

BIBLE STUDY REFERENCE LIST - CHAPTER 2

The Mystery of Israel's Spiritual Blindness

INTRODUCTION

Quick reference Bible studies for the 12 Mysteries are essential for two purposes: defending the gospel against skeptics, and teaching Christians reasons they should hope in the Word of God. This book's length naturally begs for a quick reference guide for Biblical proof "*the mystery of God*"¹ has been finished, or revealed.

Below you'll find Bible study references for **Chapter 2** only. References for remaining chapters are available for free at www.pastorjessesmith.com/12mysteriesbook. You can also reach me via email, jesse.smith11@sbcglobal.net, or text 330-929-2037.

As Christians, we must verbally defend our faith. Twice Paul says he was set for the defense of the gospel in Philippians 1:7 and 17. In Greek, "defence" means "verbal defence, speech in defence, a reasoned statement or argument." The same Greek word for "defence" is also translated as "answer" in Peter's first epistle: "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*"² You can be ready to share the truth with any inquirer.

Ministers especially must faithfully test all beliefs. Paul commands us to "*Prove all things*" in 1 Thessalonians 5:21. Prove means "to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals" in the Greek. Since the Bible is our Absolute, all revelations are proven true by the pure words of Scripture alone.

Paul's message to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15 is: "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" Acts 17:11 labels the Bereans as a noble group because they searched the Scriptures daily to verify Paul's preaching.

Special thanks to Pastor Craig Booher for his inspiration in compiling quick reference Bible studies.

2ND MYSTERY: ISRAEL'S SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Revelation: The covenant-keeping God still saves spiritually blinded Jews who faithfully follow Old Testament commands, promising them white robes of eternal life.

Israel's current spiritual blindness:

Rom. 11:7-10 a *remnant* group of Israel received Christ (like Paul, Peter, etc.) but *the rest were blinded* to fulfill Isaiah 29:10 and Psalm 69:22-23

Isa. 29:10 *the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep...hath closed your eyes*

Ps. 69:22-23 *Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not*

Rom. 11:25 Israel is spiritually blinded so Gentiles can *come in*—be saved

¹ Revelation 10:7

² 1 Peter 3:15

Rom. 11:24, 27 God will remember His covenant with Israel and graft her back into His blessings when her blindness is taken away

Israel's perpetual backsliding the cause of her current blindness:

Jer. 3:6 God calls Israel *backsliding Israel*

Isa. 6:9-10 God foretells rebellious Israel's blindness: *shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes*

Jesus and Paul verify Israel's blindness based upon Isaiah 6:9-10:

Mat. 13:14-15, Mark 4:11-12, Luke 8:10, John 12:40 Jesus quotes Isaiah 6:9-10 regarding Israel

Acts 28:25-28 Paul quotes Isa. 6:9-10 after some Jews reject Jesus as Messiah in Rome

Israel rejected Jesus after being given the first opportunity to receive Him as Messiah:

Mat. 10:5-7 Jesus' disciples sent to *lost sheep of the house of Israel*—not Gentiles

John 1:11 Israel rejects her Messiah: *his own received him not*

Rom. 9:31-33 Israel was blinded because they *stumbled at the stumblingstone*—they failed to believe in Christ

Jesus prayer on the cross is reason #1 spiritually blinded Jews can still be saved:

Luke 23:34 Jesus' prayer from the cross for the Father to forgive His accusers shows some of the spiritually blinded Jews didn't understand the consequences for rejecting Christ

Ps. 69:20-28 some in the group who consented to Jesus' death will have their names removed from the Book of Life

Paul's Romans 11 teaching is reason #2 spiritually blinded Jews can still be saved:

Rom. 11:5 a *remnant* group of Jews accepted Jesus as Messiah while the rest rejected Him

Rom. 11:1, 11, 23, 26 blinded Israelis are not forsaken for all time because spiritual blindness is temporary

Rom. 11:11, 15 God is saving Gentiles while Israel is blinded

Rom. 11:25 blindness is only upon *part* of Israel; the other part is the believing remnant

Lk. 21:24, Rom. 11:23 After the Times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, God will graft Israel back into His promises

Foreshadowing in the life of Joseph is reason #3 spiritually blinded Jews can still be saved:

Gen. 45:1-8 Joseph reveals himself to his brothers and explains God used their rejection of him to preserve and save lives, just as Israel's blindness to Jesus allowed God to preserve and save the Gentiles' souls

Mat. 25:31-46 Christ mercifully grants eternal life to surprised doers of good works who were seemingly blinded to His identity during their lives

Acts 10:34-35 God accepts all persons, from all nations, who fear Him and work righteousness

The Fifth Seal is reason #4 spiritually blinded Jews can still be saved:

Rev. 6:9-11 Fifth Seal descriptions describe blinded Israel under heaven's altar

Rev. 1:2, 9 John had both the testimony of the word of God and also of Jesus Christ; the Fifth Seal Jews only had the testimony of the Word of God (Old Testament)

Luke 23:34, Acts 7:6 Christ and Stephen cry for forgiveness for their murderers; the Fifth Seal Jews cry for vengeance while under the altar, proving they aren't Christians

Luke 24:49, Rom. 13:14 Spirit-filled Christians are clothed, or endued with Jesus' power, symbolized by a white robe during their earthly lives; the Fifth Seal Jews receive white robes after death;

Gen. 45:22 Joseph gives his brothers new clothes after he reveals his identity, typing Jesus giving the 144,000 Jews the baptism of the Holy Ghost after their blindness is taken away—not before

Mat. 27:25 Israel's self-inflicted blood curse continues upon blinded Israel, as the Fifth Seal confirms more fellowservants and Jewish brothers must still be martyred

