

'It Is Written' Is Written OFTEN in Paul's Epistles

Paul used the phrase "It is written," 31 times in his 13 epistles.

16 of those 31 times are in what-'mid-Acts-ers'-call **the FOUNDATIONAL book** for 'the body of Christ', which is Paul's epistle to the Romans.

Just that **numerical fact alone should cause them to question** their teaching that Paul had all this **new information** that no one ever knew in time past. 'Mid-Acts-ers' believe that God committed a body of truth to Paul that was **DIFFERENT** from what-they-classify as 'Israel's program'. They think a wealth of '**mystery**' **revelation** was given to only Paul that was **SEPARATE** from believers who had been saved before him.

IF that was true why would Paul have quoted the OLD testament so many times? Let's examine the context surrounding Paul's use of the OLD testament to see if he applied any of those OLD principles under grace.

'Mid-Acts-hyper-dispensationalists' boldly say that Paul had 'his own' gospel (given to him by God, of course) because his use of the term '**my gospel**' (3 times). They describe **Paul's gospel** as '**the gospel of Christ**' because he is the only writer that used that specific term (11 times). Then Paul referenced OLD covenant prophecy and brought it current into grace:

Rom 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: **as it is written**, The just shall live by faith. (from Habakkuk 2: 4)

'Mid-Acts-ers' **completely IGNORE** the fact that the introduction of **Mark's gospel** began with **Christ's gospel**, too; it's just that Mark added Jesus' name in the gospel title, and further, that Christ is God's Son. Mark also followed his opening with an 'it is written' statement from OLD testament prophecy (see Mal 3:1, Isa 40:3) which was fulfilled by John the Baptist (Matt 17:10-13, 11:7-14):

Mark 1:1-3 The beginning of **the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;**

2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

To recap **STRIKE 1 against 'mid-Acts' doctrine: 'It is written'**

In Rom 1:16-17, Paul linked the gospel of Christ Who was the Mediator of the NEW testament through his blood (1 Tim 2:5; Heb 8:6, 9:15, 12:24) to the OLD testament prophecy of the just living by faith.

Paul called out the Jews and charged them for not leading the Gentiles to God as they should. He used an OLD testament prophecy against them, that was **right then being fulfilled during the dispensation of grace:**

Rom 2:17-24 Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,

18 And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;

19 And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,

20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.

What privilege they had on their side but they squandered it:

(Rom 2:) 21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?

22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?

23 Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?

24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, **as it is written.** (Isa 52:5)

Then Paul **MOVED** circumcision from the **physical** to the **spiritual**:

(Rom 2:) 25 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.

26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?

27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?

Israel 'after the flesh' (Rom 9:8, 1 Cor 10:18) had no more claim to God. Their OLD testament passed away and a NEW one took its place (Heb 8:13) wherein, Jews were no longer 'in the flesh' but 'in the spirit':

(Rom 2:) 28 For he is **not** a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

29 But he **is** a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Abraham's physical children had been replaced by his spiritual children:

Gal 3:6-9 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

7 Know ye therefore that **they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.** (NOT physical Israel anymore, but spiritual Israel)

8 And **the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying,** In thee shall all nations be blessed. (another 'it is written' prophecy realized)

9 So then **they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.**

Paul repeated this doctrine throughout his epistles that physical Israel has been succeeded by spiritual Israel, made up of ALL those of faith. Yet 'mid-Acts-ers' **avoid** this truth, and totally **separate** themselves from any connection to Israel. They are **hyper-DIVIDERS**, not right-dividers:

Rom 9:6-8 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect.

For **they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:**

7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

8 That is, **They which are the children of the flesh,**

these are not the children of God:

but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Who is that, Paul? Tell us, who the children of the promise are:

Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made.

He saith not, And to seeds, as of many;

but as of one, And to **thy seed, which is Christ.**

Gal 3:26-29 For **ye are all the children of God**
by faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek,**

there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female:

for **ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Here is where WE get connected to Christ to Abraham to Israel:

(Gal 3:) 29 And **if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

To recap **STRIKE 2** against 'mid-Acts' doctrine: **'It is written'**

In Rom 2:24, Paul brought the OLD testament prophecy up-to-date and applied it in his day, as the physical Jews had generally disregarded the gospel of God's Son, and caused the Gentiles to criticize God's name.

While claiming to have such a good handle on the Bible, 'mid-Acts-ers' are rather confused on whether to teach salvation in the OLD testament was by

- **faith alone** (which they don't want to say because that would make salvation be 'like it is now' and they maintain it was 'different')

or by

- **faith PLUS works** (which many believe, but are afraid to document a commitment **in writing** so they can easier escape being pinned down on their doctrine of this issue).

