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Volume 42
Issue 1036

God's Mercifulness

Bible Student's Courses

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Course 1: God / Unit 5: The Attributes of God/ Lesson 8: God's Mercifulness

by — Mark D. Vogt (with Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.)

Yet God, being rich in mercy, because of His vast love with which He loves us (Ephesians 2:4, CV).

Key Points:

God's mercy is vitally connected with His holiness.....8707
Assuming that God thinks like they do, Religion envisions God

showing little or no mercy on the rest of humanity.....8707
God takes great pleasure in being merciful.....8714

Mercy is the quality of compassion or great tenderness toward others and their troubles. This is what God has. He is “of great mercy” (Numbers 14:18, KJV), and His mercy, rooted in His unceasing love, never ends.

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end (Lamentations 3:22, ESV).

Noah Webster, in his 1828 *An American Dictionary of the English Language*, defined mercy as:

That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment ...

Mercy is a distinguishing attribute of the Supreme Being.

As noted in the previous lesson, God's *mercy* is vitally connected with His *holiness*. In fact, as we have seen, mercy is the “*beauty of [God's] holiness*”

(II Chronicles 20:21).

The tendency is to shortchange God in every aspect concerning Him. Religion demonstrates very little mercy toward those whom they deem unworthy, or non-believers, wishing upon them the wrath of God. Assuming that God thinks like they do, they envision God showing little or no mercy on the rest of humanity.

Yet, we see that mercy is the very backdrop of God's grand plan (*Logos*), for Paul states in Romans 11:32,

*God locks up all together in stubbornness, that He should be **merciful to all*** (CV).

Then in Ephesians 2:4 Paul uses the magnificent expression that God is “*rich in mercy*.”

(see **BSC**, last page)

God's Mercifulness (Bible Student's Courses)	8707
Tidbits of Truth #70	8709
Our Mailbox	8713
Seeking Pleasant Beliefs (quote: Alan Burns)	8714

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 42, No. 1036 – September 9, 2024

Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3-4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unpropheesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);

- union in His death, burial and resurrection and ascended seated position among the celestials (Ephesians 2:6);
- adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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Tidbits of Truth #70

"Tidbits" is a column dedicated to short comments, thoughts, studies and excerpts.

I suppose that all who do biblical research wish at times that they could set forth fragmentary and unfinished ideas in printed form without people thinking that a final and definitive conclusion has now been chiseled into imperishable granite which shall stand forever as the final word on the subject dealt with. Any such conclusion will be far from correct. — Otis Sellers (1901-1992)

Is Our Lord's Coming Imminent?

[To: F.K.] Imminent is defined as,

likely to occur at any moment – *Random House Dictionary*

threatening to occur at any moment – *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*

Christendom's doctrine of the alleged "imminent coming of Christ" teaches that He could come at any moment. Yet, such is not the actual teaching of Scrip-

ture. There are frankly *many* prophetic events that must be fulfilled *before* His Second Advent to Earth takes place.

While a so-called "imminent return" certainly makes for sensational teaching, with many emotional results, it is just not a current prospect during the time of "*the Administration of the Secret*." Nor is His return to Earth prophetically expectant for the time immediately after the resumption of Israel's prophetic program.

Simply put, once God's present purpose of "*the Dis-*



342 pages

1st Ed., A4 (8.3" x 11.7"),
87 chapters, with charts
and appendices, from 22
authors.

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Rightly Dividing Israel's Prophetic Kingdom – With Special Emphasis on The Overlooked Pre-Millennial "Kingdom of the Heavens" (A Comprehensive Compilation)

Editors: Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., André Sneidar

There are enormous amounts of prophecy that were given to Israel in the Hebrew Scriptures that are yet to be fulfilled. Most believers simply follow some version of Christendom's eschatology, futilely attempting to force the enormity of Israel's prophetic scene into a few extremely abridged time periods. From this shallow vantage point, it is believed that more time has passed in God's ages than remains. This couldn't be further from the truth. Multiplied millennia remain, more than have yet transpired, for the fulfillment of all of the glorious plans that God has revealed in His Word. Far from being near the "end" of something prophetic, the span of God's eonian plan is immense, and our placement is early in its timeline. Much more of God's prophetic program remains than man's feeble eschatologies allow.

