

Elpis Israel

for Young People

*Heirs According to the Promise –
The inclusion of the Gentiles*

Class 26

Israel's Exalted Position:

There is no doubt about it – Israel is an exalted nation.... Because God made them so:

- Lev 20:26** *And **ye shall be HOLY unto me**: for I the LORD am holy, and **HAVE SEVERED YOU FROM OTHER PEOPLE**, that ye should be mine.*
- Deut 7:6** *For thou art **an HOLY PEOPLE unto the LORD thy God**: the LORD thy God hath **CHOSEN THEE to be a SPECIAL PEOPLE unto himself, ABOVE ALL PEOPLE that are upon the face of the earth.***
- Deut 14:2** *For thou art **an holy people** unto the LORD thy God, and **the LORD hath chosen thee to be a PECULIAR PEOPLE unto himself, ABOVE ALL THE NATIONS that are upon the earth.***
- Deut 26:18-19** *And the LORD hath **avouched thee this day to be HIS PECULIAR PEOPLE**, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldst keep all his commandments; And **to make thee HIGH ABOVE ALL NATIONS which he hath made**, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be **an HOLY people** unto the LORD thy God, as he hath spoken.*

Christ's Mission – To Israel

Christ came to the nation of Israel:

Matt 15:22-28 *And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, **I AM NOT SENT BUT UNTO THE LOST SHEEP OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL**. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, **It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs**. And she said, Truth, **Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table**. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, **great is thy faith**: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.*

- Jesus seems to answer the woman very harshly – almost out of character – telling her that his mission was to Israel
- She responds – acknowledging her position – yet asking for the “crumbs that fall from the table”
- Christ tells her she has GREAT FAITH

Salvation is tied to the Jewish Nation – the seed of Abraham

John 4:22 *Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for **SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS**.*

The Apostles Mission:

When the disciples were originally “sent out” – it was to the nation of Israel

Matthew 10:5-6 *These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather TO THE LOST SHEEP OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.***

What the Apostles were persecuted for:

Acts 26:6-7 *And now **I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:** Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope’s sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.*

Acts 28:20 *For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that **FOR THE HOPE OF ISRAEL I am bound with this chain.***

The Promises belong to them:

Romans 9:3-4 *For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are **Israelites; to whom pertaineth the ADOPTION, and the glory, and the COVENANTS, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the PROMISES;***

How do Gentiles participate?

- It was part of the promises to Abraham:
Genesis 22:18 *And **in thy seed shall ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED;** because thou hast obeyed my voice.*
- The question is how? There were “gentiles” that joined themselves to Israel before:
Ruth 1:16 *And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: **THY PEOPLE SHALL BE MY PEOPLE, AND THY GOD MY GOD:***
 - Ruth joined herself unto Israel and Yahweh
- She had followed in the footsteps of Abraham:
Ruth 2:11-12 *And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast **left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.** The LORD recompense thy work, and a **full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.***
 - Ruth had joined herself to Israel – and put her trust in the God of Israel

- She was aligning herself to the “purpose of God”
Acts 15:14 *Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, TO TAKE OUT OF THEM A PEOPLE FOR HIS NAME.*
 - Everyone ORIGINALLY comes from the Gentiles
 - Separated for the purpose of God

How can we be part of God’s purpose?

Peters Experience with Cornelius caused a stir – and a conference to discuss it:

Acts 11:1 *And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that THE GENTILES HAD ALSO RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD.*

Acts 11:15-18 *And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, THEN HATH GOD ALSO TO THE GENTILES GRANTED REPENTANCE UNTO LIFE.*

- The good news of the kingdom of God is extended to us!

The door was opened:

Acts 14:27 *And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had OPENED THE DOOR of faith UNTO THE GENTILES.*

The Mystery kept secret since the world began:

Rom 16:25-26 *Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY, which was kept secret since the world began, But NOW IS MADE MANIFEST, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:*

The Mystery: how the Gentiles would be included in the promises to Abraham:

Ephesians 3:1-6 *For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me THE MYSTERY; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; THAT THE GENTILES SHOULD BE FELLOWHEIRS, and of the same body, and PARTAKERS OF HIS PROMISE in Christ by the gospel:*

Col 1:25-27 *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; **Even the MYSTERY which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but NOW IS MADE MANIFEST to his saints:** 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:*

1 Timothy 3:16 *And without controversy **great is the MYSTERY of godliness:** God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, **preached unto the Gentiles,** believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

Adoption into Israel

The Gentiles are Adopted into the family of Abraham and therefore become “partakers of the promises:

Romans 8:14-18 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but **ye have received the SPIRIT OF ADOPTION,** whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, **THAT WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD: AND IF CHILDREN, THEN HEIRS; HEIRS OF GOD, AND JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST;** if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

Becoming Adopted into God’s family

- How do we become Adopted into God’s family?

Gal 3:26-29 *For **ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.** For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ have put on Christ.** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for **ye are all one in Christ Jesus.** And **if ye be Christ’s, THEN ARE YE ABRAHAM’S SEED, AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE.***

- By Baptism the Gentiles become part of Abraham’s family & consequently “heirs according to the promise”

- Baptism is the METHOD of our ADOPTION:

Galatians 4:4-7 *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, **that WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE ADOPTION OF SONS.** And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. **Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, THEN AN HEIR OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST.***

Adopted to be part of the purpose – “Take out of the Gentiles a people for his name”

Ephesians 1:3-14 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings** in heavenly places **in Christ**: 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: **Having predestinated us unto the ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BY JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF**, according to the good pleasure of **his will**, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he **hath made us accepted in the beloved**. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; **Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself**: 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: **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**: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 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, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Our state Before Adoption:

Eph 2:11-12 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; 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**:

The state of things after:

Eph 2:19-21 Now therefore ye are **no MORE STRANGERS AND FOREIGNERS**, but **FELLOWCITIZENS with the saints, and of the household of God**; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

We become part of the nation – separated for his NAME:

1 Peter 2:9-10 But **ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people**; **THAT YE SHOULD SHEW FORTH THE PRAISES** (Virtues or Characteristic) **OF HIM who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light**: Which in time past **WERE NOT A PEOPLE**, but are **NOW THE PEOPLE OF GOD**: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Part of the Kingdom of God

Christ's followers destined to be part of the kingdom of God:

Mat19:27-28 *Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, **That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, JUDGING THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.***

Promise includes us:

Rev 3:21 *To him that overcometh will I **grant to sit with me in my throne,** even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

This is the Song of the Saints:

Rev 5:9-10 *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, **and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;** And hast **MADE US UNTO OUR GOD KINGS AND PRIESTS: AND WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH.***

Why we are excited about Israel – their return to the land and developments in it

- They are the nucleus of the kingdom
- Our hope is tied in with them
- Our King is the KING OF THE JEWS
- His return is dependent on the return of the JEWS to the LAND and the restoration:

Acts 3:19-21 ***Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out,** when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: **Whom the heaven must receive UNTIL THE TIMES OF RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS,** which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

- Tonight two of our number are going to ACCEPT the GLORIOUS invitation of our God to be ADOPTED INTO HIS NATION
- To become HEIRS of these promises

There are many here that are thinking about these things and PREPARING

- As we rejoice and witness these baptisms this night – remember that God knows where you are at – and where your hearts are all at:
- We need to pray to God to assist us:

Daniel 10:12 *Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: **for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.***

- May God bless us all as we prepare for his Son's return.