

**WORDS OF GRACE
SEASONED WITH SALT
Bible Studies, Personal Opinions
About Current And Future Events
Edited By Pastor Arthur L. Watkins
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Gentiles Past and Present

**How The Gentiles Went From Spiritual
Poverty To Spiritual Wealth
A True Rags To Riches Story**

Part 2

Romans 9:4-5

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;

Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

These are more blessings and promises the commonwealth of Israel had in time past that gentiles like us did not have because we were aliens from them. But now in Christ, as in Ephesians 2:13, we partake of.

Israel's Adoption Is Now Our Adoption

It means to take someone who is not born in your home and place him in your home and treat him as a son born in the home. In time past, under the law, the only people God adopted and called his sons was Israel. God said in Hosea 11:1: **When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.**

As Jehovah was never called the God of heathen gentiles in time past, he was never called their father either. God adopted the Israelites only to be his sons and gentiles like us were never considered to be a part of the household of God. The only way a gentile could become a son of God and get into the house of God in time past, was by becoming a Jewish proselyte. Heathen gentiles like us could not get in the door. The door to the household of God was locked to us.

But now, God has adopted gentiles like us and placed us in his household as children: Ephesians 1:5 says:

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.

Predestination means; to predetermine, foreordain before hand by an unchangeable purpose. When God chose us before the foundation of the world, he also predestinated us to become his adopted sons. Remember, adoption is to take a stranger into one's family as a son and an heir. It is to take one who is not a child and treat him as one, giving him a title to the privileges and rights of a child. The idea of our adoption is that we who were by natural birth children of Adam and heathen gentiles, have now been adopted into God's family and are now treated by him as his natural Son.

God made this decision before the foundation of the world, but no one fully understood it until he began to save and adopt gentiles like us. The first uncircumcised gentile saved and adopted into the household of God was Cornelius in Acts 10. Soon after, in Acts 13-14 during Paul's first missionary journey, God opened the door for all gentiles to become his adopted sons. Acts 14:27 says the door of faith was opened unto all gentiles without exception and distinction and they became the adopted sons of God by the 1000's.

All But One Of God's Children Are Adopted

John 3:16 says: ***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

This verse does not say that Jesus is God's only son like the perverted Bibles say. I am a son of God and so are all those who are saved. The Holy Spirit is careful to say that Jesus Christ is God's ***only begotten*** Son. God has many sons, but Jesus Christ is his only begotten Son. All the rest are adopted.

**Adopted Sons Of God Have The Same Birthright
And Privileges Of A First Born Son**

Romans 9:4 says that Israel was God's adopted sons in time past, but Exodus 4:22 says: ***And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:***

And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me:

Romans 9:4 says Israel was God's adopted sons, but Exodus says they were his first born sons. Is that a contradiction? No, this shows us something very important about divine adoption. When God adopted us and them, we were given a place in the house of God as that of first born sons. Why is that important? Because it was the first born son who was given the right to the inheritance of the father.

Read Deuteronomy 21:15-17

The first born son was the son who had the rights to the inheritance of the father. When God adopted us he not only made us his sons, but gave us a place in his house as first born sons. Being counted as first born sons makes us heirs to the inheritance of the Father. Romans 8:15-17 says:

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.

We become children of God by adoption and being children we become heirs of God like a first born son. What belongs to God becomes ours such as; his Spirit, righteousness, love, care, protection, security, provision, freedom,

God is now adopting gentiles outside of the commonwealth of Israel and placing them in his house and giving them an equal standing with the Jewish sons who were in the house before them. Ephesians 2:18-19 says: ***For through him we both (Jew and gentile) have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye (Gentiles) are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, (Jews) and of the household of God.***

We who were once strangers and foreigners from the household of God are now adopted into household of God with the Jews who were adopted before us. God has always had a spiritual house, but under the Law his children were Jews only. But now God has opened the door into his house to gentiles like us. God opened the door to his household to Gentiles like

us in Acts 10 and especially Acts 13-14. And in his house we are now counted as his sons by adoption just like the Jews. The adopted children of God are no longer limited to the commonwealth of Israel. It has expanded to include any and all who call on the Lord for salvation.

Israel's Glory Is Now Our Glory

The glory of God is his divine spiritual presence. In time past, God's glory and divine spiritual presence dwelt in and with the commonwealth of Israel only.

The glory and divine spiritual presence of God filled the tabernacle Moses built in the commonwealth of Israel

Exodus 40:34-35: ***Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.***

The glory and divine spiritual presence of God filled the temple Solomon built in the commonwealth of Israel.

