CAN ‘JEWISH FAITH’ BRING SALVATION?

JAN LILLEBY

What do you mean Jan Lilleby - Jewish faith….?
To put it another way: Can a Jew, by his faith in the *Jewish religion*…say, of Talmud, be saved for eternity by God? Is it enough for a Jew just to *‘believe in God Yahve’* – as is preached each Sabbath in Jewish synagogues?
Over 80% of Israel’s population is Talmud-believers according to reports. Netanyahu presented to Knesset a few years back, a bill to make Talmud the *official religion* of the nation.
Fractions in Christendom think Jews can be saved by their Jewish beliefs – without *Jesus* as Savior.

Mostly those who see themselves as ‘Christian-Zionists’. One of the foremost, if not *The* foremost propagator seem to be Pastor John Hagee, Cornerstone Church, San Antonio, Texas. Tightly followed by several of the pastors in the Mega-churches in USA, as well as many over in Scandinavia and Europe. (Check out my separate article on Hagee here on my site.)
Every now and then, we observe in TV-News from Middle-East, people standing at the so-called *WailingWall* in Jerusalem, praying to Yahve – God Almighty. Slipping paper-notes of requests into the slight space between the stones. Even (in their *political agenda*, at least) several visiting American Presidents have been seen at that wall…praying or not.

MOSES POINTED TO JESUS IN HIS PROPHESIES

It comes as no shock to learn that Jews, at large, do not believe on Jesus as their Savior. The nation, as a whole, rejected Jesus Christ a few years before the nation was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE.
This final *ultimate rejection* happened as Paul confronted the Sanhedrin counsel in Rome, as we read **Acts 28:25-28.** This was Israel’s ‘Point-of-no-Return’.
Paul told the counsel, in stern terms, verse 28,
"*Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been* ***sent to the Gentiles****; they will also listen.*"

In other words: The Jews would not listen and thus be saved, by faith in Jesus as the Messiah of God.
In the present-day synagogues world-wide, they hold a faith which in a proud manner is *pointing to Moses and the Law* of old. It is pretty much the same as when Jesus and

the apostles walked the earth. The Pharisees and Sadducees had added many ordinances to the original Scripture. Thus they keep Sabbath, Passover, and much of the old ordinances found in Scripture. Plus, they trust the doctrine found in the Talmud. *(The Babylonian Talmud is slandering Jesus' name, saying He was a bastard born by Myriam (Mary) after she had lived with a Roman Centurion. And much more lies of blaspheming character).*
Jesus said of their falsehood, their tampering with the Scripture:
John 5:46, NASB,
"For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me."

Peter's second sermon, found in **Acts 3:19-23,** tells of how God had the Apostles POINTING TO JESUS CHRIST as Savior for Israel, as he also POINTED TO MOSES,
*"19 Therefore repent and return, **so that your sins may be wiped away**, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;*

*20 and that He may **send Jesus, the Christ** appointed for you,*

21 whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.
*22 "Moses said, 'THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A **PROPHET LIKE ME** FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you.*

23 'And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'" (My emphasize)

The *stupid false-hood* found among fractions in Christianity, - that Jews can be saved *without faith in Jesus*, is wiped away here as we quote Peter's sermon.

Acts has *several references* to sermons (Paul not the least) clearly saying that Jews as well as Gentile proselytes had to believe on Jesus for salvation.

God is not enough: For He sent His Son to have us saved. Jesus died on the cross at Calvary to *atone for the sins* of the world. It is meaningless to say that one can be saved, even if he does not believe on Jesus. God Himself is pointing to Jesus, no doubt!

The Jews were the ancient people of God on earth.

They were saved thus far. BUT…to continue this relationship with God Yahve…they had to openly, as a nation, CONFIRM their□□ continuing□□ walk with God by accepting His Son and the sacrifice of sin made by Him on the cross.

It is that simple, and yet, so difficult for a proud Jew to accept.

PAUL'S SPEECH TO JEWS IN ACTS 13

***Verses 38-41**, tells us clearly that one cannot be saved unless having the faith in Jesus Christ,*

*38□□ "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren *,□□* ***that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,***□□*

39□□ and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.□□

40□□ Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon you:□□

*41□□ 'BEHOLD, YOU SCOFFERS, AND MARVEL, AND PERISH; FOR I AM ACCOMPLISHING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS, A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER * BELIEVE, THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU.'* □ " □□ (My emphasize)

Paul and Barnabas at Antioch, Pisidia 44-45 CE.

I COULD GO ON AND ON, BUT HERE IS MY CONCLUSION

The□□ sermons given at Sabbaths, or other days of the week in the Jewish Synagogues, are entirely false. In that they do NOT preach Jesus as Savior. No one can be saved unless they first believe on Jesus as Savior, the Messiah of God.□□ This, regardless of nationality or ethnical□□ background.

This is the result of□□ *Jewry having rejected Jesus entirely*.□□ Through their national falling away, seen in Acts 28:28 the salvation was from that point in time offered to the entire world.□□

A few exceptions□□ of faith in Christ among Jewry,□□ can be found (outside the synagogues) in that there are around 15-20 000 Messianic Jews in the land in our time. As well as such Messianic believers are found outside of Israel also.

□□

THE LAMB OF GOD

JAN LILLEBY

Ex. 11:4-6, NASB, let us know what was now about to happen; Egypt was going to be haunted by the Angel of Death, killing all firstborn of man and beast.
*“4□□ Moses said, "Thus says the LORD, 'About midnight * I am going out into the midst of Egypt,□□*
5□□ and□□ all□□ the□□ firstborn□□ in the□□ land□□ of□□ Egypt□ shall□□ die, from the□□ firstborn□□ of the□□ Pharaoh□□ who□ sits□□ on his□□ throne,□□ even□□ to the□□ firstborn□□ of the□ slave□□ girl□□ who□□ is□□ behind□□ the□□ millstones;□□ all□□ the □ firstborn□□ of the□□ cattle□□ as well.□□

*6□□ 'Moreover, there shall be a□□ great□□ cry□□ in□□ all□ the□□ land□□ of□□ Egypt,□□ such□□ *□□ as there has not□ been□□ before and□□ such□□ as shall□□ never□□ be□□ again.”*
□

THE LAMB’S BLOOD TO PROTECT THE HEBREWS

The Angel of Death was instructed by God not to kill anyone in the houses which had the blood of a lamb put on their door□ posts/frames. The angel would pass such a house by. From which we have the ‘Passover’ expression. The angel□□ *passed by*□□ all houses which had the blood-sign at the doors.□□ This date is attached to the Moon Calendar of the Jews, as□□ the 14th□□ Nisan – which is designated by the position of a new moon.

When the REAL LAMB OF GOD, Jesus, was crucified on 14th□□ of Nisan, it happened in 28 CE, which was in our calendar a Wednesday□□ 28 April. The Passover came late that year. And Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, which was on the Sabbath Saturday 1 May. (See my separate article in this topic here on the site).

