

# Pauline Theology – Lesson 07

The Church as the True Israel

## Church as the Beloved of God, Elect, and the Church

**1 Thessalonians 1:4** – For we know, brothers *loved by God*, that he has *chosen* you,

- OT background: Dt. 33:12; Jer. 11:15; 12:7; Ps. 60:5; 108:6.
- Love and Election are also tied together in the OT.

**1 Thessalonians 1:1** – Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church (ekklēsia) of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

- Ekklēsia used in LXX (Septuagint – Greek OT). Describes Israel (not) assembled for worship.
  - o Dt. 23:2-3; 31:30; 1 Sam. 17:47; 1 Chron. 28:8; Neh. 13:1.
- “These names for the church are likely not mere metaphors for what the church is like but rather are portrayals of the church as the continuation of the OT people of God, the true Israel.” – Beale, *NTBT*, 670

**Romans 9:25** – As indeed he says in Hosea, “Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’” (Hos 2:23)

- Hosea 2:23 – A prophecy of the salvation of Israel, when the nation would be restored, but Paul applies it to gentiles (Rom. 9:24). (Beale, *NTBT*, 670)

## Church as Sons of God, Abraham’s Seed, Jerusalem, Circumcised Jews

**Galatians 4:4-7** – <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- OT background: Ex. 4:22-23; Dt. 14:1; Isa. 1:2, 4; 63:8; Hos. 1:10; 11:1.

**Galatians 3:16, 26, 29** – <sup>16</sup> Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ. **///** <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. **///** <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.

- OT background: “Seed of Abraham” = Israel (Gen 12:7; 13:15-16; 15:5; 17:8; 22:17-18; 32:12). Here Paul identifies both Jew and Gentile (3:28) in the church as “Abraham’s seed”.

**Galatians 4:26** – But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

- Psalm 87 – Gentiles will be born in end-time Jerusalem, and to be sons of their mother, Jerusalem.<sup>1</sup>

**Romans 2:26-29** – <sup>26</sup> So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? <sup>27</sup> Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. <sup>28</sup> For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. <sup>29</sup> But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

- Genesis 17:10-14, 23-24 in view here. Philippians 3:2-3 & Colossians 2:11 make similar connections.

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<sup>1</sup> Beale, *NTBT*, 672

## Church as Bride of Christ

**2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-27** – <sup>2</sup> For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. **///** <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

- OT background – Isa. 54:5-6; Ezek. 16:32; Hos. 1:2; Ezek. 16 (Israel as Harlot)

## Church as Vineyard

**1 Corinthians 3:5-9** - <sup>5</sup> What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup> He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. <sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

- OT background: Isa. 5:1-7; Jer. 12:10 (Jesus' parable in Matt. 21:33-41; Mark 12:1-12; & Luke 12:1-12; 20:9-19)

## Church as an Olive Tree

**Romans 11:17, 24** - <sup>17</sup> But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, **///** <sup>24</sup> For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

- OT background: Isa. 17:6; Jer. 11:16; Hos. 14:6)