1Kings 8:10-11: ***And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.***

Jesus Christ was filled with the glory and divine presence of God when he lived and preached to the commonwealth of Israel.

John 1:14: and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

But, what about mortal men like us today? Can it be said, that we are filled with the glory and spiritual divine presence of God today? Is this even possible? Search and see. In John 17:20-23 Jesus prayed for his apostles and their converts:

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

The glory he gave them in verse 22 is not the future glory of the saints in heaven. It was his Spirit he gave them to make them one with him. Read 22-23 slowly.

The glory he gave them made them one with him and he with them. But, what makes us one with Christ and Christ one with us? His Spirit who lives in us. His Spirit in us binds us together with him and with one another. In John 14:16-20 Jesus said:

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

In these verses, the Spirit of Christ who came in Acts 2 makes us one with him and he with us, whereas in John 17:22 it's called his glory that makes us one with him and he with us. The way the word glory is used by Christ in John 17:22 is the way it is used in Romans 9:4-5. It's the divine spiritual presence of God that now dwells in all believers because all believers have the Spirit of Christ living in them. The glory or divine spiritual presence of God now dwells in the saints of God as it once dwelt in the tabernacle Moses built and the temple Solomon built. The church is the temple of God on earth today, so it is not farfetched to say his glory and divine spiritual presence dwells in his temple today which is the church. Ephesians 2:20-22 says:

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: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

God dwells among men on earth in temples such as the one Moses and Solomon built. He also dwelt among men in the temple of Christ's body. Today, we are the temple of God and he inhabits and dwells in us through his Spirit. God's glory or divine spiritual presence that was once confined to the commonwealth of Israel, is now manifest in the gentile members of his temple which today is the church, the body of Christ.

Israel's Service of God is Now our Service of God

The service of God was the service provided by the priests of God in the temple of God. It was the priesthood who did the service of God in the tabernacle of God. Hebrews 9:6 says: ***Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.***

The service the priests provided was essential to the salvation of the people they served for two main reasons.

(1) They made intercession to God in behalf of the people.

(2) They offered sacrifices for the sins of the people.

No one can be saved if they do not have access to God. No one can be saved without a sacrifice to atone for their sins. This is why the service the priests provided was essential to the salvation and preservation of the people. Under the Old Covenant the only men God ordained to be priests to intercede and offer sacrifices for sin were those who were of the tribe of Levi only. Therefore, the only people who had access to God were the commonwealth of Israel. The only people who had sacrifices that God would accept as atonement for their sins was the commonwealth of Israel.

In time past, Gentiles like us did not have a priest to intercede in our behalf to God and this is why we were without God. Gentiles like us did not have a sacrifice God would accept as atonement for our sins and this is why we were without hope.

But, even though Israel had priests to intercede for them and to make atonement for their sins, there were faults with the priests and the sacrifices. The fault with the priests was they all died and had to be replaced continually. The fault with the sacrifices was they could not take away sin forever and that is why they had to be offered over and over again. So, God made a New Covenant with Israel and in the New Covenant he gave them a perfect High Priest and a Perfect Sacrifice and it was a person. Jesus Christ is both the High Priest and sacrifice of the New Covenant. He is the perfect High Priest because he ever lives to make intercession for sinners and his sacrifice is perfect, because it forgives all sins and sinners forever. That is why he offered himself once for unto God for sin.

But, even though the New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant, there was still a problem with the New Covenant as far as us gentiles are concerned. What was the problem with the New Covenant? The New Covenant was made with the same people the Old Covenant was made; the commonwealth of Israel. (Hebrews 8:8) And because we were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, we were strangers from the covenants of promise and the New Covenant was the ultimate covenant of promise. This left us without a High Priest to intercede for us to God and without a sacrifice to atone for our sins. This is very serious problem because the only way anyone under either covenant can gain access to God is through a High Priest, for it is the High Priest who makes intercession to God in behalf of the people. The High Priest is the mediator between God and men. And the only way anyone can get their sins forgiven is for a High Priest to offer a sacrifice for them.

No man under either covenant has access to God without a High Priest to make intercession for him. No man under either covenant can get his sins forgiven without a priest or High Priest

offering a sacrifice for him. The only sacrifices God has ever or will ever accept as atonement for sins are those offered by the priests and High Priests he has ordained under both the Old and New Covenants. And he made both covenants with Israel. That leaves gentiles like us without hope under both covenants.

