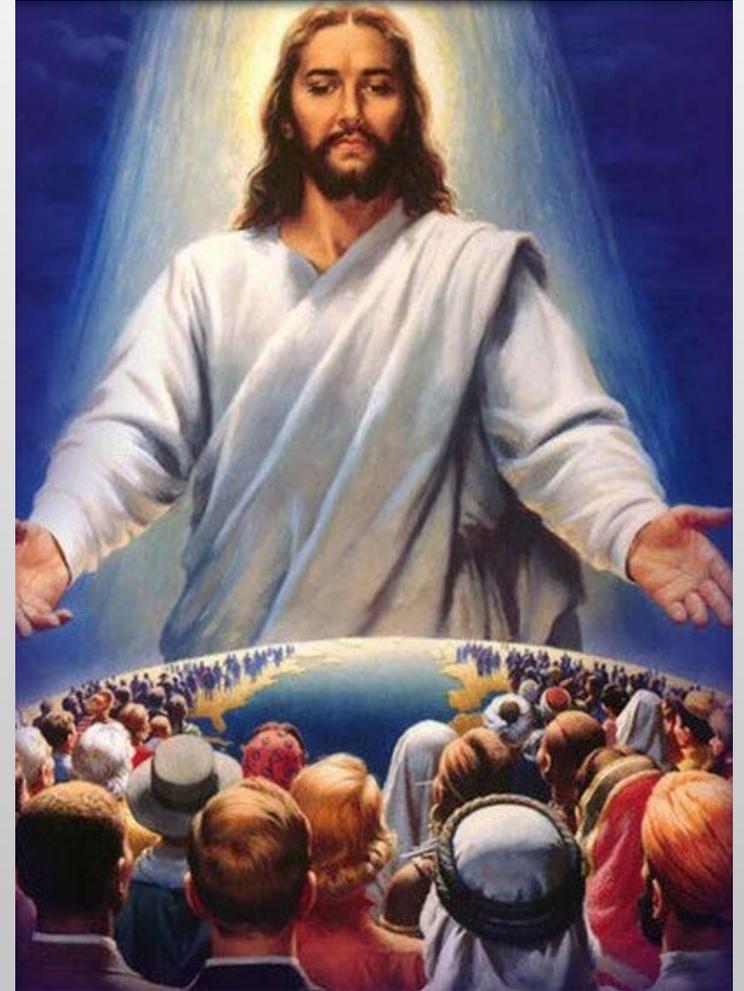


Must the Whole World Hear?

Romans 16: 25 – 27.



“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith – to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.”
Romans 16: 25 – 27.



I. Introduction

The entire world should hear the Good News of God's kingdom. God invites all inhabitants without excluding anybody. This is why we share His message of love with everyone, showing to all inhabitants of the earth the incommensurable riches of God's grace.



“For many the Kingdom of God is falsely connected to a particular nation. The Kingdom of God is bigger than any earthly nation, it is the coming of true King, God Almighty, as he is establishing his Kingdom in Jesus Christ. He is establishing his Kingdom through the proclamation of the Gospel and is not desiring just one particular nation, but people of all nations to come under His kingship through the atoning work of Christ.”

Justin Deeter



The idea that Gentiles should be on exactly the same plane as Israelites and, furthermore, in the intimate relationship as being members of the same body, is absolutely foreign to the Old Testament. According to Isaiah 61:5,6, the Gentiles are pictured as being the servants and Israel as the priests of God. While it is true that the Gentiles were promised blessings in the future millennial kingdom, they are never given equality with the Jews in the Old Testament."

Walvoord, *The Church in Prophecy*, pp. 46-47.



