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CLOCK  
OF THE  
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**Charles F. Baker**

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**CHARLES F. BAKER**

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## **GOD'S CLOCK OF THE AGES**

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## **LESSON 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **PURPOSE**

Few Christians have a comprehensive knowledge of the Bible. Their reading of it, if any, has been according to a hop-skip-jump method. They may know a few verses from the Psalms or from the Gospels, but they know nothing of the relationship between these two parts and the many other parts of the Bible, which are to them unexplored territory. Many have been led to suppose the Bible is dependable only in spiritual affairs, but is not to be trusted in historical and scientific matters; whereas others who are a bit more logical wonder how it could be authoritative in spiritual matters if not in the other fields of knowledge too. Thousands of young people who were never grounded in biblical knowledge have had their faith in the Bible as the Word of God overthrown by the atheistic reasoning of some college professor, who himself was just as ignorant of the Book of books. Christendom has become divided into hundreds of sects and denominations, largely because of a failure to rightly understand the dispensational character of the Bible.

With these facts in mind, this present study has been designed to give a simple, understandable blueprint of the entire Bible. When one understands the divine plan of the ages, the Bible becomes an intelligible book, the supposed contradictions of sci-

ence are cleared away, and God's great dispensational programs are seen in all of their wisdom and beauty.

## **PLAN**

These great epochs of sacred history have been fitted into the twelve hours of the clock dial, beginning with the Original Creation and ending with the New Creation. The striking of each hour indicates some momentous event which results in a new order or dispensation being called into operation. It is most important to keep these various dispensations clearly distinguished. As we shall see, one might be in complete disobedience to God in endeavoring to obey God's orders for a dispensation other than his own. On the centerfold Clock of the Ages chart it is to be understood that not all of these ages are of equal length: some may be millions of years, others a thousand, and some but a very few years.

## **SPECIAL POINTS**

Of special interest in reconciling the findings of science with the record of the Bible is the fact that two long ages, lasting probably millions of our years, intervened between the Original Creation mentioned in Genesis 1:1 and the creation of man. Disregarding this fact, many have supposed the Bible teaches that man was created at the same time as the earth and the starry universe. This would mean the material universe is therefore no older than the human race, which according to biblical chronology is no more than six to eight thousand years old. Since there are clear evidences from geology that the earth is much more ancient than this, we have a supposed contradiction between the Bible and science. On the other hand, scientists who know how ancient the earth really is make a fatal blunder in supposing the human race has been evolving during all of these long ages until it has finally reached its present state of development. But our Clock of the Ages chart shows clearly that the material universe was created perhaps many millions of years before man was called into being, thus allowing for all of the geologic ages which science has discovered.

Another item worthy of notice is that from Adam to Abraham (three to five o'clock), God was dealing with the human race in general; from Abraham to Paul (five to eight-thirty o'clock), He was dealing with only one nation, Israel, having as His purpose to establish through that nation the earthly, universal, Messianic kingdom, but because Israel rejected her Messiah and His kingdom, that purpose is now temporarily held in abeyance until the Clock of the Ages strikes ten. During the present, intervening time (nine to ten o'clock), God is working out His secret purpose in the outcalling of the heavenly Church, the Body of Christ. This purpose is entirely separate and distinct from the previously revealed kingdom purpose through the nation of Israel. It is called the "mystery" or secret because it was never made known to the sons of men in other ages and generations but was finally revealed to and through the apostle Paul. Furthermore, the revelation of the mystery is to be found in Paul's epistles alone. Confusion in the understanding of these two great divine purposes has been the cause of most of the religious confusion in Christendom.

It is not sufficient for us to merely get back to the Bible to correct these divisions in Christendom; we must get back to the truth of the Dispensation of the Mystery. One can go back to the Bible and find animal sacrifices, religious ceremonies, sabbath days, holy water, candlesticks, holy places, holy days, new moons, meat ordinances—touch not, taste not, handle not—political and astronomical signs, miracles, gifts of tongues, gifts of healing, laws, dietary regulations, divers baptisms, and a host of other things, but the question is: Do these things belong to the present dispensation which concerns the Body of Christ? We must ask: What time is it? Are we living in the garden of Eden under probation? Are we living in an age when our conscience is to be our guide? Are we living in the "shadow days" under the Law? Are we living in the millennial Kingdom, or are we supposed to be trying to establish that Kingdom? Or are we at present in what God calls "the dispensation of the mystery?" You will notice that the hands of the clock are shown pointing to what is probably very near to the present time, close to the end of the Dispensation of the Mystery.

## LIMITATIONS

It should be understood that no amount of charts and explanations will enable you to discern spiritual truth unless you have the Holy Spirit of God indwelling your body. The following passage from 1 Corinthians 2:9-14 makes this very plain.

But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things we also speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

If you are a "natural" human being, you are destitute of the Spirit of God, you are alienated from God by your evil works, you are dead in trespasses and sins, you are abiding under the wrath of God: in short, you are lost. No amount of religion, education, reform, or sincerity can save you and give you the Holy Spirit. You must be saved in God's way, and Jesus Christ is God's Way. Jesus Christ suffered, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring you to God. He made peace by the blood of His Cross; He was made sin for you that you might be made the righteousness of God in Him. He died for your sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. This is called the gospel, and when you believe this gospel, you receive Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior and God saves you. That means He justifies you from all things by His grace through faith making you a new creation in Christ, and He gives you His Holy Spirit so you might

be empowered to live well-pleasing to him and to understand the deep truths of His Word.

If you are not saved, if you do not have the assurance of sins forgiven, before you go another step just bow your heart humbly before God and confess to Him that you are a lost sinner for whom Christ died and that you do now receive Him as your Savior and Lord. And God will save you, for He has bound Himself by His own Word that He will do so, and God cannot lie.

To receive the greatest benefit from the following study you should read and study carefully every Scripture reference given.

Do not receive as truth what is contained in these pages simply because a minister of the gospel wrote it, but be like the noble Bereans who “received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Remember in your study that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and that it is all *for* us, but it is not all *about* us, and that because of this we must “rightly divide the word of truth” in order to be good workmen who need not be ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15). Here is a simple illustration of this dispensational character of the Bible:

- Before the Flood man was given only herbs and fruits for food (Genesis 1:29).
- After the Flood he was given, in addition to this, “every living thing that moveth” (Genesis 9:3).
- At Mt. Sinai God limited the diet of Israel to certain *clean* animals, birds, and fish (Leviticus 11).
- In the present dispensation “every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer”.  
(1 Timothy 4:4,5).



It is evident that while all four of these instructions are for our learning, they are not all given for our obedience. Only the last one is written about and concerning us.

## LESSON 1 WORK SHEET

### MEMORY VERSE:

*“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14).*

### INSTRUCTIONS:

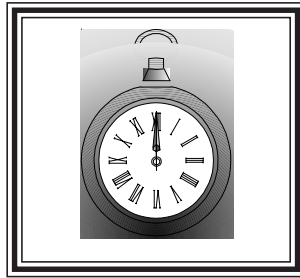
Mark the following statements ( **T** ) True or ( **F** ) False, or fill in the blanks:

1. (    ) Each great epoch of sacred history, represented on the clock dial as one hour, is of equal length.
  
2. (    ) According to the book of Genesis, man was created just a few days after the heavens and the earth were created.
  
3. (    ) According to Bible chronology (the reckoning of time), man was created about six to eight thousand years ago.
  
4. (    ) From Abraham (Genesis 12) to the apostle Paul (Acts 13), God was dealing primarily with only one nation.
  
5. (    ) If Christians would only go back to the Bible and accept everything in it as applying to themselves, all the confusion and divisions in Christendom would be cured.
  
6. (    ) Anyone can discern spiritual truth if he is intelligent and has a good book to explain things to him.

7. During the present time God is working out His \_\_\_\_\_ purpose in the outcalling of the \_\_\_\_\_ church, he \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, which is called the \_\_\_\_\_, because it was never made known to the sons of men in past ages and generations.
8. If you are not a child of God at this moment, what should you do?  
Receive \_\_\_\_\_ as your personal \_\_\_\_\_
9. A very important principle to remember in Bible study is that all Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_ us, but it is not all \_\_\_\_\_ us.
10. Before the Flood man was given \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for food. After the Flood there was added "every \_\_\_\_\_ that moveth." At Mt. Sinai Israel's diet was limited to certain \_\_\_\_\_ animals, birds, and fish. In the present dispensation, \_\_\_\_\_ creature of God is good, and \_\_\_\_\_ to be refused, if it is received with thanksgiving.

