



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 40
Issue 979

Enlightened Eyes

Part 1 of 4

by — J. Blake Botner

Key Points:

The study of Scripture should focus on understanding God's revealed Will rather than seeking personal goals during times of calamity. Having a solid understanding of God's purpose before facing life's challenges is highly beneficial..... 8251
When sincerely seeking God, His Word opens our eyes and holds immense power, offering personal growth and insight..... 8253
The current prolonged period of silence and absence of signs does not align with the scriptural revelation of the future transformative and undeniable demonstration of the Kingdom of God on Earth. Mistakenly overlooking this interruption in God's silence often leads to misguided attempts to force events that are not in accordance with His will..... 8254
The wisdom of God in Christ, the power of God in Christ, and

the grace of God in Christ to reach throughout all of creation, including the heavenly places, is now the revealed secret that is the fulfillment of the Word of God..... 8254
The misrepresentation of the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth as still being at hand serves as a comforting response to God's ongoing silence, but fosters false doctrines of performance instead of embracing the peace and confidence that comes from understanding our true identity in Christ. 8255
As a member of Christ's One Body, you possess the seal of God and are destined to reign with Him, surpassing all authorities. You do not represent the earthly Kingdom reserved for God's true Israel, as those events are yet to come according to Hebrews. 8258

INTRODUCTION

It is of upmost importance to understand how to approach God's Word. We, in our present state of mortal weakness, learn on a gradual basis. We gain over a period of a lifetime as we continue to consider Scripture with one specific goal in mind. That goal is simply to desire to know God. To diligently seek after Him and an understanding of His Will. Most often people approach the Bible with some other purpose. In times of trouble some will seek an immediate answer, some will consider Scripture as a source of mystical power to control events, still others want to harness its authority and dictate their personal perception of godliness. Notice that a pattern immediately presents itself in these study approaches where the *creatures' personal desire* is the issue, instead of the desire to diligently *know more of the Creator* (Romans 1:24-25; Hebrews 11:16).

You may be destined to realize the limitless gain that



Scripture affords. When we are desperate it is indeed the source of God's loving comfort, while understanding the power of the victorious show of Christ at Calvary provides context to all aspects of life. To be given eyes that understand the Will of God, through a grasp of the completed Word, instills bold confidence that the heirs with Christ use to minister with loving wisdom (Ephesians 3:14-19).

Instead of the study of Scripture being done in order to obtain a self-prescribed goal in times of calamity, our desire is to think daily of our Father's goal: His revealed Will for creation, for the ages, for this age and the called today, and therefore for us. It is great gain when we already have a sound understanding in place *before* facing the experiences of life's many calamities (Ephesians 6:14-19).

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 40, No. 979 – July 24, 2023

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 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 (Romans 6; 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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This approach will inspire the godly believer to emerge from each challenging experience even more confident in the peace of God. The severe challenges of our current mortal state press us forward to better rest in the peace and comfort of our loving heavenly Father *by design*. He considers our current weakness as an opportunity to this end, we should too (Philippians 3:7-14).

The goal of our heart becomes known as we study Scripture, its intention is made known by expressed conclusions. The greater the understanding that God gives to us the more obvious the plight of the blind becomes. With *gratitude* for the precious gift of inclusion at the highest level in His Master Plan we walk on to serve Him in proper worship (Ephesians 1:7-2:10).

SCRIPTURE STUDY

God’s Word is alive. It discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12, Hebrews 11:6).

God’s Word does not change. It always works hand in hand with His Will which makes it important to be able to understand the context of each chapter, verse and word of Scripture. Literal translations allow for avoidance of the limited understanding, and resultant agenda, of interpretive translators. As we have already seen, it is God Who opens eyes as the Word is considered. God’s Word is powerful and alive. You will gain from it if you are sincerely seeking after Him.

