

God's Everlasting Covenant

Teaching on:

Jew and Gentile Together



One New Man in Yeshua/Christ

[Ephesians 2:15]



Jew & Gentile Together – One New Man in Yeshua/Christ

Prophecy and the Future

In light of all the teaching and concern about Islam and prophecy, it is easy to just be thinking about the future. It's easy to get caught up in wondering about this and that, all the *what ifs*, and to have so many questions that we feel we need answers for now. Whenever we read or hear something new, especially about end times teachings, many of us get excited and want to know all about the latest teaching or 'revelation.' It is our view that while it is good to be aware of current events and interpret them in light of Biblical prophecy, it's more important to sit at the feet of our Messiah, to spend time with Him and ask what He is saying to us *today*. Although understanding future events and being able to interpret prophecy correctly is important, it can sometimes get us off track if we don't understand the purpose behind God's revelation of His future plans to His people. Why would God reveal to us the meaning and ability to understand prophecy? It is so that we can recognize Him, who He is, His plans, His strategies for us personally, and for all of mankind. Why would He open our eyes to events that are going to happen that have not yet happened? Again, He does this so we can understand *His* plans and purposes. In those prophecies, He has also revealed the way He will defeat His enemy, who continually tries to thwart and destroy God's plans.

Knowing God and understanding His heart is really the main thing. What is His heart? His heart is that no human being would ever be separated from Him in eternity. He wants to live with every being He has created for all eternity in Heaven. That's why He sent Yeshua/Jesus. His enemy, the devil, wants to destroy the possibility that will ever happen. Everything the devil does is either about preventing people from coming to know God in the first place, or, if he can't prevent that, he'll work to destroy our effectiveness in spreading the message. So, it is important to remember that understanding prophecy and future events is *not* about having knowledge so we can be puffed up with pride. It is so that we can work with God to bring about His plans and purposes.

Henry Blackaby wrote a wonderful book and study called *Knowing God*, and one of the key elements of this study was to recognize where God is working so we can join Him in that work. This work would include bringing about the main thing in God's heart -- spreading the message so more people can be with Him though out eternity -- which will result in ultimately defeating His enemy, and ours. As the Scriptures teach, we are not wrestling with flesh and blood, but against the principalities and forces of darkness in the heavenly realm.

My husband and I have been discussing this topic at length since we have known each other. We are concerned about what is happening in the world with regard to Islam and

terror, and we believe that this has important ramifications for all of us. We are teaching that Jews and Gentile Christians have a common enemy, and we need to be aware of this. But we are also convinced that the main message is about much more than Islam being possibly the last strategy of Satan to destroy God's plans, which includes destroying Israel, the Jewish people, and then us. That is extremely important, but there is something else we need to understand that will help us to defeat the devil's strategy today. We believe the best way to defeat the devil and bring about the outpouring of God's Spirit upon all mankind, which will result in multitudes coming to know Him and His Messiah, is to understand something that the devil started a long time ago. And it is something that most Gentile believers are not even aware of.

The Devil's Strategy: Divide and Conquer

After Jesus' ascension, the death of the first disciples, and the destruction of the second Temple in 70 CE, Anti-Semitism crept into the body of Messiah. We don't have time in this teaching to go into the historical facts surrounding this statement. If you would like to investigate this further, there are many good books on the subject. Both of the books that are listed as resources at the bottom of this article are good for an overview. Another more lengthy treatise on the subject is *Israel and the Church, The Origin and Effects of Replacement Theology* by Ronald E. Diprose. These Anti-Semitic beliefs slowly poisoned Gentile believers into thinking that in order to believe in Yeshua/Jesus, the Jewish believers had to stop being Jewish. They also began to believe that the Church had replaced Israel in all the covenants and promises. Eventually, Jewish and Gentile believers in Messiah went their separate ways to worship Him. Division came into the Body of Messiah, and we forgot about and re-interpreted the meaning of the mystery that had been hidden for all ages that God Himself had gone through such pain to reveal. This mystery is explained in **Ephesians 2:13 – 3:6**, that the two would be one new humanity, one new man, working together to bring God's love to the rest of the unbelieving world because the dividing wall that had existed between Jew and Gentile had been torn down by Yeshua/Jesus. Paul writes that this is the administration of God's grace that was made known to him – that Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members of *one* body in the promise of Messiah.

