a) Allusion to Isaiah 42:6 and 49:6

1) *“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

2) *“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! Now, contemplate this. If their failure allowed such glory, can you imagine what it will look like when their eyes can see Y'shua's glory and their ears can hear His voice. (See [One New Man](#) and reread Ephesians 2:14-18)

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. This is all part of God's irrevocable plan.
 - a) He sees the end from the beginning, as each of your days is numbered and each hair on your head is counted in advance.

- 1) *“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
- 2) *“**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
- 3) *“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

- b) He has also installed within you a unique nature, a set of gifts and talents designed specially for you as an individual and for you to discover, activate, and utilize in your calling as one, but significant, cell in the whole body of Christ.
 - c) The makeup of that body consists of every eternally redeemed human who has or who will ever live.
 - d) You are both an infinitesimally small piece and an indispensably important part of the whole.
 - e) Nothing you can do can deny that reality; that is the irrevocable part.
 - f) Although, you can certainly ignore your job description and neglect your duties; that would be tragic.
 - g) This topic is so critical that Paul will soon expand on the idea of God's irrevocable gifts and calling later in this very letter and He will dedicate an entire section to this topic in his first letter to the Corinthians—both of which are summarized here.
- (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, and yet all those body parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many individual parts of the Body of Christ are unified into one body in Christ.

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

2. Each of us is a specific body part working together, having different functions—gifts imparted according to God’s grace.
 - a) And the purpose of it all is that we transform into Yahweh’s divine nature—Love! And you must do so without hypocrisy.
- (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. Be reminded, it is Gentile converts whom he is also presently addressing in Romans. AGAIN! *“I do not want you to be ignorant.”*
 - a) He insists that they must be educated on such things. He writes that there are varieties of gifts that come from the one Spirit, and it God who decides who gets what.
 - b) We are to manifest the gifts of the Spirit for specific ministry purposes and to govern every activity of our lives, and to do so for the benefit of others.
3. Paul then lists some of these Spiritual gifts:
 - a) wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues.
 - b) He emphasizes that it is God alone who assigns these gifts as He wishes. And then, as Paul is the master allegorist, and knowing the critical

- importance for each of us to understand that we are an essential part of the Body of Christ, he compares those gifts to human body parts.
- c) And maybe the most consequential piece here, if we are to walk in unity, is to learn that each body part has equal significance.
 - d) And that is true no matter if Paul's analogies utilize bloodlines, social status, or human body parts to make his point.
4. We all need each other to be the fully functioning healthy Body of Christ.
- a) In other words, a pinky toe is equally as important as the brain.
 - b) As a matter of fact, because some parts seem naturally less significant, the parts that have less obvious roles God showers with honor because those with obvious significance need no such acknowledgment.
 - c) This equals the playing field. And hear this, because we are one body, if one part suffers, we all suffer!

5. Paul concludes his teaching on gifts by naming how some of these gifts operate in various church functions.
 - a) Of course this is not a conclusive list: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healing, helps, administrations, and tongues.
 - b) Your job remains to discover your unique gifts and calling and then to walk in them to the best of your ability, empowered by the Holy Spirit, of course.
 - c) And once again, as he does in Romans, Paul highlights the highest calling of all.
 - d) In his letter to the Corinthians he dedicates the entire next section to the most excellent calling of all, to walk in God's divine nature—Love! (See I Corinthians 13)
6. You can ignore your job description by neither taking the time nor making the effort to discover it, as it is only when you delight in the Lord and seek to obey Him that you will both uncover and fulfill the divine desires that God planted within you.
 - a) *“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*

- b) Or, you might avoid seeking those very things altogether and thus live your entire life, from birth to death, in complete darkness.
- c) And maybe the only thing more tragic than that is to have discovered your calling and yet have chosen to run in the opposite direction like Jonah.
- d) But, even Jonah was spit up on dry land with Nineveh, his calling, staring him straight in the face—a calling he reluctantly fulfilled.

1) **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*

2) **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

3) **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

4) **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

e) If your heart is harder than even Jonah’s, you might just jump back into the ocean and swim toward your Joppa—neglecting your Nineveh forever.

- f) If you insist, God will allow it, and you will eventually die treading water, having never walked in your divine calling. You may choose that path, but that does not make God's gifts and calling irrevocable, just sadly unfulfilled.

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. Paul is still highlighting former Gentiles, but paints with broad brushstrokes.
 - a) No one is more special than anyone else, regardless of how they came to the Lord.
 - b) And one thing we all have in common is that we all came from a place of rebellion and that should remind us that we all needed God's mercy to save us.

