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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Romans 4.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Romans 4.

Topics.

- Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.
- Circumcision was God's covenant with Abraham and his descendants.
- God's promises to Abraham.
- Where there is no law there is no transgression.
- Abraham had full assurance of hope in the promise.
- God has made Abraham the father of many nations.
- Abraham went by faith looking to the city whose builder is God.
- Abraham was fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

The Previous Chapter.

In the previous chapter Paul gave an overall view of the attitudes of the unbelieving world and those that deny God and showed that the purpose of the law was so that the entire world would be held accountable to God. Paul explained that the righteousness of God comes not by the law, but by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to all who believe. The chapter ended with the question, "If salvation is a free gift and has nothing to with the law, why not do away with it and do as we please?" (Romans 3:31).

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

Abraham Believed God, and it was Counted to Him as Righteousness.

Romans 4:1-8 ----- ¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness" (cited from Gen. 15:1-6). ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin" (cited from Psalm 32:1-2)

We may be proud of the fact that we attend church every Sunday, read our Bible everyday and do many good things, but though these are all good works in themselves not one of them counts for righteousness that leads to salvation and eternal life.

Paul is proving to the Jews and by extension to all of us that righteousness is not received by works because if a person receives anything by working for it then it is not a gift, but simply what is their rightful reward, but if someone gives them something that they haven't worked for that is a gift.

So it is with God He gives us the gift of righteousness as a free gift, if we had to work to receive it then it would no longer be a gift. This is the reason David stated, blessed are those who God does not count their sin. If any one of us was able to attain to the perfect standard the law demands and to God's perfect Holiness then Christ died for no reason.

Faith was counted to Abraham as Righteousness.

Romans 4:9-12 ----- ⁹Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. ¹⁰How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. ¹¹He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, ¹²and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

God made the following Old Testament covenant of circumcision with Abraham and his offspring saying: -

- Every male among you shall be circumcised and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised it shall be an everlasting covenant and any male who is not circumcised shall be cut off from Israel because he has broken my covenant" (Gen. 17:10-14) (Gen. 17:23-27).

Though circumcision was a sign of God's covenant with Israel many in the Jewish faith had turned it into the means of salvation (i.e., as long as they were circumcised they were right with God), this is one of the reasons for the lack of the fruits of the Spirit amongst many of the religious rulers of Jesus and Paul's generations.

NOTICE: it is our faith that is our righteousness, not our works (v9).

Paul is using the fact that Abraham's faith was counted to him as righteousness before he was circumcised to prove to the unbelieving and doubting Jews and by extension all of us that outward works are a sign of righteousness, but no-matter how good they maybe they are not what makes us righteous before God, it is our faith that God counts as our royal robe of righteousness.

Paul points out circumcision was a seal/sign but clearly not what made Abraham righteous since he was already counted as righteous prior to his circumcision clearly showing that even good works are only an evidence of the righteousness that is acceptable to God and that leads to eternal life.

The purpose faith is what God counts as righteousness is so that everyone Jew and Gentile can attain by faith not works to this standard of righteousness since we are all born with sinful aberrations and dysfunction that limit us from attaining to the perfect standard of righteousness of the Most Holy God this is why we are saved by faith and grace and not works. Paul is telling the Jews that even though they are circumcised they are still called to walk in faith as Abraham did to be counted righteous.

Abraham did not become the father of many nations by works but by faith.

God's Promises to Abraham.

Romans 4:13-16 ----- ¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶That is why it (the promise) depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law (the Jews) but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (Jews and Gentiles)

The Scriptures not only proclaim that all the world is held accountable to God and that everyone transgresses the law, but also tells us that, "The wages of sin is death." This means that wrath in the context of these verses refers to mortal death and ultimately judgment to eternal death (Rom. 3:19) (Rom. 3:23) (Rom. 6:23).