But, God in his mercy solved that problem by making us gentiles nigh to the covenants of promise according to Ephesians 2:13 and partakers of Israel's spiritual things in Romans 15:27. Even though the New Covenant was not made with us gentiles, God made us partakers of it because it is essential to our salvation. There is no salvation today outside of the New Covenant. Why? Because in the New Covenant is found the only High Priest who can intercede to God in our behalf. In the New Covenant alone is found the only sacrifice that can atone for our sins. There is no intercessor or atonement today outside of the New Covenant. The one and only way a man can be saved today is by the High Priest and sacrifice of the New Covenant.

Now we understand why God made Paul a minister of the New Covenant according to 2 Corinthians 3:6. Even though he is the apostle of the gentiles, God made him a minister of the New Covenant, because the only hope that Jews or gentiles have today of being saved is in the New Covenant. It's in the New Covenant only we find a High Priest to intercede for us and it's in the New Covenant only we find a sacrifice God will accept as atonement for our sins. If we were not made partakers of the New Covenant we would end up in hell!

Think about this: Could a man living under the Old Covenant get to God by a High Priest other than the one God ordained in the Old Covenant? No. Could he get his sins forgiven by a sacrifice other than the sacrifices God ordered in the Old covenant? No. Were there two ways of getting saved under the Old covenant? No. Can a man today get to God by another way other than the High Priest God ordained in the New Covenant? No. Can a man find a sacrifice that will forgive his sins other than the sacrifice God ordained in the New Covenant? No. Are there two ways of getting saved under the New Covenant? No, it's either by the High Priest and sacrifice of the New Covenant, or no way at all. And this is why

it is religious insanity to say we do not partake of the New Covenant!

The reason we are told to observe the Lord's Supper today is because we are saved by the High Priest and Sacrifice of the New Covenant and the Lord's Supper is a memorial of the New Covenant according to 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Israel's Promises Are Now Our Promises

In time past, under the Law, most of the promises God made to bless his people were made with the commonwealth of Israel according to Romans 9:4-5, but now gentile believers partake of them according to Romans 15:27 which says: ***It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.***

Gentile believers have been made partakers of Israel's spiritual things or spiritual promises. Their spiritual and notice it says spiritual blessings and promises are now ours. Listed below is a list of some of their spiritual blessings and promises we now partake of.

The Gospel of Christ
Christ living in us and we in him
Hope of resurrection
God our Father
Inheritance in the Kingdom of God
The indwelling Spirit of God
Justification by faith
Righteousness by faith
Citizenship in the heavenly city New Jerusalem
Freedom from the law
A New nature
A New Birth
A divine Great High Priest
All sufficient, once for all sacrifice for sin
A divine heavenly mediator
An eternal heavenly intercessor
A heavenly hope
A heavenly temple
A divine mercy seat and propitiation
A divine spiritual altar
Divine Spiritual understanding

Eternal salvation
Eternal redemption
A heavenly calling
A throne of mercy and grace
Reconciliation for sin
Spiritual blessings
Heavenly citizenship
Peace of God
The grace of God
Adoption as children
Habitation of God
Light and salvation
Spiritual circumcision

All of these promises have two things in common. (1) They are all church blessings we now partake of and enjoy. (2) They were all originally promised to Israel in the Old Testament. The great mystery Paul revealed is that gentiles can receive them by faith alone without circumcision, keeping the law or works of any kind. Gentiles like us receive these promises by grace, whereas the Jews by covenant.

I thank God, he made us gentiles partakers of Israel's spiritual promises for if it were not for their promises, gentiles like you and I would have none of our own. Think about this the next time you preach the gospel, justification by faith, righteousness by faith, the indwelling Spirit of God and our inheritance in the kingdom of God.

Israel's Father Is Now Our Father

Even though Abraham is the father of Israel, God counts him the father of us gentiles also. Romans 4:11 says: ***And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:***

There is a very good reason Abraham is counted as the father of us gentiles. Galatians 3:16 says; ***Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made.***

Galatians 3:29 says: ***And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

Because we are Christ's we are counted as the seed of Abraham. Being the seed of Abraham makes us heirs to the promise and promises God made to his seed. The promise singular is the promise of justification by faith in verse 8 and the promises plural are listed in the previous point.

We should thank God Abraham is our father because it made us poor poverty stricken gentiles rich! Now that Abraham is our father we are heirs and partakers of all the spiritual blessings and promises of Romans 15:27, Romans 9:4-5 and Ephesians 2:12.

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Pastor Art Watkins.

Coden Bible Church

Gulf Coast Bible Society

E-Mail: artwat@hotmail.com

Web Site: CodenBibleChurch.com

Phone: 251-391-0975