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## Notes for Sunday

Last Sunday, we looked at the official beginnings of Israel's demise through idolatry. When Jeroboam commandeered the 10 tribes, separating them from Jerusalem, from the Levites, and even most of the faithful of the north as the faithful left and moved South. Then he created another altar, other gods, another priesthood, another feast day, and sacrifices...

...Idolatry was now officially prescribed.  
Never to leave the North.  
Infecting the South.  
Leading to the judgment and exile of both.

And this evil altar, priesthood, and its followers were divinely judged by the prophesied coming of Josiah about 300 years after Jeroboam.

But what to me is even more profound was the warning given by the nameless young prophet who prophesied and promised Josiah's coming and judgment. The altar was broken and rejected; its ashes cast out. Josiah, the king, was coming. Idolatry's doom was pronounced.

The next events were key. "Seize him" (Kings don't care to be censored). His hand withered. God doesn't care that they don't care.

Such will happen to all kings who resist God's authority and His call to repentance. They will wither. And yet God grants mercy and restores the King's hand. But there will be no fellowship restored without repentance....

From Jeroboam to Josiah was Israel's Rift Valley of idolatry through its history.

This coming Sunday, I'm going to show you another rift that runs the length of Israel's New Testament days.

After the Babylonian exile.

And they return under Zerubbabel.

And the intertestamental period continuing until the Roman conquest.

And the coming of Christ at Israel's weakest point.

And Christ's offering of the Kingdom upon the repentance of the Nation's leaders....

And the kingdom's rejection by the leaders.

And the Kingdom is then postponed in a "Mystery."

As the Kingdom is given to the Gentiles, us, the church.

And a Rift Valley has been opened from Calvary to the Rapture.

O-R-P-R      **O**ffered  
                  **R**ejected  
                  **P**ostponed  
                  **R**eturning

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Two rifts through two national sins, the rejection of God and then of his Son.

In the first rift, the Nations punish Israel.

In the second, the Nations replace Israel (though not permanently, which would be the error of amillennialism and replacement theology...). But nonetheless, Israel's blessings and privileges have come to the Gentiles to make them jealous.

This second rift in Israel's history we will look at on Sunday.

Sunday we will look at Matthew 13 and the parables of the coming mystery of the Age of the Church.

1. The parable of the Sower: The proclamation of the kingdom.
2. The parable of the wheat and the tares. The corruption of the Kingdom.
3. The parable of the Mustard seed. The expansion of the Kingdom.
4. The parable of the leaven: The inward permeation of the Kingdom.
5. The parable of the treasure hidden in the field: The salvation of the Jew.
6. The parable of the pearl of great price: the salvation of the Gentiles. Both being treasures, they represent the unity of the Kingdom.
7. Then lastly, the parable of the dragnet: Judgment finally comes at the end of the age.

So read Matthew 13 and ponder these notes the rest of this week. On Sunday, follow along and learn "mysteries hidden from the past generations but now made manifest to His Saints." (Col 1:26)

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# Israel's Rift Valleys

1. The Foundations (Genesis 12 to Judges)
  - The Fathers
  - The Exodus
  - The Law
  - The Wilderness
  - The Conquest and establishment of the nation
  - The Judges and the spiral of idolatry
2. The Monarchy and Divided Monarchies (1 Samuel to 2 Kings)
  - 3 Monarchs... "Camelot"
  - The Divided Monarchies, North and South
  - Jeroboam to Josiah
  - Assyria and the Exile to Babylon
3. "The Times of the Gentiles" (2 Kings to Nehemiah and the Intertestamental Period).
  - Exile
  - Return; Persia, Greece, Rome
  - The coming of Christ
4. The Church and the Age of Grace (Matthew to Revelation)
  - Matthew 13 (Romans 11:25)
  - The Rapture: "the Restrainer is taken away."
5. The Millennial Kingdom (Revelation)
  - The Tribulation
  - The return of Christ