

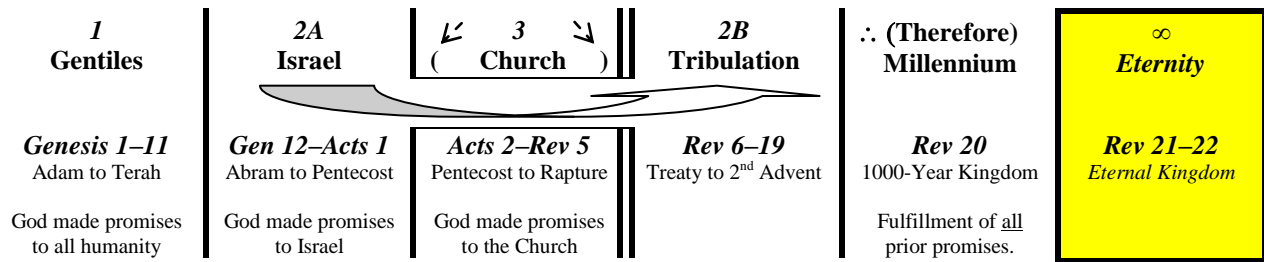
Cornelius and the Mystery

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Outline of Biblical History:



- 1. God made promises to all humanity (Genesis 1–11)**
- 2A. God made promises to Israel (Genesis 12–Acts 1)**
- 3. God made promises to the Church (Acts 2–Revelation 5)**
- 2B. God promised Israel that 490 years of working w/ it would bring the Kingdom (Rev 6–19)**
- ∴ The Kingdom (Millennium) will be the dispensation that will fulfill the ages (Rev 20)**
 - (A) That will be when He fulfills all remaining promises to all humanity (1)
 - (B) That will be when He fulfills all remaining promises to Israel (2A-B)
 - (C) That will be when He fulfills all remaining promises to the Church (3)
- ∞. The Bible says far less about eternity than it does about the Millennium (Rev 21–22)**

Many passages besides Rev 20 discuss the Millennium

Few passages besides Rev 21–22 even make passing remarks about eternity

Daniel 9 speaks of events between the 483rd year and the 484th year of a 490 year timetable

Eph 3:4-6 says the church was an unrevealed mystery until revealed thru apostles & (NT) prophets

The mystery was that Gentiles would have equal-access to God in the same body as Jews

Matthew 24 distinguishes the unannounced Rapture from the super-announced 2nd Advent

Cornelius and the Mystery

Strategic national rejection of Jesus by Israel's leadership (Matthew 12)

Jesus did a sign (casting out a demon), leading some to believe (Mat 12:22-23)

Leaders branded the sign a satanic counterfeit (Mat 12:24)

Jesus defended His sign (Mat 12:25-30)

Jesus pronounced the unpardonable sin upon that generation (Mat 12:31-32)

That was a national sin with national implications;
not an individual sin with individual consequences.

Unpardonable means that God will not change His mind, as with Nineveh

The sign of Jonah (Resurrection) is the only sign yet to be given to that generation (12:38ff)

Preaching is not the sign of Jonah: Resurrection is that sign

Only one sign would be given to that generation; He gave other signs for individuals.

Preparing to introduce the Mystery

Gentiles were absent from the group on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:10)

Acts 2:36ff. Believers were told to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38)

Acts 8 and Samaria (God viewed Samaritans as Jews)

Acts 8 and the Ethiopian Eunuch (God viewed him as a born-Jew or proselyte)

Acts 10 & Cornelius (Cornelius was the first uncircumcised Gentile in the Church)

When did he believe? When did he receive the Spirit?

Why was Peter shocked? Why were the Jerusalemites shocked?

GOD CANNOT PUT GENTILES UNDER A JEWISH CURSE

Acts 19 and Twenty-Questions

- (1) Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?
- (2) We have not even heard if there is a Holy Spirit
- (3) Into what were you baptized?

| | Luke 3:16 | Acts 2 | Acts 10 | Acts 19 |
|---|-----------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | |

1 Corinthians 12:13 and Romans 8:9 speak of the way things are after Cornelius

The idea that Gentiles would have equal-access to God was a mystery (even to Peter) until God revealed it to him (through the vision of the sheet being lowered in Acts 10). Between Acts 2-9 the Church existed, but God did not immediately reveal the mystery

THE CHURCH IS UNIQUE: We must not impose its uniqueness onto other ages

NEW MATERIAL: PROPITIATION

Revelation 20: The issue for unbelievers is not sin

John 1:29: The Lamb of God takes away the sin of the world

1 John 2:2: Jesus paid sin's death penalty for everyone, including unbelievers

Why wouldn't this mean that everyone gets everlasting life?

Genesis 2:16-17: Humanity would plunge into death when the man and woman fell

How many times does Genesis 3 mention sin? What Genesis 3 emphasizes

Genesis 3:22 shows that the man and woman did not yet possess everlasting life
(Everlasting life lasts forever or it is not everlasting)

Genesis 4:1 shows something of what the woman came to believe

Genesis 3:20 shows something of what the man came to believe

Did God give everlasting life to people before the cross and before a judgment? Yes

Matthew 22:23ff

John 5:24

How could He (righteously) give everlasting life before the cross?