

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#03-09159

All The Nations

August 29, 2009

Shall Be Blessed in You

Sometimes, it is rather challenging to clearly present all that needs to be said to make a point. After completing the short series on *The Fullness of the Nations* (issues #03-09156 to #03-09158) I realized that I could add to the understanding of Paul's phrase through the promise given to Abraham.

Abraham was promised to be the father of many nations.

For this cause it is of faith, that it may be according to grace; to the end that the promise may be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (17) (as it is written, A father of many nations have I made thee) before him whom he believed, even God, who giveth life to the dead, and calleth the things that are not, as though they were. (18) Who in hope believed against hope, to the end that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken, So shall thy seed be. (Romans 4:16-18 ASV)

It is true that Abraham brought forth many nations through his physical seed; consequently, he has many descendants, even countless numbers in our day. Only God knows who they are. However, Paul knew that the many nations were based on faith, not necessarily on bloodline.

Paul defines the seed of Abraham not only as the physical seed but the spiritual seed of God that comes from faith. In fact, even those who might have a claim on being a descendant of Abraham have to have faith to be a fulfillment of the promise of many nations in fulfillment of the fullness of the nations.

Abraham is the father of us all who have the same faith as exercised by Abraham, and all who have faith are of the seed of Abraham, the seed of faith, and are included in the many nations.

John concurred with Paul and called it the seed of God.

Whosoever is begotten of God doeth no sin, because his seed abideth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is begotten of God. (1 John 3:9 ASV)

Paul received his understanding of the faith of Abraham through the book of beginnings.

And I will make you a great nation [goy], and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing.... (Genesis 12:2 NASB)

And Abraham shall become a great and powerful nation [goy], and all the nations [goy] of the earth shall be blessed in him. (Genesis 18:18 NASB)

Notice that all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him, which means that, ultimately, no nation will be left out. Why? Because eventually, all the nations will have the faith of Abraham, the faith he had before he was circumcised. Again, Paul reiterates this great truth.

And the Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the nations [goy] by faith, preached the gospel before to Abraham: "All the nations [goy] will be blessed in you." Gen. 12:3 (Galatians 3:8 LITV)

That the blessing of Abraham might be to the nations [goy] in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:14 LITV)

How will the nations be blessed? God will justify the nations by faith. How will the nations be blessed in Abraham? They will be blessed through justification by faith, which is in Christ Jesus.

In other words, to fulfill the promise to Abraham, the nations must be justified, and for this to happen, they must be brought to have faith in Christ. The blessing comes through Jesus and this requires faith in Jesus.

All the nations will be blessed in Abraham, whether one labels them Jewish or non-Jewish, heathen or Gentile. It matters not what label or descriptor one places on a community of people united under one government; they all are nations destined to be justified by God through the same faith exhibited by Abraham. The blessing of Abraham is for all nations, and when all nations are brought to this point, it can be said that all Israel will be saved.

(25) For I do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, of this secret—that ye may not be wise in your own conceits—that hardness in part to Israel hath happened till the fulness of the nations [ethnos] may come in; (26) and so all Israel shall be saved, according as it hath been written, ‘There shall come forth out of Sion [Zion] he who is delivering, and he shall turn away impiety from Jacob, (27) and this to them is the covenant from Me, when I may take away their sins.’ (Romans 11:25-27 YLT)

Jacob was a supplanter, a man of the flesh, and this could be said of all mankind and of all nations. After all, the nation that came from the loins of Jacob turned into a rebellious nation, a people of the flesh.

A day is coming when God will take away the sin of all the nations, because God was in Christ conciliating the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them (2 Corinthians 5:19), and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven (Colossians 1:20).

As I have stated in other writings, the death and resurrection of the Son of God is an absolute 100% success in reconciling all mankind and all nations to God, not all at the same time, but all eventually.

Consider how Paul concluded Romans 11.

(32) For God shut up all into disobedience, that He may show mercy to all. (33) O the depth of the riches and of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! (34) “For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who became His counselor?” Isa. 40:13 (35) “Or who first gave to Him, and it will be repaid to him?” Job 41:11 (36) Because of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen. (Romans 11:32-36 LITV)

Paul was caught up in the unsearchable riches of Christ. He saw that all have been shut up in disobedience so that, at the consummation of the ages, no one and no nation will be able to take any credit for entering the kingdom and being grafted into the glorious olive tree and partaking of its rich root (Romans 11:17). It all will be of God and His Son.

Thus, to conclude this discussion of *the fullness of the nations*, let us be encouraged that all the nations, meaning all mankind, will be saved. All the nations shall be blessed in Abraham because all the nations will eventually have the faith of Abraham, even if they must go through the discipline of the lake of fire. In the eyes of God, this will be the true Israel that has always been in His heart and mind. **For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.** It all comes from Him and goes to Him in glory. **To Him be the glory!**