“A Hollywood film was made about him called *The Terminal* starring Tom Hanks. Finally the wonderful day came when France gave him citizenship and a passport and he could leave the prison of the airport to live in Paris and come and go as he pleased. He was no longer a stateless, homeless alien. That is what God in his grace does when he removes us from a kingdom of darkness in which we have been wandering about, not knowing who we were and where we were going, alienated from God. The French existentialist Camus wrote a powerful novel describing such a man. It is called *L'Étranger*, the outsider, or the stranger. We have been saved from that isolation. We are members of the kingdom of God's dear Son. We are “no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household” (Eph. 2:19). This was God's plan from the beginning, that the Gentiles believers as well as the Jewish believers would become God's people loved by God.” Geoff Thomas

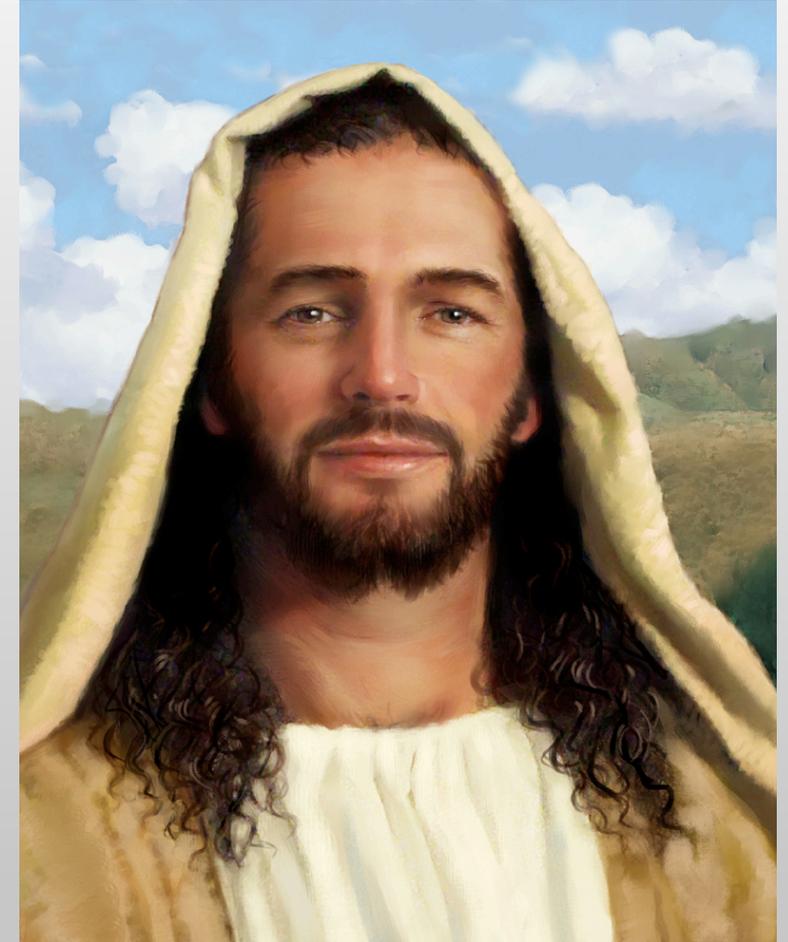
“It should be observed that, in the New Testament, each of these three factors is itself declared to be a mystery, or sacred secret: (a) the Church composed of Jews and Gentiles in one Body (Eph. 3:4-6), (b) Israel blinded until the Church is called out (Rom. 11:25; cf. Acts 15:13-18), and (c) the presence and character of evil in this age (2 Thess. 2:7).”
Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, Vol. IV, p. 44.

“If all things hold together in Jesus Christ, if in Him there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, then a Christian, who is by definition in Christ, is not able to discriminate. He shows no partiality because Jesus Christ fully accepts everyone. The true disciple will always do according to the will of his Master.”
(DS)



Before the cross of Christ, mankind was divided into two groups: Jews and Gentiles. The Old and New Testaments both make very clear what caused this distinction. It was the covenant God had made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and with their descendants through Moses. This covenant made God's "chosen people" absolutely unique. After the Cross a new entity came into existence – the church that Jesus Christ promised He would build (Mt 16:18). Essential also is an understanding that the church was created through offering to both Jews and Gentiles a "new covenant" relationship with God. Paul explains that Gentiles who were "aliens ...of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise" have been "made nigh [to God] by the blood of Christ" (Eph:2:13). God has "broken down the middle wall of partition between [Jew and Gentile]; having abolished in his flesh the [Mosaic] law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain [Jew and Gentile] one new man" (Eph:2:11-22) Dave Hunt.

