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-SOME PARALELLS-

This is a very brief outline and does not represent the great amount of thot put on it. Please study on these.

1. Dan. 12:12. Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake. But there are 2 classes. Some will awake to everlasting life. Others to everlasting contempt and shame. These 2 classes constitute the MANY. What of the rest? Are not the MANY saved?

2. John 5:28, 29. All that are in the graves shall hear His voice. Does this include all that sleep in the dust? Or does it refer to the MANY? Again there are 2 classes. There is a resurrection of life and a resurrection of judgment. All are believers for they are judged by their works. Otherwise John 3:16 would be nullified. Only His shee? hear His voice. ALL then is limited.

3. Acts 24:15. This is a resurrection of the dead. There are 2 classes. The just and the unjust are there. Unjust does not always mean unjustified. It may be those who have acted unjustly, as the unjust steward.

4. 1 Cor. 3:11-15. The setting is THE DAY. There are 2 classes. Some receive rewards. Some are saved as by fire, no reward. All have built on the right foundation. All are saved. There is shame and contempt and judgment for those whose works do not abide.

5. Rev. 20:12, 13. This is a judgment of the REST of the dead. It is on the basis of works as is always with believers. These cannot be wicked folks for the ungodly shall not rise in the judgment nor can those who believe not the Son ever see life. The time is the same as in Job 14:12. It is when the heavens pass away. The RV of Rev. 20:15 reads, "And IF any was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire." This shows the unlikelyhood of any unbelievers being present. It is quite likely that both Job and the dying malefactor will be there. This must be the time of resurrection of all who have everlasting life according to the gospel of John.

- WHAT CHURCH? -

Somebody has asked the question, "What church is Christ building?" This is a strange question, for as I have been looking into the Word, I cannot find that Christ is building any church today.

Many people point to Matt. 16:18 and then take it for granted that there is the only church that has ever existed. No one can ever build a doctrine on the word CHURCH. It can and does mean anything from a mob to an assembly of saints. It might be well to take the concordance and see how it is used in the Scriptures.

"...and upon this rock (i.e. upon "Christ...the Son of the living God"- according to Peter's confession) I will build My church." Matt. 16:18. (Notice, Christ said "I will build...") Does this include the church in the wilderness? Does it include the church which God is building today with Christ as the Head?

Heb. 3:6 - "But Christ as a Son over His own house, which house are WE." This refers to the same group as in Acts 2:47 where the word CHURCH does not appear in the original -- "And the Lord added to them day by day those that were being saved." (RV) As we note the various Churches mentioned, especially during the Acts period, we are struck with the fact that they are churches here on earth. Even for a short time after the revelation of the dispensation of the Mystery corporate witnesses are still on the earth. See 1 Tim. and Titus. But there is nothing but ruin in a short time and it is to the individual that the later prison epistles are addressed.

Eph. 1:22, 23 says, "And He (The Father) hath put all things under His (Christ's) feet, and gave Him to be Head over all things to the Church, which is His body." Here is the church that is being built. God is building it.

The Mystery which had been hid from ages and generations gives us the key to heaven. Never before had any church or assembly a hope of going to heaven. This is very significant and shows that Acts 28:28 is the dividing line.

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- GALATIANS -

If you would like to get the setting for this epistle, read the 13th & 14th chaps. of Acts to get the message that was preached to the churches of Galatia. Then read Acts 15 where the council at Jerusalem took up the question that was plaguing the Galatians. Note the decision.

After Paul had preached his gospel of grace to the Gentiles in all this region, certain of the Jews came in and taught that the Gentiles must be circumcised to be saved. Certain Pharisees that believed at Jerusalem backed this up. So the whole argument in Galatians revolves around the question of circumcision.

It may be that you do not see why this should be the question. Here is the reason. The Jews wanted the Gentiles to observe the law with its feasts and titualistic practices. But according to the law this could not be done without the rite of circumcision. We must remember that these Gentiles could not observe the Lord's supper or any of the other feasts of Lev. 23 unless they were first circumcised. Of course the Gentiles did not want to be left out of the circle in these things and so they leaned very much toward doing what the Jews demanded.

That is why Paul called them "foolish" in 3:1. Paul declared that his gospel of grace was not taught him by man, but came by revelation from God. He also stated plainly that the Judaizers merely wished to glory in their flesh.

During Acts the Gentiles were baptized with water which showed that they were identified with repentant Israel. But baptism was not a part of the law, being introduced by John. The law that the uncircumcised could not partake of the Lord's supper was never abrogated. As you read the last chapter of Gal. you will be reminded that we still have some of those Pharisees who would glory in your flesh if they could.

Do not confuse the calling of these Galatians with that of the dispensation of the Mystery.

-WHAT IS...THE MYSTERY?- 4

In the Scriptures a mystery is something that is kept a secret till the time comes to reveal it. There are many of them and each has its time and place.

But now we are interested in the secret given as a special revelation to Paul to be given in turn to Gentiles. It was a secret that was hidden from ages and generations in God till it was revealed to Paul.

Then this secret could not be the grafting in of the Gentiles during the latter part of the Acts. For it had been promised to Abraham that thru or by means of his seed all nations should be blest. It was not secret that the Gentile nations should come to the fore and Israel be set aside. It was not secret that Gentiles would be used of God in an attempt to provoke Israel to jealousy. All these things had been foretold.