The anti-Semitism that crept into the early church and caused division between Jew and Gentile was a strategy implemented by the devil, taking all believers in the exact opposite direction that Jesus had prayed for in **John 17**. There has been much teaching on this passage in the last two thousand years, and we agree with much of that teaching. However, may we also suggest that we Gentile Christians tend to look at that passage with a "Gentile" mindset. What do we mean by that?

God's Strategy: Unity between Jew & Gentile

Let's look at the context of the passage. Jesus was praying for the Jews first when He said in verse 11: *"Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me – so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me."* We know that Jesus was with Jews, so it is logical to assume here He is referring to the Jewish people. But Jesus doesn't stop there. In verse 20, Jesus looks into the future and prays for us. *"My*

prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." To interpret this correctly, we have to look at the context. In light of verse 11, this can't only be a prayer for unity among Gentile believers. But that is the framework through which we tend to interpret that verse. It's not that He isn't praying for unity among Gentile believers. He is. If we look at the text, there is an order, a pattern for how Jesus prays. Jesus started in verse 11 praying for those who He was ministering to, the Jewish people. In verse 20, He then looks into the future and pray for Jews and Gentiles who would believe later – and look again at His words: "*that all of them may be one...that they may be one as we are one...may they be brought to complete unity. Why? So the world will know you sent me.*"

May we suggest this could not be more clear! Jesus was saying that unity between Jewish and Gentile believers would be the key to convince the non-believing world that the Messiah was sent from God and is real. Oh, how far we are from the answer to Jesus' prayer. We have, in effect, forgotten our Jewish brethren who believe in Yeshua. Most of us don't care, don't think of them or even wonder about them. We have ignored them. And they are suffering and our Jewish Messiah cares about them. The God of Israel gave Himself, in the form of His own Son to unite us. He waited and planned and revealed Himself for thousands of years so that when God sent Him, it was just the right time for those who would believe. They were ready to recognize Him. And the devil, in one fell swoop at the Council of Nicea in the fourth century planted the seed of division to destroy what Messiah had accomplished – the dividing wall went back up – but this time it wasn't created by the Jews. This time, it was created by the Gentile believers. The belief that the Church had replaced Israel became prominent among Gentile believers. And one of the greatest deceptions of the devil took root.

We strongly encourage you to study Church history, and we believe you will come to the conclusion we have. When Gentile believers separated from Jewish believers, the seed of division was planted in the Body of Messiah – and the Gentile side of the Body has been plagued with it ever since. Churches splitting off from churches is widespread. There is a place for planting new churches out of churches – but that is done in the Spirit of unity, because of need and/or growth. What we're talking about is division because of disagreement, division because some believe they have a superior truth over others. There is contention and disunity that has spread like a plague throughout the Body. And we believe it grieves the heart of our Jewish Messiah.

The Biblical Pattern

There was something else that was lost when the split took place. It was the understanding of the pattern for evangelism that God had created which would bring so many people to salvation at one time. This is the pattern which causes God to pour out His Spirit upon men, women & children. The pattern repeats itself over and over in Scripture – it was affirmed by Yeshua/Jesus Himself, and then again by Paul.

The background for this pattern is actually in the Jewish Bible, the Tenakh or what we call, the Old Testament. The first time we get a view of God's pattern is in the book of Ruth. Ruth, a Gentile who came to believe in the God of Israel, committed herself to Naomi, a Jew. She left her gentile ways and went back to Bethlehem (House of Bread) to nourish herself and her mother-in-law during a famine. Their union brought much fruit – a marriage to a Jewish man and the continuation of the Davidic line, through which came the Messiah. This is where the pattern first began: Jew & Gentile together, becoming one new man, creating a new humanity, which brings about incredible blessing and fruit, which is the actual presence of God Himself.