Ex. 12:1-13, NASB, the Lord's detailed instruction on the using of blood from a lamb,

"1 Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,

2 "This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you.

3 "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth of this month they are each one to ***take a lamb for themselves****, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household.*

4 'Now if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons in them; according to what each man should eat, you are to divide the lamb.

5 ***'Your lamb shall be an unblemished male*** *a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.*

6 'You shall keep ***it until the fourteenth*** ** day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight.*

7 'Moreover, they shall ***take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.***

8 'They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

*9 'Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather * roasted with fire, both its head and its legs along with its entrails.*

10 'And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire.

11 'Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste - it is the LORD'S Passover.

12 'For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn

in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments -I am the LORD.

13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where * you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt." (My emphasize)

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THE LAMB APPEARED
TO US WITH A SPECIFIC NAME, JESUS

Only John the Baptist picks up on the Exodus-theme, that of the 'Lamb of God' –knowing that this was a foreshadow of He who should come to save Israel.

We cannot find 'The Lamb' mentioned by any of the apostles the entire time of Acts 28-62 CE.

It appears at **John 1:29,** where John the Baptist sees Jesus and exclaims, "*Behold the **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world.*"

In the four Gospels we find the 'Lamb' mentioned in none of these, except for John's Gospel.

In the epistles we can see its theme (Passover) pointed to by 1 Pet. 1:19 quote,

"…but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."

And also by Paul in 1 Cor. 5:7….*Christ our Passover*….

Isa. 53:7 is pointing to the *suffering Lamb*, as we all know,

*"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; **Like a lamb that is led to slaughter**, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth."*

But in the whole period of Acts 28-62 CE, there is no mention of the Lamb as being used in any preaching. Peter, Paul and the others did not use the 'Lamb' imagery as they preached to Israel and the Jews.

And when Paul was exhorting his followers he told them to, *Pray to God, thanking Him in the name of Jesus.* Not in the 'name of the Lamb'.

THIS ALL CHANGES WHEN THE GREAT TRIBULATION

IS STARTED IN ISRAEL, AS GOD SENDS THE
TWO WITNESSES IN REV. 11

Just to give you a 'heads up' on this, - Rev. 15:3, NASB,

"And they sang the song of ***Moses, the bond-servant of God****, and the song of* ***<u>the Lamb</u>****, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!"*

How many times is the lamb mentioned in the Book of Revelation?

In the Bible's final book, he is called - **no less than 28 times** - the Lamb: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing" (Revelation 5:12).

Does the name Jesus appear in Revelation?

For example, **when we see Jesus referred to as "Jesus" or "Jesus Christ" in Revelation, it is usually associated with an attribute or characteristic of Jesus, and not as a description of His person**. In other words, John uses phrases like the "testimony of Jesus".

I quoted above Rev. 15:3, seeing that the Messianic believers in the times of the Great Tribulation of Israel, SANG THE SONG OF MOSES, AND THE SONG OF THE LAMB.

But there is a clue noted in **Rev. 14:1-5,** NASB, giving us the facts of Moses as being one of the two witnesses in Rev. 11, thus the other must be Elijah.

Who among God's great prophets was the one who dealt with the Passover-sign, the LAMB, before Pharaoh Ramses II? Was it not Moses? Who among the great prophets was the one who dealt with the tribal nation? Moses of course!

And who will be the one to start using the words 'The Lamb" – and so making this the sure sign of Jesus, **He who died as a sacrificial Lamb for Israel in 28 CE?** You know the answer: Moses of course.

That is why we find that God allows for His servants Moses and Elijah in the Great Tribulation, to speak of Jesus *not* by His actual name, but using the *ritually known* (Passover) 'Lamb' – so this will be a stern reminder from God that the Jews once crucified Him, and should get on their knees and repent. Moses and Elijah are warning Israel, telling them of the Lord's Second Advent to happen very soon.

And they are doing so by prophesying the coming plagues and

disasters. They will know what shall come upon them by one day warning. Just like Moses warned the Egyptians one day before it happened. Rev. 14,

1 *Then I looked, and behold,* ***the Lamb*** *was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four* * *thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.*
2 *And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps.*
3 ***And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four*** * ***thousand who had been purchased from the earth.***
4 *These are the ones who have not been defiled with* * *women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever* ** *He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.*

5 *And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless."*

Verse 3 say that no one could learn that song, but the 144 000 tribal Jews. Why so?

Because they will have Moses as their leader, assisted by Elijah. It is **Moses himself** who will teach these Jewish tribal believers his NEW song. I am sure that this is the real way of actions when God is dealing with His NEW ISRAEL, not long before Jesus, THE LAMB, shall come down from heaven in might and glory, ending the tribulation.

Near the end of the tribulation in Israel, people are *taking refuge in mountain caves,* and they are dead afraid of the WRATH OF THE LAMB! Now *who* could have taught them that the **'Lamb of God'** is angry with Israel, if not Moses?

Rev. 6:14-17, NASB, as the sixth seal is opened,

"14 The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.
15 Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;
16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, ***and from the wrath***

of the Lamb;
17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"
Here is a list of what Revelation says, as it is pointing to Jesus Christ,

Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:1)

Faithful Witness (Revelation 1:5)

First Begotten Of The Dead (Revelation 1:5)

Prince Of The Kings Of The Earth (Revelation 1:5)

Alpha And Omega (Revelation 1:8-13)

First And Last (Revelation 1:8, 11, 13)

Son Of Man (Revelation 1:13)

He That Liveth And Was Dead (Revelation 1:13, 18)

He That Holdeth The Seven Stars (Revelation 2:1)

He Who Walketh Midst The Golden Candlesticks (Revelation 2:1)

He Who Hath The Sharp Sword With Two Edges (Revelation 2:12)

Son Of God (Revelation 2:18)

He Which Searches The Reins And Hearts (Revelation 2:23)

He That Hath The Seven Spirits Of God (Revelation 3:1)

He That Hath The Seven Stars (Revelation 3:1)

He That Is Holy And True (Revelation 3:7)

He That Hath The Key Of David (Revelation 3:7)

He That Openeth And No Man Shutteth (Revelation 3:7)

He That Shutteth And No Man Openeth (Revelation 3:7)

The Amen (Revelation 3:14)

The Faithful And True Witness (Revelation 3:14)

The Beginning Of The Creation Of God (Revelation 3:14)

Lord (Revelation 4:11)

Lion Of The Tribe Of Judah (Revelation 5:5,9)

The Root Of David (Revelation 5:5,9)

A Lamb As It Had Been Slain (Revelation 5:6-7)

The Lamb (Revelation 5:8-9)

Lord Of Lords (Revelation 17:14)

King Of Kings (Revelation 17:14)

Faithful And True (Revelation 19:11)

Rider Of The White Horse (Revelation 19:11)

The Word Of God (Revelation 19:13)

Christ (Revelation 20:4)

The Lord God Of The Holy Prophets (Revelation 22:6)

Beginning And The End (Revelation 22:13)

The Bright And Morning Star (Revelation 22:16)

THE NEW JERUSALEM REV. 21

As we read of the New Jerusalem, we find that the trend established by Moses in the Great Tribulation, by mentioning Jesus as 'The Lamb', will continue so.

