Fellow Heirs

11-22-26

Ephesians 3:6 (ESV)
This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

In Ephesians, God explains HIS church, its authority, its purpose, its make-up, etc. When we understand God's church, HIS household, we can better understand God's activity, and ministry in the world. God's church is not a place of exclusion, but of inclusion based on the forgiveness of sins and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul says in verses 1-3, that he has been entrusted with the stewardship of the Grace, favor and power, of God. We likewise have been entrusted with that same stewardship. We have a responsibility to share this good news of forgiveness and inclusion. Someone can say they don't want their sins forgiven or to be transformed by the Holy Spirit, but that is their choice not ours. <u>This word stewardship means, the management of a household or household affairs or the administration of the property of others</u>**. In Ephesians 2:19, God refers to the church as God's household.**

Management in God's household is to treat one another as fellow heirs that will spend eternity together. As fellow heirs we behave differently:
Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)
Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

As we grow in Christ and our life becomes an expression of Christ, we as fellow heirs should grow to love one another like Christ love us. This was always in God's mind. But it was incomprehensible without Christ, HIS crucifixion, death, and resurrection. *Although hidden, the OT is full of prophetic foundational pictures that Jews and Gentiles would be members of one body.* I want to share one OT prophecy of the church that is a little complicated, but fascinating showing that the Gentiles would ultimately be fellow heirs. A quick definition of Zion is necessary. Zion is where the city of Jerusalem is located. It was where the Jewish Temple was constructed and considered the dwelling place of God. Zion was and is the center of the Jewish religion. Note Jesus' words when HE entered the Temple located on Zion.

Matthew 21:12–13 (ESV)
And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. Jesus said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”

Note what Isaiah said 800 years before.
Isaiah 59:20 (ESV)
And a Redeemer (Jesus) will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,”
declares the LORD.

Romans 11:26 says Jesus comes out of Zion.
Now listen to this prophecy in Psalm 87:4-6.
Psalm 87:4-6 (NIV) NO O/H
4 I will record Rahab and Babylon among those who
acknowledge me— Philistia too, and Tyre, along
with Cush— and will say, ‘This one was born in
Zion.’ ” 5 Indeed, of Zion it will be said, “This one
and that one were born in her, and the Most High
himself will establish her.” 6 The LORD will write in
the register of the peoples: “<u>This one was born in
Zion.</u>”

Psalm 87:4-6 (NIV) O/H
… … (Gentiles) … 'This one (Gentile) was born in Zion.' Indeed, of Zion it will be said, "This one (Gentile) and that one (Gentile) were born in her, and the Most High himself will establish her (the church). The LORD will write in the register of the peoples: "This one (Gentile) was born in Zion."

These non-Jews are "those who acknowledge" him and now worship the living God. These non-Jews are recorded as having been "born in Zion". *"Though born abroad, God sees these converts to the living God becoming citizens of the spiritual metropolis Zion (the church)!"* The psalmist shows Zion as "the mother-city" of the faithful, the church. *Zion goes beyond the city on earth to the city of God where all the names of the godly are recorded as belonging to the Lord.* **This could only happen through Jesus Christ.** The church has always been God's plan. God works through the church now and for all eternity. All the members of God's household, the church, are fellow heirs with one another. All the fellow heirs are powerful and covered by God's protective Hand.

1 Corinthians 3:17 (ESV)
If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Brothers and sisters, there is power in the church. Everything will be destroyed except the church. Thus, the church should eagerly meet together.
Hebrews 10:25 (ESV)
Do not neglect meeting together, but encourage one another, and all the more as you see things getting worse.

There is power in the church. God intended us as fellow heirs, members of HIS household, the church, to meet together in love, peace, and unity, especially as things get worse and worse.

The church, fellow heirs, have one foundation, the source of all truth and power.

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)
Jesus Christ and HIM crucified.