

One New Man - Jew & Gentile United in Christ (Eph 2:11-22)



A. Call to Unity

1. **The Father's Desire** – Earthly and heavenly parallel. My natural father's one desire is for his two sons to love and support each other, even though we are in a good relationship and not in conflict.
2. **Jesus' High Priestly Prayer**, *'I do not pray for these [apostles] alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word [church]; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they may be one in Us [Triune reality], that the world may believe that You sent Me.'* (John 17:20-21)
Jesus also taught us to pray, 'Our [Jews and Gentiles] Father...'
3. **How Is It Possible to Create One New Man?** By bringing down the dividing wall of separation between Jews and Gentiles - which is the law (Eph 2:14-16).

B. Challenges to Unity

1. **Replacement Theology** – 2000 years of replacement theology from St. Augustine to the Crusaders [including Nazi Germany], have sown seeds of antisemitism and built the dividing wall of mistrust. The Gentile Church (the prodigal son in Lk 15:11-32) has been saying in effect, *'Father, your firstborn son who walked away from You is dead. Forget him. I will be the double portion son to you.'* We may have said this with good intentions, but it does not bless the Father's grieving heart. It just shows we do not know the Father's heart very well. Jacob tricked Esau and took the birthright, and it did not go well for Jacob for a long time. Has the Gentile Church been like Jacob the supplanter, taking Israel's birthright?
2. **Reverse-Replacement Theology** – Reverse Replacement is Israel replacing the Church and the law replacing the gospel. In the first century, a great attack was on the church and the gospel. It was spearheaded by the Judaizers who believed in the Messiah, but insisted salvation comes through believing in the Messiah PLUS keeping the law of Moses:
 - (i) circumcision
 - (ii) food
 - (iii) observing the Jewish calendar (Sabbath law & the feasts)

This was the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles. The church's first martyr Stephen lost his life for this very reason. The early church's Jewish apostles and believers paid a heavy price to preserve the *purity of the gospel that was free from legalism*.

Will the same issue arise in the last days as Israel awakens and joins the table of the Lord again? The real issue is rooted in the fallen human nature, that takes pride in our religious works rather than glory in the all-sufficiency of Christ. We must glory in nothing else than Jesus Christ [Yeshua ha Messiah] and His finished work alone.

3. **The Basis of Unity** – Supremacy of Jesus Christ or Supremacy of Yeshua Ha Messiah. Apostle Paul is clear we are not to divide over the dietary laws, the observance of the calendar (Romans 14:5-10; Col 2:16-18), or circumcision (Gal 6:11-15). Christ is all-sufficient (Gal 3:26-29).

C. Outcome of Unity

1. **The Last Question from a Jew to Christ before He Ascended:** *'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?'* (Acts 1:6) Jesus answered, *'It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'* (Acts 1:8) He had in mind the salvation of the Jews and Gentiles!
 - (i) Peter (Acts 3:19-21) – The restoration of all things is preceded by (1) Repentance, (2) Refreshing (revival), (3) Retainment (restrain), (4) Restoration, and (5) Return. Israel's full national restoration comes last. *'The older brother must wait and hold the tap for the thirsty younger siblings to drink first.'*

- (ii) Until then Israel is divinely restrained by the spiritual condition of 'blindness in part' and 'partial hardening of the hearts', which lasted 2000 years. The last 7 years of Israel's prophetic calendar (Dan 9:24-27) have been on pause. So the world mission in fact leads to the restoration of Israel!
2. **What Comes Next When Israel is Awakened?** It is like a resurrection from the dead (Rom 11:15), leading to new spiritual life for the world and the final harvest of souls before the return of Christ. It will happen during a time of intense pressure in Israel and around the world (Rev 7).

Parallel Restoration of Israel and the Church in the Last 100 Years

- (i) 1900s – the birth of the Zionist movement [Theodore Hertzl] and the resurrection of the Hebrew Language [Eliezer Ben-Yehuda], were followed by the resurrection of the gift of tongues [Charles Parham] and the birth of the Pentecostal movement [Azusa St Revival] in the Church.
- (ii) 1948 – The birth of the modern State of Israel was followed by the great healing revival (the Latter Rain movement).
- (iii) 1967 – Israel's capture of Jerusalem in the 6-day war was followed by the Charismatic renewal across the mainline denominational churches. including the Catholics, with an emphasis on the restoration of spiritual gifts.
- (iv) What Now? The restoration of all things (Acts 19:21). The glorious display of God's holy living temple made of living stones – Jew and Gentile - in unflinching faith and unity in Jesus Christ (Eph 2:21-22). The outcome of this unity will be the declaration of the *manifold wisdom of God* to the *principalities and powers* in the heavenly places (Eph 3:10 c.f. 6:12; Rev 12:9-11).

