

Paul's progression from a Pharisee

At Paul's conversion Christ came to him and said "I have **appeared** to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you." Showing for us that Christ would come to Paul on numerous occasions to show him things. This Light that he witnessed was 7 times brighter than humanly possible, would make multiple appearances over time to complete Paul's conversion.

You see, Paul could only understand so much at a time. Even as Christ said to the eleven "I still have many things to say to you, however you cannot bear *them* now." Because of these truths we can see the greater revelation of who Christ is, is developed through successive visitations and revelations, to make the point that Paul's Epistles show this progression. That Paul started out with some distorted Pharisaic views. From that he needed to be transformed. So we should not be surprised that his Epistles would follow this.

Paul said in Ephesians "how that by **revelation** Christ made known to me the mystery as I have briefly written already". This shows us that Christ made good on His continual comings, and He is not restricted to just 1st and 2nd comings as many erroneously suppose. He is the "behold I stand at the door and knock" even now.

We can see that Paul's 1st Epistles were still influenced by his Pharisaic roots, while his later Epistles were clearer and more developed in New Covenant realities because Christ showed him mysteries and consecutive revelations to transform him.

Paul was in transition from one kingdom to the other. So we must reach the conclusion that, not all scripture is equally valid. If it was, Christ would not have countered Satan's scripture with another, "for it is written".

Paul taught us to "be renewed in the spirit of your mind. That you may know what God's good, acceptable and perfect will is" who also said to "rightly divide the word of truth". Because he could not understand the full message all at once, so we shouldn't expect ourselves to either, nor should we be surprised that Paul's earlier Epistles display some irregularities.

Let us not be found stuck on introductory concepts like the writer of Hebrews said "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to ^[a]perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this ^[b]we will do if God permits.

We start out with carnal mindsets too. Kind of like a detective "give me just the facts please, I want to see the evidence". Like Thomas said 'let me put my fingers in the holes in your hands'.

You see that "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen". Meaning, these consecutive revelations for Paul and ourselves never take on physical form. They only convert the inner man of the spirit. The old one returns to the dust. As Paul said "flesh and blood shall not inherit the Kingdom" however the re-spirited mind of faith does.

This is our journey and why scripture calls us pilgrims and sojourners. To follow Christ to where He is. In the book of Acts the first believers were called the people of "The Way" first, because they were going somewhere. Where? Jerusalem, but not that one. Heavenly Jerusalem. This is why those who loved Jerusalem on earth persecuted the ones with heavenly aspirations. The same goes today, even as Paul explained with Jacob and Esau of old. This is what Christ meant when He said "let us go up from here". How? Through these consecutive revelations, let us go up to Heavenly Jerusalem, "The Kingdom prepared from the foundations of the world."

So we must get this point, that a trade off takes place, old for new. Earthen, for Heavenly. Even as Paul instructed us to "cast off the bond woman and her son. The two Jerusalem's cannot coexist in importance in your mind. You have to love one and hate the other, to make the cut. "For this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which is on earth, and is in bondage with her children—²⁶ but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all." Which comes down from Heaven, whose construct is according to the measure of a man who is of an angel". Like Paul learned to say that "we are living stones built up a habitation of God in the Spirit" which is Gods natural element we are called to.

The same is true when Paul said in Romans 10 "so then all Israel shall be saved". Was He talking of the Israel of that day which was a plot of land with fixtures? Or maybe the Israel that was people walking through the desert? Are they the ones to be saved? You see the first introduction with Moses with God saying "Israel is my first born Son" showing for us the real Israel is a type of Christ. The body of Christ. Of those who are in Christ. Even as Paul learned correctly in 1 Corinthians 10

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the ^[e] communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷ For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

¹⁸ Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices ^[i] partakers of the altar?

Paul shows us here that old testament visuals were given only to show invisible realities "in Christ" the true Israel of someone invisible. We who "in Christ" are a part of the body of Christ. Even as Christ quoted "lo the volume of the book was written about Me" affirming that all of scripture is given only to make visible, and knowable invisible realities with God "in Christ" for us to assemble ourselves His His self. And we are in Him this is true, in the Father and the Son.

Any other such application of Israel or Jerusalem, glorifies another. And all Glory to our Heavenly Father for teaching us these things. We are the body of Christ and in the true Israel who is Christ. The fulfillment of all things are in God's Son. Amen

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Gods desire is that we fully enjoy Him now in His totality. As Paul learned that "God has given us every spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus". So we can enjoy the deliciousies the Godhead enjoys even now, if we are "in Christ" the Son of God, and the only Israel that matters to the Father. Are you palleting this? Taste and see that the Lord is good.

So all Israel will be saved? But of course. But not the plot of land. Dirt has no lasting purpose with God. The flesh came from it and to that it will return.

The idea that a modern day Israel with a modern day Jew as being beneficiaries of the scriptures is steeped in Phariseism. Cut that off. And like Paul said of the circumsision "I would that they would castorate themselves. Paul also confronted Peter publicly saying "you being a Jew living in the manner of a gentile, why do you compel the gentiles to live as a Jew." Showing for us Peters hypocrisy.

With this principals in mind we can see throughout Paul's Epistles he may flounder, but his later writings he straightens them out. You can see the exchanges take place. Old for new, visible for invisible, physical things for spiritual. Even as Christ spoke to the Samaritan women at the well with these words " the time that is coming is already here when you will not worship the Father in Sameria or Jerusalem but in Spirit and Truth". And so we do, we are the Israel of God and the Elect. Amen!

The Kingdom of God is at Hand