## LESSON 2

### GOD'S CLOCK OF THE AGES



### **TWELVE O'CLOCK**

**IN THE BEGINNING:** Prior to the creation of all things - before man, angel, earth, star, time, or space—the triune God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit existed. God is not only in all creation now, but He is transcendent or above all creation, and has existed in all of His perfections before ever there was a creation. Thus God is in no way dependent upon anything or anyone outside of Himself. The key to the universe is found in those four profound words which cover more ground than all man's philosophies: "In the beginning God." Even the name "God" (*Elohim*) is a uniplural noun which reveals that God is One, and yet exists in a tri-personality—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### **THE ORIGINAL CREATION**

As the hand of time first begins to move, it indicates God's first works of creation. It is possible that Genesis 1:1 antedates the creation of man by millions of years. Scientists have several yardsticks by which they attempt to measure the age of the universe.

From the study of uranium ore from our planet and from meteorites, scientists tell us the universe must be multiple billion years old, based on calculations of uranium disintegrating at a fixed rate into lead. Approximately the same figure is reached by astronomers from a study of the spiral nebulae (island universes), the closest of which lies at the extreme distance of almost a million light years from the earth. It has taken that long for light to travel from those distant universes to us. The nebulae in Andromeda, appearing as a small, faint, cloudy spot to the naked eye, is probably the most distant object seen with the unaided eye—7,000 light years away. Photographic plates on the big telescopes have revealed there are probably 200,000,000,000 stars in our own universe, although only about 2,000 can be seen at one time with the naked eye under good viewing conditions. But outside of this great island universe of our own lie perhaps 100,000,000 other such *universes*! The most distant one yet photographed is some 500,000,000 light years distant. (Light travels 186,276 miles a second or 5,880,000,000,000 miles a year.) The inconceivable magnitude and age of creation ought to humble us under the mighty God, our Creator, who made everything out of nothing. We know this, not by scientific discovery, but by faith in God's word (Hebrews 11:3). Because God is perfect, we believe He created a perfect universe in the beginning and not an imperfect one which took millions of years to evolve.

But why did God create this vast system of blazing suns reaching into the depths of what seems to be infinite space? As far as scientists have been able to discover, life as we know it could not exist upon any other star or planet in the universe. This little planet of ours, which is nothing more than a speck of dust in comparison to the great stars (the star Betelgeuse in the constellation Orion is 147,000,000,000,000 times the size of the earth), was created to be the dwelling place of God's intelligent creatures. His first creatures were the angels. The prince of these angelic hosts was Lucifer, the son of the morning. In the original earth there was a beautiful garden of God, and God placed Lucifer, His most beautiful creature, in complete charge (Ezekiel 28:12- 15). We have no record of how long this earth continued under angelic rule, but we do know God's Clock of the Ages ticked on until it was ready to strike the first hour.

## LESSON 2 WORK SHEET

### MEMORY VERSE:

*“By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible” (Hebrews 11:3).*

Our lesson today takes us back to the very beginning of all things. From what you learned in the lesson story, fill in the following blanks.

1. Who was there in existence before the heavens and earth were created? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Who did God have help Him create all things? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Place a number in front of each of the following to show the order in which God created them.  
 Man  
 Angels  
 Stars
  
4. Circle the letter you think is right: The beginning when God created the heavens and the earth was:
  - a. 6000 years ago.
  - b. 1900 years ago.
  - c. 50,000 years ago.
  - d. perhaps two billion years ago.
  
5. Does the Bible tell how long ago God created these things?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why did you answer question number 4 as you did? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. About how many stars can we see at night without a telescope?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. At what hour have we set the Clock of the Ages to tell us when time first began? \_\_\_\_\_

8. To what kind of creatures did God first give the earth? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Who was their chief? \_\_\_\_\_.

9. According to Ezekiel 28:15, their leader (called the “covering cherub,”) was \_\_\_\_\_ in his ways from the day he was created, until \_\_\_\_\_ was found in him.

10. According to Isaiah 14:13-14, this one said in his heart,  
“I will \_\_\_\_\_,  
I will \_\_\_\_\_,  
I will \_\_\_\_\_,  
I will \_\_\_\_\_,  
I will \_\_\_\_\_”.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR EXTRA WORK:

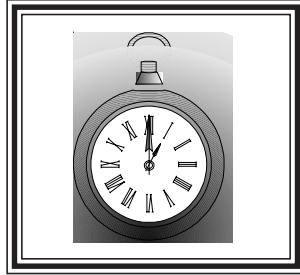
1. Look up Ptolemy and Copernicus in an encyclopedia and draw a chart showing how they thought the earth, sun, and stars move. Which one do you think was right?

- 2.** Or look up in a Bible dictionary all of the names of the Devil you can find and tell what each name means.





## LESSON 3



### **ONE O'CLOCK**

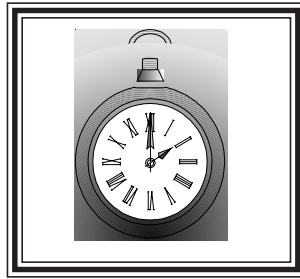
**SATAN'S SIN:** The striking of ONE tells us of that first, awful sin which came into the heart of Lucifer. Lifted up in pride because of his great beauty and power, he desired to be like God Himself, completely independent with no superior power above him. Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:17, 1 Timothy 3:6 and other Scriptures tell us of Satan's fall. Many of the angels also followed him in his rebellion against God, (2 Peter 2:4). God has a place prepared for the Devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41), but they have not yet been cast into that place.

### **DEVASTATION OF THE EARTH**

God punished Lucifer and his angels by binding some of them with chains of darkness in *Tartarus* (literally, lowest prison) (2 Peter 2:4) and by destroying their beautiful domain, the earth. This is described in Genesis 1:2: "And the earth became without form and void." It was not in this condition when God first created it because

Isaiah 45:18 says: "God himself that formed the earth and made it; he HATH established it, he created it *not in vain* (which is the same word as "void" in 1:2, meaning an empty waste). Jeremiah, in comparing the future desolation which shall come on the earth to this pre-Adamic one, says: "I beheld the earth, and lo, it was without form and void; and the heavens, and they had no light" (Jeremiah 4:23).

It is very evident, therefore, God created the earth perfect in the beginning and it later became without form and void as a result of judgment. It is in this ruined condition we behold the earth in Genesis 1:2, but just how long it remained in that state we are not told. We do know God's Clock ticked on until it was ready to strike again.



### ***TWO O'CLOCK***

**GOD'S NEW PURPOSE - MAN:** The striking of *TWO* reveals God's new purpose to remake the earth and to create a new order of beings, lower than the angels, but in the image of God, and to give them dominion over the earth. Later revelations of truth inform us that God had an eternal purpose which He purposed in His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, before the "foundation" (literally, the casting down) of the world (Ephesians 3:9-11; 2 Timothy 1:9; Romans 8:28-30). This purpose was to be worked out in time through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, so God could display to all of His other creatures "the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7).

## RESTORATION OF THE EARTH

God restored the chaotic earth to a cosmos or orderly and beautiful dwelling place for the human family. This work was done in six days. On the first He brought the light. On the second He made a great expanse to divide the water on the earth from the waters (vapors) above the earth, which He called heaven. On the third day He caused the waters to be gathered together in one place, which He called the seas, and He made the dry land appear, which He called earth, and caused the grass, herbs, and trees to grow. On the fourth day He caused the sun, moon, and stars to become visible upon the earth, and gave them to be for signs and for seasons and for days and years. On the fifth day He created all of the marine animals and also the fowl of the air. On the sixth day He created animal life, and then as the climax of this new creative work He created man in His own image and gave him dominion over the earth and told him to repopulate it. God saw all which He had made was very good, and the work being fully completed, He rested on the seventh day.