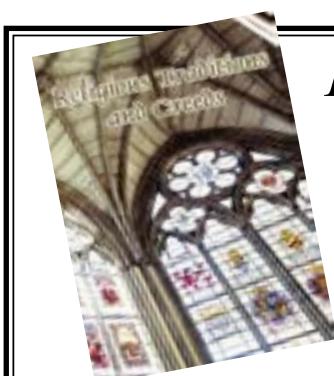
Let’s first recognize the context of these passages in Hebrews. This book is written to the nation of Israel. Therefore, it contains the parameters imposed by the “if/then” demonstration that is inherent with Israel’s covenant relationship with Jehovah. Hebrews is a “Kingdom at hand *having been suspended*” book. It is an explanation of how the death, burial and resur-

rection of Christ has paved the way for a new, *fully-sufficient-sacrifice* covenant that is to be the basis of the culmination of Israel’s prophetic program (Hebrews 7:19-28).

Hebrews further explains the literal reality of the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth being offered and rejected. The first opportunity of manifesting this Kingdom *was through the called-out flock of a single Jewish generation* (I Peter 2:9-10). Within this same single generation wickedness was allowed to prevail, and the wicked crucified their prophesied Messiah (Acts 2:22-24). The final *suspension/charge* to their covenant relationship, brought about by Israel’s rejection of their Messiah, is documented at the close of the book of Acts. There God declares that, as a result of their indifference, they are “no longer My people” (Acts 28:28).

The book of Acts is not doctrine for a new beginning as some teach. It is the historical record of the wickedness of one Jewish generation and the *Acts* of those who were faithful to Christ during His earthly ministry. Hebrews picks up where Acts ends as it is written to inform and encourage those who faithfully followed Christ during His earthly ministry, but witnessed the Kingdom offer withdrawn. It explains how/why those of God’s true Israel will, in the future, be involved in the dramatic culmination of the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. It speaks to those who literally witnessed the inception of the dynamic Pentecostal events, and then witnessed the Kingdom saturation of the world cease. Also, the book of Hebrews will be current information for future Jewish *new covenant* saints who will *literally* experience the glorious fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

That *future* Kingdom will be made known in an irrefutable, world-shattering exhibition that will not be able to be denied by any creature on Earth or in



Religious Traditions and Creeds *A Compilation*

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Heaven. As is often assumed today, the *silence of God* during His ushering in of His Kingdom on Earth does not fit with Scripture. It is not the work of the *current* Body, of which Christ is Head, to attempt to exhibit the supernatural signs that were common during the four gospels and the book of Acts Kingdom offer.

The current two thousand plus years of silent, signless existence in no way matches Scripture's revelation of how the Kingdom of God on Earth will transform everything with a vivid and irrefutable demonstration. It will be similar to a Pentecostal-like exhibit that begins in Jerusalem, moves to Judea, out to Samaria, *and then* literally saturates the entire globe. Failing to recognize this interruption of *silence* from God continues to lead to many attempts to force something to happen that simply is not His Will for now. The centuries of proclaiming something to happen that is not at all what God is doing today has gone from impactful to shamefully foolish.

You have a problem if you do not have an answer for the silence of God today. The record in the four Gospels, as well as the Acts of the Apostles, is far from a "God-being-silent" period of time. Quite the opposite. The whole of Christ's ministry was openly demonstrating His authenticity with *signs and wonders*. It will be even more demonstrative when He returns to Earth the second time. At that time He will not be born in a modest stable, humbly enter Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, or be subject to false accusation. He will return in world-shattering power. The error of missing the point of the books of Acts and Hebrews is nothing less than full-knowledge robbing deception.

Understanding that instead of the first offer of the Kingdom on the Earth being a bitter failure, we now know that the interruption of these events was all according to God's sovereign Will. Between where Acts concludes and Hebrews picks back up, Father God reveals the completing information having to do with His secret Heavenly purpose.

Paul pens Ephesians and Colossians through the inspiration of God's Spirit. With this completing revelation he declares how the heavenly places will be filled by a never previously prophesied, *secretly predestined*, church.¹ Paul fully declares the cross-work of Christ as the open show of victorious power enabling the all-encompassing salvation of all things.

