



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Joy!

Showcasing all humanity finished in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 45
Issue 1108

There is still much light to break forth from the Scriptures. A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

The Kingdom Context of the New Covenant

[Click here to listen to this article](#)

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The context and nature of the New Testament concerns Israel's coming Kingdom. It is a literal, physical, earthly, Abrahamic, Davidic Kingdom. It is a kingdom in the literal sense of the word – with ALL that a kingdom entails: land, government, citizens, taxation, military and law enforcement, etc.



ing the levying of taxes,¹ tolls and tithes for their support, as well as the power of the sword² – the symbol of authority – to execute its enforcement and assure justice.

When Paul penned Romans 13, he didn't have usurpers (the Roman regime) in view as the "superior authorities" (:1, CV). Instead, he had in mind the only legitimate governmental authority – Christ (in Whom has been given "all authority in Heaven and on the Earth" – Matthew 28:18, CV) and His appointed "governments" (cf. I Corinthians 12:28, KJV; "governors," GB, TNT).

At the head of this Kingdom will be King David (during the Pre-Millennial Kingdom), and later the King of Kings – Christ Himself (during the Millennial Reign). They will be accompanied by the regional Thrones of the Twelve Apostles (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30).

While reading the record of the Book of Acts, and the Scriptures written during the Acts Period, VAST confusion arises from failing to recognize this fundamental context of Israel's literal Kingdom.

All nations currently are usurpers of governmental authority. Yet, all will eventually be set right, headed up by the coming restoration of Israel's Kingdom –

... the times of restoration of all which God speaks through the mouth of His holy prophets who are from the eon (Acts 3:21).

This complete restoration includes Israel's land, citizens, temple, priesthood, and thrones and are thus accompanied by all that comes with the establishment and maintenance of such a kingdom – includ-

Scripture's focus did not shift away from Israel's coC-

[\(see CONTEXT, page 9292\)](#)

1. Thus, "For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor" (Romans 13:6-7, CV).
2. Thus, "For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (Romans 13:4).

The Kingdom Context of the New Covenant.....	9287
Why I Stopped Calling Myself Anything	9289
Creation and Fatalism (Bible Student's Courses)	9290
Our Mailbox.....	9294
The Dismissal (quote: C.L. Pilkington)	9294

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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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 joy (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 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 unprophesied, 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 saints 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).

We're just presenters, not persuaders. – Steve Martin

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

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Why I Stopped Calling Myself Anything

[Click here to listen to this article](#)

I just want to be real – with no labels attached.

by – Steve Martin

When people ask about religion, most folks answer with a label. Christian. Muslim. Jewish. Hindu. Each one says something about who we are – and who we're not.

If you say "Christian," the questions get narrower. *What kind?* Baptist? Methodist? Pentecostal? Catholic?

And from there, we can usually predict a person's beliefs, how they'll act, what they'll wear, maybe even who they'll vote for.

Back when I was growing up, we were part of the Nationwide Fellowship of Mennonites. That was our tribe. We had our own conferences, our own



circles, our own sense of belonging. We visited each other's churches and called it "fellowship." And in a way, it was. But it was also a way of saying, *we're not like them. We do Mennonite better than them.*

That's the thing about names – they include and exclude at the same time. If I'm a believer, that means someone else isn't. If I'm a follower of Jesus, it means that someone else must not be. And tucked inside all of those distinctions is a subtle whisper: *I've made better choices than you.*

I don't buy it anymore. I don't call myself anything. I'm just a regular guy – a husband, a dad, a grandfather, a co-worker, a neighbor, a friend.

(see [LABELS](#), page 9293)



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

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

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.

Creation and Fatalism

Bible Student's Courses

Course 2: Creation / Unit 2: Creation Repudiates Satanic Philosophies / Lesson 6: Creation and Fatalism

by — Mark D. Vogt

[Click here to listen to this article](#)

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth (Genesis 1:1).

Another false philosophy used by the Adversary to distort the truth of God's creation and sovereignty is **fatalism** – the belief that everything is **predetermined** and nothing you do can change the outcome.