From that moment in future as God has renewed (Greek, *kainos, new by quality and not by time)* the earth, even the solar-system, - and crowned it by sending down a huge cube-like golden city from heaven, it is **'The Lamb'** that are in the center of it all.

Rev. 21:9-14, NASB,

*"9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of **the Lamb**."*
10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.
12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.
13 There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.
*14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of **the twelve apostles of the Lamb**."*
(My emphasize)

In **Rev. 21: 22-27**, NASB, it is the LAMB, in the center of it all,
*"22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and **the Lamb are its temple**.*
23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of

God has illumined it, and ***its lamp is the Lamb.***
24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.
25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed;
26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;
27 and nothing unclean, and no *one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever* *come into it, but only* *those whose names are written in* ***the Lamb's*** *book of life."*
Check out my four-part article series on the New Jerusalem. You will see that we, the Church, the 'One new Man' in Christ ARE NOT TO BE FOUND on earth in the millennia, and neither will we be on the new earth with its New Jerusalem – we are forever found in the heavens up above. Thus Revelation points out to us that it is entirely a Jewish enterprise. Even the walls on New Jerusalem have inscribed the names of the twelve apostles. And the gates are inscribed the names on the twelve tribes. It has no affiliation to the Church whatsoever! The using of 'The Lamb' concerning Jesus Christ, is a sign that all of these things concerns Israel and its future. They are addressed in a Jewish manner, by calling Jesus 'The Lamb'. And at the same breath: They are constantly reminded of His sacrifice on the cross forever. Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God. But the Church, has a different hope of salvation: Heaven up above (Greek, *epiouranos*).

Col. 3:1-4, NASB,
"1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on ***the things above****, not on the things that are on earth.*
3 For you have died and ***your life is hidden with Christ in God.***
4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be ***revealed with Him in glory.***"

Eph. 1: 3-9, NASB,
"3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us ***with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,***
4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love
5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight
9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him"

The heavenly places in Christ (v. 3) – has nothing to do with the Millennia or the New Earth with its New Jerusalem. Those are earthly things. Things *from* heaven, - but still earthly since those things are present on earth.
New Jerusalem will be here, on earth, after it first has been re-newed/re-arranged; and changed greatly. The Mediterranean Sea shall be disappearing, among other great happenings, (verse 1).

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Paul's Quoting Isa. 6, Disputing Sanhedrin In Rome

JAN LILLEBY

This article will be a study of what exactly Is. 6 says, comparing it with Paul's *quotation* as he disputed with the Sanhedrin counsel at Rome, seen in Acts 28:25-28.
We shall be using the mental idea of a magnifying glass…focusing on a few details.

Such eventual details can often bring to light all the elements of important Bible truth in a passage. You will see what I mean by this, as we get to it.
Historians hold that there were eleven synagogues in Rome at that time, thus the Sanhedrin must have been represented by at least eleven Chief Rabbis. Since their only temple was in Jerusalem, there was no priesthood abroad; only the Jewish teachers and scribes.

Acts 28:25-29, NASB, on this dispute which did not end well for Israel,

“25 And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,

26 saying, 'GO TO THIS PEOPLE AND SAY, "YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

27 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES; OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM."'

28 "Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen."

29 [When he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves.]”

Is. 6:9, 10, NASB, equaling verses 26 and 27 in Acts 28,
“9 He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.'
10 "Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed."

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JEWS AND GENTILES

Acts 28 and Is. 6 are really displaying the *difference* between the two parties: Jews and Gentiles.

That particular difference is seen by noticing what Paul said to the Sanhedrin in **Acts 28:27**, an excerpt**….”and they have closed their eyes…”**

Before saying ‘eyes’ – Paul mentioned their ears: ***“…with their ears, they scarcely hear…”***

These two body organs, - the ears and the eyes, was told of the Jews, and they were held by God as unbelievers by that fact. They had SHUT OFF their ears, for one, and secondly, - they had also SHUT their eyes. Thus their understanding of the fact that Jesus was their God sent Messiah king was hidden to them, and they rejected Jesus Christ.

The actual meaning behind the fact that they had **shut their eyes**, was the fact that they – even if Jesus and the apostles worked miracles and wonders among them - they did not take heed to this. They dismissed such super-natural signs as something not done by God, but by the devil. They held Jesus as a *false prophet* and a sorcerer and magician. We know that from the Gospel stories as the Pharisees and Scribes opposed Jesus in public. The Babylonian Talmud says the very same things, and even added another lie: Jesus was a bastard son of Mary having intercourse with a Roman centurion.

They dismissed Paul's message to them in Rome, as he laid out for them how it was that Jesus died and rose again, and took upon Him the sins of Israel. What we may call the *Gospel of the Kingdom of God* on earth. It was based on the Messianic promise of the kingdom told their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
Paul used the following line in **Acts 13:32, 38, 39**, NASB,
*"32 "And we preach to you the good news (Gospel) **of the promise made to the fathers,***
*38 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren *, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,*

39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses."

THE JEWS WERE GRANTED TO HEAR **AND** TO SEE

Here we are at the main point I am promoting, namely the fact that Paul, in Acts 28:28 pointed to the Gentiles as such a group which would HEAR the Gospel (thus receiving it), but **NOT SEEING**, like it was with the Jews.
The Jews were ***granted to see signs***: Miracles and wonders, great healings and casting out of demons. Acts 5 and Acts 19 testify of this greatly.
But for us Gentiles, Paul laid it out, **Acts 28:28**, NASB,
"*Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; **they will also listen.***"
Paul prophesied of us Gentiles as a group of prospective believers, which would LISTEN to the Gospel, thus also receiving it and come to faith in Jesus Christ.
History confirms Paul's prophecy as true and fulfilled!
As opposed to Jewry, at large, this in our time can be held as just a small MINORITY regarding faith in Jesus. They would NOT hear, nor would they SEE. They rejected Jesus on a total basis.

PAUL KNEW THAT MIRACLE SIGNS WERE FOR ISRAEL
AND NOT FOR THE GENTILES

Had miracle signs been for Gentiles also, then he would have told the Sanhedrin that the Gospel was sent to the Gentiles, and they would listen and they WOULD SEE.
Paul, using the gift of *tongues* as an example, wrote on this subject in **1 Cor. 14:21,22**, NASB,

"21 In the Law it is written, "BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME," says the Lord.

22 So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe."

But we can, true to the Bible, add that indeed these *miracle signs were several*, as told in **Mark 16:17, 18,** NASB,

"17 These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues;

*18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover *."*

These wonders and miracle signs are what we meet as we open the Book of Acts, learning of the apostles of Christ.

