



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Joy!

Showcasing all humanity finished in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28 Volume 45
There is still much light to break forth from the Scriptures. A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) Issue 1120

God's Plan for Evil and Sin

by — Steve Martin

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

Chapter 4 (of 4) The Final Outcome

God's plan, despite its often difficult and painful stages, moves with certainty toward a glorious conclusion. In the end, God does not just manage the problem of sin; He resolves it completely, abolishes death, and establishes His perfect and loving rule over all of creation.



whelming force of Satan himself "entered into" Judas, displacing his own will.

Christ's Words: Far from trying to stop him, Jesus recognized the fulfillment of Scripture and urged him on, saying, "What you are doing, do more quickly."

THE TRAITOR'S ROLE: RE-EXAMINING JUDAS ISCARIOT

The case of Judas Iscariot, whose "betrayal" of Jesus is seen as one of history's worst sins, serves as the ultimate test of our understanding of God's sovereignty. A closer look reveals that Judas was not acting of his own free will but was compelled by a convergence of irresistible forces, all ordained by God.

His betrayal was made inevitable by several key factors:

Prophecy: Judas's actions, including the purchase of the "Field of Blood" and the loss of his apostleship, were predicted in the Scriptures centuries before he was born.

Chosen for the Role: Jesus Himself chose Judas as one of His disciples, knowing from the beginning that he was the "adversary" who would give Him up.

Divine Intercession Withheld: When Satan desired to "sift" the apostles, Jesus prayed specifically for Peter that his faith would not fail. Scripture records no such intercession being made for Judas, reinforcing that his role was inescapable.

Satanic Influence: In the final moments, the over-

How can this be just? Christ Himself speaks to the tragedy of the situation, stating, "Ideal were it for Him [Christ] if that man were not born." This highlights the grief that the situation caused Christ, not the eternal damnation of Judas. Since God Himself ordained this terrible role for Judas – a role he was powerless to refuse – divine justice demands a divine resolution. God's ultimate purpose of reconciliation through the cross is powerful enough to include even the one known as the "son of destruction," demonstrating the immense and incomprehensible scope of God's mercy.

If even the "son of destruction" has a place in God's ultimate reconciliation, then sin itself must have an end date.

THE END OF SIN

The Bible teaches that sin, having served its tempo-
[\(continued on page 9385\)](#)

God's Plan for Evil and Sin (Chapter 4 of 4)...	9383
Right Division (part 17): The Book of Jude ...	9386
Reader's Question Box #84: What Is the "Church" of Colossians 4:15-16?	9387
Our Mailbox	9389
Your King (poem: Darson Buckner)	9390
God's Hand in All Things (quote: Mike Owens)	9390

How to Access Our Resources

Our Main Website:

<https://studysshelf.com/>

Daily Email Goodies Signup:

<https://studysshelf.com/emailgoodies/>

Bible Student's Notebook Electronic Issues:

<https://studysshelf.com/bsn/>

Bible Student's Notebook Article Audios:

<https://studysshelf.com/audios.htm>

Bible Student's Notebook Bound Volumes:

<https://studysshelf.com/product/bible-students-notebook-volumes/>

Bible Student's Notebook Master Index:

<https://studysshelf.com/BSN/BSN-Master-Index.pdf>

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/@BiblicalResources>

Audios:

<https://studysshelf.com/audios.htm>

Themed Blogs:

<https://studysshelf.com/our-blogs/>

Bibles:

<https://studysshelf.com/product-category/bibles/>

Books by Clyde Pilkington:

<https://studysshelf.com/clp/>

Books by Author:

<https://studysshelf.com/author/>

Books by Subject:

<https://studysshelf.com/subjects/>

Newest Book Releases:

<https://studysshelf.com/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/clyde.pilkington>

Facsimile Project:

<https://studysshelf.com/facsimile/>

Donate:

<https://studysshelf.com/donate/>

Bible Student's Resource Index:

<https://biblestudentsresourceindex.blogspot.com/>

A Directory of Multi-Media Biblical Resources.

Bible Student's Version:

<https://biblestudentsversion.wordpress.com/>

A Continuing, Composite Translation of Scripture.

Standardized Scripture Terminology:

<https://standardizedscriptureterminology.wordpress.com/>

Clarifying Confusing Scripture Terms.