This story of reconstruction is given in Genesis 1:3-2:3. It is interesting to observe that geologists have discovered in nature the same order of events as the Bible reveals in these six days of God's work, but through unbelief many of them have falsely interpreted the facts and have developed various theories of evolution.

**INNOCENCE:** The story of how God formed Eve out of Adam's own flesh is given in Genesis 2. Also, Ephesians 5:28-33 and 1 Corinthians 6:15-20 should be carefully compared with this account. God placed Adam and Eve in the beautiful Garden of Eden to take care of it and to enjoy its fruits. God came down and talked daily with them and revealed His will to them. He told them they could eat of all the trees of the Garden, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Just how long Adam and Eve continued in this innocent condition of having no experiential knowledge of evil we are not told, but we approach another crucial event as God's Clock prepares to strike.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE CREATION DAYS

Some Christians believe the creation days were long, geologic ages, which lasted millions of years, and that the state of the earth in Genesis 1:2 was the first step in its formation. They argue that there is no evidence from geology to indicate a great cataclysm in recent geologic time, which they feel is necessary to explain what has been described above as the devastation of the earth because of Satan's sin.

It is not necessary to assume that the topography of the earth underwent a great upheaval, or in theological language, that there was a major revolution on account of Satan's sin. It must be remembered that God blotted life from off the face of the earth by a universal flood within historic times (of course, He saved specimens of life in the ark), and He could easily have produced some such phenomenon to blot out a former creation.

Proponents of the age-day theory argue that the words "without form and void" describe a nebulous condition of matter, when, because of tremendous heat, the elements were in a gaseous form before the earth solidified. However, this does not agree with the Scripture, for the very next words in Genesis 1:2 state: "and darkness was upon the face of the deep." The word "deep" is the same word as used in Genesis 7:11 and 8:2, where the fountains of the deep were broken up, helping to cause the flood. The word is used many times in the Old Testament in this same connotation, thus showing that at the time of Genesis 1:2 the earth was not only solidified, but was cool and covered with waters. Of course, the end of that second verse bears this fact out, for it reads: "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

## LESSON 3 WORK SHEET

### MEMORY VERSE:

*“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).*

1. According to Luke 10:18, what happened to Satan when he sinned? Circle only the correct letter:
  - a. he died
  - b. he fell
  - c. he rose
  - d. he was imprisoned.
  
2. Did any one else follow Satan in his sin? If so, who? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What happened to the beautiful earth after Satan sinned, according to Genesis 1:2? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What word beginning with “J” tells us what God must always do with sin? \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. After the earth had remained in a ruined condition for many long ages, God announced His purpose to make a new kind of creature to rule the earth for Him. What time does our Clock now show? \_\_\_\_\_  
What is this new creature’s name? \_\_\_\_\_

6. In order to make the earth a fit place for this new creature to live, what did God have to do to the earth? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How long did it take God to do this? \_\_\_\_\_

7. From Genesis 1, arrange the following works of God in their proper order of creation or appearance by numbering them in the right sequence:

- ( ) animals
- ( ) light
- ( ) grass
- ( ) man
- ( ) fish
- ( ) sun, moon, and stars

8. Did man evolve from fish? \_\_\_\_\_, or from monkeys? \_\_\_\_\_, or did God create man as a perfect man to begin with? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Whose name given in Genesis 1:11,12,21,24, 25 disproves the theory of evolution? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. God tested man's obedience by placing in the Garden a \_\_\_\_\_ of the knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of which He forbid them to eat.

- 11.** Why do you think Satan wanted man to sin? (Circle the letter of any statement which is not true.)
- a.** Because he knew man could be happier in sin.
  - b.** Because he was jealous of man and could not bear to see him enjoying the earth which was once his.
  - c.** Because he hated God and wanted to try to ruin His new plan for man.
  - d.** Because he wanted man to obey and worship him rather than God.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR EXTRA WORK:**

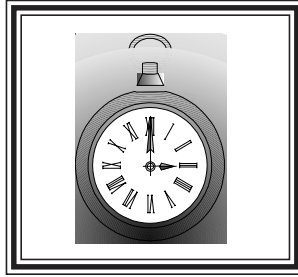
1. Memorize the following verses:

“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order. Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at His coming” 1 Corinthians 15:21-23.





## LESSON 4



### ***THREE O'CLOCK***

**SIN AND DEATH ENTER:** The striking of *THREE* on the Clock heralds the fact that “By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12). This verse teaches us that Adam and Eve were the only sinless human beings who ever became sinners by committing sin. All of their descendants have inherited a nature of sin and commit sinful acts because they are sinners. There is no basis for the idea that every soul born into the world comes fresh and pure from the hand of God as a separate and new creation, and therefore has the same potentialities for good which resided in Adam when he was first created. The human race is a unity and was created with Adam as its head; therefore we read “in Adam all die” (1 Corinthians 15:22). The universal reign of death can only be accounted for by the fact of the universality of sin, and that can be explained only on the ground that Adam was the head of the race, and as such, transmitted a nature of sin to all his posterity.

The account of Adam’s fall is given in Genesis 3:1-7. It is easy to see why Satan tempted man to sin, although it is not so evident why God permitted Satan to do so. Satan was no doubt angry and jealous when he saw Adam, a creature much inferior to himself, now

in possession of what once was his, and because he had aspirations to regain dominion over the earth and to become like God Himself, he tempted and caused man to sin. Satan probably supposed he had defeated God's purpose in Adam when he had succeeded in causing him to rebel against God, and although Satan was very wise, he was completely ignorant of the great plan and purpose which God had in mind when He permitted man to sin. The first intimation of this purpose is found in Genesis 3:14, 15, where God cursed the serpent, Satan's tool, and declared: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." We now know that Jesus Christ was the Seed of the woman—"that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14, 15).

Satan, for the time being, was seemingly victorious in regaining his control over the world. Many years later when he tried to tempt the Lord Jesus, he offered to give Him all the kingdoms of the earth if He would fall down and worship him (Matthew 4:8, 9), and Jesus did not deny that Satan had possession of them. Jesus called him "the prince of this world" (John 16:11). Paul called him "the god of this age" (2 Corinthians 4:4), and "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2).

## **THE DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE**

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and believed the Devil's lie, God had to expel them from Eden, lest they might eat of the tree of life and live forever, but in His love and grace He did something for them which foreshadowed what He would some day do for the whole human race in giving His own Son as a sacrifice for their sins; He killed animals and made coats of skin to cover their nakedness. Outside of Eden, in a cursed earth where he must labor in sorrow for his livelihood, Adam lived with apparently no other guide but his conscience. But the light of conscience (see Romans 2:15; 1

Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:15) was not sufficient to save man or to make him good; for the first man born into the world became a murderer. Man became worse and worse, and finally the sons of God married the daughters of men (Genesis 6:1-5), which resulted in a race of wicked giants. God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually, so we must expect to hear another judgment hour strike on God's Clock.

## LESSON 4 WORK SHEET

### MEMORY VERSE:

*“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart” (Genesis 6:5,6).*

1. According to Romans 5:12, did Adam’s sin affect only himself, or all human beings who have been born into the world? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Read Genesis 3:1-24. What resulted from Adam’s sin?
  - a. Satan was \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - b. Woman’s s\_\_\_\_\_ was greatly multiplied.
  
  - c. The ground would bring forth t\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - d. Man would have to earn his living by the s\_\_\_\_\_ his face.
  
  - e. Man came to know g\_\_\_\_\_ and e\_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - f. God \_\_\_\_\_ the garden of Eden.