They were sent to Israel, the twelve, and Paul later on (44-45 CE) was sent out to the synagogues in the Empire abroad, see Acts 13 and on. Acts 9:15 tells of his early future mission abroad, which Jesus had revealed to Ananias in Damascus.

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ACCORDING TO THE 'SIGNS' TOLD OF JESUS IN THE STARS HE WAS BORN 9-11-3 BC!

JAN LILLEBY

Not that the correct birthdate of

Jesus has anything to do with our salvation by faith alone – but still it is interesting to find such details. It is enough just to know *that* He came to earth, died on the cross for our sins, rose again, and went up into heaven and so forth. We are saved by faith, not works (Eph. 2:8, 9).

A few years ago I wrote an article on Jesus, dying on the cross in Passover (14th Nisan) in 28 CE. He was then 33 years of age, well into His 34th year. Taking the *corrected* years (from Catholic manipulation of date) into it, meaning Jesus was born 3-5 years earlier than what the Church Father's estimates said. This seems now to be a correct date setting. I had not the knowledge of the 'Signs in the stars' when I wrote the article.

And this date is made even narrower, by the fact that the Gospels tells of **two Sabbaths that Passover**: The High Sabbath on Thursday 15th Nisan, and the regular one on 17th Nisan, which was a Saturday naturally. Meaning that Jesus died on the cross Wednesday 14th Nisan as He hung on the cross for six hours, 09.oo to 15.oo.

There are only TWO Passovers which would fit the Gospel scenario of a Sabbath, after which it became an open business day (for the women to go and buy herbs and oil to care for the body of Jesus) – and that day was Friday 16th Nisan: The year 28 CE and 31 CE. Only 28 CE will fit the bill…of Jesus foretold in the stars, born 9-11-3 BC. He would have been too old if born 0 or 1 CE, He would have been 36 years old. Luke 3:23 says He started ministry when He was 30 years of age. Jesus, in His parable of the Barren Fig Tree in Luke 13, said of Himself, He had been looking for 'figs' for three years (Luke 13:7).

As we check on the '*signs of the heavens' – the position of the stars,* as we read Rev. 12 of the virgin giving birth, this is a <u>two-sided</u> meaning.

The first was that it told of Jesus as He was already 'pictured' in the star-constellations. I am no expert in this sort of topic, however, there are several fine bible theologians who has written much about this on the internet. The second meaning of Rev. 12 is that it tells of a *future situation of Israel* in great tribulation, and the Jews will flee from the terror of the Anti-Christ, into the Judean wilderness where they will be fed by God for survival. The born 'child' are in this regard the believing Messianic Jews of 'Mother Israel'.

(Let us not forget, mentioning the 'Gospel in the stars' – that E. W. Bullinger himself had made studies of this. You find his writings on the net).

The *short-version* of Jesus foretold in the stars (as per astronomical understanding, NOT astrological), can best be explained by an excerpt I have clipped in here, written by **Joseph Lenard** in his book *"Mysteries of Jesus' Life Revealed – His Birth, Death, Resurrection and Ascension".*

□ Published on the website□□ -□□ ***truthinscripture.net***. The clip is of some length, but it is convenient to let this come to our□□ knowledge, if you are asking me □□□□ - □□ - □ -

Revelation 12:1-6 Conveys the Exact Year,□□ Day, and Hour of Jesus' Birth!

□□ □□□□ The events of the birth of Jesus are recorded in only three places in the New Testament: Matthew's Gospel, Luke's Gospel, and in□□ *Chapter 12 of the Book of Revelation*□□ (Revelation 12:1-6). It is true that Revelation contains much figurative language which is highly symbolic. However, within this figurative language are contained clues which precisely date the birth of Jesus – both the day and precise hour of His birth!

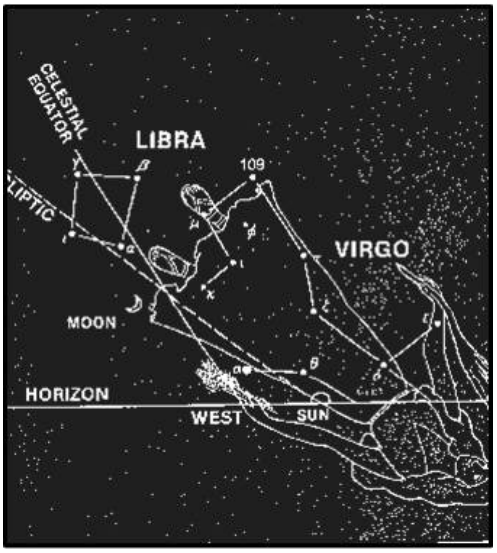
An evaluation of Revelation 12 – including an analysis of the astronomy depicted – provides additional support for the birthdate of□□ Jesus as derived from Luke's Gospel, specifically the birthdate of John the Baptist and the eighth priestly course of□□ *Abijah*, as discussed in the previous Post□□ ***"Jesus' Birth – Evidence from the Birth of John the Baptist"***. Both point to the fall season, the Hebrew month of□□ *Tishri*□□ (September). However, it is an analysis of Revelation 12 that gives us the precise day and hour.

The Apostle John wrote the following account of the "Woman and the Dragon" in Revelation Chapter 12, which has a veiled reference to God's plan of redemption for mankind – the birth of Jesus:

"A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a□□ ***woman***□ *clothed with the□□* ***sun****, with the□□* ***moon***□□ *under her feet and a crown of□□* ***twelve stars***□□ *on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous□* ***red dragon***□□ *with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a□□* ***son, a male child****, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. (Revelation 12:1-6 NIV)*

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon has hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil or□□ ***Satan****, who leads the*

whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him." (Revelation 12:7-9 NIV)



Interpretation of the Signs in Revelation 12:1-6

For sure, the scene described in Revelation 12:1–6 is highly symbolic. Remember that Genesis tells us that one of the reasons that celestial bodies were made by God was to provide *signs* (Genesis 1:14). The passage in Revelation does just that.

It should be noted that the depiction in Revelation 12 could not be a literal description of the Virgin Mary, as the "*woman*" in the passage had the heavens associated with her – the sun, the moon, and the twelve stars. In addition, John stated that the display was a *wonder* (KJV; a great sign) and that it was *in heaven*. Of the three "heavens" – where the birds fly; where the sun, moon, planets and stars exist (Genesis 1:17); and where God lives (II Corinthians 12:2) – the most reasonable interpretation of the "*heaven*" as used in Revelation is where the sun, moon and the twelve stars are located.

What is all this symbolism communicating to us and how exactly does it tell us the precise birth date of Jesus? The key to understanding the passage in Revelation 12 is to analyze the *astronomy* depicted in this account in Scripture. This is a case of the written Word and the Word written in the stars coming together in parallel truths.

The sign given in verse 1 is that of a woman. The only sign of the zodiac which depicts a woman is the constellation of **Virgo**. The birth of the Messiah is associated with this heavenly spectacle (Revelation 12:2). The vision given to John associates specific positions of the sun and the moon in relation to Virgo, located within the normal paths of the sun and moon across the heavens. The specific locations of the sun and moon in relation to the woman give us clues to the specific day and time for the birth of the Messiah.