Online Key:

<https://studysshelf.com/abbreviation-key.pdf>

Definitions of abbreviations/acronyms.

e-Books:

<https://www.amazon.com/s?k=clyde+Pilkington+kindle>

Study Bible Project:

<https://studysshelf.com/studybibleproject/>

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 45, No. 1120 – May 11, 2026

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

Bible Student's Press™

PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963

Local: (814) 701-0063 info.inquiries@studysshelf.com

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Publisher

André Sneidar – Editor-in-Chief

Steve Martin – Chief of Staff

Associate Editors: Bob Alan, Chris Carnahan, James Fine, Rick Lemons, Marcy Money Penny, Deverlain L. Trefethen, Mark Vogt

Copyright © 1989-2026 Bible Student's Press™

rary purpose in God's plan, will be brought to a complete and final end. This happens in two distinct ways: through repudiation and justification.

Repudiation: At the “*conclusion of the eons*,” sin is repudiated – it is rejected, cast off, and nullified (Hebrews 9:26). Its purpose as a tool to reveal God's grace will have been fully served, and it will be discarded forever.

Justification: Sin is also “justified” or “vindicated.” This does not mean sin was good in itself. Rather, it means that its results, when processed through the sacrifice of Christ, are proven to have been essential for producing a far greater good: the glory of God and the unending blessing of His creatures.

Even the so-called “**unpardonable sin**” of Israel's Kingdom is not a barrier to God's ultimate plan. The Scripture specifies that the pardon for this unique sin is withheld “*in this eon*” and “*in that which is future*,” limiting the consequence to specific ages, not for all of eternity.

In the final state, death itself is abolished. Since sin is a product of mortality – a result of humanity's “dying” state – the end of death means the end of sin. Sin will cease to exist. Its memory will only remain as an eternal testament to God's goodness, forever deepening the appreciation His creatures have for the grace that saved them from it.

This complete and total victory over sin and death leads us to the final, foundational truth of this entire guide: the absolute and perfect sovereignty of God.

THE GOD OF ALL THINGS

The central argument of this book is that a God Who is truly God must be sovereign over *all* things. He cannot be a limited deity who is merely reacting to events. He is the First Cause, the Originator of everything. As the prophet Isaiah declares in God's name:

I am Yahweh, and there is none else, Former of light, and Creator of darkness, Maker of peace, and Creator of evil: I the Yahweh, am Maker of all these (Isaiah 45:6-7).

Any belief system where God is surprised by sin, thwarted by Satan, or overruled by human free will presents a weak, struggling deity, not the all-powerful God of the Bible. He is a God Who is in complete control, even of the opposition He faces.

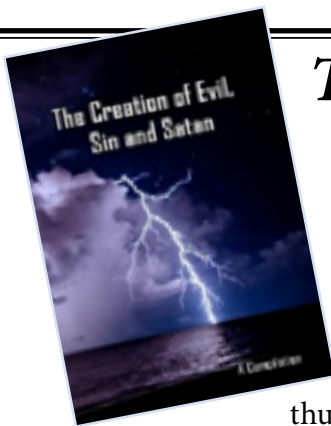
This does not make God evil. Just as opposing forces are necessary for progress in the physical world – like the opposing poles of a magnet that generate power in a dynamo, or the force of gravity that allows us to walk – God uses opposition to His *revealed will* to accomplish His ultimate, loving *intention*.

Though His ways are often mysterious and beyond our full comprehension, God's absolute control over everything, including the darkest and most painful parts of existence, is not a cause for fear. It is the ultimate foundation for our hope and peace. It is the absolute assurance that His good, perfect and loving purpose was never in jeopardy, and will, in the end, triumph completely and gloriously for all creation. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Evil, Sin

Minor: Sovereignty



The Creation of Evil, Sin and Satan (A Compilation)

The truth laid forth in this work should help us greatly in our dealings with others, especially those who have failed in some way which may bring dishonor on His Name, or cannot accept His truth, or even oppose it and us, especially mature teachings such as is put forth in the pages of this book.

It contains 19 authors, 49 works, spanning 150 years. Authors include: Arthur P. Adams, E.W. Bullinger, Alan Burns, Edward Clayton, John Essex, H.W. Fry, Vladimir Gelesnoff, Norman P. Grubb, Donald G. Hayter, A.E. Knoch, William Mealand, André Piet, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Ray Van Dyke, William H. Walker, and James Webb.

