Parson to Person ROMANS 15 PART 6

"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).

Preterism (derived from the Latin word "praeter" meaning "past") is the belief that a great majority of end-time prophecies have already been fulfilled and are therefore history. This relates in particular to a denial of God's continuing covenant with Israel, a distinction between Israel and the Church, the 7-year Tribulation, and the future literal Millennial Kingdom. Some even deny a literal New Heaven and New Earth. Futurists take a distinctly

different view. We see these things as yet to come and assign the Rapture, the 7-year Tribulation, the Second Coming of Jesus, the total restoration of Israel, a literal 1000-year reign of Christ upon the earth, and the New Heaven and New Earth as intended—in the future.

Inasmuch as we have been talking about Israel and the New Covenant, it was suggested that I show a few items that prove the futurist views regarding the climactic fulfillment of the New Covenant. We know that the New Covenant was inaugurated at the "Last Supper" but that there is much more to come.

Here is a short list of coming events:

1) Revelation of Jesus as Messiah to Israel.

Ezekiel 39:29 (NKJV) "And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord God."

2) Old Testament saints resurrected.

Daniel 12:2 (NKJV) "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame *and* everlasting contempt." John 5:28 (NKJV) "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth."

3) Jesus physically reigning in Jerusalem as King.

Isaiah 2:2-4 (NKJV) (Micah 4:1-3) "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

Luke 1:31–33 (NKJV) "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."

4) Everyone will know the Lord.

Jeremiah 31:34 (NKJV) "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

5) Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on "all" flesh. Joel 2:28–29 (NKJV) "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."

In concluding our thoughts for today I will draw your attention to Acts 1 and 2. Therein we shall see the "Birthday of the Church" as part of the inauguration of the New Covenant.

Next week we will continue with another 5 points.

There is no argument over what has been accomplished in regard to the New Covenant—and

its effect in the present age. However, as we will see, there is much more to come.

May the Lord bless us, every one, as we continue to study His word.

I love you all, Pastor Paul