

THE TRANSITION PERIOD (CIRCA 35 TO 64 AD) (Also called Acts Period)

Peter And The

God's Prophetic Program With the Nation of Israel: DIMINISHING

God's Mystery Program
With the Body of Christ:
INCREASING

Paul Wrote Romans 60 AD



Night of Israel's
Prophecy under
Gentile Darkness is
Far Spent. Rom. 13

Salvation

Is nearer.

Day is at

Rom. 13

Hand.

Body of
Christ
Salvation
And Day
Are here

Transition
Period
Over by Col. 1
Circa 64 AD



Israel's Prophetic Program Set Aside

A

GLORY TO HIS NAME

Down at the cross where my Savior died Down where for cleansing from sin I cried There to my heart was the blood applied Glory to His name!

Glory to His name!
Glory to His name!
There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name!

GLORY TO HIS NAME

I am so wondrously saved from sin
Jesus so sweetly abides within
There at the cross where He took me in
Glory to His name!

Glory to His name!
Glory to His name!
There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name!
(Repeat Chorus)

Weak and Strong Believer (Pt.1)

Rom. 14: 1-9

- 1. All this happens within the context of Pauline Grace Mystery Truth (Eph. 6:19-24).
 - a. This is nothing less than PUTTING ON CHRIST (Rom. 13:14).
 - b. Which protects us from the strong desires of the flesh to do things by its power, living by sight unto defeat: Whether it's doing the works of the Law or doing the works of darkness.
 - c. PGMT is the exact opposite of this. PGMT is the S/spirit and God's power working in and through us (Phil. 2:13).
 - d. Standing fast in the Lord (not ourselves) in the power of His might in the S/spirit (not our power in the flesh), living by faith not by sight, comes by putting on the whole armor of God that comes from the full revelation of PGMT.

- Believing, understanding, knowing PGMT isn't the final step:
 Putting it on is, and this is where praying without ceasing (Eph. 6:18) comes in—thinking, prioritizing, valuing things the way God thinks, prioritizes and values things (Phil. 4:9)
- 3. This problem of weak/strong in the faith is a transitional period issue.
 - a. This passage is usually trivialized, teaching it as a cop-out that excuses a believer's rebellion against God and rejection of His Word through Paul's distinct apostleship. It is not about sincerely believing and doing whatever you want and God will accept it.
 - b. It is important to note that once the Transition Period is over, Paul doesn't use "weak and strong" believer terminology anymore. He uses "disobedient or obedient" believers (Rom. 1:5; 16:26).
 - c. What was a legitimate during the Transition Period is NOT legitimate after the Transition Period.

- 4. Rom. 14 is not so much about "spiritual growth" as it is about rightly-dividing God's Word.
 - a. This passage is not about grey areas or debatable things that are not important. It is not a copout that excuses others ignorance and the errors it brings in. It is not the way believers are excused for rejecting God's Word through Paul for today.
 - b. It is about those who are trying to bring things from God's Prophetic Program with Israel into His Mystery Program for the Body of Christ, causing all kinds of problems, spiritual slumber that hinders the assembly's ministry, giving an occasion and beachhead to the flesh.
 - c. This problem of the "weak in the faith" believer needs to be addressed urgently. But it must not be addressed through the flesh (despising/judging-Rom. 14:1-13) but by following Paul's pattern through the Spirit in Love teaching the "weak in the faith believer" how to rightly-divide the Scriptures (Rom. 15).

- 5. The problem in Rom. 14 is NOT the same problem in 1 Cor. 8.
 - a. The issue is not about Gentile idol worshippers who become believers but about those with a strong Jewish background who become believers through Paul's ministry, and their incorporation not into Israel's Prophetic Program in accord with the non-Pauline Scriptures but the Body of Christ's Mystery Program in accord with Paul's Scriptures.
 - b.1 Cor. 8 is not about weak in the faith but about the weak in conscience, regarding knowledge of idols. In Corinth, they were going as far away from idolatry as possible which was excusable; in Rome some were going back to Israel's Prophetic Program, which was no longer excusable.

- 6. First, this has been the context of the letter as a whole, addressing questions, esp. for those with a strong Jewish background (Rom. 1-4; 9-11).
- 7. Second, the context of Rom. 12-16 as we have seen is God's Good Plan as revealed through PGMT for today and Satan's Evil Plan to get believers confused about God's change in Programs, bringing things from Israel's Prophetic Program into the Body of Christ's Mystery Program, causing disorder and hindering the ministry.
- 8. Third, in Rom. 14:14, the weak brother does not just wonder if the food was offered to idols but if it was "unclean"—a strictly Jewish notion associated with food regulations in the Mosaic Law (Lev. 11).

- 9. Fourth, Jewish concern over food was common during this time (Acts 10; Gal. 2:11-15).
 - a. 40AD: Acts 10: God explained to Peter that He was shutting down his Prophetic Program for the Nation of Israel. Peter was sincerely and legitimately confused.
 - b. 48AD: Acts 15: God thru Paul explains God's new program in the world, His Mystery Program for the Body of Christ. Peter understands and agrees to accept it.
 - c. 58AD: Gal. 2: Peter goes against this acceptance, tries raise up the barrier between Jews and Gentiles again and Paul withstands him to the face for he was blameworthy: Peter's confusion is no longer sincere or legitimate.
 - d. 60AD: Once Rome received Romans what had been sincere and legitimate before will no longer sincere and legitimate.

- 10. Fifth, while a discussion of idolatry permeates 1 Cor. 8-10, Paul does not mention it at all in Rom. 14 or in the surrounding chapters.
 - a. He does, however, mention observance of clean and unclean foods, special days and not drinking wine—all special Jewish concerns (Rom. 14).
 - b. Now Gentiles are made acceptable to God through the Law but through Christ (Eph. 1:6)

11. Sixth, everything in Rom. 14 can be explained in a Jewish context of the Mosaic Law, esp., by scrupulous Jews living in Gentile areas like Rome.

The Solid Rock

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand All other ground is sinking sand All other ground is sinking sand

The Solid Rock

When darkness veils His lovely face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand All other ground is sinking sand All other ground is sinking sand

The Solid Rock

When He shall come with trumpet sound Oh, I will then in Him be found Dressed in His righteousness alone Faultless to stand before the throne!

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand All other ground is sinking sand All other ground is sinking sand