

SEMINAR 08 – ISRAEL'S FULNESS

MORE EXCELLENT THINGS

"Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?"

~ Romans 11:12

1. Things Excellent

- a. Paul prays that we may approve things that are excellent – Phi 1:9-10
- b. God's further revelation is progressively more excellent/gracious.
- c. Abraham was given a promise (oath) that was better than being reprobate.
- d. Israel received a law that taught them more excellent things – Rom 2:17-18
- e. The New Testament would replace the old as a more excellent ministry – Heb 8:6

2. The Excellence of the Mystery – Eph 3:9

- a. We benefit from the cross and blood shed for Israel's covenant, yet strangers to it. We receive the Spirit of promise, spiritual blessings, forgiveness/reconciliation/salvation. We gain from the grace of Christ that Israel rejected, but also... much more than Israel.
- b. What excelled over anything heretofore was the mystery Christ revealed to Paul.
- c. This mystery concerned the hidden wisdom and glory of Christ crucified - 2 Tim 2:7-8
- d. There are things that were never promised or covenanted with Israel.
- e. Paul's gospel gives "much more" freely by His grace – Rom 5:9, 10, 15, 20-21
- f. Paul teaches us about the excellency of the knowledge of Christ – Phi 3:8-9
- g. Now revealed was the eternal purpose, will, wisdom of God – Eph 1:10, 3:10, 18
- h. The Body of Christ has exceeding great power, exceeding riches, exceeding grace, exceeding glory, and God doing exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think.
 - i. Eph 1:19, 2:7, 3:20, 2 Cor 4:17, 9:14-15 – Thank God for his unspeakable gift.
 - ii. Better today than being in a new covenant is being in a new creature.
 - iii. Our position is over any covenant promise, because it is in heaven.

3. Something Yet More Excellent

- a. Our apostle who speaks of exceeding faith and love... says this about Israel: Rom 11:12
 - i. What shall the receiving of them be? = Resurrection glory – Rom 11:15
 - ii. *"Don't be wise in your own conceits..."* Israel's fulness is New Covenant 11:25
 - iii. When their covenants are fulfilled, Israel will be eternal excellence – Isa 60:15
- b. What does their fulness look like? Restoration and restitution of all things.
 - i. Isaiah 2:2 – Zion established, exalted, the LORD judging, bringing peace.
 - ii. Isaiah 11:6-9 – the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 - iii. Isaiah 60:1-3, 18-22 – Israel will be a light, Gentiles will come to, righteousness, peace, joy – the banners of the kingdom of God.
 - iv. Isaiah 61:2-6 – beauty for ashes, build the old cities, Priests of the LORD.
 - v. Rev 21:2-6 – New Jerusalem comes with no more death, sorrow, crying, pain.
- c. Before the world began, God purposed to send Christ, that his eternal kingdom would come to earth, where He would dwell with Israel and reign forever.
 - i. Whereas the new creature will be the glory of God in heavenly places... Eph 1:10
 - ii. Israel will be His glory on all the Earth, guaranteed in their New Covenant.

"Equally vain is the dream that the church, or the Christian, is here contemplated. On every sound principle of interpretation the same people, and in its divided houses, is reserved for future blessing, whose iniquities the prophet bewailed and denounced. The truth always suffers by tampering with its integrity or by ignorance. Israel only had the first covenant; Israel by grace will have the second. Israel lost their privileges and land under the old; Israel will be restored and blessed more than ever and for ever in their land under the new covenant. Meanwhile we, once Gentiles, who had neither the adoption, nor the glory, nor the covenants, nor the law-giving, nor the promises — we are called by sovereign grace in the gospel to privileges higher far as God's children, and members of Christ's body wherein is neither Jew nor Gentile, blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ, as Israel will be blessed in their land, when this age gives way to the new age of Christ displayed in power and glory."

- William Kelly

"It will be seen that these—and vastly more—are the present possession of those who comprise the Church."

- Lewis Sperry Chafer

"Strictly speaking the gospel, the proclamation of the salvation of God, is not a covenant. Still those who accept the gospel possess all the spiritual blessings of this new covenant, and much more than Israel can ever possess, when at last as a converted nation this new covenant will be established with them."

- Arno Gaebelein