

Paul, an apostle

The letter to the Galatians

Chapter 2

By :Dov Avnon

Christ gave Paul the dispensation of Grace. Only in Paul letters Romans till Philemon's we find the doctrines that Christ gave to members of the body of Christ Jews and Gentiles in one body. If we talk about how to read the Bible, I will suggest any one to start reading and studying Paul letter to the Romans but before you study Romans go first and study Paul letters to the Galatians. Why ? this is the first letter that Paul wrote. In this letter you will understand what happen in acts 9 when Christ saved Paul and told him:

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. Acts 9

That gospel which I preach among the Gentiles

Paul letter to the Galatians is the first letter to the churches of the dispensation of grace. Jews and Gentiles in one body. The revelation in this letter is about Jews and Gentiles are now the seed of Abraham by the same baptism into Christ(not water) Gal. 3:26-27. That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. 3:14

So while Jews still believe that Children circumcision in the 8 day will put them in covenant with God. Christian teach infant baptism took the place of that circumcision. Both try to be Abraham seed by religion rituals while Christ is the only way to be Abraham seed under this dispensation of grace.

When we read Galatians let's not forget that it is Christ through Paul that is talking to us. Paul grew up in the Jews religion but because Christ gave him the dispensation of grace he said:

3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Phil 3

1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.
2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

It is almost 17 years after Paul was saved that he is going again to Jerusalem. He is not going to tell them how great is the kingdom preaching he is not like James proud in many that still worshipping God according to the first covenant.

20 And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law: Acts 21:20

The gospel that Paul was preach among the gentiles is the gospel of Gods grace. Let not forget that Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles. Does it means that Paul never talk to a Jew or wrote about Jews ? of course not. BY the way accept that Jew is part of a Jews religion we are all gentiles- nations made of sinners without any difference. Whether someone is part of the Jewish, Muslim of Christian religion, for God he is still a sinner that can be saved only through the blood of Christ.

Once God had peculiar people, nation – the nation of Israel but today under the dispensation of grace there is no any peculiar nation but peculiar people members of the Church which is His body.

The Nation Israel

DEUTERONOMY 14:2 For thou [art] an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that [are] upon the earth.

The Church in the dispensation of Grace

TITUS 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

The nation Israel during the tribulation time

1 PETER 2:9 But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light

So now after we understand that Paul gospel under the gentiles is our gospel too let see some details concerning Paul gospel during the early days of his ministry.

The gentiles granted repentance unto life.

The first step in understanding the issue around the gentiles in the book of acts is to know the different between the ministry and the gospel of Peter, James and John with that of the apostle Paul. The difference between the gospel to the circumcision and the Gospel of God's grace (to the un circumcisions)

ACTS 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the gentiles granted repentance unto life.

11: 16Then remembered I the word of the Lord-19preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. 11:22church which was in Jerusalem:

Acts chapter 11 teaching us that Peter ministering to the Gentiles was very short. They talk only to Jews. The work of the spirit among those gentiles was based on the Words of Christ to John the Baptist and not according to the revelation of the mystery or the dispensation of grace.

Paul in Antioch in Pisidia

13:13 Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem. 13:14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

13:15 And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, [Ye] men [and] brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles,

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1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.² And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

It is now almost 17 years after Paul was saved that he is going back to Jerusalem. He went there not because the 12 apostles told him to do it but because his gospel is part of special revelations concerning a new dispensation.

went up again to Jerusalem

Why is Paul is going to Jerusalem. What is Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles, relation to Peter, James and John the apostles from Jerusalem that he must talk to them even more the one time. Just remember Paul own words : But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.¹² For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Galatians . 1:11

Let see first the place of Jerusalem, the mountain of the LORD, Zion in relation to the coming of Christ to this earth in order to establish His kingdom for 1000 years.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. ISAIAH 2:3
So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain JOEL 3:17

¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.¹² Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. ACTS 1:11-12

Paul the apostle of the Gentiles is not going to Jerusalem to meet Peter, James and John in order to work with them on the preparation of the return of Christ to earth.

communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, - Paul purpose to visit Jerusalem more than one time is to communicated about that gospel which he was preaching among the Gentiles.

After Christ saved Paul he told him: ¹⁵ But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:¹⁶ For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. Acts 9:15-16

So from now on any visitation in Jerusalem, later in the synagogue of the Jews or conversation with Peter, James and John is not because the Kingdom of Heaven will be soon established on earth. It is all about that gospel which he was preaching among the Gentiles.

Please note that after Paul was saved any communication with - the church which was at Jerusalem (acts 8:1) or - the apostles which were at Jerusalem (acts 8:14) it is all concerning that gospel which he was preaching among the Gentiles

Paul – Jerusalem - The Gentiles

What was Paul doing then in Jerusalem ? Did the Lord from heaven revealed him anything about working on the preparation of His return to earth with His earthly kingdom? No!

Was circumcision or the command to keep the law of Moses part of that gospel which he was preaching among the Gentiles? No!

among the Gentiles – let not forget that the term - among the Gentiles is about the region outside - Jerusalem, Judaea, and Samaria. Where Peter, James and John were mostly working.

When Paul was visiting Jerusalem he and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them (Acts 15:1-5). Why did Paul have any disagreement with the church which was at Jerusalem ? The answer is very simple:

Circumcision or the command to keep the law of Moses was not part of that gospel which Paul was preaching among the Gentiles