

MY LETTER TO A FULL PRETERIST (October 2024)

To Edward E Stevens

Dear Ed, Please help me further understand

Just let me talk through my understanding.

Based upon the view that all prophecy¹, in the old and new testament scriptures, were to be full filled at the Parousia² (that is the second coming of Christ). That includes the resurrection of the dead ones, the change of the living saints, the day of vengeance being the destruction of Jerusalem, and the end of the legal system of Moses and the arrival of the Spiritual Kingdom of God.

Am I correct in understanding that the first believers in the New Testament called the church, were natural Israelites, according to the flesh, but more so they were, as Isaac was, children of the promise, true jews in a spiritual sense and the remnant according to the election of grace. That the gentile converts who were grafted into the olive tree became, with these Jews, the one people, consisting of Jews and Gentiles, one body the Church. These being the whole Israel of God, and the spiritual seed promised to Abraham.

That this body, at the Parousia were taken up to heaven, along with the resurrected saints, leaving no one (true Christians) alive on earth after 70 AD, so no regenerate people alive. That all Jews left on earth were still the natural children of Abraham, but not the Israel of God, and not sons of God. Despite their circumcision and boast of being the children of Abraham and of God.

That when the Gospel began to be known, after 70 AD, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, from the writings of the Apostles, and nominal people having some historic knowledge of Jesus's life death and resurrection. Then the gospel which came to both Jew and Gentiles put them both on the same footing as each other, so they would learn that whosoever believeth shall be saved from their sins, even as those saints taken the Parousia.

1 [All Prophecy Fullfilled](#)

2 [The Parousia, James Stuart Russell](#)

That this work of salvation was through the grace of God and them learning who Jesus was from the historic records, and the grace of God the Spirit, in regeneration, effectual calling sanctification of the spirit, Justification by imputed righteousness, and by faith alone in the person and work of Christ alone. They would have learned from a natural reverence of scriptures held by the Jews, and of the Gospels and epistles, of the Apostles from a historic record, and without a true Christians to teach them.

Is there an record of a large number of natural jews becoming Christians at the Parousia thus fulfilling the scripture, the Deliver shall come from Zion and so all al Isreal shall be save.

If I am right in my understanding ?

Also please direct me to the subject of the Land promises to Israel and I am having to deal with those who tell me I am a supersesiionalist and they are zealous for support of Israel.

David (Ed's Reply)

Yes, I think you have a good understanding of that. Many unbelievers had heard the gospel before the rapture and did not come to faith (regeneration) until after AD 70³. Some of them began to believe afterward and restarted the Church. Plus, there were some like Justin Martyr who found some of the NT documents and read them and believed without any human teachers.

I am not aware of any significant number of Jewish converts after the Neronic persecution began in AD 64. That was the cut-off point. The Christians quit evangelizing because it would only get them killed. I think the union of Jew and Gentile believers came to fruition earlier in AD 58 when Paul brought the Gentile contributions to Jerusalem to help the poor needy Jewish saints there. When those Jewish saints accepted those contributions from the Gentiles, it was the official engrafting of the Gentiles into the native olive tree of True Spiritual Israel. Those Jewish saints accepted the Gentiles as fellow-heirs of the grace of life. Thus, Paul's mission to the Gentiles was complete so that ALL ISRAEL (the true spiritual Israel) could be saved (rescued) before the wrath was poured out on unbelieving Israel.

I think that is what Peter had in mind when he said in Acts 2, “save yourselves from this perverse generation.” The rapture of those remaining living saints was their rescue and salvation from the wrath. They were taken to heaven to be with Christ forever afterwards. All those who had been spiritually regenerated were rescued out of the wrath that fell upon the unbelieving Jews.

Fleshly Israel today is just another nation who needs the gospel just like every other nation. All nations are on a level playing field now. And Israel has every right to possess the land of Palestine. God gave them that land as an eternal possession. I am delighted for them to have their own country to live in.

However, I think too many Christians miss the point of Hebrews 11 when it talks about Abraham looking for a BETTER country (a heavenly country) that was to come with the Messiah (the Coming One). No one, not even fleshly Israelites, can live in that BETTER heavenly country unless they believe in Jesus. It is that heavenly country that is the dwelling place of the True Israel. That is where we should ALL want to have a dwelling place. The fleshly unbelieving Israelites can have the physical land of Israel. No problem at all. But they cannot dwell in the BETTER country that Abraham longed for unless they believe in Jesus.

Hope that helps.