

Right Division Soundbites # 1

Prophecy / Mystery

Years ago a list of contrasts, prepared by a 'mid-Acts' dean, was made available for distribution. It was titled 'Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth', and suggested as soundbites to create teaching situations. There were 26 separate issues listed. We plan to deal with one topic on Sunday mornings.

<p>1. Prophecy - Spoken about since the world began Luke 1:68-70, Acts 3:21-24</p> <p>Luke 1:68-70 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, 69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; 70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:</p>	<p>Mystery - Kept secret since the world began Rom 16:25, Eph 3:5, Col 1:26</p> <p>Rom 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,</p>
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The Cunning Royal Jester contrasts Luke 1:70 with Rom 16:25, and says he's got enough sense to see that something that is **spoken** and something that is **kept secret** cannot be the same. Because his statement is reasonable, people can be hooked to accept his stories, eager for more.

Early on, we know that the nation Israel was God's chosen people:

Exo 6:6-7 Wherefore **say unto the children of Israel**, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and **I will redeem you** with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:
7 And **I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God:** and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

But 'mid-Acts-ers' ignore God's promise, **through Paul**, that now

'WE spiritual' people have replaced 'national' Israel.

The scripture references, originally written for THEM,

are now applied, through Paul, to US:

2 Cor 6:16-18 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for **ye** are the temple of the living God; **as God hath said**, (Lev 26:12, and many others) I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (Num 16:21, 26; Psa 1:1-3, Isa 52:11, also Rev 18:4)

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, **saith the Lord Almighty**. (Hos 1:10, Jer 31:1, also Rev 21:7)

It is true that from the beginning God revealed His plan to redeem 'His people'. However, it is also true -- and 'mid-Acts-ers' don't mention -- that God, **through Paul**, explained who the 'Israel of God' (Gal 6:16) really is.

It is not those that are the **physical descendants of Abraham:**

Rom 2:28-29 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.

'Mid-Acts-ers' say those verses, which God, **through Paul**, wrote to the saints, is ONLY saying that a PHYSICAL Jew had to be a SPIRITUAL Jew.

Whereas Israel WAS the circumcision God said, **through Paul**, that 'WE' are the circumcision. 'Mid-Acts-ers' don't want to accept that:

Phil 3:3 For **we are the circumcision**, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

'Mid-Acts-ers' **completely dismiss** Romans chapters 9, 10, and 11, as 'not to us'. They say that section of the Bible shows how God set Israel aside during the parenthesis (dispensation of grace). Yet there, God, **through Paul**, taught that 'fleshly' Israel is not the 'true' Israel:

Rom 9:8 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.**

To the churches of Galatia, God, **through Paul**, taught that WE are the children of promise, not just 'believing Jews', as 'mid-Acts-ers' portray:

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

God, **through Paul**, also taught that WE are the seed of Abraham and therefore, his rightful HEIRS:

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

The 'Dean's Right Division List' also referenced Eph 3:5, to try to show **a DIFFERENCE** between what was 'spoken' and 'kept secret' since the world began. As we read the context, notice that Eph 3:5 does NOT say that the mystery of Christ was 'not made known **AT ALL** in other ages' but that the mystery was 'not made known **AS IT IS NOW** revealed':

Eph 3:4-6 Whereby, **when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)**

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

2 other important points to notice in Eph 3:5 are as follows:

Point # 1) “The mystery of Christ” “as it is now revealed”

was revealed **“unto his holy apostles and prophets”**

NOT just to Paul as ‘mid-Acts-ers’ teach.

Paul was not the ONLY one to whom God revealed the mystery.

God revealed the mystery unto (all) His apostles and prophets, including Apollos and Peter, specifically named as stewards of the mystery [Greek = musterion, translated both singular and plural] in 1 Cor 3:21-4:2.

Point # 2) “The mystery of Christ” “as it is now revealed”

was revealed **“unto his holy apostles and prophets”**

NOT ‘BY’ Paul as ‘mid-Acts-ers’ teach

but it was revealed to them **“by the Spirit;”** as the scriptures teach.

Eph 3:6 specifically gives 3 details, exactly what the mystery of Christ is.

Mystery Detail # 1) Now WE are ‘fellow-HEIRS’ WITH Israel:

Eph 3:6-a That **the Gentiles should be fellowheirs,**

We know the PROPHECY spoken since the world began

of the **INHERITANCE** God promised to Abraham and Israel.

The MYSTERY is that the PROPHECY now belongs to us!

The PROPHECY is NOT to be CONTRASTED to the MYSTERY

nor set in OPPOSITION to the MYSTERY rather,

the PROPHECY is now EXPANDED to INCLUDE and APPLY to us!

Paul explained this SAME THING 2 other separate times.