This is why God could not base the promise to Abraham on works, because all of us have sinful aberrations and dysfunctions that cause us to transgress the law that is why God's promise had to be based on faith and not works of the law. God knowing that no human on planet earth could attain to the standard of righteousness acceptable to Him by works made the promise based on faith and grace so it was not dependent on our works and therefore could not fail.

The Promises made to Abraham Isaac, Hagar and Ishmael.

1st Promise: was when Abram was seventy-five and Sarah was sixty-five the LORD told Abram

- To leave Haran and told him that he will be a great nation and in him all the families of the earth will be blessed (Gen. 12:1-3).

2nd Promise: was when Abram was in Canaan the LORD appeared and said: -

- To your offspring (thy seed in KJV) I will give the land of Canaan (Gen. 12:7).

3rd Promise: was when Abram separated from Lot in Canaan the LORD said: -

- He will give Abraham's offspring (thy seed in KJV) the land of Canaan and his offspring (thy seed in KJV) will be as the dust of the earth (Gen. 13:14-16).

4th Promise: was after Abram rescued Lot and he meets Melchizedek, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision declaring to Abram that: -

- His very own son would be his heir and his offspring (your seed in KJV) will be as the stars (Gen. 15:1-6).

5th Promise: was when Abram sacrificed a heifer and the LORD said: -

- His offspring (thy seed in KJV) would go into Egypt 400 years (Gen. 15:13).

6th Promise: was the same day Abram sacrificed the heifer the LORD said: -

- Abram's offspring (thy seed in KJV) will inherit Canaan (Gen. 15:18-20).

Up to here Abram and Sarah had been living in Canaan ten years and Sarah still has no children so she tells Abram to take Hagar as a wife he does and Hagar conceives (Gen. 16:1-4). Three years after Hagar gave birth to Ishmael God told Abraham that Sarah will have a son.

7th Promise: was when Abram was ninety-nine his name was changed to Abraham and the LORD appears to him and told him that: -

- His covenant is with Abraham and God will multiply him greatly, he will be the father of a multitude of nations and God will give Abraham and his offspring (thy seed in KJV) the land of Canaan for an everlasting covenant (Gen. 17:1-8).

Sarai's (who is now eighty-nine) name was changed to Sarah and God told Abraham that: -

- Sarah will have a son (Isaac) in one year's time and she will become nations and the LORD will establish his covenant with Sarah's son (Gen. 17:15-21).

8th Promise: was in the same year and the LORD said to Abraham: -

- He will return in one year and Sarah will have a son.

Sarah doubted God and He said to her: -

- Is anything too hard for the LORD? (Gen. 18:10-14).

One year later the LORD visits Sarah and Isaac is born (Sarah was ninety) (Abraham was one-hundred) (Gen. 21:1-5).

9th Promise: was when Isaac was born and Sarah had told Abraham to cast Hagar out (Ishmael is now thirteen) it appears that Abraham had bonded to Ishmael as his own son since it seems he desired that Ishmael would be the heir, God in seeing Abraham's sorrow in casting out Hagar and Ishmael told him: -

- Not to be discouraged because it is through Isaac that Abraham's offspring (thy seed in KJV) will be named (Gen. 21:12).

10th Promise: was when Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac the angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven and told him: -

- Not to harm the boy because he will multiply Abraham's offspring (thy seed in KJV) as the stars and his offspring (thy seed in KJV) will conquer their enemies and all the nations of the earth will be blessed in Abraham's offspring (thy seed in KJV).

This was the last promise to Abraham (Abraham died at one-hundred and seventy-five (Gen. 25:7-8) (Gen. 22:11-18).

NOTICE: Abram was seventy-five when he left Haran and one-hundred when Sarah gave birth to Isaac so Abraham believed God for twenty-five years before he received the promise, but he will not see the fullness of the promise until that glorious day when all who have faith in his promised seed the Lord Jesus Christ are gathered together when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords and those who are sleeping in Christ and those who are alive are gathered together to eternal glory and everlasting life.

SUMMARY: The Promises made to Abraham.