According to Ernest Martin in his book ***The Star of Bethlehem: The Star that Astonished the World***:

"The only time in the year that the Sun could be in a position to 'clothe' the celestial woman called Virgo (that is, to be mid-bodied to her, in the region where a pregnant

woman carries a child) is when the Sun is located between about 150 and 170 degrees along the ecliptic. This 'clothing' of the woman by the Sun occurs for a 20-day period each year. This 20 degree spread could indicate the general time when Jesus was born. In **3 B.C.**, the Sun would have entered this celestial region about **August 27** and exited from it about **September 15**. If John in the Book of Revelation is associating the birth of Jesus with the period when the Sun was mid-bodied to this woman called Virgo (and this is no doubt what he means), then Jesus would have to be born within that 20-day period. From the point of view of the Magi . . . this would have been the only logical sign under which the Jewish Messiah might be born, especially if he were to be born of a virgin"

The sign of the sun "*clothing*" the woman (Virgo) defines a period of 20-days (August 27 to September 15 for the year 3 BC). It is the additional sign of the moon being "*under her feet*" which actually pinpoints the nativity to within a day – to within 90 minutes on that day. In the year 3 BC, these two relationships of the sun and moon and Virgo came into alignment for only an 81-minute period, as observed from Palestine in the *twilight* period of *September 11*. This relationship *began at 6:18 p.m. (sunset) and lasted until 7:39 p.m. (moonset)*.

It should also be noted that this is the only day (September 11) in the whole year (3 BC) that the astronomical phenomenon described in Revelation Chapter 12 could take place. That the birth of Jesus was after sunset is confirmed in Luke's description:

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks ***at night****. An angel of the Lord appeared to them . . .* ***Today*** *[the day started at sundown] in the town of David a Savior* ***has been born*** *to you . . ."* (Luke 2:8-9a NIV).

In addition, the timing of the sun and moon relationship with Virgo was a New Moon day, with the small sliver of the moon setting after the setting of the sun. Jesus was born at that time in the early evening. This New Moon day was *Tishri 1* on the Jewish calendar (*September 11, 3 BC*), which is *Yom Teruah* (the Feast of Trumpets). (Editor Jan Lilleby's emphasize).

The vision of Revelation 12 – with Virgo giving birth – also has a "Near/Far" fulfillment, which is common in biblical prophecy. Obviously, on ***September 11, 3 BC*** Jesus fulfilled the vision of the birth of Messiah. Satan later tried to kill the Messiah through the actions of Herod, after the Magi arrived and left. There is, in addition, a *future* fulfillment of this vision, in the end times. How do we know this? We know this because of the usage of the future tense "has" – not "had" – in the original Greek

language in Revelation 12:6:

"Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she ***ha(s)*** *a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days"* (Revelation 12:6 NASB).

This particular insight belongs to Nelson Walters from an article on his website at http://www.thegospelintheendtimes.com/pictures-of-end-times-in-the-bible/christmas-end-times/.

Nelson states in his article:

"The actual word in the Greek is present tense "has"; but this confused the translators of the NASB. They translated it "had" and left a note that the actual word was "has" because they probably failed to see the near/far fulfillment. The time the woman is in the wilderness should catch prophecy students [sic] attention as well: 1260 days. This is the reign of the Antichrist. This is a picture of the flight of the righteous (Israel and the Church). . . Mary and Joseph's flight to Egypt then is a prophetic picture of the flight of the righteous out of Israel at the Midpoint of the Tribulation."

The above *future* fulfillment of Revelation 12, related to the vision of the huge red dragon (Satan) confronting a woman who is about to give birth (Israel), is further discussed by Mark Davidson in his book, ***Daniel Revisited–Discovering the Four Mideast Signs Leading to the Antichrist (2013)***.

However, for the purpose of this discussion, the important thing for us to take away from Revelation 12:1-6 is that it supports the birth of Jesus being on **September 11, 3 BC** – just after sunset, at the start of *Tishri 1* on the Jewish calendar.

This date also conforms to the findings of other evidence (the other *puzzle pieces*) regarding the date of the Jesus' birth."

End of excerpt from Joseph Lenard's book on this subject.

So, dear reader, it is proven ALSO in the said star-constellations that Jesus was born on a set date, as told above, it was 9-11-3 BC…the very same day in Jewish calendar that *Tishri 1 – the Feast of Trumpets was celebrated. They sounded the Shofars, thus telling Israel to repent and so preparing themselves. AND: It pleased God, the Father of Christ, to add a heavenly choir of angels to the shofars that day, as they sang before the shepherds on the fields of Bethlehem!*

I cannot help noticing **the date itself**: Now, where or when have I noticed this particular date of 9-11??

Aahh…my oh my, if it isn't the day of disaster in New York's Manhattan and the destruction of the two towers, World Trade Center.

The calendar day 9-11 has got the **birth of Jesus Christ** in common with the 9-11 disaster in 2001. Is this a pure coincident? Well, let us not fall into senseless speculations. We better leave that alone.

There was in 2017 a *rear incident* of that same constellation of the Virgin: It was seen in exactly the same position as when Jesus was born 9-11-3 BC. Several Christian ministers have noticed this and written of it. Check the internet. Some of them think it is pointing to the soon return of Jesus from heaven. I cannot tell you what I think of this…not yet. We will have to wait and observe. The Second Advent is not for the Church, but for Israel after she has come out of the 'Great Tribulation' (Mat. 24:20-22).

The *Second Advent is not mentioned or taught* by Paul in his two only Church Epistles, Ephesians and Colossians. That is for sure. Neither did he exhort the believers to look for 'Signs in the Heavens'!

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WHAT IF MARK 16 OF MIRACLES AND WONDERS - ACTUALLY WERE MEANT TO HAPPEN IN THE ENTIRE WORLD?

JAN LILLEBY

This has been, and still is the false beliefs inside most of Christianity today, as well as in the past centuries.
Especially the *Pentecostal-Charismatic camps* have that kind of beliefs. It's enough to look at what the false movement of Word of Faith brought on the scene – you know, the *Prosperity Gospel'* instigated by Kenneth Hagin Sr. in Tulsa with his Rhema Bible Church; later followed by

several infamous falsehoods like Kenneth Copeland with his ‘Eagle Mountain Church in Fort Worth. I could go on listing it all up, but this is enough for now. Well, let me throw in a couple *forerunners* to these, namely T.L. Osborn and perhaps the most intense false ‘Healing Evangelist’ back in the fifties and sixties, Oral Roberts. His son, Richard, is now doing like his ole’ man. These guys were/are the originals who was copied by preachers many places around the world. Several ‘Copy Cats’ have come and passed, here in my own homeland Norway. They all got it wrong.