The intention herein is to present an alternative view to the confusing message of the traditional Evangelical concept of prophecy, thus opening the door to a consideration of the idea of a Pre-millennial Kingdom as the fulfillment of many of God's promises to Israel to have their kingdom in the Earth.

All of the material in this book, taken together, is a wonderful resolution to the confusion of the conventional religious theology that has muddled the minds of sincere Bible students for centuries. While we may live in the Secret Administration, that doesn't necessarily mean that God's Word regarding His plans for Israel must be a mystery to us.

pensation of Grace” is complete, and Israel’s Kingdom prophecies resume, there remain hundreds of prophetic years before the timing of the Second Advent. Let us be leery of Evangelical prophetic teaching; and let us not be ignorant about the actual teaching of Scripture on this vital theme.¹

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

“The Israel of God”

[*Edited excerpt:*] The name “Israel” occurs about seven hundred times in Scripture and everywhere it means the literal sons of Jacob, whose name became “Israel.” ...

“Israelites” is the name of a fleshly people who, though they become spiritual, are always distinguished from all other peoples because they are the sons of Jacob.

For centuries Christendom has been taught to consider itself a [so-called] *spiritual Israel*, and has misappropriated all of the glorious things promised to the real Israel. ... The effort to make the prophecies concerning Israel fit the church has resulted in the practical denial of a very large part of Scripture.

1. For more information on this important theme, see:

- [Seven Things I Misunderstood About Prophecy \(An Exposé of Evangelical Prophetic Interpretation\)](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student’s Press (on the [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington”).
- [Rightly Dividing Israel’s Prophetic Kingdom – With Special Emphasis on The Overlooked Pre-Millennial “Kingdom of the Heavens” \(A Comprehensive Compilation\)](#), editors: Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., André Sneider, Bible Student’s Press (on the [order form](#) under “Compilations”).

“Israel” is a national and racial name, a title of religious aristocracy which gentiles may not use. It expresses the spiritual prerogatives of the chosen nation. Those “*who are Israelites*” are identified and defined by the three relative clauses following:

whose is ... whose are ... and out of whom is ...
[Romans 9:4-5].

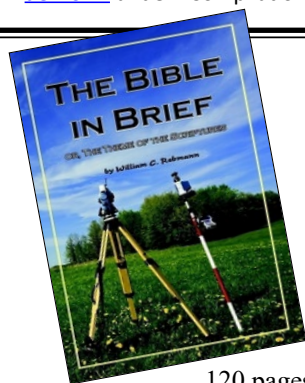
Thus, every word shows that Israelites are a people distinguished from others in their flesh, and having spiritual promises also such as no other nation has. When Paul speaks of his origin and nationality he says,

I am an Israelite, of Abraham’s seed, of Benjamin’s tribe [Romans 11:1].

Israelites and Benjamites cannot be recognized as such in [*“the church which is His Body,”* Ephesians 1:22-23], which is a spiritual organism.

It is usually taken for granted that Paul is speaking of [*“the church which is His Body,”* Ephesians 1:22-23], when he speaks of “*the Israel of God*.” In his comment on Galatians 6:15-16, the saintly [Johann] Bengel says, “The Israel of God are believers of the circumcision or Jewish nation.” No grammarian who believed in inspiration could think differently, because Paul distinguishes two classes by the repetition of the preposition,

peace be on them and mercy, and on the Israel of God (Galatians 6:16).



120 pages

See [order form](#) under
“Other Authors.”

The Bible in Brief, or The Theme of the Scriptures

by — William C. Rebmann (1911-1973)

“A trip through the world’s best seller in one evening.”

– Unsearchable Riches Magazine, 1960

“A very fine summary of the entire theme and scope of the Scriptures.”

– Unsearchable Riches Magazine, 1950

“It is seldom that so helpful a book is issued on the theme of the Scriptures.

Indeed, it could not be written except by one who views the whole in the light of God’s grand consummation.” – A.E. Knoch



“The Israel of God” was the church of the circumcisers who had lost none of their Jewish privileges, and who expected the fulfillment of all of the promises of God made to their fathers.