3. We call this period after Adam's sin, the Dispensation of Conscience, because man had only his conscience to guide him. From the memory verse of today, which describes man's condition about 1700 years after Adam's sin, do you think conscience is a sufficient guide to make man good? \_\_\_\_\_

Mark the following statements ( **T** ) True or ( **F** ) False:

4. ( ) Every person born into the world comes fresh and pure from the hand of God as a separate and new creation.
5. ( ) Satan tempted man to sin because he was no doubt jealous of this new creature God had placed in power over the world.
6. ( ) Satan thought he was defeating God's purpose in causing man to sin, but God had a secret purpose of which Satan was completely ignorant.
7. ( ) Genesis 3:14,15 is fulfilled in Hebrews 2:14,15.
8. ( ) When Satan tried to tempt Christ, Christ denied that Satan had possession of the kingdoms of the earth.
9. ( ) When God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden, He told them they would have to make clothes to cover their nakedness.
10. ( ) The first man to be born into the world learned a lesson from the disobedience of his father and grew up to be a God-fearing man.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR EXTRA WORK:**

Copy the following references to “conscience” in the New Testament  
classify the different kinds of conscience mentioned:

**1.** Hebrews 9:9,14: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

KIND OF CONSCIENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Hebrews 10:2,22: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

KIND OF CONSCIENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** 1 Timothy 1:5, 19: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

KIND OF CONSCIENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** 1 Timothy 3:9: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

KIND OF CONSCIENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

**5.** 1 Timothy 4:2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

KIND OF CONSCIENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

**6.** 2 Timothy 1:3: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

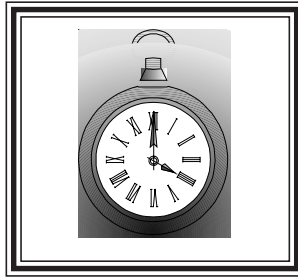
KIND OF CONSCIENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

**7.** Titus 1:15: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

KIND OF CONSCIENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON 5



### ***FOUR O'CLOCK***

**JUDGMENT OF THE FLOOD:** The striking of *FOUR* announces God's intenton of sending a universal flood to destroy life from off the earth. God found only one righteous man upon the earth and that was Noah. God is merciful and long-suffering, and during the one hundred and twenty years in which Noah was building the ark he was also a preacher of righteousness, but apparently no one believed his message of impending judgment (Genesis 6:3; 2 Peter 2:5). Finally the day came when God called Noah and his family and pairs of all animals into the ark and sealed them in. Then a terrible storm broke which lasted forty days. There was cloudburst upon cloudburst, and God also broke up the crust of the earth so that water gushed up from below, until the whole earth was covered and all life on land had perished (Genesis 7).

1 Peter 3:18-22 shows us that Noah's Ark, which was baptized in the flood waters of judgment, was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ who was baptized in the judgment of death upon the Cross (Luke

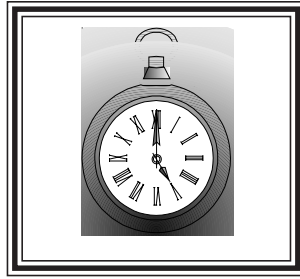


12:50). That death baptism of Jesus now saves us, just as Noah was saved through being in the ark. We are more safe and secure in Jesus than Noah was in the ark. The judgment never touched Noah, but it overflowed the ark. Just so the judgment for sin can never touch one who is in Jesus Christ because He endured that judgment upon the Cross (John 5:24; Romans 8:1).

## **HUMAN GOVERNMENT**

Noah and his family stepped out of the ark upon a cleansed earth. God told them to spread abroad and repopulate it. A twofold dispensational change was inaugurated. Whereas before the flood God had given man only the green herbs and the fruit of trees for food (Genesis 1:29), after the flood He said, "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things" (Genesis 9:3). Before the flood God forbade man to take the life of a murderer (Genesis 4:15), but to Noah God committed the basic principle of human government, the power of capital punishment: "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed" (Genesis 9:6).

Noah's three sons spread abroad and repopulated the earth. Shem became the father of all of the Semitic people, or Asiatics; Ham became the father of the dark skinned peoples, who were the early inhabitants of Canaan and Egypt; and Japheth became the progenitor of the white race (Genesis 10). Man proved himself to be incapable of governing this world for God, however, and before long we see men conspiring against God and becoming idolatrous. Romans 1:21-32 tells us how they gave up the knowledge of God, and Genesis 11:1-4 reveals that in those days the whole earth was of one language and one speech. The people formed a confederation and decided to build a great tower so high that no flood from God could ever destroy them. Man's wickedness had reached the point where God's Clock must strike again.



### ***FIVE O'CLOCK***

**CONFUSION OF TONGUES:** The striking of *FIVE* tells of God's judgment upon these wicked men of Babel. God confounded their language so they began to speak different languages. Not being able to understand one another, they had to stop building their city and were scattered abroad into many different nations (Genesis 11:5-9).

"Babel" means gate of God in the Chaldean tongue, but "confusion" in Hebrew. The doctrine of Babylon plays an important role in human history, which continues until Revelation 17 and 18 (the striking of *TEN* O'clock), when Babylon is finally destroyed.

### **DISPENSATION OF PROMISE**

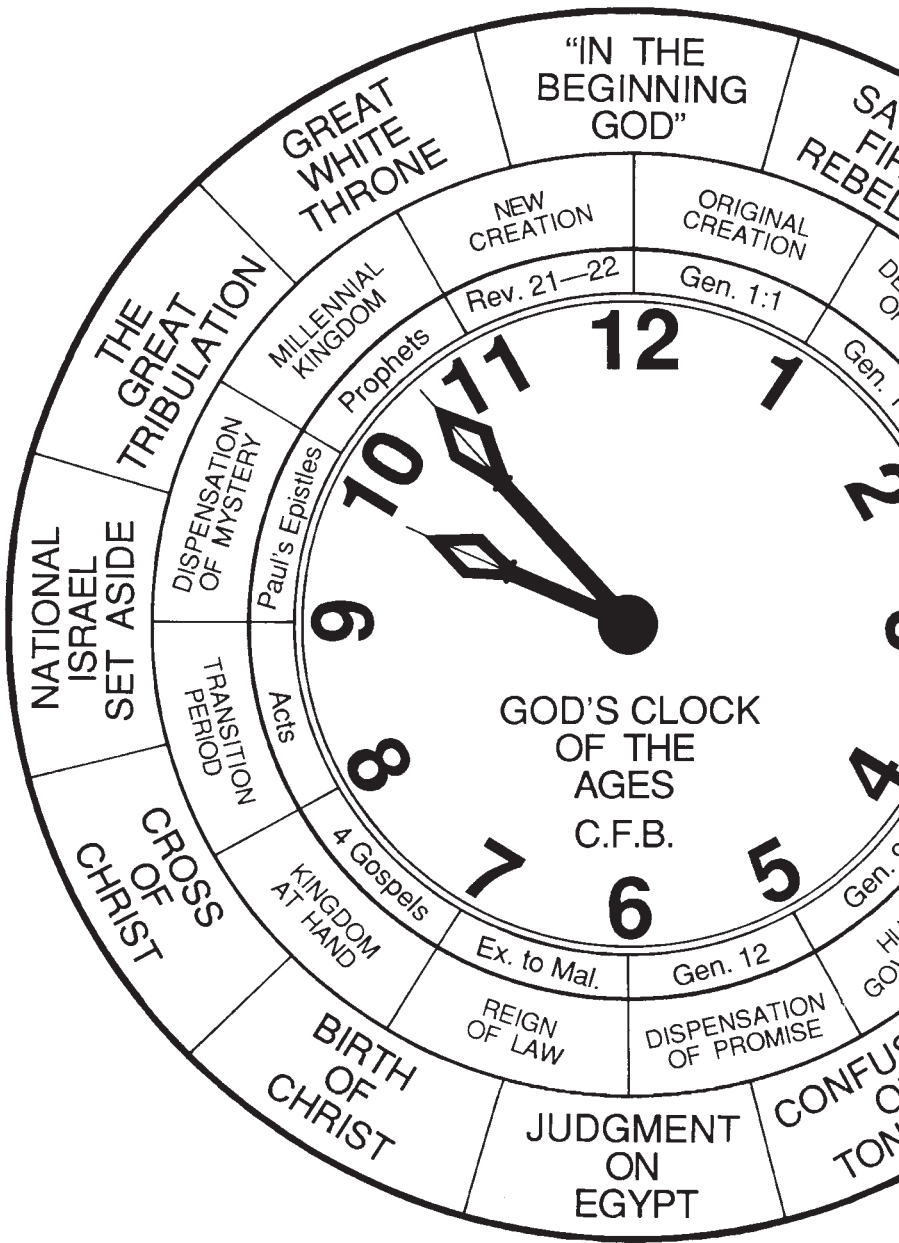
God now institutes a new dispensation, giving up His direct dealing with the nations, and choosing out one man, Abram, from Ur of the Chaldees. Abraham is promised that his descendants shall become a great nation, and that all other nations will finally be blessed through his seed (Genesis 12:1-3). This is the historical beginning of God's kingdom purpose, which is carried throughout the remainder of the Old Testament. The kingdom is seen to be at hand in the Gospels while Jesus is on earth, and after His death and resurrection the Kingdom is presented to Israel in the first half of Acts. That nation rejects the king and His Kingdom, thus seemingly thwarting God's purpose to bless all nations. God, however, had a secret purpose He had never before revealed—to call out the Church, the Body

of Christ, while the Kingdom purpose was held in abeyance, and that is what He is doing today. We are blessed personally through Abraham's seed, which is Christ, and not through national Israel (Galatians 3:14-16), but in the coming Kingdom after the Church is completed, all nations are to be blessed through national Israel (Zechariah 8:20-23).