Right Division

(AN OVERVIEW OF *DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH*)

by – Mark D. Vogt

Part 17

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

ISRAEL'S PLACE IN GOD'S PLAN A Brief Survey of the Greek Scriptures: **THE CIRCUMCISION EPISTLES – *THE BOOK OF JUDE***

The *Book of Jude* is one of the shortest writings in Scripture, containing only twenty-five verses. It belongs to the collection of letters known as the Circumcision Epistles (Hebrews through Revelation). Jude identifies himself as “a slave of Jesus Christ and brother of James,” and writes to believing Israelites – the faithful remnant of the Circumcision.

Unlike Paul's writings, which open with “*grace and peace*,” Jude's greeting anticipates the “*mercy*” of the Lord Jesus Christ at His Coming. This distinction is vital. Those addressed by Jude are not the members of the Secret Administration's “*Church, which is His Body*,” who enjoy the “*untraceable riches*” (Ephesians 3:8) revealed through Paul, but a called-out remnant awaiting deliverance through restorative judgment.

THE CHARACTER OF THE EPISTLE

The tone of Jude's epistle is that of an earnest warning. He exhorts the Circumcision believers to “*contend for the faith*” in view of increasing apostasy. False teachers were creeping in, distorting truth and denying the authority of the Lord. Jude calls upon the faithful to remain steadfast in expectation of the judgment of God upon unbelieving Israel.

This warning carries serious implications. Under Israel's prophetic program, once faith was abandoned, immediate restoration was impossible. As Hebrews 6:4-6 declares that those once enlightened and partakers of the powers of the impending eon who fell away could not at that time be renewed to repentance. This reality stands in sharp contrast to the present Se-

(see “**JUDE**”, page 9388)

Volunteer Opportunity: Help Us Share Life-Changing Truth

At Study Shelf, we're looking for someone who is familiar with e-Books and uploading books to Kindle (Amazon KDP).

This is a volunteer role – but it carries real impact.

You'll play a key part in helping powerful, freedom-centered messages reach a much wider audience. Every book you help to publish has the potential to encourage, uplift and bring clarity to readers around the world.

What you'll do:

- Format and prepare e-Books for Kindle
- Upload and manage titles on Amazon KDP
- Help to ensure that our books are presented clearly and professionally

If you have experience with Kindle publishing – or are willing to learn – we'd love to connect with you.

Contact Steve Martin:

biblestudentsnotebook@gmail.com



Reader's Question Box #84

What is the "Church" of Colossians 4:15-16?

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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

Q: What is the "church" of Colossians 4:15-16? The members of Christ's Body in that town? It must be, since there's nothing said of organization in Colossians or Ephesians. – D.J.

A: This is an excellent, thoughtful question. And yes, your own observation is correct. This "church" is indeed the members of Christ's body in that town, since there's nothing said of organization in Colossians or Ephesians.

As you know, when it comes to the translation of ἐκκλησία (*ekklēsia*, G1577), religious tradition has locked the word into an institutional framework – i.e., "church." The deliberate imagery is one of religious organizations, meetings and buildings. Such rendering and imagery are a tragic disservice to truth.

The literal translation of ἐκκλησία is "out-called," as rendered in the *Dabhar Translation*.

Thus, Colossians 4:15-16 has been tainted by the religious translation "church." Yet, we can begin to understand the passage more clearly once we translate it literally as "out-called."

Additionally, the KJV phrase "which is in" (:15) is

the translation of but one single word κατά (*kata*, G2596), a preposition, better translated here simply by "in." Thus, simply "in her house" (CV, ESV, LEB, PNB). The clumsy translation of "which is in" easily lends itself to the imposition of organizational, institutional, congregational and ecclesiastical systems.

There are other versions that have sadly fallen prey to making such unfounded interpretive additions to the Greek Text – and have done so to an even *further* degree by introducing the idea of *meetings*:

the church that meets in her house (AUV, BSB, CEV, ERV, GNB, GNT, GW, MNT, MCT, MSG, NET, TCNT, WNT).

Yet, ἐκκλησία does not speak of an institution, organization or meeting. It simply speaks of those whom the Lord has called out.