— George L. Rogers (1869-1947)
Studies in Paul's Epistle to the Romans, Volume 2
(Bible Student's Press)
Unsearchable Riches, Volume 27 (1936)

Female Spirit Beings

[To: J.F.:] Yes, indeed, from Zechariah 5:9 we can clearly ascertain that there are not just male spirit beings, but female ones as well! Although the ones mentioned here are wicked ones, if there are evil female beings, of course it stands to reason that there are righteous ones as well. The spirit world is quite populated, and as we demonstrated previously in *Earth, the Microcosm of the Heavens* [[BSN 1024](#)], the Earth was designed in Heaven's image, and thus, the Earth mirrors Heaven.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Becoming Like the God We Adore

[Excerpt:] I changed when my image of God changed. Most of us recognize that we become like our parents whom from early on we adore, even with all their faults. We may not realize that we also become like the God we adore.

— Dennis Linn
Good Goats: Healing Our Image of God

Israel and the Nations

[To: L.S.:] God called Abraham out from the *nations* (Hebrew: גוֹי, *gôy*;² Greek: ἔθνος, *ethnos*³). From this out-calling God created the nation, Israel. Throughout Israel's history there were descendants of Abraham who returned to the *nations* in unbelief. In Acts 28 Israel nationally became *lo-ammi* – “not My people” – and thus currently, during the Secret Administration, those in the past who could have counted themselves as the physical descendant of Abraham are once again just a part of the *nations*.

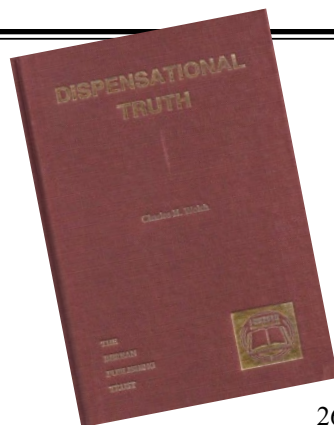
Since Israel's setting aside, the flesh is no longer of any consideration, and all of the *out-called* – both those who in any past dispensation would have been (1) the seed of Abraham or (2) a member of the nations – have been made “One New Humanity” (Ephesians 2:15, CV), the “One Body” (Ephesians 2:16; 4:4; 3:15), the “Ecclesia Which is His Body” (Ephesians 1:22-23, CV). Thus, it is, just prior to this glorious revelation of Ephesians, that Paul counted both his former “race” and “tribe” as “refuge” (Philippians 3:4-8, CV).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

“In the Above-Heavenlies”

[Edited excerpt:] It has sometimes been claimed that *en tois epouraniois* (“in the above-heavenlies”) should be read, “among the above heavenly [beings]” because the Greek preposition *en* is often rendered “among” when several *people* are involved. We can reply that,

2. The sense of massing (SEC, H1471).
3. A multitude associated or living together ... a multitude of individuals of the same nature or genus (TGL, G1484).



Dispensational Truth or The Place of Israel & the Church Which Is His Body in the Purpose of the Ages

by — Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

First published in 1912, this was the author's first full length book. The author exhibits how the Bible reveals the purposes of God, which are seen to have earthly as well as heavenly implications that need to be carefully compared with traditional doctrines.

263 pages

See [order form](#) under “Welch.”



where a *location* is concerned, the meaning of *en*, even in the plural, always remains “*in*” (cf. Matthew 6:2: 8:32). The preposition thus cannot be used to determine whether the ellipsis must be completed by *beings* or *places*. We believe that Ephesians 1:20-21 must be the deciding factor:

... set Him at His own right hand in the above-heavenlies, far above all principalities ...

The expression “*in the above-heavenlies*” cannot be rendered “*among the above-heavenlies*” because it is immediately followed by the statement “*far above all principalities*,” and because these “*principalities* ...” must be *above-heavenly* beings according to Ephesians 3:10.

On reading Ephesians 1:20 and 3:10, we find that “*the right hand of God*” is also a special “*place*” among the “*above heavenlies*,” since God and the Lord Jesus Christ are at the same time “*in the above-heavenlies*” and above the beings who are “*in the above-heavenlies*.”

— Darren Owen
The Above-Heavens
Heaven Dwellers

“The Mark of the Beast”

[To: G.B.] There is no need to worry about “*the Mark of the Beast*.” Revelation is a Jewish book. It is written by one of Israel’s Twelve Apostles, and deals with prophetic themes that belong predominately to Israel at the beginning of “*the Day of the Lord*.” Prophetically, “*the Day of Christ*” precedes “*the Day of the*

Lord” by some 700 years. Thus, prophetically, NONE of the events of the book of Revelation are near, including “*the Mark of the Beast*.” At a minimum, they are many centuries away.