This *finished* accomplishment of the Lord Jesus Christ was always in God's plan. It was not an after-thought or a scramble to correct unforeseen sinful events. Calvary was always the plan to be the basis to *empower the all-encompassing grace* that will systematically implement the conciliation of all things. The open show of the cross² of Christ always was the triumphant planned exhibition of good overcoming evil (Hebrews 10:4-13). The wisdom of God in Christ,

1. [Editor:] The Greek word often translated as "church" in most English versions is ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia, or ecclesia). The word is a compound word meaning "called-out" (ek = "out"; kaleō = "called"). The ecclesia is God's "called-out" ones. The ecclesia is not a building or denomination; not a meeting, or doctrinal creed; it is not somewhere we go, or something we do, it is who we as believers *are*. For more information see:

– [The Outsiders](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form);
– [The "Ecclesi" \(Churches\) of the Scriptures](#), Adlai Loudy (see order form).

2. [Editor:] I.e., "An upright stake or pale, without any crosspiece." – A.E. Knoch (CKC, page 63). For more information, read:

– The "Cross": Was Christ Nailed to a "Cross" or a "Stake"? Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. [Bible Student's Notebook #330](#);
– The "Cross" – An Explanation of its Use in the Concordant Version, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #302](#).

God's Church Its Calling, Hope and Motive

by — E.W. Bullinger

A study of the church, the Body of Christ. A look into our unique calling, precious hope, and motive for service.

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the power of God in Christ, and the grace of God in Christ to reach throughout all of creation, *including the heavenly places*, is now the revealed secret that is the fulfillment of the Word of God (Colossians 1:25).

Similarly, Israel's blindness and the silence of God were always in His plan in order to usher in the present secret economy. A never-before revealed called-out group, destined to dwell as Heaven's citizenry, chosen before the foundation of the world to be joint-heirs with Christ, was the final revelation needed to complete the Word of God. Not until the books of Ephesians and Colossians can you understand the all-encompassing reach of Calvary to the highest Heavens, let alone our unique and glorious calling as the Body of our Head, the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. To claim Scripture having to do with the Kingdom on Earth as in effect today leads to a failure to recognize our high and glorious destiny in Heaven (Colossians 3:2; Philippians 3:20).

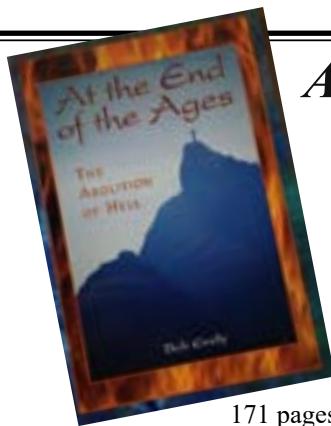
As mentioned, the book of Hebrews further explains the New Covenant that is based in the *once-and-for-all* sacrifice of Christ, as opposed to the *never-ending requirements* of the Law. This New Covenant will be the basis for Israel's relationship with God when they once again become the agency through which the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth is established and executed. Instead of being a demonstration of defeat, we now know that Calvary established God's conciliated Heaven and Earth wherein He will be "All in all" (I Corinthians 15:28). When Christ bursts back on the scene to install the geo-political Kingdom of Heaven on

Earth, it will be overwhelmingly undeniable. Failing to understand these events leads to much confusion.

The hysteria created by not recognizing the change in plan from earthly to heavenly representatives has so long played out that each successive generation grows weary embracing *unseen promises* that scripturally *are to be tangible*. *Traditional misrepresentation* of the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth as *still being at hand today* has become the answer to placate the masses during God's current ongoing silence. The deceitful handling of God's Word leads to false doctrines of performance, instead of peace and confidence from knowing the full extent of our identity in Christ. The intention of the heart to sustain tradition over discovery of God's Will is obvious to those whose eyes have been opened (Ephesians 1:15-23).

So long has God been silent during our current time of His grace being extended to all of creation, that those who fail to recognize prophecy's interruption assume that God is being silent *during the fulfilling of the prophesied Kingdom*. The Kingdom is not at hand today. God is forming the One Body whose destiny is joint-heirship with Christ (Ephesians 3:6) far above all principalities in the highest Heaven (1:21-23). The church, which is His Body, is currently the open show of God's wisdom and grace on display to all of creation. This open show on display is a tremendous opportunity for the called today. This new and unique opportunity is designed to play out against the backdrop of God's silence in this evil day (6:13).