- c) The mechanism is the same although the path might be different.
 - d) Pagans experienced God's mercy because natural Israel first rebelled against Yahweh.
 - e) And natural Israel will experience the same mercy, their desire for such being sparked by witnessing how it transformed even the worst of pagans.
 - f) This intimate relationship you Gentiles obtained with Yahweh will provoke them to jealousy and they too will desire such a relationship.
 - 1) *"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. It had to be that way! They had to reject, so you could accept! And for that they are beloved!
- a) And again, although each comes from a different background, the playing field is leveled.
 - b) All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God; all come from the same pool of disobedient humans; all require God's mercy; and all are saved by grace through faith, not works.

1) *“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

c) Gentiles simply represent a more noticeable example of how God operates, and that is why Paul went to them after his brethren rejected the Gospel.

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 to place the Gentiles in such an instrumental prophetic position is so complex and so mysterious that it perfectly showcases His incomparable wisdom and knowledge.

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. The Bible has no shortage of teachings on wisdom and knowledge.

a) Spiritually speaking, wisdom is the godly application of godly knowledge and thus knowledge is the essential prerequisite.

b) Knowledge is the acquisition of God’s intent on any matter; in other words, to gain understanding of His heart or thoughts about a thing.

(2) Wisdom and Knowledge and Understanding

(a) Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! (See: [The Call of Wisdom](#) & [The Value of Wisdom](#))

1. **Wisdom:** the application of Godly knowledge and understanding.

2. **Knowledge:** the acquisition of God’s intent on any matter.

3. **Understanding:** the proper perception of God's intention.

(3) 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

a) To know... (to understand with intimate certainty)

1) **Wisdom:** the application of Godly knowledge and understanding.

2) **Instruction:** God's instructions are equal to God's word, His heart or mind on any matter as governed by His laws.

b) To perceive... (to comprehend God's true intention)

1) **Words of understanding:** God's word is not meant for private interpretation for an individual to use as rationalization for his personal choices that would otherwise be contrary to God's

intention. What God says about any matter is uncompromisable!

- c) To receive... (to actively pursue God's truth)
 - 1) **...the instruction of Wisdom:** to apply God's truth to every life circumstance!
 - 2) **...the instruction of Justice:** to use to God's righteousness as the measuring rod in every decision.
 - 3) **...the instruction of Judgment:** to discern God's proper legal ruling to govern every choice.
 - 4) **...the instruction of Equity:** to adhere to God's sincere and peaceful impartiality in every situation.
- d) To give... (to impart God's grace)
 - 1) **...prudence to the simple:** demonstrate shrewd decision-making for those who are easily influenced.
 - 2) **...knowledge and discretion to the young man:** to emphasize and display proper preparation and purposeful intention for those who are still immature in the faith.

(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
 - a) Who will take the advice of wise counsel, and add them to his bank of knowledge, his tool-kit for life?
 - 1) **A wise man:** who puts Godly knowledge into practice, who applies God's truth to every life circumstance!
 - 2) **A man of understanding:** will not engage in rationalization to justify personal choices that are contrary to God's intention. God's ways are uncompromisable.
 - b) Proverbs: words of the wise man are like understanding...
 - 1) **...an enigma:** an idea that is difficult to understand and often mysterious. The greater meaning is often hidden below the surface.
 - 2) **...a riddle:** a question or statement intentionally phrased so as to require ingenuity and deep thought in ascertaining its answer or meaning.

- (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
 - a) Any meaningful information you might obtain over the course of a lifetime must be rooted in reverence for the ONE TRUE GOD!
 - b) Anything else is foolishness:
 - 1) AKA: despising the only true source of wisdom and instruction.
 - 2) AKA: embracing wisdom and instruction rooted in some authority other than the ONE TRUE GOD!
- (4) 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. Who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has become His counselor?

- a) That is how Paul interprets Isaiah when he says, “Who has measured the Spirit of Yahweh or informed Him as His counselor?”
- b) And this is because Paul acknowledges that all of creation can be held in the palm of God’s hand.
- c) Naturally, Yahweh did not consult with man, nor find it necessary to enlighten him on His plan.
- d) God was not bound to make His ways understandable to us.

(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

a) And yet, for Job the end of the matter was better than the beginning, as Yahweh blessed Job’s latter days more than his former days, not because He had to, but because He wanted to.

(b) God owes you nothing and yet once you are prepared (by whatever suffering it takes) He will bless you 10 fold.

(c) 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; Can anyone say it better than Paul? As he realizes and appreciates what Yahweh’s plan was the whole time, he says this, “***Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!***” He then asks this interesting question, one that he also posed to the Corinthians. “*Who has known the mind of the Lord?*” But to the Corinthians He gives us THE ANSWER. We do!