We currently live in “*the Administration of the Secret*” of Ephesians and Colossians where all prophecy, for the time being, is in abeyance. There are NO prophecies being fulfilled today. NONE. Nor have ANY been fulfilled since the setting aside of Israel in Acts 28.

Yes, all of the books of the “New Testament,” outside of Paul’s, are written exclusively to Israel.⁴ Even among the epistles of Paul, those written prior to the close of the period covered by the book of Acts belong to a time when Gentiles were being grafted into Israel. The books written after the Barrier Wall was removed (Philippians, Ephesians, Philemon, and Colossians) are the only truly non-Jewish writings of all of the Greek Scriptures (the so-called “New Testament”), with only Ephesians and Colossians reveal-

4. Here are some resources to assist in this understanding.

Matthew: [Bible Student’s Notebook #557](#);

Mark & Luke: [Bible Student’s Notebook #558](#);

John: [Bible Student’s Notebook #559](#);

Acts: [Bible Student’s Notebook #570](#); [Bible Student’s Notebook #781](#)

Hebrews: [Bible Student’s Notebook #796](#);

James: [Bible Student’s Notebook #800](#);

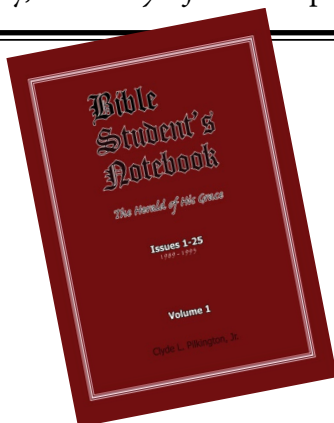
I & II Peter: [Bible Student’s Notebook #893](#)

I, II & III John: [Bible Student’s Notebook #911](#)

(Jude and Revelation have not yet been published.)

Here is the playlist of our YouTube video series on Right Division. Including a brief survey of some of the books of the “New Testament”:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXXxM1xulaqu1tBH5L3fF8DinoBgig83T>



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ing “the Administration of the Secret.”⁵

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

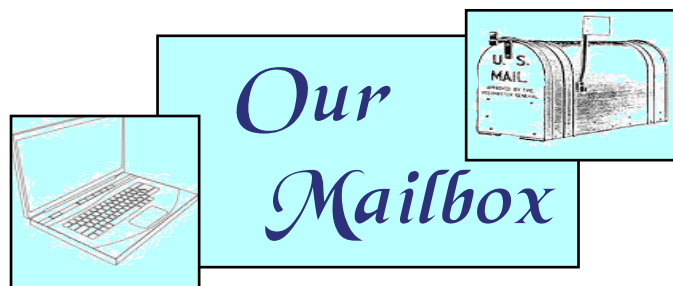
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5. For a look at the uniqueness of Paul’s letters of Ephesians and Colossians, see:

– [Ephesians and Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student’s Press (on the [order form](#) under “Pilkington”).

Topics:

Major: [Is Our Lord’s Coming Imminent?:] Imminent; Second Coming [“The Israel of God”:] Israel [Female Spirit Beings:] Spirit World [Becoming Like the God We Adore:] God [Israel and the Nations:] Israel, Nations [“In the Above-Heavenlies”:] Heaven(s); *En Tois Epouraniois* [“The Mark of the Beast”:] Mark of the Beast; Revelation, Book of



What a fantastic BSN number [1010](#) was! This [God’s *Present Purpose: The Dispensation of Grace*, Otis Q. Sellers]¹ significantly helped me to look past God’s dealing with the Law and to see that, not only is law disposed of, not only is law never our reference, but that the entire purpose of grace is for there NOT to be a ruleset through which Father shows His kindness and love. How amazing! I can’t wait to be a vessel of His unfailing love, and I love that He’s working in us already. – **The Netherlands**

Amen to this! [“[Why Did God Give the Law?](#)”]² – NM

Thank you for the *Daily Email Goodie*, “[Entrusting others to God](#).”³ It has been my burden that I needed to release to the Father about my adult children. This burden has weighed heavily on my heart, and I have often given their lives to the Father but then later on picked up that burden again as their love of the world presents itself. I have read [Being OK with Not Being OK](#)⁴ many times. At the end the chapter entitled “Trusting Others to Father” I wrote;

1. [Editor:] The article review can also be seen on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vA1LCTHf29I>
2. [Editor:] Audio: www.studyshelf.com/goodies/20200227.mp3
Article: [More Daily Goodies: 365 Thoughts on Scriptural Truths](#), p. 236, Bible Student’s Press (or see [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington”).
3. [Editor:]
Audio: <https://www.studyshelf.com/goodies/20150609.mp3>
Article: [BSN 411](#)
4. [Editor:] Bible Student’s Press, on the [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington.”