God's righteous judgment based upon inherent knowledge is reason #5 spiritually blinded Jews can still be saved:

Rev. 6:9, 12:11 all believers, including blinded Jews, overcome by their own personal testimony
Hab. 2:4, Eph. 2:8-10 all ever saved—Old and New Testaments—have been saved by grace through faith

1 Tim. 4:14, Heb. 2:3 neglecting the gift of salvation and/or spiritual gifts is sinful

Mat. 25:20-21, Luke 12:47-48 persons are rewarded or judged based upon their actions in response to their knowledge of God's will

Mat. 7:21 only those who do the will of God enter heaven

2 Chron. 16:9, Ps. 7:9, John 4:23, Acts 10:35, 17:27, Rev. 3:20 Jesus seeks and is near to each person, in every nation, and is waiting for their response to His knock

Luke 11:10 Jesus promise to reward everyone who seeks Him

Rom. 1:19-21, 2:14-15 God's laws are written upon every man's conscience and the glory of creation witnesses His existence so all men are without excuse of Judgment Day

God's covenants with Israel through Abraham is reason #6 spiritually blinded Jews can still be saved:

Gen. 12:1-9, Gal. 3:6-9 God's unfailing, unending promises to Abraham and his seed to bless all nations, including justifying the Gentiles by faith in Christ

Gen. 18:19 God foresees the obedient remnant of Abraham's seed He can use to fulfill His promises

Deut. 11:26-28 conditional blessings and curses set before Israel: blessed "if" they obeyed

Isa. 49:13-16, John 20:25-27 God cannot forget His covenant to Israel, for she's engraved upon His palms

Jer. 31:31-34 God's steadfastness to Israel is seen in the sunlight, moon, stars, and oceans

Multiple covenants and the Gentile Dispensation:

Rom. 9:4, Eph. 2:12 *covenants* plural, showing multiple covenants exists

1 Cor. 9:17, Eph. 3:2, Col. 1:25 Paul given a dispensation, or stewardship, to minister to the Gentiles

Luke 16:1-13 in Jesus' parable of The Unjust Steward the word "stewardship" is the same Greek word for "dispensation"

Eph. 1:10 God has one dispensation, or oversight, of all time periods and He'll gather everything together in Christ at the New Jerusalem

God's eight covenants:

Gen. 1:26-30, 2:15-25 Edenic Covenant

Gen. 3:14-24 Adamic Covenant

Gen. 8:20-9:17 Noahic Covenant

Gen. 12:1-3, 17:9-14 Abrahamic Covenant

Exodus chapters 20-40, Deut. 30:1-10 Mosaic Covenant

2 Sam. 7:4-17, Luke 1:30-33 Davidic Covenant

Jer. 31:31-34, Luke 22:20 New Covenant

Isa. 65:17, Rev. 21:1-5 Eternal Covenant

Daniel's 70 Weeks Prophecy:

Dan. 9:24-27 full prophecy of the 70 Weeks

Gen. 29:27 a *week* can mean 7 years; 70 Weeks (70 x 7) = 490 years

Dan. 9:24 Gabriel lists six things that happen at the end of the 490 year period when Israel accepts Jesus in the Tribulation

Dan. 9:25-27 the 490 year period is divided up into three time periods: 7 weeks (49 years), 62 weeks (434 years) and 1 week (7 years)

Dan. 9:25 first time period, 7 weeks or 49 years, started in 445 B.C. when Persian king Artaxerxes Longimanus ordered Israel's temple to be rebuilt in Neh. 2:1-8; the wall was finished 49 years later in 396 B.C.

Dan. 9:25 second time period, 62 weeks or 434 years, is added to the first time period of 49 years (totaling 483 years) to identify the year the Messiah was cut off, or crucified. There seems to be a mistake (8 year difference) since 445 B.C. plus 483 years equals 38 A.D.. Jesus was crucified in 30 A.D.. The 8 year difference is explained by God's prophetic calendar being seven years shorter than the solar calendar (38 A.D. minus 7 years is 31 A.D.). The one extra year gives room for the half year of Jesus' three and a half year ministry since we're not given exact dates and ages of Jesus' life and ministry.

Dan. 9:26 the people of the prince who destroyed the Temple were Romans under Titus' command in 70 A.D.

Hosea 3:4-5 God put a 2,000 year pause of Daniel's 70 Weeks after Jesus' crucifixion in order to save the Gentiles

Dan. 9:27 in the third and final time period (one week or seven years) the Pope-Antichrist makes a 7 year covenant with Israel and many other nations but breaks it after 3.5 years

Dan. 12:11, 2 Thes. 2:3-4 30 days after breaking the covenant, Rome sets up an abomination in the Jewish Temple as the Pope sits therein claiming he is god

Rev. 12:17, 17:12-14 Rome and her allies send their armies to destroy Israel but God will fight for His covenant people

Zech. 12:9-13:6 Jesus physically reveals Himself to His 144,000 brethren and the spirit of grace and supplications pours upon them as a fountain, washing away their blindness

Rev. 7:1-21, Rev. 14:1 Jesus brings healing and following their heartfelt repentance and the 144,000 are sealed with the Holy Ghost

Rev. 6:12-17, chapters 8, 9, 11, 15, 16 God's divine wrath poured out during the last 3.5 years of Daniel's 70th Week, also called the Sixth Seal

Rev. 1:7, 16:16, 19:11-21 every eye sees Jesus physically appear for the Battle of Armageddon

Mal. 4:1-3 heavenly fire cleanses the earth after Armageddon in preparation for the Millennium