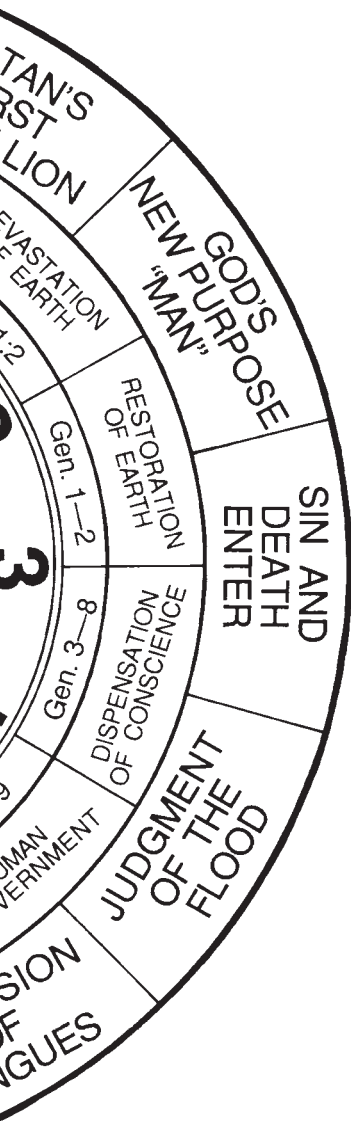
It is most important to thoroughly understand the teaching of Romans 4. This one man is related to both the Gentiles and the Jews. Uncircumcised Abram was justified by faith without any religious works, just as the Gentiles are today. Later his name was changed to Abraham and God made the covenant of circumcision with him (Genesis 17), and in this respect he is especially related to Israel. This is the foundation of the two gospel messages mentioned in Galatians 2:7-9, the gospel of the uncircumcision which Paul preached to the Gentiles, and the gospel of the circumcision which Peter and the eleven preached to Israel.

In fulfillment of God's predictions in Genesis 15:13-16, after 400 years the descendants of Abraham are in bondage in Egypt (Exodus 1:8-22). But the time of the promise drew near (Acts 7:17), and God's Clock is ready to strike again.





## THE AGES



The Bible speaks about “ages past” and “ages to come” (Ephesians 3:5; 2:7). An age is a particular period of time, long or short as the case may be. According to the necessary conditions of human thought, events are contained in time as objects are in space. As long as there will be the possibility of sequence of events there will be time. Time is a relationship in creation and therefore did not exist before creation. God is not subject to time, but all of His creatures are. As long as God’s creatures endure, time will endure. This interminable duration gives to us our only concept of eternity, which is defined in the Bible by the expression: “for the ages of the ages,” usually translated, “for ever and ever.” An age is the longest period of time which we can conceive, and ages multiplied by ages is unending duration.

There is no basis in Scripture for the idea the ages will some day end, bringing an end to time and to the punishment of the unsaved. Revelation 20:10 proves there will be ages, perhaps an indefinite number if them, after the New Creation begins; for at the end of the old creation God says Satan “shall be tormented day and night for the ages of the ages.”

The ages may be conceived as running in cycles. This chart shows God’s great cycle of ages, which is the subject of divine revelation from the Original Creation to the New Creation. Various dispensations or methods of divine government may be discerned during the course of the ages. The striking of the clock represents events which divide the dispensations.

## LESSON 5 WORK SHEET

### MEMORY VERSE:

*“And this I say, that the covenant that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise” (Galatians 3:17,18).*

1. What event is announced by the striking of *FOUR*? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. To show how the dispensations change, fill in the following:
  - a. *Before the flood* (Genesis 1:29) God permitted man to eat only \_\_\_\_\_.  
  
*After the flood* (Genesis 9:3), God added to his foods every \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - b. *Before the flood* (Genesis 4:15), God \_\_\_\_\_  
that a murderer **should not** be put to death .  
  
*After the flood* (Genesis 9:6), God said that a murderer **should** be put to \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. We call this period after the flood the dispensation of **H** \_\_\_\_\_ **G** \_\_\_\_\_.
  
4. When mankind became wicked again, what judgment did He bring upon them? \_\_\_\_\_

What hour does this represent on God's Clock? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does "Babel" mean in the Chaldean language? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean in the Hebrew language? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Read Genesis 12:1-3 and then circle the following letters which you think describe the basis of Abraham's blessing:
- a. keeping the 10 commandments
  - b. believing God's promise
  - c. praying.

7. Study the memory verse and then tell why we know Abraham was not saved by keeping the 10 commandments. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What do we call the period from *FIVE* to *SIX* o'clock? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. God told Abraham in Genesis 15:13 that his seed would be a **s** \_\_\_\_\_ in a land that was not theirs, and that they would be afflicted \_\_\_\_\_ years. The name of that land was **E** \_\_\_\_\_.

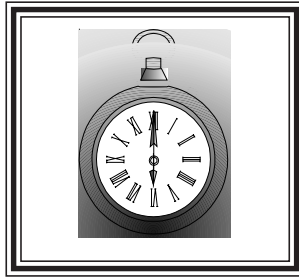
10. In Galatians 2:7-9 Paul calls his message the gospel of the **u** \_\_\_\_\_ because it goes back to Abram before Genesis 17, and he calls Peter's message the gospel of the **c** \_\_\_\_\_ because it goes back to Abraham in Genesis 17.



## SUGGESTIONS FOR EXTRA WORK:

1. From Genesis 10 draw a family tree showing how Noah's sons repopulated the earth.
2. Or outline Romans 1:21-23 showing different steps which man took in turning away from God, and then outline the remainder of the chapter, showing the steps God took in giving man up.

## LESSON 6



### *SIX O'CLOCK*

**JUDGMENT ON EGYPT:** The striking of *SIX* brings the plagues upon Egypt (Exodus 1-14), which were consummated by the death of all firstborn in Egypt and the drowning of Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea. God delivered Israel out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and brought them into the land He had promised to give them, where judgment also fell upon the wicked inhabitants of Canaan, as recorded in Joshua.

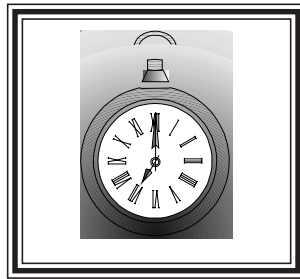
### **REIGN OF LAW**

When God brought Israel out of Egypt to Mt. Sinai, He explained that He wanted to enter into a further covenant with them, so as to make of them a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. This is what we now call the Old Covenant or Testament, the covenant of the Law. Israel promised to keep this covenant; for this was a conditional covenant. Israel's blessings were to be based upon her faithfulness. It was a covenant of works. It was not an unconditional or grace covenant. But it had no power to invalidate God's unconditional covenant which He had made with Abraham 430 years before, and to which the Law Covenant was added (Galatians 3:17,18). Hence

the Law Dispensation was a temporary arrangement. “It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promises were made.”

Israel lived under this covenant for between 1300 and 1550 years, and although the commandment was holy, just, and good (Romans 7:12), it could never make man acceptable before God, because it was weakened through the fleshly, sinful nature of man (Romans 8:3). The Law was not given as a means of salvation, but to prove that man is a guilty sinner (Romans 3:19,20; 5:20; 7:13; Galatians 3:19), so that he would be led to have faith in Christ, the only way of salvation (Galatians 3:24).