I am an instrument of God the Father. He uses me at His will. If I’m not being used at any time, it is because Father is using another instrument in others.

It is difficult for me to leave this burden for my children in the Father’s hand, but I know that I’m not the instrument at present for this burden. Maybe at some time I will feel free of the load of burden as I know that Father has their plan well in hand. In my eyes the tapestry of their lives seems dark. I pray that one day I may see the complete picture of their lives. Thank you for your reminder today about who is Large and in Charge. – CA

Tom L. Ballinger [“The Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24 and the Pre-Millennial Kingdom,” [BSN 942](#) & [BSN 943](#)]. WOW. The way that he digs into the meaning of every thought that Scripture is conveying, with such logical interpretation; I wish I could have talked with him. He surpasses eloquence (self-serving) AND intellectualism (haughty) and delivers diligently sought-after, truth-loving logic. Eloquence and intellectualism are subjective – I will cling to our loving Father’s assessment. Ballinger knew that God-given understanding is priceless; you can tell that he pursued it and was abundantly rewarded.

The logic given to the details of the verbiage of the Scripture that this two-part study covers is, in my humble estimation, undeniable; traditional interpretation builds upon only the high points in order to “fit” overarching details into a pre-conceived end (*sunteleia*). When you consider the finer details with the: Day of Man – Day of Christ – Day of the Lord – Day of God ... the details leading to the ends (*telos*) of each age makes so much more sense. Thank you for this wonderful work. – IN

BSN

BSC (continued from front page)

God is rich. He has immeasurable value. Yet, in this phase, in what way is God declared to be rich?

“In mercy”!

This is all *“because of His **vast love** with which He loves us.”*

God’s attribute of *mercy* is rooted in His essence of *love*. Little wonder then, that He is *“rich in mercy”!* After all, as we have already seen, He is truly a God Who *“delights in mercy”* (Micah 7:18).

God loves His creation so much that He takes great pleasure in being *“merciful to all.”* What kind of God is this Who, in His majesty and glory, high above all heavens, condescends to bestow His rich mercy upon us? How contrary to religious thinking!

In Titus 3:4-5 Paul states that it is *“according to His mercy”* that God *“saves us,”* and NOT according to our works or our righteousness.

It has been said that mercy is God *not* giving us what we do deserve, while grace is God giving us what we *do not* deserve. Thus, it is that one attribute of God leads us to another. Mercy leads to grace. They are two sides of the same coin.

The LORD is gracious and merciful (Psalm 111:4, ESV).

You are a gracious and merciful God (Nehemiah 9:31, ESV).

God’s mercy is leading all of His creation to the successful operation of His marvelous grace. It is God’s glorious will to save *all*.

Our Savior, God, Who wills that all mankind be saved and come into a realization of the truth (I Timothy 2:4). **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: God; God, Attributes of; Mercy

Minor: Love; Salvation of All

TO SEEK PLEASANT BELIEFS, OR COMFORTABLE CONVICTIONS, IS NOT THE ATTITUDE OR OBJECT OF A SEEKER AFTER TRUTH. TO SEEK FOR A RATIFICATION OF PAST BELIEFS, AND EVIDENCE TO BUTTRESS A FORMER TRADITION IS NOT A SEARCH AFTER TRUTH.

ALAN BURNS (1884 -1929)



Seven Things I Misunderstood About Prophecy (An Exposé of Evangelical Prophetic Interpretation)

166 pages

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Early on in his life and ministry, what the author knew and taught about the themes found in this book were simply what he had learned since childhood: traditional Evangelical Christian prophetic interpretation. However, in time he would come to see things quite differently. In this work he shares with the reader things that he had misunderstood, and after fifty years of personal Scripture study, what he now understands: realizations that have brought him great peace. Important notice: This work is extracted from the author’s larger work *Things I Misunderstood*, and can also be found in the compilation, *Rightly Dividing Israel’s Prophetic Kingdom*.

See [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington.”