

There are three questions that will be addressed in this question-and-answer session.

Question One

Oftentimes, the 12 tribes are referred to as different divisions of the church in charge of different areas. Is the goal of all the tribes to be reconciled and made like Benjamin?

Answer

Let's start by reading Ephesians 2, *"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; [12] That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:"*

Ephesians 2:11-12 KJV

These scriptures reveal a commonwealth of Israel that ex-gentiles now in Christ partake of. The commonwealth of Israel are diverse blessings for the church for a shared benefit. It is where all the blessings given to each tribe are shared and experienced by Israel (all 12 tribes). 1 Chronicles 12:32-33 says that the men of Issachar had an understanding of the times and men of Zebulun were experts in war. Consequently, Israel (the church in its fullness) will have an understanding of the times and be experts in war and more! The goal is not for Issachar to be like Benjamin or Benjamin to be like Joseph. The goal is for each tribe to manifest its fullness to contribute to the commonwealth so that Israel may be perfect and thoroughly furnished.

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, [2] That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. [3] Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; [4] Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. [5] Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? [6] And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. [7] For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken

out of the way. [8] And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: [9] Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, [10] And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. [11] And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: [12] That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 KJVS

The Benjamin company are a faithful and steadfast people to the Lord ALONE and incessantly abide in His presence (Parousia. 2 Thes 2:1). Benjamin was so close to Jacob, so much so that the life of his Father is bound up in him. This message is a call to intimacy with the Father. In Genesis 43- 45, we see that Joseph, a type of Christ Jesus, would not unveil himself to His brethren until Benjamin was brought forth. In the same way, the Benjamin company will be brought to the Lord before He unveils Himself to the rest of Humanity and Israel.

Also, there is no division in the church of Jesus. Numbers are a prophetic language in scripture, where 12 signify a divine governments. The entire church functions as one entity under God.

Question Two

- A. We see from the scriptures that the tribe of Benjamin has a dark side, please can you expand more on these. How can we overcome this dark side?
- B. What was the principal error of Saul and how can we avoid making this mistake?

Answer

First off, there is no dark side in a believer. Given the frailty of flesh, there are weaknesses to watch for. Romans 15:4 shows that these stories of the Patriarchs were written for our learning. A generation that dwells wholly on re-inventing the wheel is a foolish generation, as there is nothing new under the sun (Ecc 1:9). The way generations advance is to watch what has been done and improve by learning from the mistakes of our fathers. Saul made four critical errors. They were disobedience to God's word, self-exaltation, arrogance and pride and a zeal to be a star before men and instead of a servant of God. This led Saul to an end of depravity and witchcraft.

When Saul was anointed king, He came with the zeal of the Lord to deliver the men of Gilead. He did what God commanded and the LORD was with him (1 Sam 10). In chapter 13 and 15 of 1 Samuel, however, Saul disobeyed God twice. In chapter 13, Samuel instructed Saul to wait seven days as commanded by the Lord. After the seven days had passed and Samuel had not arrived, he offered a burnt offering in the place of Samuel to entreat the LORD's favor in battle against the over 30,000 Philistine army. This was because he saw that the people trembled and deserted him. In chapter 15, the LORD anointed Saul king over Israel and commanded him to avenge Israel by annihilating the Amalekites (man, child, and cattle). First, Saul let Agag, king of the Amalekite, live. The soldiers destroyed only the animals worth destroying and kept the best of the cattle (1 Sam 15:14). And the LORD was sorry he made Saul king. When Samuel confronted Saul, he confessed he was afraid for the people and did what they wanted (verse 24). We can see that Saul wanted to be a star before the people at the expense of obeying God. Saul deviated so far from the LORD that he violently pursued to kill the LORD's anointed David and consulted a sorcerer to speak to Samuel's spirit from the dead (1 Sam 28). We see this in the church now. Once a person begins to compete with the Lord for who is king in the hearts of the people, the end is witchcraft. We need to check ourselves, are there any elements of the sins of Saul in your heart. When we minister, is it so we would be stars in the eyes of men? Or so our Lord will be glorified?

Question Three

There was a counsel to practice the 70-30 ratio in our personal and corporate time of learning the word of God. Is there a recommended amount of time to spend in the place of prayer?

Answer

70-30 ratio is a recommendation to spend 70% of an allotted time personally learning and studying the word while 30% is invested in learning from teachers and ministers in the body of Christ. This can also be applied to prayer. 30% of time spent corporately and 70% spent praying personally.

How do we study the bible?

Give attendance to reading, exhortation and doctrine. Read your bible, by doing so, You are arming yourself. You may not know when you need it. Study to show thyself approved unto God (2 Tim 2:15)

You may be reading and the concept of grace intrigues you. You can then decide to study on grace.

Let's learn to wait on the Word of God. If you see something and do not understand it, wait. Do not rush out of Scriptures. Sit and wait. When it comes to the study of the Word, it is good to be consistent.

Do it on a daily basis. As you continue to increase your study of the scripture. Be a scribe. Journal. This was what produced the Scriptures we have. Document God's speaking and dealings with you. Make a habit of writing down the things God speaks to you.

Counsel for Prayer

- If you would have a prayer life, you must be disciplined and consistent. It is not a thing of feeling. Jesus said "tarry" because there are distractions everywhere.
- Put away every distraction when you are praying. Put away your chat and text message. Turn off your tv and pray.
- Consistency is the Word. Pray long in tongues. Do that consistently and you will see a boost in your prayer life. There is a coming upon the church a spirit of prayer and you will pray. God himself will lift you up to pray. Use the best time of the day. There is nothing we can do without prayer.

There is a stance in the scripture in regards to the study of the Word and prayer. Before you think of prayer and the study of the Word, first refer to the biblical stance on it. Some include; pray without ceasing, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, and a counsel to not let the scriptures depart from your lips, Joshua 1:9. Whenever you receive a biblical explanation from a man, we must judge it with scriptures. Scripture best explains scriptures. Genesis to Revelation tells one story – Christ. However, the 30% corporate learning time should be maximized. Materials, such as books, are a great resource. It is futile to labor at what is already labored at and brought forth.

The Word of God comes by revelation, knowledge, prophecy and doctrines. This is what we look for when you open the scripture. Christ is the object of revelation as well as the one who gives revelation.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV

The study of the word of God is to be directed to the man of God for his perfection. People often study to preach or to argue. The major reason we should study the Word of God is to be perfect and thoroughly furnished to all good works. Read the bible till the point it inspires prayers. You need to have a strong relationship with God first and that will help you rightly divide the Word of truth. The

more you spend time with God, you have power with God and with men. However, if you are looking at yourself or preaching yourself, you lose power with God and men. Prayer is bringing God's Word back to Him and asking Him to work this word back into your life. Prayer is the digestion of God's word. These are precepts that are the foundation for our Christian walk.