Hidden Mysteries of Heaven's Kingdom Realm Part-7

During this series, of which we are in Pt. 7, we are delving into the "Hidden Mysteries of Heaven's Kingdom Realm" in Christ Jesus, which the Holy Spirit has made known to Christ's Body, the Church. An example of this is our status as "*kings and priests"* as found in **Rev. 1:5b-6 NKJV**, *"To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us* ***kings and priests*** *to His God and Father, to Him* be *glory & dominion forever and ever. Amen* (see **Rev. 5:8-10** *"Worthy is the Lamb"*)." Now let's pick up where we left off last week.

God chose the Jews to be the first to believe in Christ

Eph. 1:12 NKJV *"That* ***we who first trusted in Christ**** *should be to the praise of His glory."* ***Jamieson, Fausset & Brown's Commentary on the Old & New Testaments**, *"The Mystery of Election and Adoption",* on **v. 12:** "Rather (we Jewish Christians), "*who have before hoped in* the *Christ!"* who before the Christ came, looked forward to His coming, waiting for the consolation of Israel." Compare with **Acts 26:6-8 NKJV** ***Paul before Agrippa***, "*And now I stand and am judged for* ***the hope of the promise*** *made by God to our fathers.* **7.** *To this* promise *our twelve tribes, earnestly serving* God *night and day,* ***hope to attain****. For* ***this hope's sake****, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews.* **8.** *Why should it be thought incredible by you that* ***God raises the dead****?"*

Verse 8 leads us to Paul's greatest heart desire as found in **Phil. 3:7-11 NKJV** *"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.* **8.** *Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them*

as rubbish, that I may gain Christ **9.** *and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which* is *from the law, but that which* is *through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;* **10.** *that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,* **11.** *if by any means, I may attain* (or "*arrive at"*) *to the resurrection from the dead."*

TPT "**3:10.** *And I continually long to know the wonders of Jesus more fully and to experience the overflowing power of His resurrection working in me. I will be one with Him in His sufferings and I will be one with Him in His death.* **11.** *Only then will I be able to experience complete oneness with Him in His resurrection from the realm of death."* **JF&B**: "He who loses all things, and even himself, on account of Christ, gains Christ: Christ is his and he is Christ's. **S of S 2:16 TPT** Shulamite: *"I know my Lover is mine and I have everything in You, for we delight ourselves in each other."***; 6:3** Shulamite: *"He is within me – I am His garden of delight. I have Him fully and now He fully has me."*

Book of Joshua's Relevance to Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians

Regarding the next 2 verses, **Eph. 1:13-14**, **TPT's** "Introduction to the Book of Joshua" makes a good comparison. It says, "The Book of Joshuashows us that we can go into the promised land of what God wants us to be. We can become the delight of God. The Book of Joshua is the Ephesians of the Old Testament. Joshua was blessed with every earthly blessing in the land of Canaan. We are blessed with every heavenly blessing in Christ (**Eph. 1:3 TPT** *"Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm has already been lavished upon us as a love gift from our wonderful heavenly Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus – all because He sees us wrapped into Christ. This is why we celebrate Him with all our hearts!"*). Joshua lays out a road map of victory for us so that

we can advance into our destiny; and our true destiny is for the better Joshua, Jesus, to lead us into His kingdom (**Eph. 1:13-14 TPT** *"And because of Him* [*"the Anointed One"*], *when you* who are not Jews *heard the revelation of truth, you believed in the wonderful news of salvation. Now we have been stamped with **the seal** of the promised Holy Spirit* (Some Aramaic manuscripts add here "*who was announced by the angels."*). **14.** *He is given to us like an engagement ring, as the first installment of what'scoming! He is our hope-promise of a future inheritance which **seals** us until we have all of redemption's promises & experience complete freedom – all for the supreme glory & honor of God!"*

What Does "Sealed" Mean?

V. 13 NKJV *"In Him you also* trusted, *after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise.*"

SFLB note says, ***"You were sealed"*** is seen by some as referring to justification (being made right with God), but that term is not used here and the emphasis is different. Justification brings acceptance; **sealing**brings authority (**John 3:33-34**). This verse, therefore, may refer to **Acts 19:1-6**, where the Ephesians, who had already believed, received the fullness of the Holy Spirit after Paul taught and ministered to them. [There ***sealing*** means they received **authority**!]."

Let's read this **"Mystery of Heaven's Kingdom Realm"** infilling, speaking in tongues & prophesying:

Acts 19:1-7 NKJV *"And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples* **2.** *he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"*

So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

3. *And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?"*

So they said, "Into John's baptism."

4. *Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him Who would come after him, that is on Christ Jesus.*

5. *When they heard* this, *they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.* **6.** *And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.* **7.** *Now the men were about twelve in all."*

SFLB note on vv. 1-7: "Upon arriving in Ephesus, Paul finds a group of **disciples** (a clear indication that they are true, baptized Christians) whose knowledge about **the Holy Spirit** is defective. Their teachers knew some basics of Christianity from contact with John the Baptist, but they were apparently unaware of the developments of Pentecost. Therefore, these disciples had only been baptized **into John's baptism**. This indicates that their conversion experience was accompanied by the knowledge that a fuller experience with the Holy Spirit would come (**Mt. 3:11 NKJV** "*I* (John) *indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire*."), but without the realization that it had come (Acts 2:1-4). Paul remedies this be rebaptizing them in water (the only such account in the NT) and by leading them into a fuller experience with the Holy Spirit (v. 6). An obvious parallel to the Day of Pentecost, the Spirit's fullness is displayed by their speaking in tongues and prophesying. See **SFLB** note on 2:4."

The **sealing** of believers was evidenced by power & authority!

V. 14 NKJV Paul on the Holy Spirit: *"Who* (or "*which"*) *is the **guarantee*** (or "*down payment", "earnest") of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of*

His glory." ***SFLB note: "Guarantee** literally means "deposit," down payment," or "first installment." The Holy Spirit invested in us is God's title to possessing us entirely and forever."

Let's take God at His Word about His love for us and live holy, blessed, overcoming lives filled with the Holy Spirit of grace! Our true destiny is Jesus leading us into His kingdom realities.

Let's Focus on God's Love & be Filled with Joy

Joy springs from love (Gal. 5:22 '*fruit of the Spirit*'),** which is followed by ***peace, then ***longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* 23. *gentleness, & self-control*.** *Against such there is no law.* **24.** *And those* who are *Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.* **25.** *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.* **26.** *Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."*