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
 - a) When you take every thought captive unto obedience to Christ, you can know the mind of God as Christ knows.
 - b) You can be one with Him as He is One with Yahweh!
 - c) Yes, we can have the mind of Messiah and are charged with partnering with Him to manage creation as His HUMAN INITIATIVE PARTNERS.

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. And for these He is worthy of all the glory and honor.
 - a) *“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:** (He existed in the beginning and all of creation came into being from His hands.)
 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:** (Only through Him is there redemption; there is no other name under heaven that can provide eternal 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:** (To Him you must surrender your entire life. It's all about Him; and it's all about becoming like Him. Fix your eyes on Him alone and step into the fullness and stature and image of Christ.)

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. We were created to chew solid food, to become spiritual adults.
 - a) But, it is only with practice that one becomes mature enough to chew, swallow, and digest meat.
 - b) However, without effort, we will forever be suckling milk—like spiritual infants.
 - c) Nevertheless, the prophetic destiny for God’s people is fullness, having trained our faculties in the spiritual maturation process to distinguish both good and evil.
 - d) Once our collective obedience is complete in such matters, will we be prepared to hold others accountable to do the same!
 - 1) *“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

- 2) *“and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”* II Corinthians 10:6 NKJV

Summary: 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. “You should not be ignorant of this mystery!”
 - a) Let's systematically reverse engineer this one verse, as it is the platform from which we must dive to complete this chapter effectively, and to set the stage for yet another great transition in the next.
2. Who is the “you”? Rome, and thus Paul's audience, consisted of a mixture of peoples of many origins.
 - a) At times the Romans' discourse is speaking to all believers...
 - b) At times Paul is writing about unbelievers...
 - c) At times he is targeting the Jews...
 - d) At other times Paul focusses his attention on the Gentile converts, as he has been doing in these present sections...

- (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?
- a) Earlier Paul wrote of how devastating ignorance can be as it was that very deficit that inspired the people of Israel to place confidence in their own strength as a means to righteousness, and that caused them to miss the righteousness of Christ.
- b) The ignorance to which he refers here will blind the Gentiles to one God's great mysteries, one that we will come to learn allows access to the mind of God, an understanding necessary if they are to fulfill their prophetic destiny.

B. PROPHETIC OUTTAKE

- (1) **Spiritual Detectives:** The call on all Christians, even presently, is to be spiritual detectives. It is given to us that we know (Matthew 13:11) and be good stewards (I Cor. 4:2) of the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- (a) Paul, the great Hebrew scholar, the expert in the Law, is mandated by Yahweh to solve the mysteries and deliver the Doctrine of Christianity to the world, and he is doing so by using the Old Testament.

1. Ponder these question:
 - a) Why would Yahweh choose a Hebrew Torah scholar to do so?
 - b) Why did Y'shua tell his disciples that it was their job to know the mysteries of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:11)?
 - c) What was the reward for searching, or the risk for staying ignorant, being wise in your own opinion, as Paul so “tactfully” words it?
- (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:

- a) They searched the Scriptures and there were NO SCRIPTURES then, other than the Old Testament.

(2) **Two Pillars:** Pastoral and Prophetic

- (a) The pastoral is only one of the two pillars that hold up the Church. The prophetic is the second pillar. The Pastor operates with power (daily operations) and the Prophet with authority (daily oversight).

1. “...having been built on the foundation of the **APOSTLES AND PROPHETS**, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a HOLY

TEMPLE in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:20-22)

- a) As a prophetic lawyer, or a biblical pattern scientist, you should minimally be able to recognize that there is a constant prophetic undertone throughout the Word of God, even if you can't quite pinpoint the mystery in every lesson. Now you can, at least, see that there is something more.
 - 1) The Bible is mostly pastoral in its application, meaning that it is about the practical everyday living that results from your born-again encounter with Y'shua and the Holy Spirit. That is what the PASTORAL does. How can we shepherd the sheep to holy and victorious living? Yet, the pastoral is only one of the two pillars that hold up the Church.
 - 2) The APOSTOLIC, or pastor of pastors is one pillar, but notice the second, the prophetic! The functional side of these two interdependent offices is that the Pastor operates with power (daily operations; he moves in strength) and the

Prophet with authority (daily oversight, he establishes directives).

