

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

In ancient times, when men were invited to a feast, each guest was appointed a portion of food and drink by the host. The size and type of this portion was directly related to the level of affection and esteem which the host had for each guest. Paul speaks of this in the book of Romans where he quotes the prophet Malachi, saying, *“As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.”* He also has reference to it when he writes, *“What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.”* In this he points out the great blessing that was given to the descendants of Jacob in revealing HIMSELF unto them in a manner which HE did not do for any other nation upon the earth.

There was no reason that the LORD did choose to bestow this particular favor upon natural Israel except that it pleased HIM, having set HIS love upon them. *“the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.”* HE calls them a “holy people”, not because they possessed some innate righteousness but because HE “sanctified” them or “set them apart”. HE declared them to be “holy” and appointed unto them a portion not given to the other nations of the earth.

Most who claim to believe the bible, embrace the concept that GOD, as a Sovereign, had the right to choose any nation upon the earth as special in HIS sight. Most have no difficulty at all with the notion that the LORD chose Israel as this nation and showered them with blessings and favor that HE did not bestow on any of the other nations. They delight in the accounts of GOD’s utter faithfulness to and defense of Israel. The Pharisees believed this quite strongly along with majority of natural born Israelites in JESUS’ day. Most natural born Jews still hold this notion as well as a good portion of those who claim to be the followers of JESUS CHRIST in the present day. This was especially true in the early days of the New Testament church as the “Judaizers” sought to impose the rigors of Moses’ law on the Gentile believers, believing that an Israelite is one who is circumcised in the flesh.

Paul, a Pharisee of the Pharisees, unceremoniously laid the axe to the root of that notion saying, *“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”* It is here that many begin to quiver, shake, and mumble and to confuse the clear teaching of the New Testament concerning who the “nation of Israel” actually is. *“For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel.”* Paul made no such equivocation as he said, *“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”* *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”*

The kingdom of GOD cannot be inherited by flesh and blood nor can any man be found in the abiding favor of GOD by virtue of his performance, natural birth, or citizenship in any earthly nation regardless of its name or heritage. The LORD was pleased to demonstrate HIS love for the true Israel, by HIS choice of natural Israel as their type and foreshadow in former times. HE has now made plain that the people which are the apple of HIS eye make up that “holy nation” which HE chose from before the foundation of the world and hid in CHRIST. *“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”* This is a mystery which was kept hidden from the foundation of the world but has now been clearly manifest by the preaching of the gospel. It never ceases to amaze me that many who clearly understand and accept the concept of GOD’s sovereign choice of the natural nation of Israel, nonetheless grow angry when they are told that it is upon this same premise that the LORD chose the true Israel, which is the Elect Bride of CHRIST. Yea even before GOD chose Israel as a nation, HE had an everlasting love for those sons which HE hid in the bosom of CHRIST. *“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”* This is indeed the heritage of those whom the LORD has appointed to receive their “PORTION” in HIM. At whose table to you eat?

“Thy free grace alone,” #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net**