

Parson to Person

ROMANS 15 PART 8

(Repeated from January 9th)

“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).

The passages Paul used to communicate about the blessings of Israel and the benefit they provide the Gentiles come from Moses, Isaiah, and David—thus reflecting through the law, the prophets, and the kings.

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 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.

We will examine the passages today for context and application. This “Parson to Person” will serve to help us. Therefore, I am listing all the selections herein for reference.

The first recitation (*“For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name.”*) Paul used is found in 2 Samuel 22 and included in the first book of the Psalms—in chapter 18. It is a song of victory wherein David sings praises to God for His deliverance from all his enemies—including King Saul. This song appears among the last words of David before his death. David did speak for himself in the song—but also as King of Israel, for Israel herself.

Secondly we must recognize that the Psalm, like so many others, foreshadows the prayer life of Jesus. In this case one must understand both the historical Davidic application and also the Messianic nature of the passage.

Paul understood that the song applied it to the Church Age without discounting its climactic fulfillment during the coming Millennial Kingdom.

The second recitation (*“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!”*) is from Deuteronomy 32. It relates to Israel’s sin and judgment, the judgment of the nations, and the final victory Israel will enjoy. Herein Paul shows that Israel’s deliverance will serve as a blessing to the Gentiles as well as to all of Israel: The Land and the people.

Like the song of David, these words were among the last words recorded of Moses before his death.

The third recitation (*‘Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!’*) is from Psalm 117. It is a simple exhortation to all people to give praise to the Lord because of His overarching faithfulness and covenant with Israel.

Finally, the fourth recitation (*“There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope.”*) is from Isaiah 11 and 12. It stresses the fact that the Son of David, Jesus, will come to reign over all of Israel and all the nations of the Gentiles.

These passages have application for today but will not find their climactic fulfillment until the future Millennial Reign of Jesus as King.

Paul’s concluding remarks indicate a hope, a joy, and a peace that believers presently enjoy by the power of the Holy Spirit now in the Church Age. However, we know there will be a greater deliverance *in which we hope*, a greater experiential joy *in which we celebrate*, and a fully realized peace *in which we will rest* that awaits all the redeemed in the Kingdom Age and in the New Heaven and New Earth wherein righteousness dwells.

“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” (vs. 13).

I love you all,
Pastor Paul