- 3) It is much like a well-functioning marriage, the woman has the power, the man the authority. Femininity has all the attributes and characteristics of the Holy Spirit (helper, comforter, guide, persuader, etc.), masculinity all the attributes and characteristics of the Father (“I don’t do anything on My own, only what My Father tells Me to do.” John 5:19, 8:28)
 - 4) It is also a feature of a well-functioning US government, a division of power (separation of powers); one branch is about the people (the power of the legislative branch—Pastoral), One branch is about direction and correction (the judicial branch—Prophetic). And one branch enforces laws (the executive branch—The President)!
- (3) 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. They are both needed; they are interdependent.
 - a) Consider what these names mean: Jachin on the right, “He shall establish,” the authority of the Prophet. And Boaz on the left, “In His Strength,” the power of the Pastor.
 - (b) It would seem that for many centuries the pastoral office has dominated the church with little or no emphasis on the prophetic pillar.
 1. This has become even more accentuated in this modern mega-church era.
 2. To be abundantly clear, the prophetic here is not about the demonstration of the prophetic gifts. Those are clearly active in many denominations.
 3. Instead, the prophetic is about the office that oversees the universal direction and correction of God’s people, co-laboring with pastoral power, both offices working for the mutual benefit of the church and the advancement of God’s initiatives on the earth.
 4. The pastoral dominance is most demonstrable with the hyper-emphasis on the Gospel of Salvation, with very little advancement of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

5. Two thousand years, and the Gospel of the Kingdom is still practically undefined by the church worldwide. It's time for a **Prophetic Reformation**.
 6. More than five hundred years ago we had a reformation of theology; this time it will be a prophetic reformation—the restoration of the prophetic authority in the earth.
- (4) 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)

- a) There is always something more! Reread the entire New Testament with new prophetic glasses and you will notice that the over-arching message is about the Gospel of the Kingdom.
 - 1) Paul's expertise and why he was chosen to be the formulator and disseminator of Christian theology cannot be overlooked.
 - 2) Paul was chosen because he was most equipped to add new revelation to existing knowledge.
That's precisely what Y'shua was doing every time He said, "It has been written...but I tell you...!" (See The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7)
- b) Whose job us this today? EVERY SCRIBE INSTRUCTED CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.
 - 1) Y'shua is teaching His disciples that they need to apply their existing knowledge of Scripture to understand the deep mysteries of God, to understand the Kingdom.
 - 2) Emphasize the subtle, yet, immeasurably important fact about the scribes, the biblical lawyers of the day, the experts! They too need

to be “instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven.” If they, as experts, needed to be instructed, what about you? And who better to do it than Paul, an expert in the Law who now has access to the Spirit of all truth—as do you!

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) Their eyes were veiled; their ears were stopped up; and the work of their hands was thwarted.
 1. These handicaps are only healed in Christ who imparted, by grace, this remedy:
 - a) Ask and you will hear the answer.
 - b) Seek and your veil shall be lifted.
 - c) Knock and your hands will open doors that no one can shut.
- (2) And maybe the greatest mystery of all, and the most difficult to comprehend with the human mind is this... the temporary blindness of natural Israel will persist only until **the irrevocable prophetic destiny** of the Gentiles, who are grafted into the original olive root, is fulfilled.
 - (a) Paul calls this “the fullness of the Gentiles,” and this might be better understood with language he used

elsewhere when to the Ephesians he wrote of the purpose of the five-fold ministry of the Church, to the the Galatians for why he was laboring!

1. The body of Christ consists of many parts, each doing it's share for this one ultimate purpose: Christians unite into one perfect body—Christ full formed in them! What will that look like?
 - a) We look into the mirror and see only Y'shua in our reflection...
 - b) We become His perfect ministers and ambassadors, as He manifests in us and speaks through us...
 - c) We literally become His human initiative partners, part of the equation as He uses the Church to judge and reconcile the world. And the mystery uncovered here is that the Gentile converts must take the lead in this prophetic calling.

D. Waiting on a Change

- (1) We are not quite there yet!
 - (a) The Age of Maturity
 1. It's over there, up there, out there, ahead of you, away from you, in the future, separate from you...
 - a) It is anywhere but HERE NOW.

b) And it's time to grow up, be perfect, be mature, go onto perfection... to become the Adult Church!

(2) What are the necessary changes?

(a) Mature people who can discern both good and evil

1. This is attained with discipleship training!

a) As opposed to how Adam and Eve attempted to do so...

(b) Who came to know good and evil without training by way of disobedience...

(c) Go on to perfection! Human stages of development from infancy to adulthood.

(d) There are "Things that accompany salvation!"

(e) What accompanies being born again that is MORE than being born again? Promises! (See II Peter 1:1-11)

1) Abundant Grace

2) Abundant Peace

3) Divine Power (Resurrection power Eph. 1:17-20)

4) Everything you need for a Godly life.

