

Ephesians 3: 1-13 *“New stuff”*

v1 Prisoner for the Gentiles sake? How and why?

Paul at this time was under house arrest. (Acts 28:16,30)

Reason for Paul’s imprisonment (Acts 22: 19- 25)

v2: grace as stewardship or administration. Paul was given this to share.

This administration, stewardship was all part of God’s plan from the beginning. To execute any plan it has to be done in stages. Paul’s stage was to preach the word to the Gentiles so that the fulfillment of scripture from Genesis with Abram would be fulfilled that through him all nations would be blessed.

How are the blessed- through acceptance now into the promises by becoming part of Israel.

All nations started as one and will end up one.

If we look at the modern genetic movement they are on a quest to identify the beginnings of our genes. They believe all mankind came from one set of parents and are tracing this back today.

v3: revelation of the mystery he briefly wrote of before. (1:9)

Paul now is going back to a subject that he has started to introduce earlier in ch1:9. And one of his purposes for writing is so that a mystery in Christ can be revealed.

v5 Go back to OT verses concerning acceptance of Gentiles.

New stuff not before known and given by the Spirit.

This new stuff had not been revealed before, but now through the Spirit they now have new insights into God’s plan.

We struggle with people saying this today- Look at the Mormon’s and even when the Pope speaks ex-cathedra. We look at scripture as having been once and for all delivered and nothing more added. Why? Revelation 22: 18,19

v6: specific’s on new revelation.

Go back to v1 for Gentiles now he expounds also talk about this in Ch2

Gentiles fellow heirs

Gentiles fellow members of the body

Gentiles fellow partakers of the promises in Christ through good news.

What does this mean???

Same as Israel? Promise land/ people / redemption

Genesis 12: 3 / 18:18 all nations will be blessed through you (Abram)

Isaiah 56: 7-8 / 49:6 /

Romans 11: 12- Christians are spiritual Israel or Jews.

v9 These things were kept hidden in times past so that v10 NOW through the church God’s plan accomplished in Jesus (v11-12) we can as Gentiles approach God with freedom and confidence knowing we will and can be accepted into His eternal kingdom.

So look at all Paul goes through as necessary for us to be accepted into the kingdom. Because as we saw in Acts 22: 19- 25 it is for our glory.

No one can ever be considered an outsider !!!

In light of this all prejudice in race, class distinction, economic standing, denomination, and any other reason we might exclude others has been done away with. Everyone has salvation open to them. (II Peter 3:9)

Who do we exclude? Any prejudice because they may dress a certain way, go to a different church etc.... is not tolerated any more. Are we God?

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