It is actually IMPOSSIBLE that God ever should have meant that such ministries as seen with Peter and the eleven, as well as Paul, should go on and capture the ‘Religious market’ all over this world.
We don’t have to make any further investigations than of simply learning the LOGISTICS of such a vast narrative.
The master of deception, and the ‘Father of Lies’, Satan, would like to have all Christians walking around preaching such bewildered nonsense…*go, speak in tongues, and heal all the sick, cast out demons, wake the dead, - as you are preaching the Gospel….those who believe and are baptized shall be saved, but who does not believe shall be condemned…*
Mark 16 coupled with Mat. 28 and the ‘Great commission’ you get that ***false wild idea*** of a ‘World-Wide Mission’ ….
19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
*20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always *, even to the end of the age."*

This teaching by Jesus to His apostles was no nonsense in His time. It was real, but it was a commission meant to be ministered to Israel and proselytes only! Not the whole world out there. Paul went out to those sorts of people (Jews and proselytes) in the Empire and its provinces. But the twelve ministered ONLY inside Israel. It is clearly proven when reading Acts. Check my different articles on that topic.

Before I get to it, the logistical part of my article, let me just tip you off to a known Hollywood movie called **‘Bruce Almighty’** – starring Jim Carrey – the Canadian stand-up comedian who got famous for his hilarious impersonating of celebrities. If you go on the YouTube, check him out as he impersonates Clint Eastwood, Leonid Brezhnev, Elvis Presley and others. My favorite is the ‘Leonid Brezhnev’ version. I can’t help laughing! What a face!! Sorry, I just got carreyed away…
The film portrays Carrey’s role-character (Bruce Nolan) as a dumb-ass TV-reporter. He is envious with his more successful colleagues in the company.
The sad fella complains to God (played by Morgan Freeman) that he is not doing his job correctly and is

offered the chance to try being God himself for one week. (It co-stars Jennifer Aniston, Philip Baker Hall, and Tony Bennett).
My point here: Bruce Nolan is given by God to do His job for a week, to let him show off to Him if he could do a better job of it! I can heartily just drop the bomb: He failed miserably!
The film makers let 'Bruce' perform great miracles of insane character (including walking on water (Lake Erie, near downtown Buffalo); he impresses his girlfriend (Jennifer Aniston) by commanding the full-moon to get bigger; he punishes some street punks, hard; he make his super-successful TV colleague lose his job, so he can take it…thus becoming the new hot-shot in town….and so on, and so forth.
He is *overwhelmed* with all the incoming prayers from Christian believers…it is all too much! To make the story short: The logistics are *crashing his entire daily life*, and knocks him all out. He cannot play God anymore.
Likewise, if we are to think that God meant Mark 16 and miracles going world-wide, it is easily proven that this is impossible.
God has to take care of His believers, - and not putting them into weird unreal situations….like for instance shown by that film comedy, "Bruce Almighty".

THE APOSTLES DID NOT GO EMTYING HOSPITALS!

You find extraordinary miracles and wonders performed by God through Peter and the eleven in Acts 5, stirring up Jerusalem and nearby smaller towns, as well as with Paul in Acts 19 at Ephesus, causing riot.
First Peter and the eleven, **Acts 5:12-16**, NASB,
"12 At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico.

13 But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem.

14 And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number,

15 to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.

16 Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed".

Paul at Ephesus, **Acts 19:11-19**, NASB,
"11 God was performing ***extraordinary miracles*** *by the*

hands of Paul,

12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, ***and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.***

13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."

14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the ***name*** *of the* ***Lord*** *Jesus* ***was being*** *magnified.*

18 Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.

*19 And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty * thousand pieces of silver".*

Now – here comes the intriguing real-world scenario…if we borrow some of weird 'Bruce Almighty' film's kinky way of pointing to 'God' (in the film you hear *nothing* of Jesus, or the Apostles, or the story coming up with these biblical healing miracles) – let's check out Peter and the eleven. Putting them into our time, now, in a big city.

Just to use the 'All over the world' understanding found much within Pentecostal-Charismatic camps:
Imagine this huge healing-wave of Acts 5 entering the city of New York.
Imagine Peter and the twelve appearing right where Central Park begins at Midtown Manhattan. It's plenty of space to have an open air meeting, preaching Jesus as Savior…and healer. See image.
Cancer struck men and women getting instantly healed, and shouting with

joy! Lame and other infirmities instantly healed, jumping up from their wheel chairs, throwing their crutches away…crying for sheer joy and shocked with getting ALL HEALED!

After half an hour…allowing the arrival of a couple TV-crews with cameras broadcasting live, of a crowd of nearly 3000 desperate sick and afflicted men and women, thus making a total chaos at Manhattan.

On TV-screens in New York and Brooklyn: Healings and miracles directly on TV, as Peter is grabbing sick people out of their wheel chairs, and grabbing their crutches as they are instantly healed…praising the Lord Jesus aloud! Wild scenes taking place for open cameras.

After two hours – Peter needs a pause, letting James and John take the 'podium' continuing the healing wave of God and the Holy Spirit.

The crowd are now blocking five streets near Central Park…and the NYPD show up with a 'Motorcade' of uniforms to try to loosen up the havoc with these blocked streets. Miles long traffic jams way down 56th Street, 58th Street, 59th Street, 5th Avenue, 6th Avenue, and not to forget Madison Avenue. A Police officer's hell-on-Earth, especially if you are in the Traffic Patrol Unit!

Donald Trump can *theoretically* sit in his huge apartment in the 600 Ft. (183 Meter) Trump-Tower at 725 Fifth Avenue, sited at the corner of 56th Street - and watch this horror-scenario going on. All caused by THE REAL GODSENT APOSTLES OF CHRIST, let loose on newyorkers and the lot. **Acts 5:16 in real life: "And they were all being healed."**

Police crews arriving in vain; people storming in from all Manhattan…it is closing in on a disastrous crisis, with peoples' lives at stake! As if the Police did not have enough on their hands already: Here arrives 15 Ambulances from the big hospitals in town, with dying patients…begging for opportunity to come before the apostles of Christ!

I shall be merciful and stop it right there.

Oh, *excuse me,* I just forgot to tell: This horror-scenario would be going on in **ALL the major cities in the entire world**, if Mark 16 was meant to be taken literally, and not understanding that it was restricted to Israel only, - and to the towns Paul visited in Asia Minor in his time. There was no 'World-Wide' mission or any 'Healing Ministry' to the entire world. This is an illusion created by Satan, to have us Christians look like idiots to the world. We would have been cast into that 'Bruce Almighty' – syndrome. It will all come crashing down.