During these centuries Israel became a great nation under King David, and God promised that one day He would give David a King to sit upon his throne forever (2 Samuel 7; Matthew 2:2; Luke 1:30-33). Israel, however, lapsed into sin and idolatry. Civil war divided the nation into the Northern and Southern kingdoms, which were overrun by other nations. Finally, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, beginning a period known as the “times of the Gentiles.” Jesus said Jerusalem would be trodden under foot of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled (Luke 21:24).



### **SEVEN O’CLOCK**

**BIRTH OF CHRIST:** The striking of *SEVEN* heralds the birth of Jesus Christ, the long promised Messiah and King of Israel. “When the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we

might receive the adoption of sons” (Galatians 4:4,5).

## **THE KINGDOM AT HAND**

The record of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ is found in the four Gospels. His ministry was only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and not to the Gentiles (Matthew 10:5,6; 15:24). The Gentiles had given up God, and God had given them up until He should have fulfilled all of His promises to the one nation, Israel, through which He would then channel His blessings to the Gentiles. Hence Jesus told the Gentile woman who came seeking a blessing: “Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it unto the dogs” (Mark 7:27).

The message of John the Baptist, of the Twelve Apostles, and of Jesus was that the nation of Israel should repent, and thus prepare itself for the Kingdom which was proclaimed as being right at hand (Matthew 3:2; 4.17, 10:7). Jesus did not offer the Kingdom officially to Israel during this time because it was necessary that He should first suffer before the Kingdom glory could come (Luke 24:25-27; 1 Peter 1:10,11). He even related a parable, as He entered Jerusalem on that historic occasion in Luke 19:11-40, to show His disciples that the Kingdom was not going to be established immediately. Instead of offering the Kingdom, Jesus presented Himself as Messiah, as God’s Passover Lamb. John declared: “Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world .... And I knew him not; but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water” (John 1:29,31).

Jesus showed many signs and miracles as an evidence He was sent of God, but the nation hated Him without a cause, because their deeds were evil (John 3:19,20), and they plotted to put Him to death.

**LESSON 6**  
**WORK SHEET**

MEMORY VERSE:

*“When the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Galatians 4:4,5).*

1. What happened when the Clock of the Ages struck SIX? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. When God brought Israel (Abraham’s seed) out of Egypt, He gave them the Law. Look up Romans 3:19,20; 5:20; 7:13; Galatians 3:19 and then fill in these blanks:
  - a. The Law was added because of \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - b. The Law was given in order that every mouth may be \_\_\_\_\_, and all the world may become \_\_\_\_\_ before God.
  
  - c. The Law entered in order that the offence might \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - d. By the Law is the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.
  
  - e. And sin by the commandment becomes exceeding \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- 3.** Mark the following statements ( **T** ) True or ( **F** ) False:
- ( ) The Law tells us what we ought to do but doesn't do anything to us if we don't do what is right.
  - ( ) Many people have been saved by keeping the Law.
  - ( ) Romans 3:28 tells us we are justified or saved by faith without the doing of the Law.
  - ( ) Paul says in Galatians 2:21 that if we could become righteous by keeping the Law, then there was no need for Christ to die.
- 4.** Romans 2:14 tells us the Gentiles:
- a.** have the Law.
  - b.** have not the Law.
- 5.** Read Matthew 10:5-10 and 15:21-28. Circle any of the following words which do not agree with these verses:
- 1.** Jesus sent His disciples out, commanding them to go into all the world:
    - a.** only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and preach saying—the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
    - b.** Christ died for our sins.
  - 2.** Jesus referred to the Gentiles as:
    - a.** sheep
    - b.** dogs
  - 3.** Jesus referred to the Jews as:
    - a.** children
    - b.** beasts.

6. The word “gospel” means good news. What was the name of the gospel which Jesus and His disciples preached? (See Matthew 4:23).\_\_\_\_\_

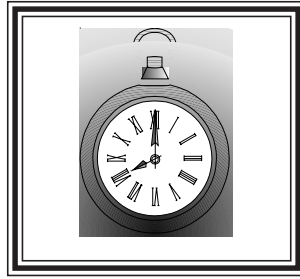
Read Luke 18:31-34. Is the following ( **T** ) True or ( **F** ) False:

- ( ) While Jesus was on earth His disciples preached the gospel of the Kingdom, but did not preach anything about His death and resurrection for our sins as we do when we preach the gospel today.
7. By what two names in John 1:1 is Jesus called before He came into the world? **W**\_\_\_\_\_ and **G**\_\_\_\_\_
8. Select the correct definition: The kingdom of heaven Jesus preached was:
- a. a kingdom in heaven where we go when we die.
  - b. a kingdom which is to be on earth but ruled over by heavenly power.
9. In the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray, what is going to be done on earth in that kingdom?\_\_\_\_\_
10. In Luke 24:26, Jesus taught His disciples after He arose from the dead that He had to\_\_\_\_\_ before He could enter His kingdom glory.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR EXTRA WORK:

Draw a chart of the four Gospels showing the character in which Jesus is presented in each of the four books.

## LESSON 7



### ***EIGHT O'CLOCK***

**THE CROSS OF CHRIST:** The striking of *EIGHT* marks the dark hour of the Cross. Although man by wicked hands put Him to death, God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19). "It was expedient that one man should die for the people" (John 18:14). He died "the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). His blood became the blood of the New Covenant which God promised to Israel (Jeremiah 31:31; Hebrews 9:15-22). Thus it was here that judicially the Mosaic Covenant became old, by the inaugurating of the New Covenant (Hebrews 8:6-13).

We should have supposed that God would have cast away Israel for crucifying His Son, but in answer to Christ's prayer on the Cross "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34), God sent the twelve apostles right back to the people of Israel on the day of Pentecost. Peter preached, saying, "I wot that through ignorance you did it, as did also your rulers .... Unto you first, God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you." He definitely offered the Kingdom to the nation, promising national deliverance upon national repentance in these words: "Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, so that there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord; and that he may send the Christ who has been appointed for



you, even Jesus” (Acts 3:19,20 ASV). But as Peter was speaking these words, the rulers sent officers to arrest the apostles (Acts 4:1), and now Israel began committing the unpardonable sin, the sin against the Holy Spirit. Christ said all sin against Himself would be forgiven, but that sin against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven. A little later Stephen was stoned to death and the Jewish believers were scattered abroad going everywhere “preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only” (Acts 11: 19).

## **THE TRANSITION PERIOD**

It soon became evident that national Israel had rejected the King and the Kingdom, so God raised up a new apostle to carry out a twofold ministry. He was to go out to the Jews of the dispersion to present the Messiah to them, and to finally announce God’s judgment of blindness upon them. His other ministry was to be the apostle of the Gentiles, to bring the message of the grace of God to them. During this time from Acts 13-28 there was a transitory condition existing. God had one dispensational order for the Jews who believed, and another order for the Gentiles who believed (Acts 15:1,20,28,29; compare Acts 21:25). It was a time of changeover from the prophesied Kingdom program to the unprophesied secret program of the Body of Christ. Many things, such as the Pentecostal sign gifts, were destined to pass away with the complete revelation of the new, secret dispensation (1 Corinthians 13:8-13).

It is also evident that the Church, the Body of Christ, had its historical beginning with Paul at the start of this transition period because Paul mentions the Body in the epistles which he wrote during this time. There was a church in the Old Testament (Acts 7.38); there was a church while Christ was on earth (Matthew 16:18; 18:17); and there was a church at Pentecost (Acts 2:47); but none of these was the Body of Christ. The Body truth was a secret which God never revealed to mankind before the apostle Paul (Ephesians 3:5,9). Furthermore, none of the churches of the Bible before Paul were joint-bodies of Jews and Gentiles. Although national Israel was not set aside until Acts 28, God did not wait until that time to begin the Body of Christ.

## LESSON 7 WORK SHEET

### MEMORY VERSE:

*“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe”*

*(1 Corinthians 1:18,21).*

1. What sin did Jesus say would be forgiven to men in Matthew 12:32?

Sin against the\_\_\_\_\_.