5) Divine nature

6) Escape Corruption caused by evil desires

7) Not Nearsighted or Blind

8) Fruitful and Productive

9) Never Stumble

10) Rich welcome into the Kingdom

- (f) Something more abundant for the heirs (beyond the promise to Abraham!) What two immutable things (anchors)?
 1. Example 1: Abraham endured and received the promise (because God swore on Himself)
 2. Example 2: Y'shua our forerunner entered behind the veil for us—so in time, becoming like Him, we too can do for others!
 - (g) Becoming like Him: You have been sent to do the EXACT SAME JOB job He was sent to do, by the POWER of the Holy Spirit! What job is that? (see teaching about Pentecost [A Power-Worthy Church](#))
- (3) Become LIKE the perfect priest.
- (a) The Anchor
 1. We have something to anchor us to this PROMISE! a certain and dependable anchor...
 - a) Y'shua went behind the veil (when it was torn) as a forerunner.
 - b) Christians unite into one perfect body; we look into the mirror and see only Y'shua in our reflection.

- c) That is how we become His perfect ambassadors, as He manifests in us and speaks through us.
- d) We literally become His human initiative partners, part of the equation as He then uses the Church to judge and reconcile the world.

Summary: 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. All Israel will be saved; in other words, it is heavenly Israel who is redeemed.

a) We've been careful to discover that there are two Israels, the natural line and the spiritual line.

b) It is the unification of those who come from the natural bloodline with the Gentiles who have no previous bloodline inheritance, but have come to faith in Christ, that combine to form heavenly Israel, or as Paul says, "all of Israel who are redeemed."

2. Paul again depends on the prophet Isaiah to explain the portion of this process that relates specifically

how those from the outside (Gentiles) will graft with those who come from the natural bloodline of Jacob.

3. This is part of the redemptive process for Natural Israel!
4. Also supported later in Isaiah (*"The Gentiles shall come to your light."*):
 - a) The Redeemer comes to them as they turn away from transgression.
 - b) This can only happen as the Spirit of Yahweh comes upon them, and by grace His words are placed in their mouths.
 - c) From then on they will never again turn away from His Word, becoming a light as they are unified with their converted Gentile brothers!

(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. "When I take away their sins," Yahweh declares!
(And now you know how that can only occur in Christ.)
 - a) This is the image painted on the canvas of your soul.

- b) On that day it will be a vineyard of beauty!
- c) Whatever is of thorns and briars is removed as Yahweh's divine protection has come.
- d) Natural Israel and converted Gentiles will graft in to the spiritual root and will blossom and send out shoots and they will fill the face of the world with fruit.
- e) Atonement is made for them in the Messiah and their sins are removed as all pagan worship is destroyed.

(b) And this shall happen on that day:

1. Yahweh will separate the wheat and the tares and all of Israel, now identified as the redeemed natural branches, along with the redeemed wild branches, will be gathered one by one.

- a) In the final day the great trumpet will blow, and all who were once lost to the world will come together as one and bow down to Yahweh.
- b) Every knee will bow and tongue confess that Y'shua is Lord and Redeemer **of all who are called to be overcomers with God—Israel!**

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

- (a) Once Gentiles: The blood of Christ makes us part of the covenants of Israel.
- (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. Those outside the covenants of promises, once called Gentiles, have become part of the “Commonwealth of Israel” through faith in the blood of Christ.
 - a) Remember, this is not a grafting into the bloodline of Israel, but an Israel that is made up of all those who have come to faith in Y’shua.
 - b) This brings perfect meaning to Paul’s words in the “Sinner’s Prayer”
 - 2. Those who have come into this commonwealth have a new appreciation for “the law of commandments contained in ordinances.”
 - a) What is this new perspective? There is no more enmity of God’s commandments; hatred for the law has been put to death.
 - b) Can you say that is true in the Church?
 - c) Can you say that is true in your life?

B. Enemies but Beloved

(1) Yahweh’s Grand Design

- (a) This was not by accident!
 - 1. Those of the natural bloodline of Israel had become enemies of God and the Lord allowed it for a grand purpose.
 - a) By divine design, much like what Joseph experienced when he said to his brothers...
 - b) What astounding imagery! Salvation came to Israel, by way of a pagan nation, Egypt—by divine design!
 - (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.
 - (b) But, He also prepared them to be rejected.
 - (c) He longed for those of the bloodline of Israel, but they would not have it.
 - (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!

- (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.
- (c) Natural Israel failed and it opened the door for the nations to come into the faith! Now, contemplate this. If their failure allowed such glory, can you imagine what it will look like when their eyes can see Y'shua's glory and their ears can hear His voice. (See [One New Man](#) and reread Ephesians 2:14-18)

C. Gifts and the Calling

- (1) God's plan is unalterable!
 - (a) What are the gifts and calling of God?
 - 1. This is all part of God's irrevocable plan.
 - a) He sees the end from the beginning, as each of your days is numbered and each hair on your head is counted in advance.
 - b) He has also installed within you a unique nature, a set of gifts and talents designed specially for you as an individual and for you to discover, activate, and utilize in your calling as one, but significant, cell in the whole body of Christ.