I will not go the same round with Paul, simply because this narrative of **logistics** with using Peter and the twelve is more than enough.
There is no way on God's green earth that He would ever have anyone coming to town like the apostles' told in Acts 5 and Acts 19. It's a 'No Go'.
The apostles did not go on trying to empty the eventual hospitals in Jerusalem or Bethlehem or Bethsaida or Jericho in their time. They obeyed Christ and the Holy Spirit as they ministered within the land of Israel. Mark 16 and Mat. 28 speak only of Israel as the place for the 12 Apostles. John's Gospel, 21st chapter says that Jesus sent them to the SHEEP OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL. Paul was sent to Asia Minor mainly to the synagogues there. His miracles in Ephesus – a city of 200 000 at that time – was a 'One Off'.
In his epistle to the Ephesians he did not mention his earlier preaching and ministry there. He actually made no mention of miracles at all.
So, Pentecostals and Charismatics, and Word of Faith, as well as New Apostolic Reformation deception, you better get to your senses. Don't go around looking like the old film-clowns, the 'Three Stooges', - with a fake and *even satanic lie* of God healing sick ones in our time. There isn't an apostle anywhere in this world. They all died in the first century.
Don't be a ridiculous 'Bruce Almighty' goon, thinking you can act as if you were God Himself. As if God ever should have talked directly with you. Don't deceive yourself.

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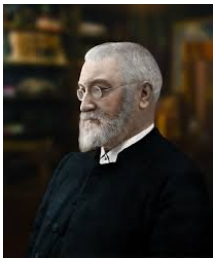
BULLINGER'S 'IDEA' THAT ROMANS 16:25, 26 ON THE MYSTERY, MAY HAVE BEEN ADDED AFTER PAUL'S ARRIVAL AT ROME

JAN LILLEBY

The reason I want to touch in on this topic, is that the known 'theory' raised by E. W. Bullinger, - …a possibility that Paul may have added Rom. 16:25, 26 to this epistle, *after* his arrival at Rome, is often used to 'down-grade' Bullinger's works. And so trying to explain

why Paul is pointing to the *Mystery – that in Rom. 16:25, 26 – is the same Mystery told in Eph. 3:1-3.* **But it is very clear that the Mystery in Rom. 16:25, 26 is NOT the Mystery told in Eph. 3.**

To clarify this, I have clipped in an ***excerpt*** from my book *"Paul's Revelation of the Church".* (You can have the book emailed to you freely, just send me an inquiry).



We shall easily see that Bullinger's theory on Rom. 16 and the Mystery, was nothing but a theory. He did not hold on to it later on. At that time he was *still fresh* in the Acts-28 beliefs, and things went a little askew at times. Thanks to *Charles Welch* he made corrections regarding details in his interpretation of Scripture. Most Acts-28 believers know that. At one of these moments when Bullinger was corrected by Welch's interpretation in certain issues, he replied: *"Well, we do want to know the truth, don't we?"*

PAUL'S MENTION OF A MYSTERY IN ROM. 16

It may seem as a contradiction when reading Rom. 16:25, 26, NASB, (written by Paul in Ephesus 57 CE) -

"25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, ***according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,***
26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;"

We have to notice the referred time-aspect here. It clearly says *revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for* ***long ages past.***

In Eph. 3:9 – written in 63-64 CE, it points to having been kept hidden in God, since before He created the world, NASB,
"…and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which ***for ages has been hidden in God*** *who created all things;"*

The expression *for ages* means for the entire length of time before God created anything.

In AMP net version it says,
"…and to make plain [to everyone] the plan of the mystery [regarding the uniting of believing Jews and Gentiles into one body] which [until now] was kept hidden ***through the ages*** *in [the mind of] God who created all things."*

Let me also add to this, that in my Norwegian Bible of 1988 it says, in Norwegian language, Rom. 16:25, 26,

«25 Men ham som er mektig til å styrke dere etter mitt evangelium og forkynnelsen av Jesus Kristus, etter åpenbaringen av det mysteriet som det har vært* ***tiet om i evige tider,***

26 men som nå er ***kommet for lyset og etter den evige Guds befaling ved profetiske skrifter*** *er blitt kunngjort for alle folk for å virke troens lydighet –«*

Verse 25, Red text: "Kept silent in eternal times (eternal= aionos)."
Verse 26, Red text: "Brought into the light according to the eternal God's commandment by prophetic Scriptures –"
The 'Mystery' in Romans 16 is NOT the same as with Paul's revelation in Eph. 3. The one in Romans 16 was a type of mystery which had been hidden (kept *difficult* to learn) inside *prophetic Scriptures.* It was already revealed to or through the prophets who had written these Scriptures mentioned by Paul. It had been kept silent and hidden inside Scriptures, since *aionos times,* which refers to *earlier dispensations*, for instance the dispensation of the Law of Moses. But the revelation given Paul in Eph. 3:3 was a Mystery hidden in God since *before the start of times* or dispensations, actually before God had created anything. But also we need to have Paul's expression **'Until now'** as the 'ice-breaker' into this, for it excludes any possibility of that Mystery to ever have been revealed to anyone *before* Paul had it. The Mystery was hidden in God, until the moment (as Paul wrote this, in jail) NOW, which was around 63-64 CE according to most scholars.

MYSTERY REVELATION WAS ATTACHED
TO CHRIST HAVING ABOLISHED THE LAW

Also, let me point to another important Bible truth which must be in place in order to make the epistle a 'Post-Acts' writing, namely the fact of Christ having ***abolished the Law of Moses***, in order to create the 'One new Man' – the Church for which Christ is the Head.
In Romans we find that there is absolutely no word on the Law having been abolished by Christ. On the contrary, we find that the Acts-believers did actually uphold the Law and observing it, Rom. 3:31, AMP,
"Do we then nullify the Law by this faith [making the Law of no effect, overthrowing it]? Certainly not! On the contrary, we confirm and establish and uphold the Law [since it convicts us all of sin, pointing to the need for salvation]."
NASB says,
"Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law."
The Mystery revelation in Eph. 2:14-16; 3:1-9, Col. 1:25, 26; 2:13-17, has the clear mention of not only the Mystery revealed, but that Christ had ***abolished the Law*** with all

its ordinances.
Inside the 'Acts-28 Community' in the world today, there are fractions which hold that not only Ephesians and Colossians are Mystery epistles – Church epistles if you prefer – so they say that Philippians, 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus are Mystery epistles as well.
I have to disagree on that. For the simple reason that neither the word 'Mystery' nor the word/passage *'abolished the Law'* can be found in any of these, except Ephesians and Colossians.
In addition to that, these epistles (Philippians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus) differ a lot regarding the doctrinal contents.
So, for an epistle to ***really be a true Church epistle*** for the 'One new Man' – they have to teach the Mystery revelation *alongside* the revelation that Christ abolished the Law of Moses.
This Bible truth made me a 'Two Books Preacher' if you understand. I cannot find any other epistles in NT than Ephesians and Colossians which tells of *Mystery & Abolishment of the Law all together.*

In **Col. 2:13-17** Paul made a specific list so to wipe away any doubts in the matter, NASB,
"13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,
14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-
17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ."

