

THE 7TH STAGE OF SALVATION - ELM MAR 1996

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

Paul says there are two types of people, and in one verse, he makes a 'deductive' statement, from which we can understand other scriptures.

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this **mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until **the fulness** of the Gentiles be come in.

Paul was gradually being introduced to new aspects of the 'mystery' apparently over some years. It did not come to him all at once. What Christ started in his mind on the road to Damascus, was to be only the beginning of his having his eyes opened to the more truth.

This is introducing a step by step timetable. Blindness is happening to Israel, UNTIL **the fullness** of the Gentiles come in. So this is saying that the Gentiles will get to have the scales removed from their eyes before Israel!

Romans 11:26 And so **all** Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

In Romans chapters 9 and 10, Paul explains about the way God blinds, and why. It is actually a question of mercy on God's part. The vast majority of people on the earth today do not accept Christ as their personal saviour, nor do they understand the fullness of the Gospel.

The 7th stage of Salvation involves growing in grace and knowledge about what salvation is all about, including individuals coming to the understanding that ALL humans are destined to become members of the family of God. This was the new information that was contained in the **mystery** that was revealed to Paul in 63 A.D.

Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians present the, increasing levels of advanced new knowledge for those who are in the 7th stage, for those who

understand who humans really are, and what God's purpose is for each of us, now and in the future. This was the revelation of **the mystery**.

Those humans who during their lifetime on earth were, (and still are), in the first six stages of knowledge about salvation, knew or know only just so much of the entire plan. Those who were in each of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th stages has increasing knowledge of salvation, each stage knew more than the previous stage.

God is, and has been, revealing His glorious plan in stages over time.

The early stages are like kindergarden, then primary school, then secondary school, then college level, until we have graduated each level with God's help, we cannot move forward. It all remains a 'mystery' to almost all humans, apart from those who are privileged to be given the 'gift' to understand more.

Romans 11:26 And so **all** Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. 27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. 28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the father's sakes. 29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

All Israel is going to be saved regardless of their aeons of rebellion! So will all Gentiles!! God will not change His mind or go back on His promises!

Romans 11:30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: 31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. **32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.**

This is the reason God 'blinds' eyes, and 'stops' ears, so He can extend mercy to those who do not get His point! Amazing love and grace!

Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

So I must never fall into the trap of criticizing those who know less than I do!

Romans 11:36 For **of** him, and **through** him, and **to** him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

We need to understand that belief, faith, repentance, acceptance, and to confess Christ are all required steps to salvation; but those steps are also gifts that are already granted to the elect without our doing ANYTHING, because He does it all for us, continuously!

I Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for **all men**;

I see the need to change my attitude towards ALL of God's children!! Multi-culturalism, and miscegenation notwithstanding!!

I Timothy 2:2 For kings, and for **all** that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Not some, ALL.

I Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have **all men** to be saved, **and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

In their season, in their time, in God's time!

We do not do it ourselves, not at all.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

God does ALL the work! Through Christ, with the power of the Holy Spirit flowing in our minds.

I Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified **in due time.**

Due time: According to God's step by step revelation of His mystery, **in its own season** which God has allotted. God's plan, formulated before the Creation of the world, is unfolding exactly according to plan, and will do so until all is in all.

Side B

How God reveals knowledge in His stages.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Those who were caught up in man-made 'churches' were certainly "*children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive*" but all those experiences were for our 'childhood' learning and development, so when we graduated to the next stage, we would appreciate the awesome nature of what we were being shown by comparison.

I Timothy 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. (at the right season! In the time that God has allotted.)

I Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. In the last two thousand years, there have been no further 'firstfruits' since Christ ascended to the Father, and there won't be until the resurrection and He gathers the elect to Himself.

After that comes the final stage of the plan, when Christ having ruled over all under the Father, will hand it all over to God the Father who will then be all in all. That is the final maturation of the plan.

The seven stages of knowledge, all on earth are in one stage or another.

1. Adam separation from God, enmity, the garden, and the tree of life. Those who know nothing of Christ at all.
2. Abraham to Moses, some personal relationships with God.
3. Moses and the Law rebellion of God's chosen Israel. Idolatry.
4. David, the Prophets, those who believed in God to a degree, but were unaware of Christ.
5. Christ came and changed everything. He brought a completely new relationship between God and man. Israel and Gentiles who do not know or accept Christ as Messiah.
6. Some in Israel and Gentiles who accept Christ as Messiah, but know very little of God's plan.
7. Those, the elect, the 'few' who have been given the 'fulness' of the knowledge of salvation.

John 12:28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. 29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. 30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. 31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

For whom did Christ suffer and die?

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death **for every man**.

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw **all men** unto me.

All humans male and female will be saved.

John 12:33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

When Christ died, we 'died'. Everything Christ went through, we experienced with Him in type, including His resurrection and glorification.

Hebrews 2:6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him?
7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

Mankind was given rule over the entire earth, to dress it and keep it. We have not done a very good job of that.

Hebrews 2:8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see **not yet** all things put under him.

When we are changed, ALL things will be put under us, under Christ, under the Father. ALL things, everything that can be seen of the whole of Creation, all the billions of galaxies they can now see with the Hubble telescope and those we cannot see as well!

2 Timothy 1:9 (God) Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Every human being was predestined to be a spirit being and part of the family of God before the heavens and the earth were created.
Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.

We are not just in the Temple, God's house, we ARE the temple, each of us is a 'stone' in the construction of the building, and Christ is the 'cornerstone'.

We need to be aware of this, and take care to respect that position!

The fact that anyone can understand any of these concepts is because God is working with their mind. What a privilege!