“Condemnation comes to everyone who does evil, to Jew first and also to the Gentiles. (Romans 2:9). But the salvation also comes through Jesus Christ to everyone who accepts Him as Saviour, to Jew first and also to the Gentiles (2:11). The Old Testament spent a lot of time to prepare Israel to accomplish the mission of the ‘chosen people’. (Ex. 19). The New Testament considers all those who follow Jesus as ‘special people’, proclaiming the praises of Him who called all nations “out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2: 9).
(DS)



II. Context



The introduction of the epistle, as well as its conclusion underlines the main message:
The Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ will be preached to all nations. Thus, God's children will be established and ready for the obedience to faith.



II. Structure of Romans 1 and 16

Romans 1

(v 1) The Gospel of God

(v 3) Concerning Jesus Christ

(v 11) To the end you may be established

(v 5) among all nations

(v 5) for obedience to the faith

(v 2) which he has promised by His prophets

Romans 16

(v 25) My Gospel

(v 25) The Preaching of Jesus Christ

(v 25) To stablish you

(v 26) made known to all nations

(v 26) for the obedience of faith

(v 25) revelation of the mystery... by the prophets

III. The mission of the apostle Paul was accomplished through his focus on Jesus Christ



1. God strengthen His children in order to qualify them for mission

“Now to Him who is able to establish you”



To establish = to make stable, to place firmly, to set fast, to strengthen, to make firm, to render constant.



“The tough challenges we encounters, makes us stronger, and wiser. With each victory we gain something of value; our character is strengthened.”
Ellen J. Barrier



“If you wish to strengthen your confidence in God still more, often recall the loving way in which He has acted toward you, and how mercifully He has tried to bring you out of your sinful life, to break your attachment to the things of earth and draw you to His love.”
Alphonse Liguori



“God allows our weakness to occur in order to draw us to Him, that we might look to HIM and receive His strength. He becomes our strength when we remain in Him and His Word remains in us.”

