

Sermon Notes

Jesus Walks Among the Lampstands

“Philadelphia: Perseverance of the Persecuted – Part B”

Revelation 3:7-13

I. Review

A. Location of the city.

1. Known for earthquakes.

B. The Christ title.

1. He is Holy.
2. He is True.
3. No rebuke of this church.

II. Exposition.

A. A closer look at the commendation.

1. Revelation 3:8-10

- a. They are praised for bearing up under persecution.

2. “Have not denied my name.”

- a. Jewish persecution.

b. Possible meanings for slander (implied).

1. Rumors, gossip

2. Official denunciation by a Roman court.

- a. Jewish alliance with civil authority to oppose Christ (Christians) is not new.

Matt. 26:3-4; Matt. 27:1-2; 17-22

3. The Reward – “I will make them fall down at your feet,” vs. 9

- a. Allusion to Isaiah. See Isa. 60:14; 2:3; 14:2; 45:14; 49:23; Ezk 36:23; Zech 8: 20-23; Ps 86:9.

- b. However, things become turned upside down. Instead of Gentile oppressors paying homage to Jews, Jews will pay homage to oppressed G_____ and J_____ Christians.

B. The church equates to the New Israel.

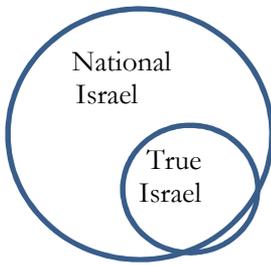


1. Controversial, yes, but consider the following:
 - a. Implied from the denunciation of Rev. 3:9.
 - b. Implied also in Rev. 1:6. He made us to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” Ex. 19:6 and I Peter 2:9.
 - c. Note how the church of Galatia considered the Israel of God. Gal. 5:2-3; 6:12,15-16.
 - d. A true Jew is not identified by outward things such as ethnicity and circumcision – Romans 2:28-29.
 - e. Israel (Judaism) has been removed from God’s olive tree – Romans 11:17-21. Others have been grafted in.
 - f. Paul notes the future hope of Israel as fulfilled in Gentile Thessalonica.
 1. See parallels between Paul’s remarks to Gentile Christians in Thessalonica and Ezekiel’s prophecies.
 - a. Regarding impurity
 1. Ezekiel 36:25 – I Thessalonians 4:3,7
 - b. Regarding idols
 1. Ezekiel 36:25 – I Thessalonians 1:9
 - c. Regarding walking in God’s ways
 1. Ezekiel 36:27 – I Thessalonians 4:1
 - d. Regarding the giving of the Holy Spirit
 1. Ezekiel 36:27 – I Thessalonians 4:8
 2. Further note Paul’s specific words to Thessalonians – “For you yourselves are taught by God” – I Thes. 4:9.

- a. This is the only occurrence in the New Testament.
 Note similarity to the Greek translation of the Old Testament in Isaiah (Isaiah 54:13).

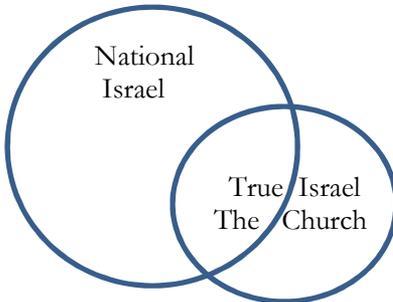
Isaiah 53:14	I Thessalonians 4:9
“Taught of the Lord”	“Taught by God”
<i>Diaktous theou</i>	<i>Theodidaktos</i>
The “Hope” promised to Israel is now realized in the church.	

- b. Being taught by God to walk in His ways was a Jewish hope to be found in the future.
 1. Jer. 31:33-34; Isa. 2:2-3; Micah 4:1-2
- c. Paul views this prophesied Jewish hope as fulfilled and present in the Gentile Thessalonian church.
- g. According to Paul, he was commissioned as an Apostle to the Gentiles while Abraham is equally father of the faithful in two communities – Romans 4:6-16.
- h. Paul’s letter to the largely Gentile Ephesian church notes a connection to the Old Testament land inheritance with the New Testament kingdom inheritance.
 1. Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:3
- i. What about the city of Jerusalem?
1. Jerusalem was not the centerpiece of Jesus’ ministry. Capernaum was the key city.
 Matt. 9:1; 13:6 (The city is Capernaum.)
 2. Jesus rules from the heavenly Jerusalem.
 - a. Heb. 12:18-24.
- j. Note “remnant” usage for the Redeemed.
 Isaiah 10:21-22; I Kings 19:18 and Romans 9:6



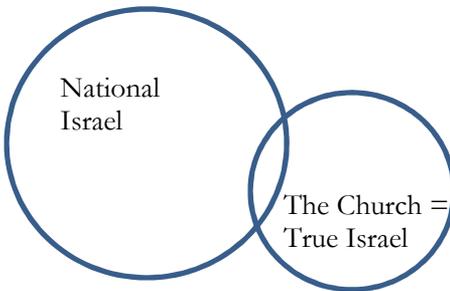
Gentile Nations

Day of Pentecost and moving forward – Samaritans and Pagans receive the Word of God



Gentile Nations

Present Age



Gentile Nations

III. Points for Reflection.

- A. Any distortion of the character and nature of God is idolatry.
- B. Evangelical Christianity must recapture the missing jewel when discussion of modern-day Israel dominates the air waves.
- C. Our true comfort lies in Christ who has made Gentile believers and Jewish believers one in Himself.

1. Ephesians 2:11-22