

Set Apart

- On April 21, 1938 in Little Rock, Arkansas, N.B. Hardeman in his debate with Ben M. Bogard “on the subject of ‘The Establishment of the Church’ stated: ‘The kingdom, friends, has always existed... It existed in **Purpose**, in the mind of God; it existed next in **Promise**, as delivered unto the patriarchs, and it existed in **Prophecy**; and then it existed in **Preparation**; and last of all, when the New Testament went into effect, it existed in **Perfection**.’” (*Emp. Added*) From “*Piloting The Strait*” by Dave Miller, PhD, page 472

Purpose

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known **by the church** the manifold wisdom of God (*1 Pet 1:12*), 11 According to the **eternal purpose** which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: 12 In Whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of (*in*) Him. (*Emp. Added*)

- It is a moot argument that states the church was set up in the interim, instead of the prophesied kingdom, because Jesus failed to convince the Jews that He was the Messiah they were waiting for. What this false doctrine teaches, in a sense, is that God failed. In eternity before anything was created, the church was always in the mind of God. It was through the church, once she came into existence, that everyone came to know about the removal of the barrier between Jew and Gentile under the New Covenant that God made with all of mankind. It is also, only through the church, that the truth about all things spiritual is to be delivered. His purpose, even **before** the beginning, was to unite everyone who accepted His grace under the umbrella of salvation through His dear Son.

Promise

Dan 2:44 And **in the days of those kings** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed... (*Emp. Added*)

Luk 2:1 Now it came to pass **in those days**, there went out a decree from **Caesar Augustus**, that all the world should be enrolled. 2 This was the first enrolment made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to enroll themselves, everyone to his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David; 5 to enroll himself with Mary, who was betrothed to him, being great with child. 6 And it came to pass, while they were there, the days were fulfilled that she should be delivered. (*Emp. Added*)

Luk 3:1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of **Tiberius Caesar**, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea (*ee-too-rah'-yah*) and Trachonitis (*trakh-o-nee'-tis*), and Lysanias (*loo-san-ee'-as*) tetrarch of Abilene (*ab-ee-lay-nay'*), 2 in the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came unto John (*the baptizer*) the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. (*Emp. Added*)

- Jesus was born during the reign of Caesar Augustus (*27 BC- 14 AD*) and was crucified under the reign of Tiberius (*14-37 AD*) with the church being established in 30 AD.

Prophecy

Mic 4:1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the **top** of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. 2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (*Emp. Added*)

- The effects of true Christianity on any nation is to bring peace. False religion brings war because it is based on misinformation. This prophesy spoke of the one kingdom that would supersede all others in that it was “exalted above the hills”. The church is open to all nations among whom the Lord will judge.

Preparation

Mat 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, **Prepare** (*Gk.2090-make ready*) **ye the way of the Lord**, make His paths straight. (*Emp. Added*)

Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (*Gk.1448- near*). (*Does 2000 years sound “near”?*)

Perfection

1Pe 1:9 Receiving the end (*Gk.5056- conclusion*) of your faith, (*purpose*) **even the salvation of your souls**. 10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the **Spirit of Christ which was in them** (*one of which was Noah- 1 Pet 3:9*) did signify, when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the (*same*) Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. (*Emp. Added*)

Act 1:4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith He*, ye have heard of Me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Act 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- The Jews were to be a separate people **through** whom the Messiah **did** come.

Gen 49:10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.

- Christians, the spiritual Jews consisting of all nations, are to be a separate people **for** whom the Messiah **will** come.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for her; 26 That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that she should be holy and **without blemish**. (*Emp. Added*)

1Co 15:24 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.

Psa 4:3 But know that the LORD hath **set apart** him that is godly for Himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto Him. (*Emp. Added*)

Set Apart for a Reason!

- Any man who doesn't feel his bride should be "pure" before their wedding has something wrong with him. Would he want her to be out carousing or involved in prostitution on the night before they exchange nuptials? Why would we think anything less for the bride of Christ? Denominationalism should be considered prostituting the truth! Since prostitution involves selling something for the love of money, there must be something worth selling one's soul for to be worth the price of Hell fire.