Natalie Nichols

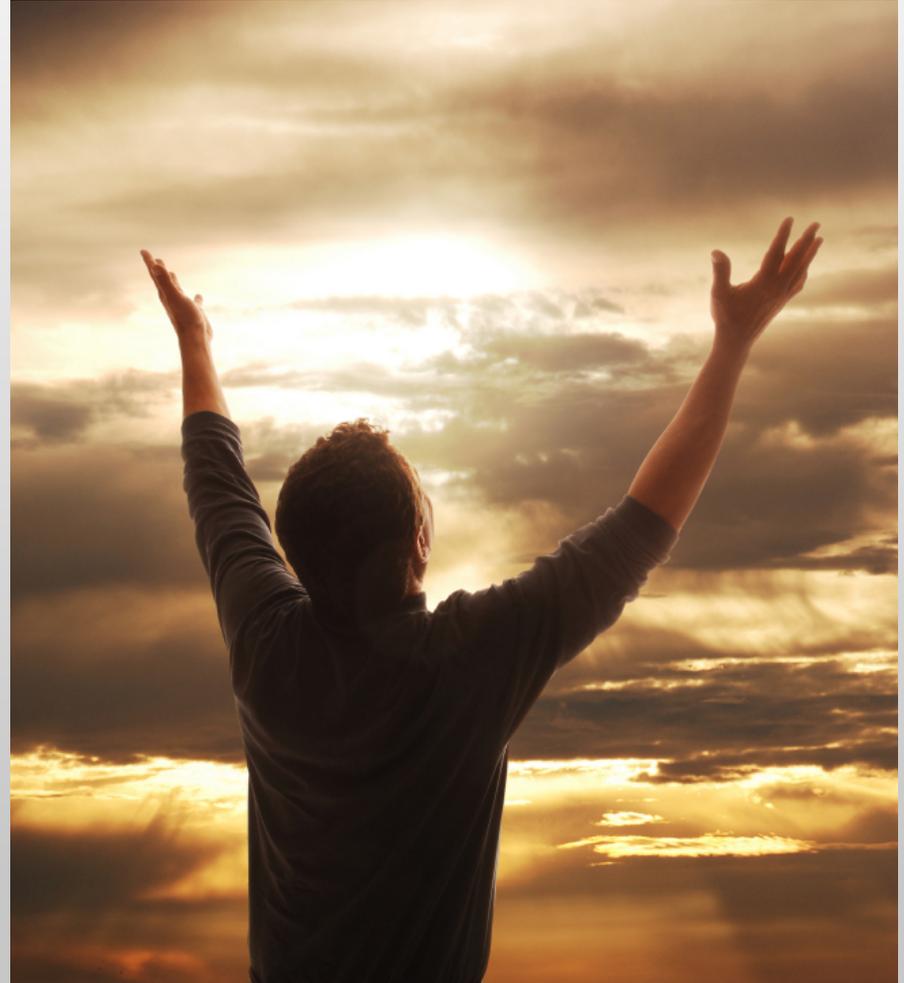


2. The apostle Paul appropriates the Gospel “According to my gospel”



"The preaching of the gospel is not to persuade people to agree with me in my theological views. The preaching of the gospel so far as I am concerned, is to bring people into personal association with that person with whom I have fellowship."

Author: William Warren Prescott



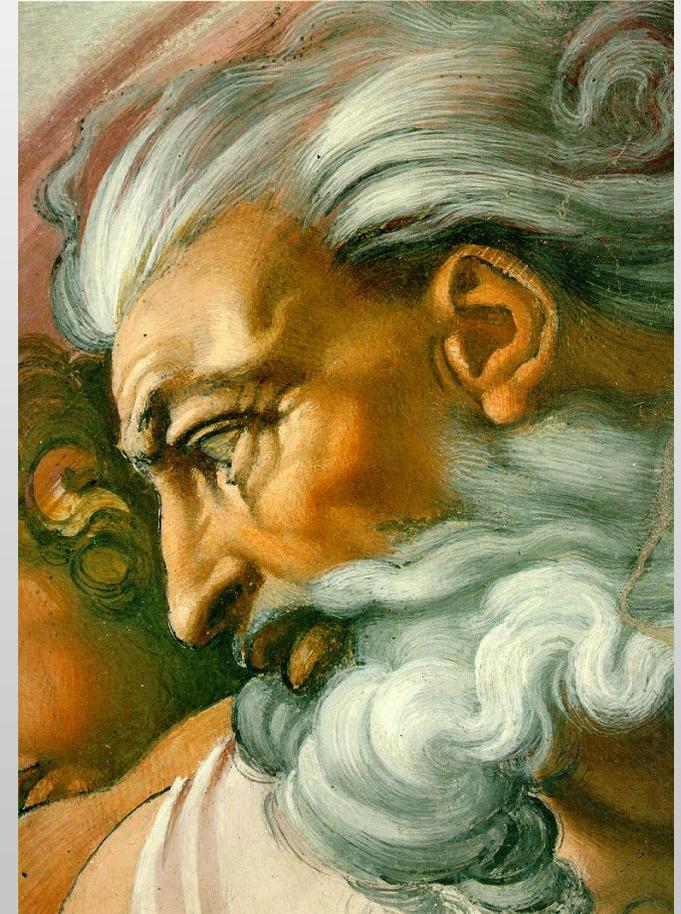
“You want an individual experience in the things of God; and should you press your petitions to the throne of grace, “Give me, Jesus, clearer and more distinct views of Thy purity, Thy love, and Thy power,” you would receive answers to your prayers.”

Ellen G. White, Ms19a-1886
(March 27, 1886) par. 12.



“We should make it a sacred principle, then, that since we are working for God we will always choose God-related ways for carrying out our work, and see and judge things from Christ’s point of view and not from worldly-wise one; and not according to the feeble reasoning of our own mind either.”

Thomas Aquinas, RC 2: 5.