One year at a summer Illinois conference, the 'mid-Acts-ers' had some 'closed-door, preacher-only' meetings about their position on **Justification in what-they-call 'Israel's program' or Salvation under the OLD Testament**. I was amazed at the lack of knowledge displayed by men who were preachers there, that made presentations during these nightly sessions. They appeared to be in utter doctrinal disarray. Since they had no consensus, the preachers were assigned to go home and study for a year, then bring their findings to present to each other the following year. The next year, nothing was ever even mentioned about any of it, as if the meetings never took place, and the homework was never given. I personally took the challenge seriously, and prepared a lengthy 30+ pages on the subject of 'Justification, Then and Now', which I gave to the main leader several months later and asked for his response to my essay. He never 'got back with me' about it. Now, looking back, I can say, "No surprise!" Though I disagree now with what I wrote then, I realize that those 'mid-Acts' preachers have **settled in smug** with their 2 programs, 2 destinies, 2 peoples of God, **2 plans of salvation, 2 means of justification, 2 Jesus', 2 comings, 2**, 2, 2 **Study takes effort** (like 'a workman' in 2 Tim 2:15, their theme verse), and evidently, they are too busy or uninterested to exert diligence for that. For them, it's 'mystery, mystery, mystery' all the time, taking no questions. Now I'm hoping to stop others from following their foolishness. I'm trying to wake people up to examine the verses, see their error, and get out!

Another 'it is written' application about justification of the Gentiles, where Paul brings up the OLD and changes it into the NEW yet again,

in the context, involves

- circumcision
- Abraham
- his seed
- the law
- inheritance
- faith

and • grace.

God (through Paul) chose Abraham for an example

- of justification without works
- of righteousness by faith **BEFORE the law:** (see Gal 3:17-25)

Rom 4:1-18 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

3 For **what saith the scripture?** Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. (**Gen 15:6**)

4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

God (through Paul) used David as another model of **spiritual** blessing

- of righteousness without works
- of justification by faith **AFTER the law:**

(Rom 4:) 6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

David being forgiven of his sins, goes against the 'mid-Acts' doctrine that Israel won't be forgiven of their sins until Jesus Christ returns from heaven.

In time past, David understood and enjoyed forgiveness of his sins:

(Rom 4:) 7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. (Psa 32:1, 85:2, 130:3,4)

8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. (Psa 32:2)

Was that promise of blessing (righteousness without works, forgiveness of sins) only for the Jews? or also for the Gentiles? Looking back to Abraham, he was justified **BEFORE** he put the token of God's everlasting covenant (physical circumcision) in his flesh (Gen 17:9-13):

(Rom 4:) 9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also?

for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

10 **How was it then reckoned?**

when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision?

Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

Was Abraham 'sealed' in righteousness by faith?

11 And he received the **sign** of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised:

that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised;

that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

12 And the father of circumcision

to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also **walk in the steps of that faith** of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

Under the OLD covenant, Israel had physical circumcision PLUS

spiritual circumcision: (also see Deut 10:16, Jer 4:4)

Deut 30:6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed,

to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

When the Gentiles were brought into the NEW covenant,

they were not put under physical circumcision (Acts 15:1,5,19).

Instead of physical circumcision we have a spiritual circumcision (Col 2:11).

Now, instead of being the circumcision in the flesh, we are the circumcision in the heart, in the spirit: (Phil 3:3, and also remember Rom 2:28-29).

The inheritance God made to Abraham was by promise, not by the law:

(Rom 4:) 13 For **the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.**

Paul applied these same promises and blessings originally given to Abraham and his seed to the saints in the dispensation of grace:

Gal 4:28 Now **we**, brethren, as Isaac was, **are the children of promise.**

It is not the physical not the flesh not the law ----

but the spiritual the promise the faith the grace:

(Rom 4:) 14 For if they which are of the law be heirs,
faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

What Paul explained to saints at Rome, he also instructed saints at Galatia:

Gal 3:18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise:
but **God gave it to Abraham by promise.** (also remember Gal 3:6-9)

Abraham is not only the father of the Jews, but of **ALL** them that believe:

(Rom 4:) 15 Because the law worketh wrath:
for where no law is, there is no transgression.

16 Therefore **it is of faith, that it might be by grace;
to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed;
not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of
the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,**

Paul realized that the promise, God's word to Abraham, was effective to the Gentiles, where he took the gospel of Jesus Christ:

(Rom 4:) 17 (**As it is written**, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that **he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken**, So shall thy seed be. (the same prophecy Paul quoted in Gal 3:8-9)

To recap **STRIKE 3 against 'mid-Acts' doctrine: 'It is written'**

In the context of Rom 4:17, Paul brought the OLD prophecy forward from out of time past, even before the law, and used it to describe the **same doctrines he taught:**

- salvation by grace
 - justification without works
 - righteousness by faith
- and • inheritance to the seed of Abraham.

These teachings were not 'new', nor were they 'mystery', given only to Paul.

The 'mid-Acts-ers' own apostle struck them out! Luke recorded words out of Paul's own mouth, that 'mid-Acts-ers' refuse to accept (Acts 28:23):

Acts 26:22-23 Having therefore obtained help of God, **I continue unto this day**, witnessing both to small and great, **saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:**

23 That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

We just looked at 3 'it is written' statements where Paul brought in 'OLD' truth, that prove 'mid-Acts-ers' wrong. But there are many, many more!