The Jew First

Let's look at some scriptures.

Matthew 15:24 *"I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."*

Matthew 10:5-6 *"Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel."*

Luke 24:45-49 *"Then he opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures. He told them, 'This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power on high.'"*

Acts 1:4,8 *"On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'"*

Yeshua/Jesus is letting them know what the pattern is for the gospel to go out to the world. It was to start with the Jews first – in Jerusalem, and then go out to the rest of the world. This is what happened. But we have forgotten a key part of the pattern. There is a missing piece – the Jewish believers. Look what happens when they obey and do it God's way.

Acts 2:1 *"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place...all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven..."* several nations are named. Peter, full of the Spirit, delivers his sermon, and in verse 41, *"about three thousand were added to their number that day."*

The Law of Evangelism

Romans 1:16 *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."*

It is important to explain here. The word in Greek for *first* is *proton* (Strong's #4412). It means: "firstly in time or place, order of importance, chiefly, first of all." That seems pretty clear. We can see the pattern again – if we want to bring the gospel to more people, and we want them to believe, then may we submit that Scripture teaches that we can't do it effectively without the help other Jewish believers.

The overall principle behind this 'law' of evangelism is Genesis 12:3 where God declares: *"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

If you still have doubts, may we suggest you study **Romans 9-11**. These three chapters are jam packed with the truth about the Jewish people and what they mean to God's plans, and what they should mean to us. In Romans 8, we have one of the most beautiful sections of Scripture. Paul writes about how nothing can separate us from God's love – and then starting in Chapter 9, he begins to talk about how he feels about his own people, the Jews. It is important to remember there were no divisions in the original text. Chapter divisions and verses have been added for our convenience. It is therefore reasonable to assume that Chapter 9 is a continuation of Paul's Spirit-inspired thoughts about love. And in fact, he begins to remind the Roman church, which was one of the fastest growing churches in the known world, that they should not be arrogant about their having received the gospel as Gentiles. And he added that they owe the Jewish people a great deal of gratitude. Everything from which they were benefiting came from the Jewish people (9:4-5). He reminds them that God has not finished with the Jews.

Romans 10:12-15 *"For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent [by God]?"*

Can't you hear Paul's compassion here? Can't you hear his heart, pleading that they (and we) not forget about the Jews? In Chapter 11, he goes on to point out that God has NOT rejected his people as some were beginning to believe.

More of the Pattern

Romans 11:13-15 *"However, to those of you who are Gentiles I say this: since I myself am an emissary sent to the Gentiles, I make known the importance of my work in the hope that somehow I may provoke some of my own people to jealousy and save some of them! For if their casting Yeshua aside means reconciliation for the world, what will their accepting him mean? It will be life from the dead!"*

In other words, the Jewish people need to be provoked to jealousy. How can this happen if we aren't even spending any time with them, or seeking to share the gospel

with them? As an aside, there is a right way to do this, and we hope to write more articles on this subject in the future.

Romans 11:17-32 *"But if some of the branches were broken off, and you – a wild olive – were grafted in among them and have become equal sharers in the rich root of the olive tree, then don't boast as if you were better than the branches! However, if you do boast, remember that you are not supporting the root, the root is supporting you. So you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." True, but so what? They were broken off because of their lack of trust. However, you keep your place only because of your trust (belief). So don't be arrogant; on the contrary, be terrified! For if God did not spare the natural branches, he certainly won't spare you! So take a good look at God's kindness and his severity: on the one hand, severity toward those who fell off; but on the other hand, God's kindness toward you – provided you maintain yourself in that kindness! Otherwise, you too will be cut off! Moreover, the others, if they do not persist in their lack of trust, will be grafted in; because God is able to graft them back in. For if you were cut out of what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree!"*

Hearers of Paul's words understood a regular agricultural practice in that day and in Jesus' day – wild olive trees grew quite well – they were hearty, and grew quickly. They produced a whole lot of fruit, but it wasn't good fruit—couldn't get much oil from them. Then there were cultivated olive trees that produced very good fruit, but not much of it. So, they would cut off branches from the wild olive trees and graft them into the cultivated trees, and guess what? They produced lots of robust branches that produced lots and lots of great olives! Abundance galore!