But it had not been revealed that at some time God would deal with the Gentiles direct instead of thru Israel. It had not been known that Gentiles would ever have all blessings in Christ instead of thru the promise to Abraham. It also was never revealed that at some time Jews and Gentiles would have a heavenly calling instead of an earthly one. It was not known that a body or group of people would be manifested in glory with Christ in the heavenlies. All these things were absolutely unknown till the end of the Acts and the setting aside of Israel.

So the secret was that Jew and Gentile would have a dispensational equality, that blessings would be in the heavenlies in Christ instead of thru Abraham, and that the calling would be a heavenly one instead of earthly. These were the things that God revealed to Paul after Acts 28:28 with the instructions to make them known to all men. No longer was the Jew to be first. No longer did the Jew have the priority in making known the gospel. No longer did they look for the return of the Lord in the air. A new calling and hope had come into view. Do you have a part in them?

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-STUDIES IN JOHN- #22

1. Whom did the Lord visit 6 days before the last Passover? 12:1
2. In what place was this?
3. What additional information is given about the town?
4. How was the Lord honored there?
5. Who did the serving?
6. What did Lazarus do?
7. What did Mary do?
8. Who objected?
9. What was the objection?
10. Why did he object?
11. What was this man to do later?
12. What was he doing with the money he embezzled? Acts 1:18.
13. Is it true that chronic objectors usually have an ulterior motive?
14. Was the Lord pleased with Mary's act?
15. To what did this act look forward?
16. Didn't the poor need this?
17. For what 2 reasons were a great many people there?
18. What did the chief priests decide concerning Lazarus?
19. Could the certain young man of Mark 14:51, 52 have been Lazarus?
20. Why did not the chief priests like Lazarus?
21. On what day must the supper have occurred?
22. Then on what day was the entry of verses 12-15?
23. What might have happened if the whole nation of Israel had greeted Him with the words of verse 13?
24. How did the Lord enter the city?
25. From where is verse 15 quoted?
26. Did the disciples understand?
27. When did they understand?
28. What people of verse 17 had a testimony?
29. Then why did the people meet Him as they did?
30. What was the effect on the Pharisees?
31. Who sought to see Him?
32. Whom did they ask?
33. How did this request become known to the Lord?

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: Not very many

of you wrote about the questions in this column last month. Too hard?

As for the nation that was baptized in one nite and none even got wet feet, see 1 Cor. 10:1, 2 and Exod. 14 and 15. They went on dry ground.

The giant king of Bashan that had an iron bedstead was king Og. See Deut. 3: 11. This bedstead was about 13 ft. long.

Jacob left his home and his mother when he was a lad of 77. He married Leah and Rachel when he was 84. He was 91 when Joseph was born.

If you will add the years of the lives of the 9 patriarchs who were before the flood, you will get 7,623, when divided by 9 gives 837 as the average length of their lives. But since Enoch did not die, we can take his name from the list and the average of the remaining 8 is 907. Since Noah lived before the flood the greater part of his life, let us add him to the number, leaving Enoch out. Then the average is 912. Such length of life may again be expected during the Millennium.

Of course we read the Word for other reasons than just finding figures and ages of people. But there are many interesting facts along the way.

It is very interesting to know that God has work for the young folks to do. David was only 17 when he killed the great giant Goliath of whom the whole army of Israel was afraid. He was God's man for the time and he did not fail God. His parents must have been Godly folks. Then there is Joseph. He was 17 when he went into Egypt. He withstood great temptation, remembered his God, and at the age of 30 was prime minister of Egypt.

On the other hand Ishmael and his mother became so hateful that they had to leave their home when Ishmael was only 17.

A profession of Christianity without Bible reading and prayer is going to end in failure. People have little confidence in such folks. So watch your step!

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

BOOK ORDERS have all been filled now except for **LIFE THRU HIS NAME** which has been delayed by the printer. The pamphlets, **Things That Accompany Salvation, Wise or Otherwise, and Pentecost** and the **Mystery** are being re-printed, so none available at present. Vol. 36 of **BE** came in and all sold out already. More will be ordered. The **Companion Bibles** in leather are now all sold. If you have ordered any other items and have not received them, write.

VISITORS last month were Mr. A. O. Bowser of Bremen, Ind., and Mr. & Mrs. H. E. McMeen of Deer Creek, Ill. (The latter are newlyweds)

SAMPLE COPIES of **TFT** to the number of 1623 were sent out lately and a goodly number of return cards have been sent back. We are thankful for all those who are so interested in the Word.

TAPE RECORDINGS Nos. 1 and 2 have been sent out to those requesting them. Would like comments on these so I will be able to make better ones in the future. Others may have this service for the asking. There is no charge. Can furnish tape for recorders running either 7.5 or 3.75 ips, either single or double track. The tape must be turned over for those machines using tape facing out.

ECCLESIASTES, a new booklet by C. H. Welch, now available at 60¢ each.

PENTECOST by Stuart Allen, 20¢ each.

RADIO MINISTRY: We have now given out 232 radio broadcasts weekly and some of our neighbors do not know about it yet! The program is on Tue. nite. at 7 over station **WRSW** both AM and FM.

BIBLE CLASS. This follows the radio broadcast at 7:45 each Tue. nite in the **WRSW** studios as a temporary meeting place. It seems that many do not know about this either. All are welcome to come to this class.

TRUTH FOR TODAY monthly paper is free to all who ask for it or whose friends and neighbors have requested it for them. You can help with this by sending names and addresses of those that might be interested. It is free to all.

BIBLE COURSES. Some have written about the week-end courses or the possibilities of a vacation study this summer. We have several on list who are planning to see us this spring and summer.

Oscar M. Baker. Tel. Atwood 2684

- OUR BOOK SHELF -

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