To the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:17), Paul taught that the Gentiles were now FELLOW-HEIRS with ALL the saints who were sanctified:

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God,
and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up,
and **to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.**

When recounting his conversion experience on the Damascus Road to King Agrippa, Paul said that Jesus told him, that the Gentiles will SHARE in Israel's inheritance with those who were already sanctified by faith in Christ:

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that **they may receive** forgiveness of sins, and **inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

Were there any saints who were sanctified BEFORE PAUL? Of course! Jesus' disciples / apostles were sanctified as well as everyone who would believe on Christ through their ministry. This next passage also includes Mystery Detail # 2), that the sanctified saints were all made ONE:

John 17:17-23 **Sanctify them** through thy truth: thy word is truth.
18 As thou hast sent me into the world,
even so have I also sent them into the world.
19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself,
that **they also might be sanctified** through the truth.
20 Neither pray I for these alone,
but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;
21 **That they all may be one;** as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee,
that **they also may be one in us:** that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.
22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that **they may be one,** even as we are one:

(John 17:) 23 I in them, and thou in me, that **they may be made perfect in one**; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Mystery Detail # 2) Now WE are 'of the SAME BODY' WITH Israel:

Eph 3:6-b That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs,
and **of the same body**,
and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

'Mid-Acts-ers' **totally ISOLATE** saints in the body of Christ away from all the other saints in the Bible. 'Mid-Acts-ers' make a **completely SEPARATE** group with ONLY people who have been saved through Paul's ministry. NO WHERE in SCRIPTURE are the saints of God segregated -- that is only in 'mid-Acts' doctrine. We are actually JOINED to them:

1 Cor 10:16-17 The cup of blessing which we bless,
is it not the **communion** of the blood of Christ?
The **bread** which we break,
is it not the **communion of the body of Christ**?
17 For **we being many are one bread, and one body**:
for **we are all partakers of that one bread**. (also John 6:33,35,48)

Matthew wrote of the communion that believers have with each other, and with Jesus. 'Mid-Acts-ers' are teaching DIVISION in the body of Christ:

Matt 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; **this is my body**.

John wrote of the communion that believers have with each other, and with the Father, and with the Son:

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that **ye also may have fellowship** (same Greek word as translated 'communion') **with us**: and truly our **fellowship** (same Greek word also translated 'communion') is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

The saints who were "in Christ" BEFORE Paul were certainly in the body of Christ ... yet 'mid-Acts-ers' EXCLUDE them from the body of Christ:

Rom 16:7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

Paul taught about the one body and retaining its UNITY:

Eph 4:3-6 Endeavouring to **keep the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace.

- 4 **There is one body,** and one Spirit,
even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;
5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
6 One God and Father of all,
who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Mystery Detail # 3) Now WE are 'PARTAKERS' WITH Israel:

Eph 3:6-c That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

'Mid-Acts-ers' say Jesus Christ was only for Israel however, they always

STOP reading at verse 8 because verses 9-12 show the Gentiles included:

Rom 15:8-12 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:

- 9 **And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy;**
as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee **among the Gentiles,** and sing unto thy name.
10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.
11 And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.
12 And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; **in him shall the Gentiles trust.**

WE Gentiles, being 'in Christ' now partake of ALL God's promises:

2 Cor 1:20 For **all the promises of God in him are yea,** **and in him Amen,** unto the glory of God by us.

'Mid-Acts-ers' separate Peter's message about the coming of Christ and the times of restitution of all things as different from Paul's teaching about the same end-time:

Acts 3:20-21 And **he shall send Jesus Christ,**

which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until **the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.**

Paul also taught that when Jesus returns from heaven, it will be the end when all things will be restored:

1 Cor 15:23-28 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are **Christ's at his coming.**

24 **Then cometh the end,** when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

27 For **he hath put all things under his feet.** But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

28 And **when all things shall be subdued unto him,** (also Phil 3:21) then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

There will only be one 'end of the world'. It has been taught by many of the prophets, and Matthew, in Hebrews, and in Paul's epistles:

Eph 1:9-11 **Having made known unto us the mystery of his will,** according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 **That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth;** even in him:

11 **In whom also we have obtained an inheritance,** being predestinated according to the purpose of him who **worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**

We do not have a different inheritance than other saints

we are fit to be partakers WITH all the saints:

Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath **made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints** in light:

Remember 2 Cor 6:16-18, saints, as we read the same promise in the end:

Rev 21:7 **He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.**

In conclusion, prophecy and mystery are not opposites. The prophecy was made to Israel but they refused, and God cast them out for good:

Gal 4:30-31 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? **Cast out** the bondwoman and her son: **for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.**

31 So then, brethren, **we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.**

God brought in the Gentiles, and 'prophetically' and 'mysteriously' accepted them:

Acts 15:13-18 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

14 **Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.**

15 And **to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,**
16 **After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:**

17 **That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.**

18 **Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.**

*This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"
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