At first glance, fatalism might sound similar to God's sovereignty. But don't be fooled – **fatalism and the truth of Scripture are not the same.**

Let's explore the difference.

WHAT IS FATALISM?

Fatalism teaches that:

- Everything is already set in stone;
- Nothing that you do matters;
- You are powerless to influence your life;
- Your choices are an illusion.

Yet, it suggests that a **cold, impersonal force** is running the universe – and you're just along for the ride.



In fatalism, **there's no purpose**, no plan, no love – just inevitability.

THE PROBLEM WITH MAN-CENTERED PHILOSOPHY

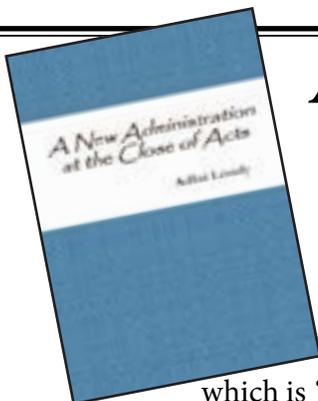
Like most world philosophies, fatalism **starts with man** and works its way **toward God** (or a god-like force or concept). That's backwards.

The correct approach is to start with God – the First Cause – and work back toward man.

But Western thought has long been shaped by Greek philosophers – Plato, Aristotle, Socrates – and their influence lingers in everything from universities to pulpits. Even many Christians have unknowingly absorbed these ideas.

THE FATAL FLAW OF FREE WILL THEOLOGY

Most Christians reject fatalism, while many cling to the idea of **free will** – which is just as flawed.



A New Administration at the Close of Acts

by — Adlai Loudy (1893-1984)

God is conducting His affairs with mankind in an orderly series of dispensations and administrations. This study is a comparison of the Pentecostal and Readjustment Administrations, "*in that era*," with the Secret Administration,

which is "*now*," revealing many irreconcilable differences which cannot be mixed without perverting the plain, unmistakable teaching of the Scriptures and causing untold confusion and spiritual loss.

38 pages

In fact, **free will** is one of the three pillars of modern Christian theology:

1. **The Trinity**
2. **Eternal conscious torment**
3. **Free will**

All three are **satanic distortions**, designed to confuse believers and unbelievers alike.

THE TRUTH ABOUT FREE WILL

Let's define terms carefully.

Free will means:

“The ability to make a decision without any internal or external influence.”

If that's the definition, then **no human has free will**.

- You didn't choose your birth date.
- You didn't choose your parents, race, language, or country.
- You didn't choose the circumstances of your upbringing.
- And your daily decisions are shaped by events, emotions, and influences **you didn't plan**.

So what do humans have?

We have a **will** – but not a **free** one. Our decisions are always influenced by something – **and God is the One orchestrating all those influences**.

GOD IS WRITING EVERY STORY

Ephesians 1:11 says it best:

In Whom we were also chosen, being predestinated according to the purpose of the One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will (CV).

All means all.

Not most. Not some. Not “everything except salvation.” God is operating **everything** – including belief and unbelief.

Even our decisions are **part of His story**, shaped by divine placement, timing, and purpose.

HOW FATALISM MISSES THE POINT

Fatalism and biblical sovereignty may **look similar on the surface**, but here's the key difference:

<u>Fatalism</u>	<u>Biblical Sovereignty</u>
Cold, impersonal force	Loving, purposeful Father
No meaning or hope	Everything has meaning and direction
Human effort is pointless	Human effort is part of God's plan
No accountability	Complete accountability – within God's authorship



Biblical Resources

Training today's ecclesia for tomorrow's celestial assignments.
Highlighting important video playlists for the edification of the saints.

Biblical Resources is a dedicated space for the co-laborers of Bible Student's Press to share our current collective journey. It is intended to be a place of education and edification in an atmosphere of freedom, love, joy and peace.

Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXXxM1xuIaqtks5Nog1xZ59iGKEuVT0Fc>

<u>Fatalism</u>	<u>Biblical Sovereignty</u>
No restoration or end goal	All ends in Christ – God All in all

Fatalism says, “What will be, will be.”