3. Jesus is the essential part
of God's message for human
beings

"And the preaching of Jesus Christ"

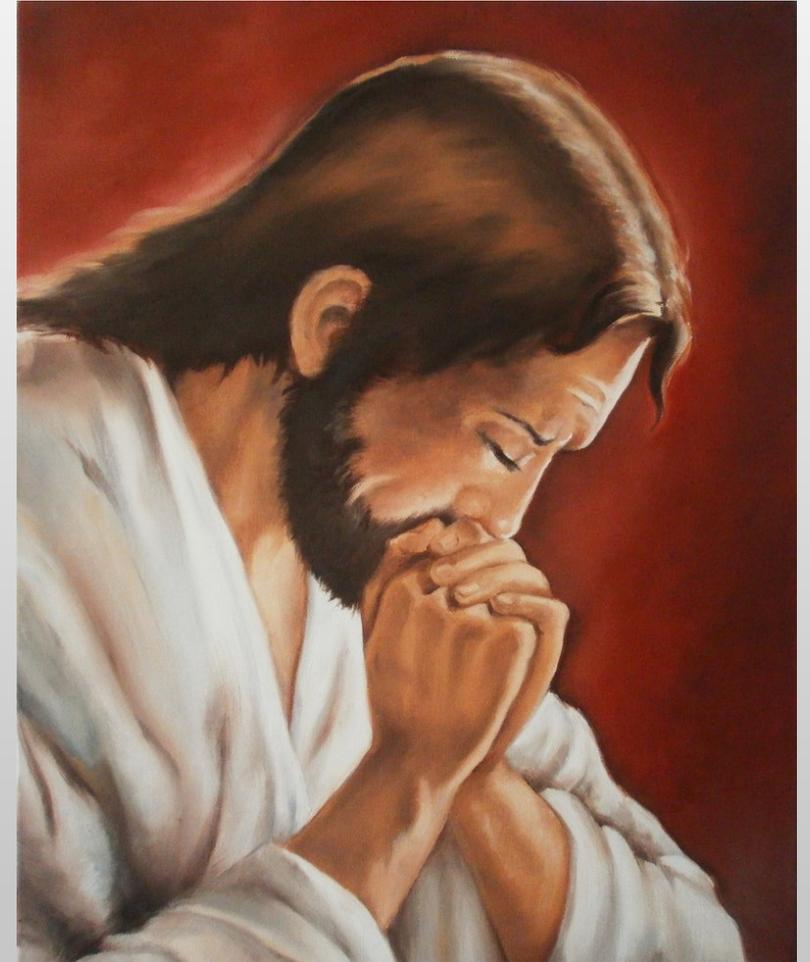


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“You want an individual experience in the things of God; and should you press your petitions to the throne of grace, “Give me, Jesus, clearer and more distinct views of Thy purity, Thy love, and Thy power,” you would receive answers to your prayers.”



“Outside of the cross of Jesus Christ, there is no hope in this world. That cross and resurrection at the core of the Gospel is the only hope for humanity. Wherever you go, ask God for wisdom on how to get that Gospel in, even in the toughest situations of life.”
Ravi Zacharias



4. The unity of all nations in Christ is the mystery confirming the power of the Gospel

“According to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest”.



“Whatever disunites man from God, also disunites man from man.”
Edmund Burke



“The true church belongs to Christ and is always united.”
(DS)



'The nations are not gathered in automatically. If God has promised to bless "all the families of the earth," he has promised to do so "through Abraham's seed" (Genesis 12:3, 22:18). Now we are Abraham's seed by faith, and the earth's families will be blessed only if we go to them with the gospel. That is God's plain purpose.' – John R.W. Stott



5. God announced through His prophets the power of the Gospel attracting all inhabitants of this planet around Jesus Christ

“Of the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations”



We must cherish and cultivate the faith of which prophets and apostles have testified—the faith that lays hold on the promises of God and waits for deliverance in His appointed time and way. The sure word of prophecy will meet its final fulfillment in the glorious advent of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as King of kings and Lord of lords. The time of waiting may seem long, the soul may be oppressed by discouraging circumstances, many in whom confidence has been placed may fall by the way; but with the prophet who endeavored to encourage Judah in a time of unparalleled apostasy, let us confidently declare, “The Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him.” Habakkuk 2:20. Let us ever hold in remembrance the cheering message, “The vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.... The just shall live by his faith.” Ellen G. White, PK 387.