- c) The makeup of that body consists of every eternally redeemed human who has or who will ever live.
 - d) You are both an infinitesimally small piece and an indispensably important part of the whole.
 - e) Nothing you can do can deny that reality; that is the irrevocable part.
 - f) Although, you can certainly ignore your job description and neglect your duties; that would be tragic.
 - g) This topic is so critical that Paul will soon expand on the idea of God's irrevocable gifts and calling later in this very letter and He will dedicate an entire section to this topic in his first letter to the Corinthians—both of which are summarized here.
- (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, and yet all those body parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many individual parts of the Body of Christ are unified into one body in Christ.

1. Each of us is a specific body part working together, having different functions—gifts imparted according to God’s grace.
 - a) And the purpose of it all is that we transform into Yahweh’s divine nature—Love! And you must do so without hypocrisy.
- (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. Be reminded, it is Gentile converts whom he is also presently addressing in Romans. AGAIN! *“I do not want you to be ignorant.”*
 - a) He insists that they must be educated on such things. He writes that there are varieties of gifts that come from the one Spirit, and it God who decides who gets what.
 - b) We are to manifest the gifts of the Spirit for specific ministry purposes and to govern every activity of our lives, and to do so for the benefit of others.
2. Paul then lists some of these Spiritual gifts:

- a) wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues.
 - b) He emphasizes that it is God alone who assigns these gifts as He wishes. And then, as Paul is the master allegorist, and knowing the critical importance for each of us to understand that we are an essential part of the Body of Christ, he compares those gifts to human body parts.
 - c) And maybe the most consequential piece here, if we are to walk in unity, is to learn that each body part has equal significance.
 - d) And that is true no matter if Paul's analogies utilize bloodlines, social status, or human body parts to make his point.
3. We all need each other to be the fully functioning healthy Body of Christ.
- a) In other words, a pinky toe is equally as important as the brain.
 - b) As a matter of fact, because some parts seem naturally less significant, the parts that have less obvious roles God showers with honor because

those with obvious significance need no such acknowledgment.

- c) This equals the playing field. And hear this, because we are one body, if one part suffers, we all suffer!
4. Paul concludes his teaching on gifts by naming how some of these gifts operate in various church functions.
- a) Of course this is not a conclusive list: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healing, helps, administrations, and tongues.
 - b) Your job remains to discover your unique gifts and calling and then to walk in them to the best of your ability, empowered by the Holy Spirit, of course.
 - c) And once again, as he does in Romans, Paul highlights the highest calling of all.
 - d) In his letter to the Corinthians he dedicates the entire next section to the most excellent calling of all, to walk in God's divine nature—Love! (See I Corinthians 13)
5. You can ignore your job description by neither taking the time nor making the effort to discover it, as it is only when you delight in the Lord and seek to obey

Him that you will both uncover and fulfill the divine desires that God planted within you.

- a) Or, you might avoid seeking those very things altogether and thus live your entire life, from birth to death, in complete darkness.
- b) And maybe the only thing more tragic than that is to have discovered your calling and yet have chosen to run in the opposite direction like Jonah.
- c) But, even Jonah was spit up on dry land with Nineveh, his calling, staring him straight in the face—a calling he reluctantly fulfilled.
 - 1) Fleeing the presence (calling) of the Lord:
 - 2) Apprehended by God even in the midst of rebellion:
 - 3) Violently placed back in alignment with his calling:
 - 4) His gifts and calling reiterated and this time obeyed:
- d) If your heart is harder than even Jonah's, you might just jump back into the ocean and swim toward your Joppa—neglecting your Nineveh forever.
- e) If you insist, God will allow it, and you will eventually die treading water, having never walked

in your divine calling. You may choose that path, but that does not make God's gifts and calling irrevocable, just sadly unfulfilled.

D. It had to happen like this!

(1) After a pointed exclamation...

(a) God's gifts and calling are irrevocable...

1. Paul is still highlighting former Gentiles, but paints with broad brushstrokes.

a) No one is more special than anyone else, regardless of how they came to the Lord.

b) And one thing we all have in common is that we all came from a place of rebellion and that should remind us that we all needed God's mercy to save us.

c) The mechanism is the same although the path might be different.

d) Pagans experienced God's mercy because natural Israel first rebelled against Yahweh.

e) And natural Israel will experience the same mercy, their desire for such being sparked by witnessing how it transformed even the worst of pagans.

- f) This intimate relationship you Gentiles obtained with Yahweh will provoke them to jealousy and they too will desire such a relationship.
2. It had to be that way! They had to reject, so you could accept! And for that they are beloved!
- a) And again, although each comes from a different background, the playing field is leveled.
 - b) All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God; all come from the same pool of disobedient humans; all require God's mercy; and all are saved by grace through faith, not works.
 - c) Gentiles simply represent a more noticeable example of how God operates, and that is why Paul went to them after his brethren rejected the Gospel.