(see ENLIGHTENED, last page)



At the End of the Ages: The Abolition of Hell

by — Bob Evely

Is hell forever? Most say that the righteous go to heaven, and the wicked to hell, *forever!* Is this what the Bible teaches?

This book presents evidence that the Bible, in the original languages, reveals that, one day, *ALL* mankind will be saved. Through time our Bible translations have become biased through the official teachings of "The Church." The author argues that teaching about an eternal hell slanders God, and it prevents many from having faith because the arguments in support of an eternal torment are illogical.

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

Would a God of love keep many souls alive *forever* just to torment them because they failed to "accept Jesus Christ" in this lifetime? The author shows that the Bible does *not* teach this. The purpose of "the eons" (i.e., "the ages," often mistranslated "eternity") is to bring *ALL* mankind to the point where every knee bows before Him. This work is written with the average reader in mind.



Representative Prophetic Passages #2

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Revelation 1:9-10

I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation, kingdom, and endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of God's Word and the testimony about Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day ... (HCSB)

Kingdom Phase: Millennial

Characteristics:

- The Great Tribulation is the lead-in period of "the Day of the Lord," followed by the Second Coming (Parousia), and the Millennial Reign. These three events constitute "the Lord's Day"

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day (10)

Acts 2:17-20

"And it shall come to pass in the last [resultant] days," saith God, "I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy: I will display wonders in the Heaven above and signs on the Earth below: blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood BEFORE the great and remarkable Day of the Lord comes."

Kingdom Phase: Pre-Millennial

Characteristics:

- God's Spirit is poured out

I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh (17)

- with the resumption of prophesy, visions, and dreams
- Certain of these signs and wonders were not fulfilled in the Book of Acts, and must be

before the great and remarkable Day of the Lord [Millennial Kingdom] comes (19-20)

- Wonders in the Heaven
- Signs on the Earth

Ezekiel 11:16-21

This is what the Lord GOD says: "Though I sent them far away among the nations and scattered them among the countries ... I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. When they arrive there, they will remove all its detestable things and practices from it. And I will give them one heart and put a new spirit within them; I will remove their heart of stone from their bodies and give them a heart of flesh, so they may follow My statutes, keep My ordinances, and practice them. Then they will be My people, and I will be their God. But as for those whose hearts pursue their desire for detestable things and practices, I will bring their actions down on their own heads." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD (HCSB)

Kingdom Phase: Pre-Millennial

Characteristics:

- Israel will be regathered into their land





I will gather you ... and I will give you the land of Israel (:17)

Characteristics:

- Israel will be given a new heart and spirit

I will give them one heart and put a new spirit within them (:19)

- Israel will become obedient

so they may follow My statutes, keep My ordinances, and practice them (:20)

- Israel no longer will be “*lo-ami*”

Then they will be My people, and I will be their God (:20)

Note: This passage does not present some instantaneous work, but a process.

Jeremiah 30:3, 9

“*For lo, the days come,*” says the LORD, “*that I will bring again the captivity of My people Israel and Judah,*” says the LORD: “*and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it ... And they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.*”

Kingdom Phase: Pre-Millennial

- David will be resurrected to be King of Israel

and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them (:9)

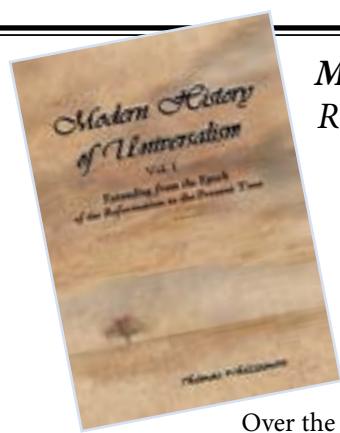
When manifest sovereignty first governs the Earth, the divine arrangement will be for Christ to rule from His throne in the Heavens (Psalm 103:19), while David, the shepherd-king, is ruling on Earth in Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 20:40-42

For in My holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord God, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve Me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things. I will accept you with your sweet savor, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up My hand to give it to your fathers.

