

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

The LORD called Abraham out of the land of pagan darkness. It was here that the LORD told him that HE would make of him a great nation and would multiply his seed in the earth and cause all nations of the earth to be blessed through him. The LORD did not simply foresee and wait for Abraham’s cooperation, but rather moved Abraham to do exactly as HE determined. *“So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him* Who could possibly argue against the fact that the LORD singled out Abraham from all other men in the earth at the time, to receive this great blessing which HE purposed to bring to pass? Or who could say that the LORD did not exhibit a special regard unto Abraham and his posterity according to HIS determined purpose? And who could contend that Abraham received this blessing on the basis of his seeking after it or that it was conditioned upon his performance?

So it is quite evident in the scriptures that the LORD chose a nation, and set them apart from all other nations upon the earth. HE gave HIS law to the house of Israel and told them through Moses of the basis of HIS choice of them. *“For thou art an holy (i.e.; set apart) people unto the LORD thy God: 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. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people-- But because the LORD loved you.”* So as we look at the Old Testament, it is quite clear that the LORD had an elect people in the earth, and that this nation or people were the descendants of Jacob after the flesh. They were a privileged people because unto them the LORD gave the Law and the Prophets, which were given to no other nation or people in the earth.

It seems quite evident, according to that which was revealed to the Apostle Paul, that these natural descendants of Jacob were but a type and foreshadow of that people which are now revealed in the New Testament as that Elect Bride which was chosen in CHRIST from before the foundation of the world. The Old Testament serves to point to the coming of CHRIST, wherein HE has now set forth that purpose which HE had for the nation of Israel, in order to gather in those which are HIS *“holy nation”* from out of every tribe, kindred, and tongue: rather than as a declaration of HIS choice of the carnal nation of Israel as HIS elect people.

Paul continually dealt with those Jews who could not let go of their supposed superior status as the carnal descendants of Jacob. Though many of them embraced the tenets of the gospel in varying degrees, others of them continued to demand circumcision and adherence to Moses’ law from those Gentiles who sought refuge in CHRIST. Therefore it is not surprising that some of the Gentiles were intimidated by these legalists and perhaps believed some of their erroneous teaching which in essence made the Gentiles to be as “second class” citizens in the kingdom of GOD.

It is against this backdrop, that Paul delivers his epistle to the Ephesians which shines brightly even as a polished jewel. Most of these Ephesian believers were Greeks, but no doubt they were subjected in times past to the sectarian nature of the Jews which was not greatly diminished by the Judaizers which infected just about all of the early churches to some degree. Even now they have their emissaries; though clad in Gentile garments, nonetheless demanding adherence to Moses’ law as the rule of life, and an exalted view of Israel as “the chosen people of GOD”.

Paul destroys these notions in his writings to the Galatians and the Ephesians and puts the cherry on top, when he said to the Gentiles (and any Jews who would listen), *“Ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints”*. The basis upon which this truth stands is that CHRIST has destroyed any partitions or divisions by HIS work in the behalf of HIS elect bride, *“by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:”*. Thus HE has broken down the *“middle wall of partition”* between Jew and Gentile. *“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”*

The only divisions that exist between Gentile and Jew are those which have existed in the minds of each one. CHRIST came that they might have LIFE and have it more abundantly. *“We pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”*

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