Notice the merry mindset and joyfulness of Paul in verse 15 – compared to his earlier teachings on the Second Advent of Christ, as He should come down from heaven with His angels and with fire and doom…..it had now turned to Christ's incredible and irresistible all-conquering work which He accomplished on the cross! Christ thus greatly triumphed over all the evil powers and rulers and actually 'hanged' them out to dry – for all the mankind to observe in awe.
And here, in our time, we find multitudes of confused Christian believers hoping for the Second Advent of Christ to occur, an advent which is NOT for the Church at all, - it is for Israel only. They are greatly mistaken, for they have

not learnt how it is with Paul's revelation of the Church according to the Mystery. We cannot lean on the four Gospels and Acts and the hope which was preached in those times. It was all for Israel only, including their proselytes.

The hope of the Church is the *epiouranos heaven,* the 'super-heaven' where Christ now resides with His Father. And Paul is our Chief Tutor – the Dean on the Campus. We do not have Jesus as our teacher. ***Jesus sent us Paul and no other.***

A Dean is not the President of the respective university. He is traditionally one who, - quote,

"Deans are academic leaders who have academic, programmatic, managerial, and fiscal responsibilities for a school. Deans ***verify the adequacy of instruction, monitor academic integrity, confer degrees, and are responsible for student recruitment, admission, and academic progress."***

Now, if Paul is our Dean, then Jesus is the President. He is ranked of course way above Paul regarding authority. I will suggest then that God is the owner of the university, in this imagined, but however so real constellation.

The revelation of the Church dispensation given to Paul for us, includes that NEW and better hope compared to the Acts-Body's hope, which was the Kingdom on earth for Israel (Acts 3:19-21).

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WATER BAPTISM IN OUR TIME: THIS ORDINANCE ENDED WITH PAUL'S REVELATION OF THE CHURCH DISPENSATION!

JAN LILLEBY

We cannot find any command or ordinance to baptize believers in water post-Acts. Neither can we find any 'Baptism with the Holy Spirit' post-Acts. Actually, with Paul's new revelation as he told in Ephesians 3 and Colossians 1, we cannot find any sort of Biblical ordinances at all. It is all gone. I shall come to this shortly.

It can only be found during the Acts period, as God had His apostles sent out to Israel, 28-62 CE. Peter and the eleven were sent to Israel *inside the land,* while Paul…later on, in 37 CE, was sent to Israel *outside the land* –that is, in the diaspora in the provinces of the Roman Empire. Paul's epistle to the Galatians sets the standard for this narrative, **Gal. 2:7-9,** NASB,

"7 But on the contrary, seeing that ***I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised***

8 (for He who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the ***circumcised*** *effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles),*

9 and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so ***that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised."*** (My emphasize)

Reading Acts, we find that Peter and the eleven kept the ordinances, of which *water baptism was one*, and so did also Paul when he went outside the land.
Peter in Acts **2:36-39**, NASB, as response to his speech on Pentecost 28 CE (it was actually June 20, a Sunday – the 50th day after Passover) -

"36 "Therefore let all the ***house of Israel know*** *for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ -this Jesus whom you crucified."*

37 Now when ***they heard this****, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren *, what shall we do?"*

38 Peter said to them, ***"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.***

39 "For the promise ***is for you and your children*** *and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."*

(My emphasize)

Peter's reference to the *Holy Spirit* is directly based

on the promise given to them by Jesus; that God should let the Holy Spirit come upon and fill those who took to the faith. Such as we find happened in **Acts 2:1-4**, NASB,

"1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."

In **Mark 1:8 and John 1:33**, the Baptist proclaimed that Jesus "will baptize in (the) Holy Spirit"; while in **Matthew 3:11 and Luke 3:16**, he "will baptize with Holy Spirit and fire".

But as we read of the Holy Spirit in Paul's two only Church epistles written post-Acts around 63-67 CE…as he was in jail in Rome, we find the Holy Spirit only mentioned as a 'seal' or a 'guarantee' for our salvation by faith.

Ephesians on Holy Spirit

It is noticeable that while Ephesians has mentions of the Holy Spirit in every chapter, there is but one mention in the whole of **Col. *1:7, 8,***

"*Epaphras … also declared unto us your love in the Spirit*".

But at this point, we have to remember that Paul's two Church epistles (actually it *was three*, for the one to Laodicea was never found) – are so-called *circular letters.* They were read in all the congregations in Asia Minor, such as in Hierapolis, Laodicea, Ephesus, Colossae and others. When Paul had the Grace Gospel preached through his faithful co-workers in Asia Minor 63-67 CE, it was decades before any historic Gospel writing was issued. Matthew came in 80-85, Mark in 83, Luke probably in 73, and John in 92-93 CE. Paul was alone regarding the revelation of the Grace Gospel to the entire world. Eph. 3:1-9.

Eph. 1:13, 14, NASB,

*"13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation -**having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,***

*14 **who is given as a pledge of our inheritance**, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."* (My emphasize).

Eph. 4:30, NASB,

"Do not grieve the ***Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed*** *for the day of redemption."* (My emphasize).

The *Holy Spirit* is present ***within us, heart and mind***, but still he has an *altered function* compared to the twelve apostles, as well as Paul when he ministered to Israel in the diaspora: Paul did no longer teach of any miracles, tongues, casting out of demons, etcetera, nor did he go baptizing anyone in water or have them baptized in the Spirit by laying on of hands. In his two Church epistles, we no longer find the Holy Spirit as one who worked in the believers (the apostles) with miracles and wonders.

In the Church dispensation the Spirit works as a 'seal' - a guarantee for us that we are indeed saved, even sat in heaven with Christ.

Likewise, we still have 'baptism' present among us believers in Christ, but this baptism does no longer consist of immersion in water; we are now – as we come to faith – baptized automatically into *the death of Christ.* Jesus said of that death…that He was going to be baptized in it, **Mark 10:32-39,** NASB,

« But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the ***baptism with which I am baptized?****" They said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized."*

Paul used another word for this as well: that of being **circumcised** without human hands (but by God's hand), **Col. 2:11, 12,** NASB,

"11 and in Him ***you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands,*** *in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;*

12 having been ***buried with Him in baptism****, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."* (My emphasize).

This is a real and true spiritual narrative – us shown as such ones who are circumcised by God as we come to faith, thus are buried with Christ in His baptism into death…as well as also being RAISED UP WITH HIM THROUGH FAITH.

This is what Paul also told in short, in **Eph. 4:5,** that ONE BAPTISM.

The Acts-Body of Messianic believers had two baptisms: The water baptism AND that same baptism as we now have, in the death of Christ. They had two baptisms, but we only have one. It's very simple really.

In our time ALL WATER BAPTISMS as well as any 'baptism with the Holy Spirit' are no longer ordinances established by God for the Church.

Such things are not promoted by God.

Is it a sin then, to get baptized in water or seeking a baptism in the Spirit?

No, I would not really call it a sin. It is only a misdemeanor, a petty violation comparable to parking your car where it is not legally. You get a ticket for the latter. But there is no ticket served by God if you believe water baptism should be kept as an ordinance in Church. You will not be rejected by God for this misunderstanding of Scripture.

But why practice such things that God no longer has going for believers in Christ?

We are saved by faith alone, and no works, **Eph. 2:8, 9,** NASB,

"8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."