Therefore, we have brought Colossians 4:15 away from tradition, and in closer alignment with the Greek text:

Greet the brethren in Laodicea, and Nympha and the out-called at her house (BSV).

By way of example: Here at my house, there reside



The Ages: God's Time Periods

by — Edward Henry Clayton (1887-1972)

Chapters:

The Purpose of the Ages	The Present Age	The Purpose of the Ages
Eonian Life	The Ages (Eons) to	(Eons)
The Ages (Eons, Aeons)	Come	
The Number of Ages (Eons)	The First Two Ages (Eons)	

members of the *out-called* of the Secret Administration. About a mile away, at my son-in-law's house, there also live members of God's out-called. These are "the out-called at Clyde's house," and "the out-called at Stephen's house." Yet, among the out-called here, there is NO organization, NO institution, NO meeting. The *out-called* simply "are." They are joint-members of the One Body – universal, without the limitations of time and space.

In :16, the KJV phrase "*be read also in the church of the Laodiceans*," also lends itself to institutional misrepresentation. However, the Greek word ἐν (*en*, G1722), a broad preposition, can just as easily be rendered as "by" (Examples from the book of Matthew alone: 5:34-36; 12:24, 27-28; 14:13; 17:21; 21:23-24, 27; 21:1; 23:16, 18, 20-22.)

Further, the KJV phrase "*of the*" has no Greek equivalent, and was interpretively added for flow, yet the unjustified definite article "*the*" could obviously be

"JUDE" (continued from page 9386)

cret Administration of grace, where there is no performance required.

Jude reminds his readers of God's past dealings with Israel – how those who came out of Egypt yet rebelled were destroyed before reaching the land of promise. This "destruction" was physical, not eternal. Those individuals will be raised again in due time, for all ultimately will be reconciled to God. The lesson serves as a sober reminder to the Circumcision believers to remain loyal to their coming Messiah, just as their fathers were called to follow Moses, God's appointed leader.

Jude also warns of mockers who will arise in the last days – men following their own desires and disregarding divine authority. These warnings look forward to the time of Great Tribulation, when a faithful remnant in Israel must endure persecution and deception prior to the Lord's return to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

SUMMARY

Jude's epistle, though brief, is filled with urgency. His concern is for Israel's believing remnant – to stand

eliminated, making it simply:

"of" (e.g. REB, DAR, BBE, ERV, MNT),

"at" (e.g. TCNT, CEV, GNT, WNT, GW), or

"in" (e.g. GNB, NET).

Thus, the ecclesiastical phrasing, "*be read also in the church of the Laodiceans*" – imposed by Anglican scholars – can more accurately be rendered:

"*be read also **by** the **out-called of** Laodicea*";

"*be read also **by** the **out-called at** Laodicea*";

"*be read also **by** the **out-called in** Laodicea*";

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Colossians 4:15-16; Ecclesia

Minor: Translation

firm in faith, to separate from apostasy, and to await the "mercy" of Christ unto "*life eonian*" (:21). Their endurance and faithfulness were required in order to obtain this promised age-lasting salvation.

How different this is from the message committed to Paul! Through the Apostle to the Nations, God reveals a Secret Administration founded wholly upon absolute grace, apart from works or performance. In Paul's evangel, there is no holding fast to obtain mercy. Today the believer's standing is secure, not through endurance, but through identification with the risen Christ.

The epistle of Jude, therefore, belongs entirely within the Circumcision writings. It concerns Israel's prophetic hope (*i.e.*, the Second Coming, :14), not the heavenly calling of the One Body of Ephesians. The Barrier Wall is clearly in place, and Jude's audience stands within the hope of that restored national framework in which Israel will again be God's covenant people, and the Nations will be blessed through them. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Right Division; Jude, Book of

Minor: Great Tribulation; Israel; Last Days



I'm enjoying and learning from videos of the recent conference. What a blessing! And I love Steve Martin's books – profound truths in easy-to-understand language. – **South Africa**

I need to tell you that you, my friend, along with some other believers in universal reconciliation, played a huge role in helping to inculcate the one true gospel of God's love for ALL of Humankind – all of creation – into me so that I could let the message spill over into my father.

Looking back on my life and my spiritual journey, I can see that the Lord was preparing me for this very moment, this very ministry to Pap.

