

O Holy Night

O Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of our dear Savior's birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!O night divine! O night when Christ was born.O night divine, O night, O night divine

O Holy Night

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is Love and His gospel is peace; Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name all oppression shall cease, Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we; Let all within us praise His Holy name!

Christ is the Lord, O praise his name forever! His power and glory, evermore proclaim! His power and glory, evermore proclaim!

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day Their old familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all Christendom Had rolled along th'unbroken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doeth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good will to men."

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Till, ringing, singing on its way, The world revolved from night to day A voice, a chime a chant sublime, Of peace on earth, good will to men.

FAITH And God's Word: Right Division (Pt. 3)

Rom. 15:9-12





1. The FIRST thing we need to understand when it comes to handling God's complete Word correctly is that Christ's earthly ministry and the ministry of Peter and the 12 as recorded in the Gospel Accounts, Acts and the General Epistles have to do with God faithfully confirming and fulfilling His Prophetic Program with the Nation of Israel, which had been spoken about since the world began (Rom. 15:8).

 The SECOND thing we need to understand is that in God's Prophetic Program with Israel—the Gentiles received mercy and blessings WITH ISRAEL and THROUGH HER RISE. 3. What a glorious program this is—Blessings going out the Gentiles and restoration of the whole earth is set in motion by the restoration and RISE of national Israel. Wonderful, amazing, awesome!

But there is one BIG

HUMUNGOUS INSURMOUNTABLE Problem

- Paul just told us in Rom. 9-11 that national Israel had stumbled and fallen and gone dark, and that God had cast them away, setting aside His Prophetic Program (temporarily)! (Rom. 11:11-12, 15; Acts 15:16).
 - --God's "conduit" of blessings to the Gentiles broke; His "hose" for dispensing His mercy to the Gentiles burst.
 - --Without national Israel, the OT provides no hope for the Gentiles, and neither does the earthly ministry of Christ or the ministry of Peter and the 12 in the Gospel Accounts, or Acts or the General Epistles because they continue from the OT.

Old Testament God's Prophetic Program with Israel

Christ's Earthly Ministry (Gospel Accounts) and Ministry of the 12 (Acts and General Epistles)

Christ's Earthly Ministry (Gospel Ministry of the 12 (Acts and General Epistles)

Old Testament God's Prophetic Program Istael 5. This leads to the third thing we need to know: When the whole world was despairingly, triply, hopelessly hopeless, with the shutting down of His Prophetic Program for Israel, closing the Gentile's only door of hope. So, the God of Hope did something amazing, something unprophesied, never revealed before: Kept Secret Since the World Began. He opened a new conduit/hose of mercy and blessing to the world, esp. the Gentiles through Paul's distinct apostleship, and all this was made possible by the powerful working of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:13-20) that was exactly what the world's greatest need was:

WITHOUT ISRAEL AND THROUGH HER FALL IN UNBELIEF! THANKS BE TO GOD!!

Paul's Epistles God's Mystery Program with The Body of Christ APART FROM ISRAEL AND THROUGH HER FALL!

- 6. And He did this through the apostleship of Paul by which God made known the Riches of His Grace in the Person and Work of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, proclaiming the Good News of His death and resurrection for ungodly sinners on enemy status before God.
- 7. Now that they had received Paul's Letter, he was sure that they would receive it in faith and be receptive to the persuading work of the Lord establish them in the full knowledge of God's whole truth for today ...

Nevertheless, Paul wanted to drive home BOLDLY the importance of renewing their minds with what was new to them—they couldn't find it in the Old Testament, Gospels or Ministry of 12.

And that is: What God is accomplishing today through Paul's unique and distinct apostleship of and ministry of grace to God's enemies, esp. the Gentiles (Rom. 15:14-21).

8. Rom. 15:16—

- a. God made him, PAUL, the official minister/servant (Gk. leitourgon) of the Lord designated by Christ to go directly to the Gentiles and dispense God's blessings to the world esp. the Gentiles thru Christ (apart from Israel and through her fall).
- b. Do this by ministering/proclaiming/dispensing God's Gospel or Good News for today: Paul's Gospel, the Preaching of Jesus Christ according to the Mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, with all its mercy, blessings, grace and peace (Rom.16:25).
- c. So that through the work of the whole Triune Godhead, the Gentiles would be made an offering acceptable to God the Father(ie., <u>CLEAN</u>!!) through Person and Work of Christ, God the Son, and the sanctifying work of God the Holy Spirit, setting them apart in the Body of Christ for a special divine purpose in accord with His Mystery Program, without the works of the Law.

- 9. Because of the amazing wonder of this ministry God gave him the responsibility and power to carry out, Paul's only desire is to glory in the things of God that accomplished this and talk about the things Christ produced through his ministry (15:17).
 - --He won't talk about anything that Christ didn't produce in and through him to make the Gentiles that acceptable <u>(CLEAN!!)</u> offering, obedient in the faith, by word and deed, and verified by mighty apostolic signs and wonders through the Holy Spirit (15:18; Rom. 1:5; 2 Cor. 12:12; Acts 19:11; 28:3-6).



- Christ's earthly ministry and the ministry of Peter and the 12 as recorded in the Gospel Accounts, Acts and the General Epistles continue God's Prophetic Program with the Nation of Israel in the Old Testament (Rom. 15:8).
- 2. In God's Prophetic Program with Israel, the Gentiles received mercy and blessings WITH ISRAEL and THROUGH HER RISE.
 - --But Now Israel has stumbled, fallen and gone dark, closing the door of blessings to the world, esp. the Gentiles.
- 3. To meet this need God began a new Mystery Program for the Body of Christ that opened a door to God's blessings going directly to the world, esp. the Gentiles, through Paul's apostleship APART FROM ISRAEL and THROUGH HER FALL in unbelief (Rom. 11:30-32).

Joy to the world the Lord is come Let earth receive her King Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing And heav'n and nature sing And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns Let men their songs employ While fields and floods Rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy Repeat the sounding joy Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found Far as the curse is found Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love And wonders of His love And wonders, wonders of His love