Again, Paul's meaning couldn't be more clear. Gentiles are the wild olive branches that have been grafted into the cultivated tree (Israel). This is a good picture for us Gentiles. We have this tendency to just go off on our own way, do our own thing. And we grow, but the fruit isn't as good as when we're united with the cultivated tree. When we work together (Jewish believers working with Gentile believers), there is a huge crop of big, juicy, tasty fruit – and lots of it! We see the pattern again.

There is so much more in Scripture about this, but for the sake of time, we will end here. If we want to reach more people, we need to follow the pattern that the God of Israel has laid out in the Scriptures. It's our road map for evangelism. It is true that Gentile believers are producing fruit – Gentiles are ministering to Gentiles – but are we producing the best fruit? Is it lasting? Why is there so much division in the Church? Why do people not grow into full maturity? Why do people keep leaving churches and trying to find better ones? We think it's because people aren't satisfied. They are hungering for more. We believe if we get back to doing things according to God's pattern, there will be the greatest outpouring of His Spirit on the earth, and then there will be a huge revival. This is what the prophets teach, and it is most clear in **Joel 3:1-4**: *"After this, I will pour out my Spirit on all humanity. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions; and also on male and female slaves in those days I will pour out my Spirit. I will show wonders in the sky and on earth..."* This is what will happen just before the Day of the Lord. It

will be the greatest revival the world has ever seen, and the key to bringing it on is unity of Jew and Gentile: One New Man in Messiah.

When Yeshua/Jesus died, the veil in the temple that separated us from the Holy Place was torn in two. This is another confirmation that the dividing wall had been broken by the death of Messiah on the execution stake. There was to be no longer separation from God and His people, and as Ephesians teaches us, there was to be no more division between Jew and Gentile. But the middle wall that we have erected is keeping us from fulfilling the purposes that God has for His people and for the rest of the world. Let's tear down the wall again. Let's bring God's glory back into the Body of Messiah by being the answer to our Jewish Messiah's prayer – *that they may be one as we are one.*

Additional Scripture

Romans 15:7-12

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

*"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing hymns to your name." Again, it says,
"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." And again,
"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and sing praises to him, all you peoples." And again, Isaiah says,
"The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
the Gentiles will hope in him."*

Matthew 25:31-46: The Sheep and the Goats

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a

stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?"

"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

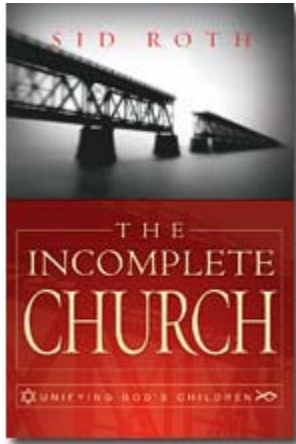
John 4

21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews."

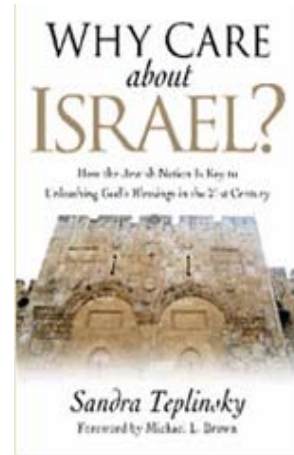
John 10

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— **15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd"

Suggested Reading



by Sid Roth



by Sandra Teplinsky