"The prophet is a man of vision. It gives a vision of time as God sees it. Spokesman of God, consciousness of people, the prophet is above all the man of the past: he reminds people of their origins, then he looks at the present situation from God's perspective. The prophet is the man of discernment . Finally, in addition of analyzing the past and making meaningful the present time, he shares the promise of a future inextricably rooted in God. He is the man of hope. "Ridouard A. Jeremiah and his test of faith, p. 25.

“The end of all things is at hand; and in consideration of the shortness of time, we as a people should watch and pray, and in no ease allow ourselves to be diverted from the solemn work of preparation for the great event before us... Every moment is of the highest value. Time is granted them, not to be employed in studying their own ease and becoming dwellers on the earth, but to be used in the work of overcoming every defect in their own characters, and in helping others to see the beauty of holiness by their example and personal effort. But God has a people upon the earth, who in faith and holy hope are tracing down the roll of fast-fulfilling prophecy, and are seeking to purify their souls by obeying the truth, that they may not be found without the wedding garment when Christ shall appear.”

Ellen G. White, RH October 20, 1885, par. 1.

6. The Good News of salvation produces the obedience to the faith, "According to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith"



“Faith for Paul is in the first instance obedience to the word, and obedience for him is the fundamental and decisive act of faith.”

Michel, Römer, Glaube ist für Paulus zunächst Gehorsam gegenüber dem Wort, und Gehorsam ist für ihm der grundlegende and entscheidende Glaubensakt.



“God is God. Because he is God, He is worthy of my trust and obedience. I will find rest nowhere but in His holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he is up to.”
Elisabeth Elliot



“You will know as much of God, and only as much of God, as you are willing to put into practice.”
Eric Liddell, *The Disciplines Of The Christian Life*



7. At the end, the glory goes to God

“to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.”



“The task of all Christian scholarship—not just biblical studies—is to study reality as a manifestation of God’s glory, to speak and write about it with accuracy, and to savor the beauty of God in it, and to make it serve the good of man. It is an abdication of scholarship when Christians do academic work with little reference to God. If all the universe and everything in it exist by the design of an infinite, personal God, to make his manifold glory known and loved, then to treat any subject without reference to God’s glory is not scholarship but insurrection.”

John Piper, *Think: The Life of the Mind and the Love of God*

“Humility is the
displacement of self by the
enthronement of God.”
Andrew Murray, *Humility*



“What are you really living for? It's crucial to realize that you either glorify God, or you glorify something or someone else. You're always making something look big. If you don't glorify God when you're involved in a conflict, you inevitably show that someone or something else rules your heart.”
Ken Sande, *Resolving Everyday Conflict*



V. Conclusion



“Jews and Gentiles would dwell together in peace and love and unity one with another. Belief in Christ would produce transformation of character, kindness of temper. They would be in unity, because of their oneness with Christ. There would be a renewal of love to God in and through Jesus Christ. This would result in the bearing of fruit in good works, because, by being transformed through His Spirit, they would become partakers of the divine nature—in disposition, in words, and in works.”

Ellen G. White, Ms129-1907 (October 11, 1906) par. 36.

“As the rays of the sun penetrate to the remotest corners of the globe, so God designs that the light of the gospel shall extend to every soul upon the earth.... At this time, when the enemy is working as never before to engross the minds of men and women, we should be laboring with increasing activity. Diligently, disinterestedly, we are to proclaim the last message of mercy in the cities—in the highways and byways. All classes are to be reached. As we labor we shall meet with different nationalities. None are to be passed by unwarned. The Lord Jesus was the gift of God to the entire world—not to the higher classes alone, and not to one nationality, to the exclusion of others. His saving grace encircles the world. Whosoever will, may drink of the water of life. A world is waiting to hear the message of present truth.”

Ellen G. White, *God's Amazing Grace*, p. 338.

“As workers together for God, brethren and sisters, lean heavily upon the arm of the Mighty One. Labor for unity, labor for love, and you will become a power in the world.”

Ellen White, 9T 183



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