The LORD promised Abraham he would make of him a great nation and that he would be the father of a multitude of nations. God swore He would make Abrahams name great, bless him, nations, and kings would come from him and He would give to him and to his offspring after him all the land of Canaan/Israel for an everlasting possession. The LORD promised Abraham that his offspring would be as the dust of the earth and the stars of heaven so that they cannot be numbered and God will be their God. The LORD confirmed this promise to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their offspring after them throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant promising Abraham that in his offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

(Gen. 12:1-3) (Gen. 13:14-17) (Gen. 15:4-7) (Gen. 17:1-8) (Gen. 22:15-18) (Deut. 9:5).

Now the majestic wonder and beauty of God's promise is revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul writes that the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith that is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all Abrahams offspring—not only to the adherents of the law (referring to the Jews) but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham (referring to the Gentiles), who is the father of us all (Jews and Gentiles).

As it is written: -

- I have made you (Abraham) the father of many nations—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist (creation and the resurrection).

In hope Abraham believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." Paul tells us that "The twelve tribes of Israel earnestly worshipped night and day hoping to attain to this promise (Acts 26:7). And then gloriously points out that the Scripture does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

Some may think the promises made to Abraham was for the Jews only, but Paul magnificently explains in the book of Ephesians that the promises of God have been extended to all nations through being baptised into the Lord Jesus Christ and

clearly shows that the promises made to Abraham and to his offspring the Lord Jesus Christ are not limited to the Jews only but embraces whoever will come to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Rom. 4:13) (Rom. 4:16-18) (Gal. 3:16) (Gal. 3:27).

For further information see the title: -

- Commonwealth of Israel (at the end of this chapter).

Where there is no Law there is no Transgression

Paul tells the Jews and by extension all of us if the promise was to be given to those who kept the law and did good works then there is no need for faith and the promise is made void (cancelled). The words, "Where there is no law there is no transgression" (v15) applies to the promise, since it is not depended on the law, but faith and grace because of this it is guaranteed to come to pass whereas if it was based on our works it would fail because of the sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that dwell within us.

To all Abraham's offspring: (v16) refers to whoever has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ because Christ is the promised seed of Abraham it is in Christ that God's promise is coming about.

Abraham had full assurance of hope in the promise: the author of Hebrews tells us that the apostles desired each believer to show the same earnestness as Abraham who had the full assurance of hope until the end, so that they may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises, because when God made the promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently waited (twenty-five years) obtained the promise (of a son when he was about one-hundred years old) (Hebrews 6:11-15)

God has made Abraham the Father of many Nations.

Romans 4:17-19 ----- ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring (Seed in the KJV) be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

The words, "God calls into existence the things that do not exist" refer to: -

- Creation.
- The barrenness of Sarah's womb and her giving birth to Isaac.
- The signs and wonders God by His Spirit worked through Jesus.
- God calling into existence at the right time the dead at the resurrection.

NOTE: some people find it difficult to comprehend God raising the dead, but think of it this way, we have super computers today that have in their memories literally trillions of bits of information and at the touch of a key any one of those bits is resurrected to us on a brightly coloured screen, then with another touch of the key it all vanishes into the super memory and is gone, until we resurrect it again.

Knowing that God has given his creation the mind to be able to build such amazing computers should make it very easy to understand how God keeps us all in His eternal memory waiting for the right time to touch the supernatural keyboard of heaven and raise us once again to life. Added to this very few Christians have any trouble believing God created the universe that we live in so raising the dead in comparison is not such a difficult task for such an awesome, powerful and majestic God (Heb. 11:3).

Abraham went by Faith looking to the City whose Builder is God.

The author of Hebrews tells us by faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place he was to receive as an inheritance and that he went by faith not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise and by faith obeyed when he was called again to go out to the place that he was to receive as an inheritance. Still not knowing where he was going he went out by faith looking forward the city that has foundations whose designer and builder is God.

