



“Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth”



## **BIBLE CONFERENCE**

by Carl W. Deems Th. D.

# **THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE JEW, THE GENTILE, AND THE CHURCH**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

In this lesson, I will discuss three major classes of people in the Bible: the Jew, the Gentile, and the Church. I will point out how each class of people has their own purpose in God’s plan for mankind and describe major differences between them.

### **THE JEW, THE GENTILE, AND THE CHURCH:**

The scriptures distinguish between three “types” of people: the Jew, the Gentile, and the Church. The Jew and the Gentile in the scriptures are two very distinct races of people.

Rom. 2:9-10 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the **Jew** first, and also of the **Gentile**; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the **Jew** first, and also to the **Gentile**:

The Church on the other hand is a “spiritual body” and it is made up of both Jew and Gentile believers in Christ:

1 Cor. 12:13 For by **one Spirit are we all baptized into one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Col. 1:14-18 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of **the body, the church**: who is

the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Eph. 1:17-23 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things **to the church, Which is his body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

### THE JEW:

Close to two thirds of the Bible is dedicated to the Jew. Although the word Jew is first used in a reference to the Jew Mordecai in the book of Esther, the Jews date back to Abraham.

The history of the Jewish people began when God called out Abram to go to the promised land:

Gen. 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Note that Abraham is promised earthly blessings and an earthly kingdom. Similar promises are spoken of in other portions of scripture for the Jew, some conditional, others unconditional. What is important to see is that the Jew's rewards are primarily "earthly" in nature. The Jews are promised one day to have a kingdom ruled by a KING. They will get this kingdom during the Millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Zech. 14:9-19 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses. And men shall dwell

in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited. And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour. And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague. And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Dan. 7:11-14 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

The history of the Jewish people is not like any other people in history. The Jews have been driven from their land several times, they have been held in captivity, they have been persecuted, and yet they have remained a “nation” with the same “book”, law, and language for over 3500 years. God has providentially preserved them throughout the centuries and will continue to preserve them until all prophecies concerning them have been fulfilled.

Presently as a race and a people they are “blinded in part” but one day they will once again be in fellowship with God. Towards the end of the Great Tribulation

they will receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Messiah, will be regenerated as a nation, and will be the head of all nations:

Zech. 12:1-10 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the LORD of hosts their God. In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem. The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah. In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Rom. 11:25-26 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

### **THE GENTILE:**

Basically the definition of the Gentile is anyone that is not a Jew. Early on in the Bible, the Gentiles are referred to as a group of people, but as time goes on, the term is used to mean anyone who is not a Jew.

The major Gentile kingdoms of the world have been the Egyptians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Medo-Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans. God has used all these nations to bring judgment upon the Jews for their disobedience to Him. As a result, it is the Gentile kingdoms/nations that rule the world at this time. The Gentiles, as a race, are a worldly people that seek after earthly pleasures.

Although the Gentiles rule the world now, they will not always do so. Jesus talks of specific period of time He called the “times of the Gentiles” as the time period when the Gentiles will “be in charge.” Daniel also gives us a prophetic vision of these times in Daniel 2. The “times of the Gentiles” runs basically from the time of Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar to the end of the Tribulation:

Luke 21:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Dan. 2:31-45 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potter's clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall

never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

The Gentile nations will be judged during the Tribulation and at Christ's return at the Second Advent when the Lord Jesus Christ comes to set up His Kingdom. There will be Gentiles and Gentile nations alive during the 1000 reign of Christ but they will be under the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ. Toward the end of the 1000 years, the Gentile nations will rebel again and (with the help of Satan) come against the Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem only to be soundly defeated.

### THE CHURCH:

The "Church" as defined in this section, is not the local church one can see in the neighborhood, but it is an invisible, SPIRITUAL body of born again believers which has the Lord Jesus Christ as its head. The Church I discuss in this section therefore is not an organization but an organism:

1 Cor. 12:13 For by **one Spirit are we all baptized into one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

True, there are local churches, and the Bible speaks much of them, but not all members of a local church are necessarily part of the Church "which is His body." One needs to be in His body to be in His Church:

Eph. 1:22-23 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to **the church, Which is his body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Nor is the Church a continuation of the Jewish congregation or assembly. The Jews under the Law had to continually bring sacrifices to atone for their sins as a nation and as individuals. Today, the church goes by a different set of "rules" as a result of the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrificial death:

Hebr. 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**.

The Church therefore, unlike the Jewish congregation under the Law, is a spiritual body whose members are already washed, sanctified, and justified, by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Eph. 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his **blood**, the forgiveness

of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Col. 1:14 In whom we have redemption through **his blood**, even the forgiveness of sins:

1 Cor. 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: **but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**

In addition, unlike the Gentiles and the Jews who seek earthly kingdoms, the Church longs to go to heaven above:

1 Pet. 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved **in heaven** for you,

Finally, the Church will one day be married to the Lord Jesus Christ:

Rev. 19:6-9 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the **marriage** of the Lamb is come, and his **wife** hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

## CONCLUSION:

In this lesson, I discussed three major classes of people in the Bible: the Jew, the Gentile, and the Church. I showed how each class of people has their own purpose in God's plan for mankind and described major differences between them.

The Jew has been promised earthly blessings and will receive an earthly kingdom. God has preserved the Jew providentially throughout the centuries in spite of many persecutions. The Gentile also seeks earthly blessings and has been used by God to chasten the Jews. Presently, the Gentile nations rule the earth, but they will be judged at the end of the Tribulation and at Christ's second coming. There will be Gentiles alive during the 1000 years of Christ's reign on the earth and will be ruled by Him. Toward the end of the 1000 years they will rebel

against the Lord Jesus Christ only to be judged again.

The Church discussed in this lesson is an invisible body of born again believers that has been redeemed, washed, sanctified, and justified by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. It seeks a heavenly kingdom and heavenly rewards and will one day be married to the Lord Jesus Christ.