Kingdom Phase: Pre-Millennial

Characteristics:



Modern History of Universalism – Extending from the Epoch of the Reformation to the Present Time

Volume 1 (the 1860 expanded European portion of the 1830 Edition)

by — Thomas Whittemore (1800-1861)

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

Modern History of Universalism was among Whittemore’s most important works. It was designed to be the companion work to the first edition which was published in 1830. It deals with Universalist developments from the Protestant Reformation in Europe and then in America.

Over the next thirty years Whittemore greatly expanded this history. In 1860 he published the first of what was to be a two-volume set. This first volume deals with European developments from the time of the Reformation. A second volume was to deal with American developments. He died a year later leaving the second volume unfinished. The 1830 single-volume edition remains the only current source of his work extending into the American history of Universalism.

Volume 1 of the 1860 edition is a tremendous expansion of the European content contained in the 1830 edition. An avid student of Universalist history would require both the 1830 and 1860 editions.



- All Israel will be brought back to the land of their fathers

hand to give it to your fathers (:42)

I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered (:40)

all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, [shall] serve Me (:40)

when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up My

- Israel will resume sacrifice with *all* their holy things

I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things (:40)

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Acts 2:17-20; Ezekiel 11:16-21; Ezekiel 20:40-42; Jeremiah 30:3, 9; Prophecy/Representative Prophetic Passages [Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 1:9-10); Pre-Millennial Kingdom (Acts 2:17-20; Ezekiel 11:16-21; Ezekiel 20:40-42; Jeremiah 30:3, 9)]; Revelation 1:9-10

ENLIGHTENED (continued from page 8255)

Our destiny, as the completing revelation of His Word, is the reason for the interruption found between the books of Acts and Hebrews. God set the earthly kingdom program aside in order to provide the final piece of information about His Will for the heavenly places. We have a heavenly destiny as joint-heirs with Christ. We are on display as those who were chosen before the foundation of the world, predestined to be without blame and spotless by the loving wisdom and grace of Almighty God (Ephesians 1:3-6).

You, as a member of Christ's One Body, having the seal of God within you (Ephesians 1:7-14), are destined to reign with Him far above *all authorities* (Ephesians 1:15-23). You are not a *representative* of the earthly Kingdom that will be vested in God's true Israel. Those coming events are future according to Hebrews. The establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven on the Earth will certainly NOT be a silent and easily ignored event; it will be an absolute, undeniable and Earth-changing drama on full display.

When Christ bursts back on the scene, all of creation will be aware, as His presence in the Heavens will be evidence that every creature everywhere will be keen-

ly aware of. When Christ makes His glorious appearance, making His authority and preeminence known throughout Heaven, we as Christ's Body will be revealed with Him when He appears (Colossians 3:1-4). At that time the prayer for His will to be done "*in Earth as it is in Heaven*" will once again become the desire of the chosen dwelling on Earth. The Kingdom of Heaven will *eventually* be brought down to Earth with Christ sitting on David's throne for one thousand years. Stop and realize that these events, and the ongoing infusion of the preeminence of Christ, will be a "no doubt about it" cosmic-shattering reality.

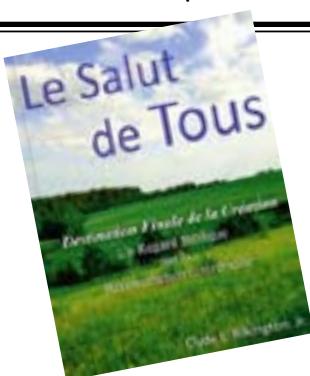
Until then we rest on the evidence and authority of God's Word, which is powerful and does indeed reveal the intention of the heart of those who embrace it. Only God will illuminate His written wisdom to each one in their own time (I Corinthians 15:19-26).

(edited)

(to be continued)

TOPICS:

Major: Scripture; Study
Minor: Acts, Book of; Hebrews, Book of; Mystery; Pre-Millennial Kingdom



Le Salut de Tous: Destination Finale de la Création

(Un Regard Biblique sur la Réconciliation Universelle)

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

(Translated by — Rock Bérubé, Rock Arsenault)

This is the French translation of *The Salvation of All*, a biblical look at Universal Reconciliation. It details a "Good News" that will reach its final goal in the salvation of all.

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

303 pages