Years ago, my dad and I had a strained relationship, so much so that I wanted to change my last name – I could hardly stand my dad. But Father heard the prayer of my heart and reconciled my father and me, drawing us both unto His loving, saving embrace.

Now, I love telling everyone about the “love that will not let me/us go”!

God's love really is more magnificent and mysterious than I had ever imagined!

Thank you so much for being a huge part of my growth as a believer in the Gospel – the truly GOOD NEWS – of God and sinner reconciled. – **PA**

I think the deep grief period is easing up and I can start to see more clearly again. I thought I knew what it would be like if my wife were to precede me in death, but I knew nothing. I experienced grief at my parents, grandparents, etc. passing but it truly was child's play compared to my wife. I couldn't even think about God. We really do become one flesh when we marry, and that loss is excruciating. No words for what it is really like. – **OH**

Thank you for your obedient servitude and resounding love for our Lord and Savior Jesus or glorified Christ! ... I believe the list of materials you so eagerly promote and present to those searching for a litany of supportive materials is so worthwhile and meaningful! Please continue as I know you have a grand following of hungry students seeking materials that give great spiritual advice! – **ID**

I wish I could read all of the “treasure trove” of books by many authors. The ones I have already read have helped me tremendously. God has given us eyes to see through the misleadings of men, especially technology with its tricks of AI and false teachers. Keep up the good work! – **PA**

I was so surprised at how much we have in common! It is truly uncanny how much we have both experienced in our lives, the same way. ... Thank you so much for books. I will read them and consider all they say and learn from them. ... No churches needed! – **VA** **BSN**



The Ancient History of Universalism

From the Time of the Apostles, to the Era of the Reformation

by — Hosea Ballou 2nd (1796-1861)

This classic traces the early history of those who believed in the eventual salvation of all (sometime referred to as a “Universalist”).

“The work is one of decided ability, and is written with great candor and a careful examination of authorities.” Dr. Edward Beecher (1803-1895).

Your King

A Poem

by — Darson Buckner

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

Israel asked for a king, long ago,
They never knew that it would add to their
woe.

The king they were given, his name was Saul.
The decision was made, not to recall.

Like other nations, they wanted to be,
No turning back, God gave the decree.

As the children of Israel, added to their of-
fenses.
God gave them children, to be their princes.

Over them He did cause, babes to rule.
They rejected God, and were made the fool.

Kings He sets up, kings He brings down.
He's the only King, He wears the real crown.

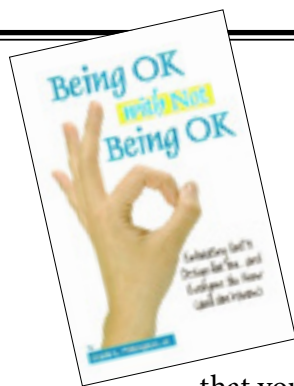
For the world God has chosen, the foolish to
confound.

And the mighty of the world, the weak has
bound.

So, if you look at your government, with great
dismay,
Trust the wisdom of God, it's on display.

ESN

UNDERSTANDING
GOD'S HAND IN ALL
THINGS CAUSES US TO
APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY
OF BIRTH AND DEATH - JUST
AS WE HOLD AN EQUAL ADMIRA-
TION FOR THE BEAUTY OF
A SUNRISE OR A SUNSET.
— MIKE OWENS



Being OK with Not Being OK - Embracing God's Design for You ... and Everyone You Know (and Don't Know)

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

For now, you're broken, and you aren't going to be "fixed." Granted, you may have some days that are better than others, some circumstances that seem to indicate that you are "OK," but the wearisome cycle simply will recur.

Thus it is by design – by divine design. Father is bringing you to a place where you are OK with not being OK, where you simply rest in His current purpose and plan in your training and development for that grand and magnificent culmination that He has so wonderfully and skillfully designed especially for you – in your next life.

I have read it completely three times. I always refer back to certain chapters. – FL

When I read it, it was like I could breathe again. Your calming words lead me to a greater realization. – OH

Thank you for this! It brought such peace and rest to me, and brought a greater understanding of God's great love for all His creation. That He alone is in control of everything is mind boggling to say the least! – NM

So fantastic! Such peace!! – Australia