

LESSON # 7

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD

II Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

“Study (exert one’s self, give diligence in body and mind) to shew thyself (sometimes is the only reason a person studies—to show he’s smarter than someone else/to win an argument—but this is not the purpose of studying the Bible).

to shew thyself approved unto God (letting God evaluate your performance and purpose).

a workman (then there is work we must do to be approved by God) that needeth not to be ashamed (there is no need for our being embarrassed in this world or the next if we have studied and know God’s will and have diligently worked to do it—See Matthew 7:21.)

rightly dividing the word of truth (to make proper distribution of that word, adapting instructions to circumstances and wants of hearers, and giving each that which will nourish his soul) (dividing the Bible—to properly apply those things written to those under the Patriarchal law, the Mosaic law, and the Law of Christ).

I Corinthians 3:2 I have fed you with milk and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Hebrews 5:12 For when the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God and are become such as have need of milk and not of strong drink.

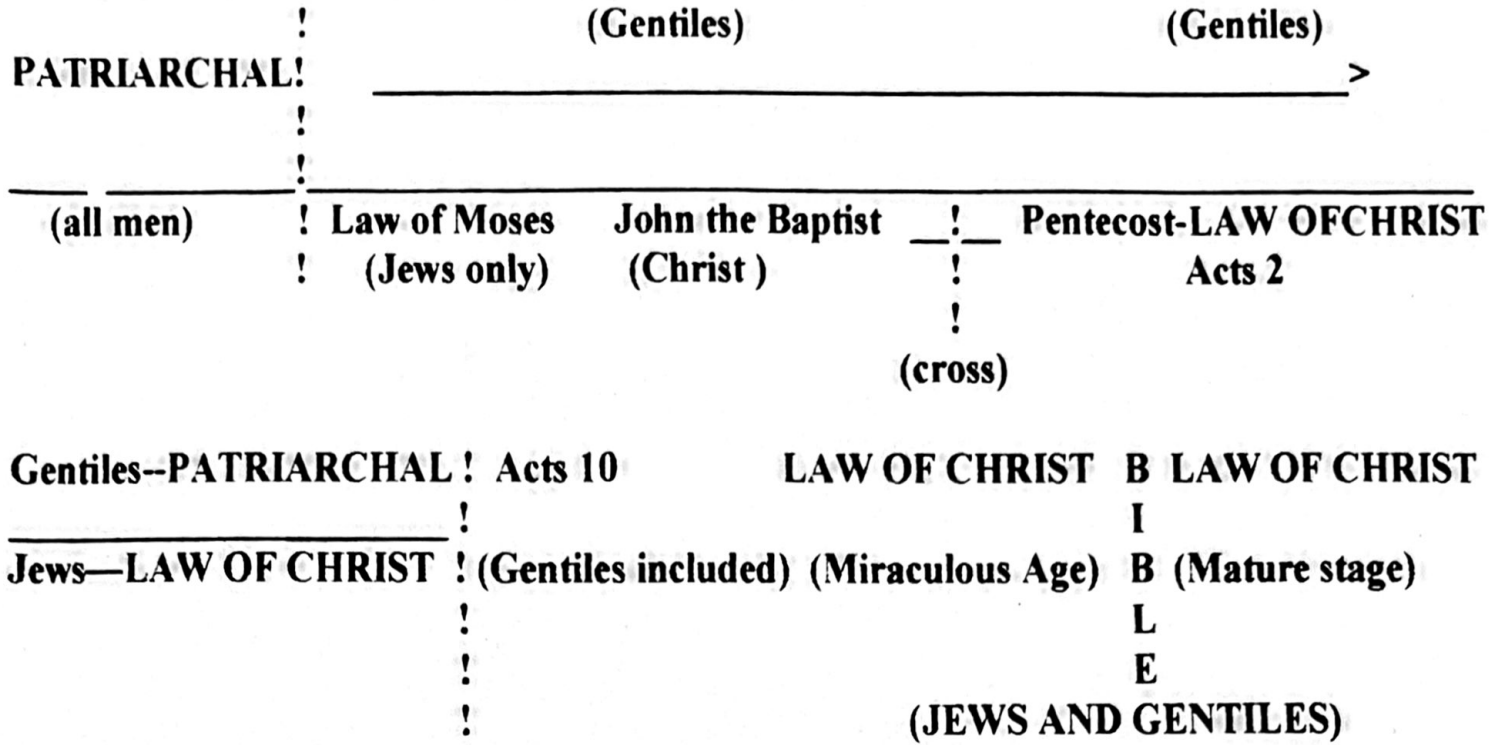
Matthew 5:21, 27, 33, 38, 43 “ it was said by them of old time--Law of Moses. . .”But I say unto you”—Law of Christ.

