

## Parson to Person

### ROMANS 15 PART 5

*“Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: ‘For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name.’ And again he says: ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!’ And again: ‘Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!’ And again, Isaiah says: ‘There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope.’ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:8–13 NKJV).*

Last Sunday we were not able to fully review the material included in the “Parson to Person.” Therefore, I have edited out some of what we did cover and reprint the balance for this week. Please forgive the redundancy.

The Old Testament citations Paul used in the latter portion of the text above comes from Moses, Isaiah, and David, thus reflecting through the law, the prophets, and the kings that God’s plan for Israel included blessing for the Gentiles. In their full context these passages document that God called Israel, uses Israel, and

promised Israel a Messiah, a Promised Land, a King, and superiority over all the nations of the earth—but not to the neglect of the rest of the world. God loves the whole world and has provided redemption and blessing to all who will put their trust in Him. This indeed is the hope Paul communicated—moreover the peace and joy associated. However, the Old Covenant and its promises, blessings, curses, and laws were not with the nations. They were exclusive to Israel! Gentiles benefitted, but the Old Covenant was exclusively made with Israel.

With this in mind, one is forced to ask how God’s covenants and promises to Israel should be understood in regard to the Church Age—and if the New Covenant has any application to or for Gentile believers. The answer needs special attention.

God did not make an “Old Covenant” with the Gentiles. Therefore, it cannot be suggested that the New Covenant is with the Gentiles either. Moreover, this can be easily seen in God’s instruction through Jeremiah when He said, *“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke,*

*though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people”* (Jeremiah 31:31–33 NKJV, underlining added). This clearly shows that both the Old and New Covenants are with Israel. That said, there still remains several lingering questions:

- 1) Can we suggest that the Old Covenant was with Israel alone but maintained provisions for the Gentiles?
- 2) Do the Old Covenant provisions via “The Law of the Proselyte” apply to believers today?
- 3) Is the New Covenant specific to Israel yet welcoming and provisional for the Gentiles in the Church Age?
- 4) Does the New Covenant have application and benefit for all believers in the Church Age?
- 5) Does the New Covenant remain partially unfulfilled pending additional activities promised by the Lord?
- 6) Is Israel still in covenant with the Lord through the promises of the New Covenant?
- 7) Do we believe in a literal physical fulfillment of Jesus reigning as Messiah/King of Israel, from Israel, during a future Age?

These and other questions must be answered!  
Therefore, consider the following:

- 1) God has provided for all the nations.
- 2) God did provide for the Gentiles through “The Law of the Proselyte,” but this “Law” does not apply today.
- 3) The New Covenant is specific to Israel but does maintain welcome and provision for Gentiles in the Church Age.
- 4) The New Covenant does have present day application and benefit for all believers.

However,

- 5) The New Covenant includes promises yet to be fulfilled.
- 6) Israel is still in covenant with the Lord.
- 7) Israel will see the climactic fulfillment of all things promised them by the Lord.

*God said, “Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): ‘If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.’ Thus says the LORD: ‘If heaven above can be*

*measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says the LORD”* (Jeremiah 31:35–37 NKJV).

When Jesus physically returns to this earth (at The Second Coming), He will establish His Kingdom and reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords over all the earth, from Jerusalem in Israel. Then and only then will the climactic fulfillment of The New Covenant come to it fullness.

Of Jesus, the angel Gabriel said to Mary, *“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end”* (Luke 1:31–33 NKJV). Jesus’ *“reign over the house of Jacob forever”* will begin following His Second Coming.

To John on Patmos the Lord revealed, *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in*

heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished... And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand

years” (Revelation 19:11–16 and 20:1–6 NKJV excerpt, underlining added).

Herein, we can see there is much to come.

One must consider that inasmuch as the New Covenant was promised in the Old Testament by the prophets, was inaugurated at the Last Supper, effectively had its beginnings at Pentecost (Acts 2), it also has future climactic fulfillment during the Millennial Kingdom when Jesus returns to “*reign over the house of Jacob forever.*”

We can be assured that the New Covenant does have present day application—for the Jew first and also for the Gentiles, but also includes promises yet to be fulfilled.

I love you all,  
Pastor Paul