What sin against this One is represented by God's Clock striking *EIGHT*?\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Jesus pray for His Father to do to those wicked men who crucified Him (Luke 23:34)?\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Referring to question number 1, what sin did Jesus say would not be forgiven men?\_\_\_\_\_

According to 1 Peter 1 :12, the gospel after the day of Pentecost was preached with the\_\_\_\_\_sent down from Heaven.

When the Jews rejected the gospel after Pentecost, what sin were they then involved in committing?\_\_\_\_\_

4. Read Acts 3:26. Circle the letter to make this statement correct:

God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him:

- a. To the Gentiles to bless them.
- b. To the children of Israel to bless them.

How do you account for God sending the gospel to those who had crucified Jesus? (number 2 may give you a clue):\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why do you think the disciples preached only to those mentioned in Acts 11:19? Do you think perhaps these disciples were carrying out the same program as Jesus was in Mark 7:27: "Let the children first be filled?" Or do you think they were just narrow-minded?

Which?\_\_\_\_\_

6. God's only revealed method of blessing the Gentiles up to this point was to use the nation of Israel as the channel. But Israel refused to be blessed, so it seemed blessing for the Gentiles was blocked, but God had a plan which He had kept\_\_\_\_\_since the world began (Romans 16:25). He revealed that new plan, which He called the Dispensation of the \_\_\_\_\_of God, to His new apostle\_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 3:1,2).

7. Read again the paragraph above entitled, **THE TRANSITION PERIOD**, and state what part of Acts covers this period: Chapters \_\_\_\_\_to\_\_\_\_\_.

8. Circle the correct letter. Transition means:
- a. to remain the same.
  - b. to begin something new.
  - c. to change over from one thing to another.
9. From your reading in question number 7, the change over which began at Acts 13 was from the prophesied \_\_\_\_\_ program to the unprophesied secret program of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

Look up Ephesians 1:22, 23 to learn exactly what is His Body.

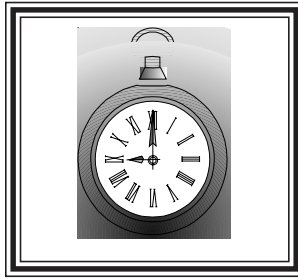
The Bible calls it the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR EXTRA WORK:

Memorize this verse:

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24).

## LESSON 8



### ***NINE O'CLOCK***

**NATIONAL ISRAEL SET ASIDE:** The striking of *NINE* signals God's complete setting aside, temporarily, of His purposes through the nation of Israel. This occurred in Acts 28 where Paul pronounced blindness upon Israel and stated from that point on "salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles." This temporary blinding of Israel is wonderfully illustrated in Acts 13:6-13 at the very beginning of Paul's ministry in the judgment which fell upon the sorcerer, Bar-Jesus, and the blessing which came to the Gentile, Sergius Paulus. Study carefully Romans 11 where it will be seen that this blindness is only "until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in," and then all Israel (the whole nation) shall be saved.

### **THE DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY**

This dispensation or plan by which God is now dealing with man is called the dispensation of the mystery (Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:25,26), because it was a secret purpose which God kept concealed in His own heart until He revealed it through the apostle Paul. It is also called the dispensation of grace (Ephesians 3:2), because it is based wholly and solely upon pure, unmixed grace. The complete revelation of distinctive truth about this dispensation is

to be found only in the epistles of Paul.

Some have supposed the mystery is merely that Gentiles would be saved, but this is no mystery because Gentile salvation was clearly revealed and predicted throughout the Old Testament. The mystery is that God has opened up a new channel of blessing for the nations in place of Israel, and that God is now by His grace taking believing Jews and Gentiles and baptizing them by His Spirit into a joint-body, making them joint-heirs and joint-partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel. In the Kingdom program Israel always has the priority, but in the Body of Christ there is no such priority. The gospel of God by which Jews and Gentiles are saved was no mystery, but was "promised afore by his prophets in the holy Scriptures" (Romans 1:1,2); but that which Paul calls "my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery, was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25). The fatal mistake of interpretation many Christians make is to read the church which is His Body into the Old Testament promises, or into the record of the Gospels, or even into the first half of the book of Acts; for it should be evident that there could be no joint-body while the gospel was being preached to none but unto the Jews only.

Paul showed that the sign gifts, such as tongues, were given as a sign to Israel (1 Corinthians 14:20-22), and that they therefore were to pass away in this present dispensation. Likewise during the transition period there were two baptisms, water and Holy Spirit, and Paul declares that for the Body of Christ there is only one baptism (Ephesians 4:5), namely, Holy Spirit baptism. Whereas Israel's kingdom calling was earthly, ours is heavenly. Israel's hope is the return of Christ to earth as King to establish their kingdom (Acts 1:6), but our hope is the appearance of Christ to catch us up to heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). There are many political, physical, and astronomical signs which must be fulfilled before Christ comes back to earth, but none before the Rapture of the Church. This truth of the Rapture is itself called a mystery (1 Corinthians 15:51,52), and it is evident the Church will have no part in Israel's great Tribulation, which will come after the Body of Christ is completed and Raptured to glory.

**LESSON 8**  
**WORK SHEET**

MEMORY VERSE:

*“For I would not brethren, that you 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”*

(Romans 11:25).

1. From the first paragraph in this lesson, find and mark which of the following statements is ( **T** ) True or ( **F** ) False:
- ( ) Israel was set aside at the beginning of the New Testament.
  - ( ) Israel was set aside when Jesus was crucified.
  
  - ( ) Israel was set aside at the end of the book of Acts.

NOTE: It is important to see that although national Israel was not completely set aside until Acts 28, the Body of Christ had its historical beginning with Paul during the book of Acts, so that all of Paul's epistles are addressed to us as members of His Body.)

2. Why does God call this present method of dealing with His people the dispensation of the mystery? You will find a clue in Ephesians 3:5. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

3. Mark these statements ( **T** ) True or ( **F** ) False:

( ) The mystery or secret of God's present dispensation is that He is saving the Gentiles.

( ) The mystery is that God has opened up a new channel of grace, instead of the nation Israel, for blessing the Gentiles.

( ) In this secret purpose, God makes believing Jews and Gentiles members of a joint-body, joint-heirs, and joint-partakers of His promise.

4. The Old Testament prophecies refer to):

a. Israel and the Kingdom.

b. the Church .

5. Draw a line from the words in the middle column to either Israel or the Church, whichever they refer to:

	Tongues	
	Holy Spirit Baptism	
	Water Baptism	
<b>ISRAEL</b>	Earthly Kingdom	<b>CHURCH</b>
(Kingdom)	Signs	(Body)
	Rapture	
	Tribulation	
	Heavenly Calling	

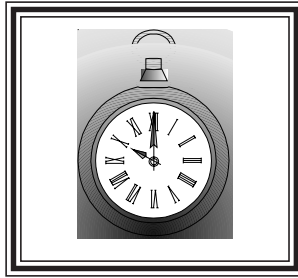


6. In light of what you have read in this lesson, circle the letter which best answers where the doctrine of the Church is found:
- a. The Old Testament
  - b. Prophets
  - c. Revelation
  - d. Acts
  - e. Paul's epistles
  - f. The Four Gospels.
7. Mark these statements ( **T** ) True or ( **F** ) False:
- ( ) All true believers everywhere are members of the Bible Church.
  - ( ) We join the Church of the Bible by being baptized with water.
  - ( ) The present Dispensation will end with the Rapture of the Church.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR EXTRA WORK:

Make a chart of Paul's epistles dividing them into two groups—those written during the book of Acts, and those written afterward from prison—showing the theme of each epistle.

## LESSON 9



### **TEN O'CLOCK**

**THE GREAT TRIBULATION:** The striking of *TEN* brings upon the world the most severe time of trouble man has ever experienced (Matthew 24:15-22). This terrible time of judgment is described in detail in Revelation 6-19. Satan will have his man of sin, the Anti-christ, and one called the Beast who will be the supreme dictator of the world. The believing Jews will be terribly persecuted, but God sets His seal upon 144,000 of them. They will refuse to worship the Beast. There will be the seven seal judgments, followed by the seven trumpet judgments, and finally by the seven vials of the wrath of God. This will be culminated by the great battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16), which will be ended by the glorious coming of Christ out of the opened heavens as King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:11-16). It will require seven months to bury the dead of that awful battle (Ezekiel 39:12). The Beast and the False Prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire, and Satan will be bound in the abyss for 1000 years (Revelation 19:20; 20:1-3).

## THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

This is called the Millennium because it lasts for 1000 years (Revelation 20:4-6). Satan will be in prison so he cannot deceive the nations, and God will take away the curse from nature and restore the earth to a condition similar to that which existed before man sinned (Isaiah 11:6-9). All of the Old Testament prophets foretold the glorious days of this Kingdom age. The first resurrection will bring back the Old Testament saints along with those who died in the great Tribulation, and they will reign with Christ.

The book of Revelation tells us very little about the actual history of this golden age. We must turn back to the Old Testament prophets to learn about all of the glories and beauties of that day. It is there called the Day of the Lord, beginning as it does with the awful judgments of the great tribulation and culminating in the glorious and peaceful reign of the Messiah.

In that day Jerusalem will be restored and become the place of Jehovah's throne (Jeremiah 3:17; Joel 3:17). Israel shall no more be called Forsaken, but Hephzibah (my delight is in her); Israel's land shall no more be termed Desolate, but Beulah (married) (Isaiah 62:4). With Christ as King, and the twelve apostles sitting upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28), the Gentile nations will experience untold blessings and will go up to Jerusalem from year to year to worship the Lord of hosts (Zechariah 8:23; 14:16). The curse will be lifted, long life will be restored, and the wilderness will be taken away from the animal creation (Isaiah 65:18-25; compare Romans 11:15).

Strangely enough, after one thousand years of the glorious peaceful reign of Christ, during which God's will has been done on earth as in heaven in answer to the "Our Father" prayer, God is going to loose Satan for a little season, during which he will go out and deceive the nations once more. This is permitted by God evidently as a final proof to man that apart from Christ he is helpless and lost. Satan stirs up a great rebellion against Christ and against the Holy City (Revelation 20:7-9), and God's Clock prepares to strike its final hour.

## LESSON 9

### WORK SHEET

#### MEMORY VERSE:

*“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory”*

(Matthew 24:29,30).

1. The striking of TEN o'clock brings the judgment of the great **T** \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When this judgment strikes, the Church will be (circle the letter which makes this statement correct):
  - a. on earth.
  - b. in heaven with Christ.
3. When Jesus said in Matthew 24: 13, “He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved,” He was speaking of (circle the correct letter. For a clue, look for the word “end” in Matthew 24:3,6,14.):
  - a. the end of their lives.
  - b. the end of the world or age that is, of those who would endure faithful through the great Tribulation.

4. Satan is going to have his counterfeit savior on earth in that day, and men are going to worship him.

a. What does John call him in 1 John 2:18? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. What does Paul call him in 2 Thessalonians 2:3?

1. The man of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. and the son of \_\_\_\_\_.

c. What is he called in Revelation 19:20? \_\_\_\_\_.

5. According to Matthew 25:21-33, when Jesus comes back as King, He is going to judge all of the nations of the earth, dividing them into two classes:

1. the \_\_\_\_\_ and

2. the \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Look up Isaiah 2:4; 11:6-9; 65:25, then mark the following

( T ) True or ( F ) False:

( ) The serpent will eat straw like the ox.

( ) Men will beat their swords into plowshares.

( ) Children will be afraid of leopards and lions.

( ) Everyone on earth will know the Lord.

7. Read Zechariah 14:16,17 and circle the correct letter:

The capital of the earth in the Kingdom will be:

a. New York.

b. Babylon.

c. Jerusalem.

8. Read Revelation 20:1-3 and circle the correct letter below:

During the thousand year kingdom, Satan will be

- a. in the earth
- b. in the bottomless pit
- c. in hell.

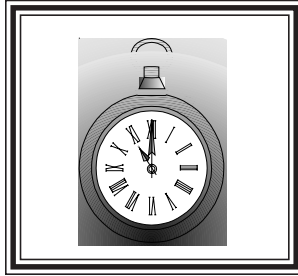
9. Draw lines from the words in the center column to the correct side:

	Second coming of Christ	
BEFORE	First Resurrection	AFTER
THE	Second Death	THE
MILLENNIUM	Satan loosed from pit	MILLENNIUM
	Great White Throne	

**SUGGESTIONS FOR EXTRA WORK:**

Write a short theme in your own words describing what you think the second coming of Christ will be like and tell of changes He will make on earth.

## LESSON 10



### ***ELEVEN O'CLOCK***

**THE GREAT WHITE THRONE:** The striking of *ELEVEN* ushers in the Great White Throne final judgment. Satan is cast into the lake of fire which was prepared for him and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Then all of the dead who were not raised up in the previous resurrections will be caused to stand before God and they will all be judged according to their works. Those whose names are not found written in the book of life will also be cast into the lake of fire which is the second death (Revelation 20:11-15).

It should be understood that no member of the Body of Christ will be judged at the Great White Throne. Christ took upon Himself the judgment for our sins, which guarantees we will never come into judgment. We will, at the time of the Rapture, 1000 years before the Great White Throne, stand before the "Bema" or judgment seat of Christ to receive rewards for our faithfulness in service. This is described in 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.

## **THE NEW CREATION OR THE DISPENSATION OF THE FULNESS OF TIMES**

According to Peter, “we are hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless, according to His promise we look for new heavens, and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Peter 3:12,13).

After the final judgment, John “saw a new heaven, and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away. And he heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said: Behold I make all things new” (Revelation 21:1-5).

“Then cometh the end, when Christ shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father, when He shall have put down all rule and authority and power. For He must reign until He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all and in all” (1 Corinthians 15:24,25,26,28).

This, then, will indeed be “the dispensation of the fulness of times,” when God will head up all things in Christ (Ephesians 1:10). Thus will God’s Clock of the Ages have turned full circle from the Original Creation to the New Creation. The new creation is an eternally abiding order, as far as it is revealed in the Bible. There is no intimation that those who have been cast into the second death will ever be brought to life or to salvation. We must leave them where God has put them. His last word regarding them is: “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still (Revela-



tion 22:11).

We do have the blessed knowledge that those who have believed the gospel of God are safe in Christ, and that nothing will ever be able to separate them from Him. In the light of eternity, what would it have profited a man if he had gained the whole world and lost his own soul?

## LESSON 10 WORK SHEET

### MEMORY VERSE:

*“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold I make all things new.”*

(Revelation 21:4,5)

Mark the following ( **T** ) True or ( **F** ) False:

1. ( ) After Christ’s wonderful reign of peace for one thousand years, mankind will never again rebel against God.
  
2. ( ) The striking of 11 o’clock indicates the judgment of all of the members of the Body of Christ at the Great White Throne.
  
3. ( ) God will be too loving and kind to punish sinners.
  
4. Circle the correct letter: After the Millennium, the present earth will be:
  - a. destroyed by a flood.
  - b. remain as it always has.
  - c. be destroyed by fire.

Find and record from page 55 the Scripture verse which gives the answer to this: \_\_\_\_\_.

5. According to Revelation 20:10, those who are cast into the lake of fire will:
- a. be burned up so that they will not feel anymore suffering.
  - b. be tormented day and night forever. (Circle the letter which makes the statement correct.)
- Philippians 1:6 calls the time when we will be caught up to be with Christ, the day of \_\_\_\_\_.

The verse you found in question number 4 calls the time when God will create new heavens and new earth, the day of \_\_\_\_\_.

Philippians 1:6 calls the time when we will be caught up to be with Christ, the day of \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Joel 1:15 calls the time when Jesus comes back to earth as King, the day of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What name does Paul give to the dispensation in which all things are gathered together under the Headship of Christ (Ephesians 1:10)?

The dispensation of \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Who are the only ones who will have a right to enter the holy Jerusalem (Revelation 21:27)? Those whose names are written in \_\_\_\_\_.

How do you think one gets their name written there? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

9. Tell what will happen to the person who does not receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Are you sure what will happen to YOU after death? \_\_\_\_\_

State why you are sure, if you are: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR EXTRA WORK:

Memorize Philippians 2:9-11: "Wherefore God hath also highly exalted Him and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

# NOTES

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