Summary: 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 to place the Gentiles in such an instrumental prophetic position is so complex and so

mysterious that it perfectly showcases His incomparable wisdom and knowledge.

1. The Bible has no shortage of teachings on wisdom and knowledge.

a) Spiritually speaking, wisdom is the godly application of godly knowledge and thus knowledge is the essential prerequisite.

b) Knowledge is the acquisition of God's intent on any matter; in other words, to gain understanding of His heart or thoughts about a thing.

(2) Wisdom and Knowledge and Understanding

(a) Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! (See: [The Call of Wisdom](#) & [The Value of Wisdom](#))

1. **Wisdom:** the application of Godly knowledge and understanding.

2. **Knowledge:** the acquisition of God's intent on any matter.

3. **Understanding:** the proper perception of God's intention.

(3) 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
 - a) To know... (to understand with intimate certainty)
 - 1) **Wisdom:** the application of Godly knowledge and understanding.
 - 2) **Instruction:** God's instructions are equal to God's word, His heart or mind on any matter as governed by His laws.
 - b) To perceive... (to comprehend God's true intention)
 - 1) **Words of understanding:** God's word is not meant for private interpretation for an individual to use as rationalization for his personal choices that would otherwise be contrary to God's intention. What God says about any matter is uncompromisable!
 - c) To receive... (to actively pursue God's truth)
 - 1) **...the instruction of Wisdom:** to apply God's truth to every life circumstance!

- 2) **...the instruction of Justice:** to use to God's righteousness as the measuring rod in every decision.
- 3) **...the instruction of Judgment:** to discern God's proper legal ruling to govern every choice.
- 4) **...the instruction of Equity:** to adhere to God's sincere and peaceful impartiality in every situation.

d) To give... (to impart God's grace)

- 1) **...prudence to the simple:** demonstrate shrewd decision-making for those who are easily influenced.
- 2) **...knowledge and discretion to the young man:** to emphasize and display proper preparation and purposeful intention for those who are still immature in the faith.

(b) Who will heed these words?

1. Who will take the advice of wise counsel, and add them to his bank of knowledge, his tool-kit for life?
 - 1) **A wise man:** who puts Godly knowledge into practice, who applies God's truth to every life circumstance!

- 2) **A man of understanding:** will not engage in rationalization to justify personal choices that are contrary to God's intention. God's ways are uncompromisable.
- b) Proverbs: words of the wise man are like understanding...
- 1) **...an enigma:** and idea that is difficult to understand and often mysterious. The greater meaning is often hidden below the surface.
 - 2) **...a riddle:** a question or statement intentionally phrased so as to require ingenuity and deep thought in ascertaining its answer or meaning.
- (c) You can sum up all 31 Proverbs with this simple, yet infinitely profound, idea:
1. Any meaningful information you might obtain over the course of a lifetime must be rooted in reverence for the ONE TRUE GOD!
 - a) Anything else is foolishness:
 - 1) AKA: despising the only true source of wisdom and instruction.
 - 2) AKA: embracing wisdom and instruction rooted in some authority other than the ONE TRUE GOD!

- (4) Knowledge (To find the knowledge of God.)
 - (a) Paul was certain that the knowledge of God was the top priority...
 - (b) Because the knowledge of God yielded this fruit...
 - (c) Peter was certain that the knowledge of God was the top priority...
 - (d) Because the knowledge of God yielded this fruit...

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 known the mind of the Lord, or who has become His counselor?
 - a) That is how Paul interprets Isaiah when he says, "Who has measured the Spirit of Yahweh or informed Him as His counselor?"
 - b) And this is because Paul acknowledges that all of creation can be held in the palm of God's hand.
 - c) Naturally, Yahweh did not consult with man, nor find it necessary to enlighten him on His plan.

d) God was not bound to make His ways understandable to us.

(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. And yet, for Job the end of the matter was better than the beginning, as Yahweh blessed Job's latter days more than his former days, not because He had to, but because He wanted to.

(b) God owes you nothing and yet once you are prepared (by whatever suffering it takes) He will bless you 10 fold.

(c) A quick summary of Job's process...

1. God's Sovereign Position:

2. Job's Repentance:

3. Job's Restoration:

4. The end is better than the beginning:

(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; Can anyone say it better than Paul? As he realizes and appreciates what Yahweh’s plan was the whole time, he says this, “***Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!***” He then asks this interesting question, one that he also posed to the Corinthians. “*Who has known the mind of the Lord?*” But to the Corinthians He gives us THE ANSWER. We do!
1. When you take every thought captive unto obedience to Christ, you can know the mind of God as Christ knows.
 - a) You can be one with Him as He is One with Yahweh!
 - b) Yes, we can have the mind of Messiah and are charged with partnering with Him to manage creation as His HUMAN INITIATIVE PARTNERS.

