

It was Miles Coverdale, who gave us our first complete translation of the Bible, who had in the fly-leaf of his Bible the following words concerning the laws of interpretation:

“It shall greatly help you to understand Scripture, if you mark not only what is spoken, or written, but of whom, and to whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstance, **considering what goes before, and what follows**”.



Miles Coverdale suggested to consider what goes before and what follows a particular passage of scripture. When applying this technique to some passages of scripture, we find several examples of something “before and after”. It is our responsibility to “approve the things that are (more) excellent (Phillipians 1:10) comparing spiritual things with spiritual (I Cor. 2:13)”.

For instance, the phrase “but now” indicates the subject matter presented was handled previously one way **but now** a new way has been revealed:

### **But Now**

Eph 2:11-17 (KJV)

- 11 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:
- 13 **But now** in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
- 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;
- 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;
- 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:
- 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

Eph 5:6-12 (KJV)

- 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.
- 7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.
- 8 For ye were sometimes darkness, **but now** are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

## Right Division

## “Considering what goes before, and what follows”

- 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)  
10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.  
11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.  
12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

Phil 2:12-13 (KJV)

- 12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, **but now** much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.  
13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Col 1:25-27 (KJV)

- 25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;  
26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, **but now** is made manifest to his saints:  
27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Col 3:5-17 (KJV)

- 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:  
6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:  
7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.  
8 **But now** ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.  
9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;  
10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:  
11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.  
12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;  
13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.  
14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.  
15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.  
16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.  
17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

### Foundation of the World - Before vs. From or Since

Another example can be seen when studying the words “Foundation + world”. If you search the scriptures to find the references containing “before + foundation” vs. “from or since + foundation” you will find another glaring example of comparing scripture with scripture to reveal a truth that has a before and after.

### **Before**

John 17:24 (KJV)

- 24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me **before the foundation of the world.**

## Eph 1:3-14 (KJV)

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
- 4 According as he hath chosen us in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
- 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
- 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
- 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
- 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;
- 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
- 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:
- 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:
- 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.
- 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
- 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

## 1 Pet 1:18-20 (KJV)

- 18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
- 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:
- 20 Who verily was foreordained **before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you,

**From or Since**

## Matt 13:34-35 (KJV)

- 34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:
- 35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret **from the foundation** of the world.

## Matt 25:32-34 (KJV)

- 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:
- 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.
- 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you **from the foundation of the world**:

## Luke 11:49-51 (KJV)

- 49 Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:
- 50 That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed **from the foundation of the world**, may be required of this generation;
- 51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

Heb 4:2-3 (KJV)

- 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.
- 3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished **from the foundation of the world.**

Rev 13:4-8 (KJV)

- 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?
- 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.
- 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.
- 7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.
- 8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain **from the foundation of the world.**

Rev 17:8 (KJV)

- 8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life **from the foundation of the world**, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Heb 9:24-28 (KJV)

- 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:
- 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;
- 26 For then must he often have suffered **since the foundation of the world**: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
- 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
- 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

### Conclusion

“Before the foundation of the world” is where we find Christ who is the source of the believer’s eternal position (1 Tim 2:5). Christ was there securing the way of salvation with his blood (1 Pet 1:18-20; John 17:24). It is now revealed that we were chosen in Him at that time. WOW! Everything since or from the foundation of the world pertains to Israel and their calling.

Today, we have a separate calling and inheritance that was hidden in God before the foundation of the world. This body of truth Paul calls “The Mystery” was given to be revealed after the close of Acts and is what is being brought to our attention in the “but now” in Col. 1:25-26 and “before the foundation of the world” in Eph 1:3-14.

So, in the words of Miles Coverdale, “It shall greatly help you to understand Scripture, if you mark not only what is spoken, or written, but of whom, and to whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstance, **considering what goes before, and what follows**”.