WE HAVE STUDIED UP TO THIS POINT:

- (1) The Creation of the World (Good for man—all his needs supplied; he innocently walked and communed with God) and Man (in the image of God—His highest form of creation—eternal soul).
- (2) Man’s separation from God—because of disobedience/sin.
- (3) Acceptable/Unacceptable Worship under Patriarchal Law—Cain/Abel
- (4) The first destruction of the world by Flood; Noah’s Salvation.
- (5) Fall of first King of Israel—because of disobedience—his loss of fellowship with God, then Samuel.

(6) Elisha exercising his prophetic powers from God—on Naaman, a Gentile, in spite of the fact there were many lepers in Israel at the time.

NOW WE WANT TO LOOK AT THE OVER-ALL SCHEME OF GOD AND THE DIVISIONS OF TIME HE HAS LEGISLATED:



I. John the Baptist: the official herald of the Messiah—the greatest prophet born of woman—lived under Law of Moses.

Mark 1:2-4 “Behold, I send my messenger before thy face (Christ’s) which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness (temporary assignment). Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness and preach the baptism of repentance (of sins under the Law of Moses) for the remission of sins.”

Luke 1:13-17 (The angel’s promise of John to Zacharias) . . .”Name John. . .a great in the sight of the Lord. . .filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb. . .many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord. . .he (John) shall go before him (Christ) in the spirit and power of Elias. . .to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

John 1:19-34 John denies he is the Christ. Verse 20
Identifies the Christ. Verse 29
John baptized to make Christ known to Israel. Verse 31

Matthew 3:13-17 John baptized Jesus (so Jesus could complete the pattern of initial obedience—“fulfil all righteousness”—required for entry into the kingdom of heaven and be anointed with the Holy Ghost for the work God sent Him to do.)

John 3:26-36 Verse 30—He must increase, but I must decrease.

Acts 19 John's baptism was outdated, because it was an act of obedience requiring faith in Christ's prospective death; but these people had been baptized with John's baptism AFTER Christ's death. So they were required to be baptized with Christ's baptism for the remission of sins, in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2. CHRIST LIVED UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES:

Matthew 5:17-20 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, "That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

John 19:30 It is finished!

Luke 24:44-48 "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms concerning me. . . Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins (a new plan of salvation) should be preached (had not yet been preached then) in his name (not in the name of Moses, as before) among all nations (not just the Jews) beginning at Jerusalem (so any plan that started elsewhere has to be a false system of religion). And ye (apostles) are witnesses of these things (death-burial-resurrection-ascension of Christ).

Luke 2:21-24 Jesus was circumcised according to law of Moses; mother observed rules of Leviticus for cleansing/offering.

Luke 4:16 Jesus worshipped in synagogue on sabbath day—as every faithful Jew did.

Luke 10:25 Jesus told the lawyer to do what the Law of Moses commanded him (the only law available to a Jew at that time) and he would have eternal life.

Matthew 23:2-3 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: (exercise the authority given Moses): All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not after their works: for they say, and do not.

Luke 17:14 Jesus commanded the cleansed lepers to go show themselves to the priests—as commanded in Law of Moses.

Hebrews 4:15 "...was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin." (II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 7:24-28, I Peter 2:21-25, and I John 3:5)

3. CHRIST'S DEATH MADE AN END TO THE LAW OF MOSES—IT WAS FULFILLED, FINISHED.

Colossians 2:8-15 "...verse 14: Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; . . ."