D. Personal Testimony of Outcome of Unity

1. Prophecy and the Rainstorm in Israel (2013 Nov-Dec)

- a. On the 23rd of Oct 2012, I [Paul] was in Quezon City, Manila in the Philippines to minister in a prophetic conference called 'Ablaze'. A group of prophetic ladies surrounded me and prophesied over me with the following words below.

'You are on the top of a mountain. There is an old temple, and You are standing in front of the temple dressed in a high priestly dress with the lion of Judah on your right side, praying and prophesying. Just as Ps. Chris said that you will pray for the peace of Israel. Last vision. I see the child's name, Nathan. There is a glow on his forehead, and he is blowing the horn and saying, 'Papa we will start a war against the evil ones.' (the future of your child is already secure. - interjection by Ps. Chris). But suddenly the Lord sent rain. This is significant for Israel. Your son will call a rain. Not just a rain but a heavy rain.'

- b. My family was in Israel 2014 Nov 1-15. Nathan was blowing a shofar in the final couple of days including on the Nov 7 prayer night. Mia suddenly reminded me of the prophecy from the Philippines which I'd completely forgotten. It was recorded on my iPad. I looked up the prophecy from the iPad, and as I read it, I found myself saying, 'This prophecy was meant to be literal.'

At that very moment, Ps Tsukahira of Mt Carmel handed me the microphone and asked me to pray for Israel, which I did. That day a sudden, unexpected rain fell at night. The following week (one day before we flew out of Israel, 14th Nov), we met with Jill Shannon in Jerusalem and we told her that after we leave Israel, there will be heavy rain (a downpour) and following the downpour, Israel will be entering into the season of war.

- c. Historic snowstorm slams Israel and neighboring countries. [Posted December 13, 2013]



'The biggest December snow and rain storm in the modern history of Israel and the Palestinian territories hit on Wednesday night (Gaza declared disaster zone) ... Heavy storms continued throughout Israel, causing traffic disruptions and power outages across the country, floods in southern regions, a brief closure of Ben-Gurion International Airport...Thousands of people in and around Jerusalem were left without power. A hastily

assembled array of relief services, beefed up by Israeli army troops, came to the aid of hundreds of motorists who were trapped in their vehicles, some for up to 10 hours.'

2. Israel-Gaza War broke out on July the 7th 2014. We made a commitment before the Lord to pray for Israel every morning, Mon to Sat, 6-8am @Epping Community Centre as long as the war lasted. It was during this time of prayer vigil GIHOP @Epping was acquired. Exactly 5 years later, in July 2019 God brought us to the Cornerstone Church. Now, in 2023 May, the Cornerstone and GI are praying for Israel together. How wonderful!
3. The Lord spoke to me in one of the evening prayer meetings in the Epping Community Centre, '*Are you zealous for Israel's spiritual inheritance?*' In early church history, the apostle Paul paid a heavy price for standing up for the Gentile church's spiritual inheritance in the Messiah. He confronted the Jewish pride rooted in their nationalism, religion, tradition, history, etc.

Had Paul not taken a firm stand for the Gentiles and welcomed us as equal members of the covenant in Yeshua, without forcing us to become Jews (the requirement of the law), none of us would be where we are now.

However, now the situation is reversed. Much of the revelation of the New Covenant is in the hands of the Gentile Church today. And *Israel will not enter into her full inheritance without the equal commitment and love of the Gentile Church*, standing up for Israel in the last days. Will we do it?

'Will you speak 'humbly', and yet 'clearly' to the Body of Christ?'

Will we pray for the restoration of Israel and the One New Man in Christ?

E. Reflection

- (i) What is the main takeaway for you today?
- (ii) Will you fight for God's inheritance for Israel?
- (iii) What are the main challenges to bringing forth the one new man?