God says, “**What I have purposed, I will do – and it will be glorious.**”

WHY CHRISTIANITY FIGHTS FOR FREE WILL

Many believers try to **reconcile** God’s sovereignty with free will because they’re desperate to protect one thing:

The idea that humans must choose salvation.

In their view:

- God must be sovereign...
- But man must still “decide” for Jesus...

So, they invent a theology where God runs most things – but **salvation depends on you.**

This is completely contrary to Scripture:

- **Daniel 4:35** – “*He does according to His will... and none can stay His hand.*”
- **Isaiah 46:10** – “*My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.*”
- **Isaiah 14:24** – “*Surely, as I have thought, so shall it come to pass.*”

Even **belief** is from God:

To you it is graciously granted to be believing...
(Philippians 1:29).

... God parts to each the measure of faith (Romans 12:3).

EVEN UNBELIEF IS PART OF THE PLAN

This may sound shocking to some – but it’s true:

Unbelief is also from God.

If belief is a gift, then unbelief must also be part of the story. As Romans 11 makes clear, **God has hardened and blinded** for a purpose. Even Israel’s rejection of their Messiah was **written in advance** (see John 12:39-40).

God is **not hoping** people come to Him.

He is **drawing, blinding, revealing, and restoring** – **on His schedule, for His glory.**

FINAL THOUGHT: REST, NOT RESIGNATION

Reject **fatalism** – but don’t run to **free will**. Instead, rest in **God’s total sovereignty.**

He is not a distant force. He is a **loving Author**, writing every life with wisdom, purpose, and grace.

Your choices matter – because God **ordained them** to matter.

And that’s far better than fatalism. It’s freedom.

BSN

Topics:

Major: Creation; Fatalism; Freedom; Philosophy; Sovereignty; Will

Minor: Faith; Rest; Restoration

CONTEXT ([continued from front page](#))

ing Earthly Kingdom to the Super-Heavens until the great Secret revelation of Ephesians and Colossians.

for it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials (Ephesians 6:12, CV).

BSN

Note: For more details on who Paul is discussing in Romans 13, see the book *Pastors*, <https://studysshelf.com/product/pastors-the-ascension-gifts-the-higher-powers-of-romans-13-and-the-secret-administration/>

TOPICS:

Major: Governments; Israel; Kingdom; New Covenant; Pre-Millennial Kingdom

Minor: Millennial Kingdom; Right Division

LABELS (continued from page 9289)

I have good days and bad ones. I miss the mark, I misunderstand, I mess things up.

Yes, I've come to see things that have changed my life. But I didn't earn that.

I didn't study enough, or pray enough, or believe enough, to get there. Whatever I've seen, Father showed me. Whatever I have, He gave me.

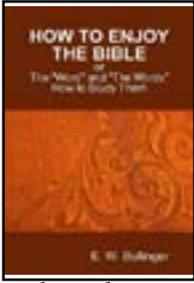
Before the disruption of the world, He wrote my place in the story. So, if I slap a label on myself, it's like taking credit for what He did. It's saying, "I'm here because I chose right."

And that's not true.

I don't want anyone – family, friends, neighbors, strangers – to feel like I think I'm better, wiser or more spiritual than them. Because I'm not.

I just want to treat people kindly, generously, without agenda. I don't want anyone to feel like my project. I just want them to feel loved.

So, when someone asks, "What are you, spiritually



How To Enjoy the Bible
by – E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)
472 pages A unique introduction to your study of God's Word. You're guided in the adventure of open and honest study of the Scripture from within – allowing it to speak for itself. Twelve practical principles make inductive Bible study come alive.

speaking?" I don't really have a label that fits anymore. I'm not trying to draw lines around belief or belonging.

I've learned that God's love doesn't create insiders and outsiders – it pulls everyone closer, until the lines disappear.

I don't have all of the answers, and I'm okay with that. I just know that whatever name I might choose could never hold the fullness of who we all are in Him.