Romans 10:4 Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Matthew 27:51 . . .the vail of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. . . (By this literal destruction of the vail, the end of the rule of Mosaical Law and Jewish worship were declared over by the God of heaven—the Law of Moses was no longer acceptable to God, because Christ had just purchased with his blood a new and better covenant.)

Luke 24:44-48 Christ fulfilled the Law of Moses; He suffered, died, arose from the dead so that a new law might go into effect under his authority.

Acts 2: Peter tells the Jews what they must now do to be saved.

4. HOUSEHOLD OF CORNELIUS—END OF PATRIARCHAL LAW

Romans 2:12-16 For as many as have sinned without law (Gentiles) shall perish without the law; and as many as have sinned in the law (Jews) shall be judged by the law (of Moses); (For not hearers of the law (whether Jews or Gentiles) are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law (of Moses), do by nature the things contained in the law (of Moses) these, having not the law (of Moses), are a law unto themselves; Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another; In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.” (See Romans 1:20)

John 10:16 “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.”

Acts 10:1-48 & Acts 15:7-11 Cornelius was faithful to God under the Patriarchal Law (verses 2-4, & 22). He was told to send for Peter who would tell him what he ought to do (verses 5-6). Peter was shown that he should accept even Gentiles as brothers if the Lord instructed him to do so. (verses 9-17, & 34-35). Peter comes to tell Cornelius what to do to become a Christian. (verses 33-43) The Holy Ghost fell on Cornelius and others who believed—to convince Peter he should baptize them? Since God had proved to the Jews present that he had accepted the Gentiles (as he had the apostles Acts 11:17) by giving them the gift of tongues, Peter could not deny them baptism. (verses 47-48) Peter commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Acts 17:30-31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

Acts 18:6 And when they (the Jews of Corinth) opposed themselves and blasphemed, he (Paul) shook his raiment, and said unto them, “Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.”

Galatians 2:7-9 . . . the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed to me (Paul) as the gospel of circumcision was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) And when James, Cephas, and John. . . perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to

me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go to the heathen (Gentiles), and they unto the circumcision (Jews).

5. BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH/KINGDOM OF GOD/KINGDOM OF HEAVEN—MIRACULOUS AGE

Matthew 16:18 Upon Peter's confession "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God—Christ promises He will build His church.

Luke 24:46-49 Christ died and raised from the dead in order to finish the new plan of salvation—repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. . .but tarry ye (apostles) in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high (the Holy Spirit).

Acts 1:6 Apostles asking when Christ's kingdom would start—so it had not come into existence yet. Christ promises them that when they receive the Holy Ghost, they will then be in a position to start witnessing for Him.

Acts 2:4 Apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit; verse 32- -the apostles start to witness of His exaltation and crowning; verse 22-36—as well as His death, burial, and resurrection from the dead; verse 36 God had crowned Jesus both Lord (King) and Christ (Anointed High Priest).

Jews want to know of Peter & other apostles what to do about their sins; Peter tells them to "repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." They believed and were baptized—they were added to the church rolls on earth (verse 41) and were added by the Lord to the church (verse 47).

God gave miraculous powers to apostles to confirm the spoken word. (Mark 16:20 and Hebrews 2:2-4)

When Christ ascended the throne, He gave gifts (of the Spirit) to men (Ephesians 4:8)—some to apostles, some to prophets, some to evangelists, and some to pastors and teachers (verse 11)—for the purposes of "perfecting the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ (verse 12)—FOR HOW LONG? Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God—or, in other words, until the New Testament is set down completely. (verse 13) (See I Corinthians 12:27-30)

6. END OF THE MIRACULOUS AGE

But these gifts were to pass away—I Corinthians 13: 8-10

And did as soon as those on whom the apostles laid hands died. (Acts 8:18) So the gifts were given to confirm the spoken word—but now that we have the printed word, we no longer need the signs to confirm that we are speaking as God speaks.

James 1:25 We now have the perfect law of liberty.

II Peter 1:3-4 He has given us "all things that pertain to life and godliness.

Galatians 1:6-8 Paul preached the only gospel that will save a man's soul to the Galatians.

Colossians 1:12-14 People were, through obedience to the gospel, translated from the power of darkness into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.