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. And for these He is worthy of all the glory and honor.
 - (b) **Of Him... Creation:** (He existed in the beginning and all of creation came into being from His hands.)
 - (c) **Through Him... Salvation:** (Only through Him is there redemption; there is no other name under heaven that can provide eternal salvation.)
 - (d) **To Him... Perfection:** (To Him you must surrender your entire life. It's all about Him; and it's all about becoming like Him. Fix your eyes on Him alone and step into the fullness and stature and image of Christ.)
- (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...
 - (b) We were meant to grow up first, before partaking in the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
 1. We were created to chew solid food, to become spiritual adults.
 - a) But, it is only with practice that one becomes mature enough to chew, swallow, and digest meat.
 - b) However, without effort, we will forever be suckling milk—like spiritual infants.
 - c) Nevertheless, the prophetic destiny for God's people is fullness, having trained our faculties in

the spiritual maturation process to distinguish both good and evil.

- d) Once our collective obedience is complete in such matters, will we be prepared to hold others accountable to do the same!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. What is the ignorance Paul is warning about in Romans 11:25?

- A. Who is he addressing?
- B. What does “fullness of the Gentiles” mean? (See Ephesians 4:11-16; Galatians 4:19; II Corinthians 3:17-18)

2. Those of the natural bloodline of Israel were temporarily blinded by God—on purpose.

- A. How does Matthew 7:7-8 remedy that their eyes were veiled; their ears were stopped up; and that the work of their hands was thwarted?

3. What does the ministry of the mature Church entail? (See II Corinthians 5:18-21)

- A. What does maturity look like (See Hebrews 5:12-14; 6:1-3; John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:1-6)
- B. How does the path to this maturity remedy the error in the Garden? (See Genesis 2:15-17; 3:2-7)

C. What things accompany salvation according to Hebrews 6:9-20?

4. Explain what it mean that all Israel will be saved from Romans 11:26-27.

A. How can you further explain the process and how it interrelates the natural bloodline of Israel with converted Gentiles? (See Isaiah 27:1-13; 59:20-21; 60:1-3)

B. Seal this understanding using Ephesians 2:11-18 and Romans 10:12-13.

5. Yahweh's grand design is perfectly depicted in Romans 11:28.

A. Why can we say His plan was not an accident?

B. How does the story of Joseph support the idea that God's plan often looks problematic, but always works out the way He designed it? (See Genesis 50:20)

C. Use the following passage to support that it was God's plan all along for Israel to reject the Messiah at first and why! (See: Matthew 10:6-14; 23:37-39; Acts 13:46-47; Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; Acts 18:5-6)

6. What does it mean that the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable? (See Romans 11:29)

A. Explain how God sees the end from the beginning, as each of your days is numbered and each hair on your head is

counted in advance. (Use: Isaiah 46:9-10; Psalms 139:13-16; Luke 12:7)

7. God has apportioned a measure of faith to each one of us and thus imparted gifts and a calling to us.

- A. Use Romans 12:3-9 and I Corinthians 12:1-31 to describe in detail how Paul relates such gifts and calling to different parts of the Human body working to support the whole body.
- B. How can you tap your calling according to Psalms 37:3-5?
- C. What might it look like to run from your calling using Job as an example? (See: Jonah 1:2-3; 1:15-17; 2:10; 3:1-3)

8. Support this statement using Romans 11:30-32.

- A. God's gifts and calling are irrevocable so the plan had to unfold the way it did.

9. What is the resolution to the dilemmas in Romans 11:33-35, "How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" And, "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?"

- A. See I Corinthians 2:16; II Corinthians 10:4-6; and John 17:23 to guide your answer.
- B. 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, and yet it all worked out perfectly. (See Job 41:11; 41:33-34; 42:1-12)

10. From Christ all things originate, and through Him all things live and exist, and to Him are all things directed as per Romans

11:36. Write a short essay explain each of those three ideas:

- A. **Of Him... Creation:** He existed in the beginning and all of creation came into being from His hands. (See: Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:15-17; John 1:1-10)
- B. **Through Him... Salvation:** Only through Him is there redemption; there is no other name under heaven that can provide eternal salvation. (See: Acts 4:12; Romans 10:13)
- C. **To Him... Perfection:** To Him you must surrender your entire life. It's all about Him; and it's all about becoming like Him. Fix your eyes on Him alone and step into the fullness and stature and image of Christ. (Ephesians 4:13; Hebrews 12:2; John 3:30; Galatians 2:20; Luke 14:33)