I'm one of us – all of us – held together in God. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Identification; Labels; Love; Sovereignty

Minor: Religion



2026 Annual Bible Conference
Friday, March 20–Sunday, March 22, 2026

Location (Pittsburgh, PA area)

Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Beaver Falls
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Schedule: [Click here](#) for meeting agenda

Friday

6:00 PM - Dinner and Fellowship

Saturday

6:00 Free continental breakfast (hotel)

9:00 - 11:00 Teaching Sessions

11:30 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 4:15 Teaching Sessions

6:00 Dinner and Fellowship

Sunday

6:00 Free continental breakfast (hotel)

9:00 - 11:45 Testimonies and Teaching Sessions

11:45 - Closing and goodbye

PLEASE RSVP your attendance (seating is limited – even if you made room reservations)

For more information, contact Steve Martin at 610-909-9285 or biblestudentsnotebook@gmail.com



I watch every one of your videos. They are so encouraging for me. Thank you for standing strong in truth and the joy that only comes from our heavenly Father through His Son.

The word JOY is amazing! What great joy we have in realizing these beautiful truths. ... I see the multifarious wisdom of God, and His Love being displayed through the studies you do and in those studies, I am given growth. ... Much Joy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. – **MO**

We appreciate your labor for His sake, and continue to remember you and your staff in our prayers, especially as you pursue your present labor of love regarding your Bible translation. – **WA**

You are doing a wonderful work. The truth that all is of God, that all is by God, and all is for God is starting to sink in. So much unlearning is happening in my life, and I'm loving it. – **Australia**

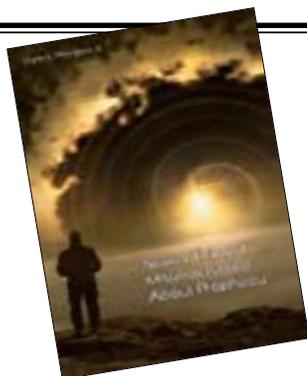
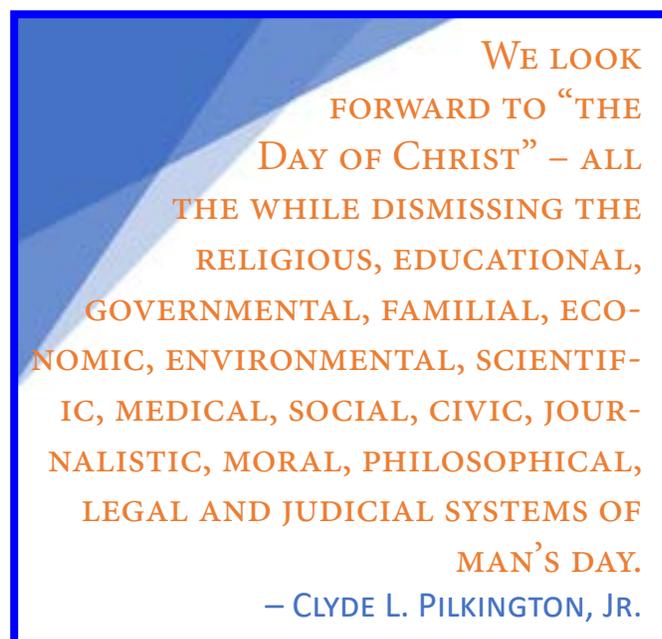
Just a short note telling you I've been listening to your YouTube videos on the Study Bible. I'm excited.

I'll look forward to the updates on the progress. I'm glad you've got the needed help so you can pursue this. – **IL**

I just started watching the talks with Steve Martin. I'm really enjoying them.¹ – **PA**

All your videos are very good, but this one [[Clyde and Steve Talk About Eon 4](#)] I won't forget. I've never heard anyone explaining about the death and resurrection of our loved ones and how it relates to eon 4 and what happens on Earth once we have been manifested with Christ in the Celestials, like Clyde did. – **South Africa** **BSN**

1. [The Freedom Journey](#) on Biblical Resources (YouTube).



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

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*.