Mar 8:34 And when He had called the people *unto Him* with His disciples also, He said unto them, Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For **what shall it profit** a man, if he shall **gain the whole world**, and **lose his own soul**? 37 Or what shall a man give **in exchange for his soul**? 38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. (*Emp. Added*)

- It all boils down to "*what's in it for **me***" and "*how will this make **my** life easier*"; I, ME, MY! The same has been true with man from the start and has continued since.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

- Not satisfied with living in a paradise, Adam and Eve lusted for more than they bargained for. Satan told them that God withheld something that He alone possessed and all they had to do to obtain it was to "enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (*Heb 11:25*). They wanted to be equal to God in knowing the difference between good and evil. The Israelites likewise wanted more than they had bargained for in wanting something all the nations around them had. They weren't satisfied with having God as their King. Had they forgotten what their King could do for them that the kings of the earth could not do for their subjects?

1Sa 8:19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; 20 That we also **may be like all the nations**; and **that our king** may judge us, and go out before us, and **fight our battles**. (*Emp. Added*)

- They felt that being like the nations around them would be a walk-in-the-park. As though their king would fight their battles all by himself without any sacrifice on their part. As Samuel warned Israel then, so it goes for American today, hand-outs cost someone something; there's no such thing as a free lunch!

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. (*With the exception of going against the ultimate law of Christ "we ought to obey God rather than men" [Acts 5:29]*) 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. 8 Owe no man anything (*stay current on your mortgage, car payment, etc.*), but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Mat 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

- Governments are supported by taxation. The more that's expected from a government the more it taxes. Personal responsibility of the citizenry equates to less taxation! This is the way it always was and always will be until the end of time, if history is correct. Case in point: the time Jesus gave them bread and fish to eat without having to labor for it. Eventually they would have turned on Him as well if He didn't continue giving them everything.

Joh 6:11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when He had given thanks, He distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. 12 When they were filled, He said unto His disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. 13 Therefore they gathered *them* together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. 14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. 15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would **come and take Him by force, to make Him a king**, He departed again into a mountain Himself alone. (*Emp. Added*)

Joh 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek Me, not because ye saw the miracles (*which confirmed His Deity*), **but because ye did eat of the loaves**, and were filled. 27 **Labour not for the meat which perisheth**, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for Him hath God the Father sealed. (*Emp. Added*)

- It wouldn't matter if God Himself was in their midst (*which He really was in the form of His Son- Jn 14:9*). The Jews then, as it would be today with all people, felt the light of truth was never enough because there will always exist the sin of pride through jealousy and deception.

Joh 18:19 The high priest then asked Jesus of His disciples, and of His doctrine. 20 Jesus answered him, I spoke openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. 21 Why askest thou Me? ask them which heard Me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said. 22 And when He had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest Thou the high priest so? 23 Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou Me?

- Pride is a terribly seductive sin.

How are we “set apart”?

Eph 2:2 Wherein in **time past** ye **walked** (*Gk.4043- lived*) according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation (*lives*) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (*Emp. Added*)

- We used to play “follow-the-leader” thinking there were no consequences to our acceptable actions. Everybody else did it! “*Why should I miss out on all the fun?*” But...

Eph 2:12 ... at that time ye 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: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

- Things have changed (*or at least they were supposed to have changed*). How is it that we show that change? Are we still participating in things we now understand are sinful? Or do we avoid knowing what is sin by using the excuse that “I didn’t know it was sin?” Ignorance will not be an acceptable excuse on the day of judgment.

2Th 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that **know not God**, and that **obey not the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ: (*Emp. Added*)

Act 17:30 ...the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: 31 Because He hath appointed a day, in the 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.

- If the resurrection of Jesus isn’t enough to convince anyone that there will be a judgment than nothing will.

Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy (*Gk.516- appropriately*) of the vocation (*Gk.2821- invitation*) wherewith ye are *called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavoring 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 (*Gk.2821*); 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.

**2Th 2:14 Whereunto He called you by our Gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

***Tit 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*

Eph 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ **and** of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them. 8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all **goodness** and **righteousness** and **truth**;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. (*Emp. Added*)

#1.Have you heard?

Romans 10:14 ..."how shall they believe in Him **Whom they have not heard?**" (*Emp. Added*)

#2.Do you believe?

Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God **must believe that He is...**" (*Emp. Added*)

#3.Have you repented?

Act 3:19 ..."Repent ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." (*Emp. Added*)

#4.Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God, Who alone can save you?

Joh 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

#5.Have your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 He that **believeth** and is **baptized** shall be **saved**; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (*Emp. Added*)

#6.If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 "...we also should **walk in newness of life.**" (*Emp. Added*)

#7. Grow

2Pe 3:18 But **grow in grace**, and *in* the **knowledge** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen. (*Emp. Added*)

Being set apart, what now?

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. 19 **Go** ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen. (*Emp. Added*)

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