Even Sarah since she considered God faithful who had promised by faith received power to conceive even when she was past the age (ninety years old) and Abraham's body was as good as dead, but by faith offspring multiplied as the stars of the sky and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. These all died in faith not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. (Heb. 11:8-13).

This is a perfect example of the attitude and faith those dwelling on earth should have while patiently waiting for the glorious return of their King the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Promise to Abraham is Continuous.

Abraham's and Sarah gave birth to Isaac, Isaac and Rebekah gave birth to Jacob who was renamed Israel, Jacob, Rachael, Billah, Leah and Zilpah had twelve sons who all went into Egypt for four-hundred and thirty years (Exod. 12:40) and then they came out as a nation whose offspring was as the stars of heaven and the sand by the seashore.

(Gen. 13:16) (Gen. 15:5) (Gen. 22:15-17) (Heb. 11:12-13).

King Saul, King David, King Solomon and many other kings came out of Israel fulfilling God's word to Sarah that kings and nations would come out of her (Gen. 17:15-16) and God's promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, but the promise to Abraham was only partially fulfilled in Isaac, David, Solomon etc., since the Lord Jesus Christ came from the bloodline of Abraham and Sarah and because he is the promised seed of Abraham the promise is continuing until it is fulfilled in Christ when he returns in spectacular and awesome power and glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy city Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish.

The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Faith is counted as Righteousness.

Abraham who had received the promise that through his only son Isaac his offspring would be named, when he was tested by faith offered Isaac up believing that God was able to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (Heb. 11:17-19).

Abraham though he was a good man was still a human descended from Adam and therefore had dwelling within him sinful aberrations and dysfunctions that are common to us all this is why it was not because of works that God counted him righteous but because of his great faith and so it is with all who are in Christ it is their faith that is counted by God as their righteousness and not their works of the flesh. This is the reason that righteousness that leads to eternal life is spoken of as a pure and free gift.

Abraham was fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised

Romans 4:20-25 ----- ²⁰No distrust made him (Abraham) waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." ²³But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord ²⁵who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Justification: in this context means being declared innocent, acquitted and set free because of faith in Christ.

The words:-

- Abraham was fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised (v21).

Are sometimes used to support the theory if we have enough faith whatever we desire will come into being, but Abraham's faith was in what God had clearly promised he was going to do and from this promise came the Christ. Paul in this chapter is using the faith of Abraham to shine a spotlight on the truth that righteous that leads to eternal life does not come by self-effort or adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days or by keeping religious customs and traditions, but by faith alone.

Paul is highlighting the truth that it is by faith and not works that God counts a person righteous. This is why faithful Christians say they are saved by grace and not by works and why not one of us can boast that by our own self-effort we have earned righteous.

It was because of Abraham's great faith that God counted him righteous; he believed God and God counted that faith as his righteousness. Acceptable righteousness before God does not come by self-effort and adhering to religious practises but by faith.

The Practical Application of this for us Today.

Abraham; despite the oldness of his body and the barrenness of Sarah's womb believed God would keep His promise, today our righteous comes by believing God's promise in Christ despite the sinful aberrations and dysfunctions we know we have within us (selfishness, ego, pride, greed, anger, lustful thoughts, jealousies, envy, coyness and such like things).

Paul warns us not to be ill-informed of this righteousness that comes from God and begin to go about trying to establish our own righteousness (by self-effort and religious works etc.) rather than submitting to God's righteousness which comes through faith in Christ who is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (Rom. 10:3-10).

This means that righteousness that leads to salvation and eternal life has nothing to do with the law, self-effort, good works or strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days or keeping religious customs and traditions rather our faith is our righteousness, it is like a royal robe that God has clothed us in, not because we are deserving of it or done anything to earn it, but because of our faith in His Son.

FOOTNOTE.

Some may ask as the Jews did at the end of chapter three: -

- If salvation is a free gift and has nothing to do with the law, why not do away with it and do as we please? (Rom. 3:31).

Paul answers this question in Romans chapter six where he asks a similar question: -

- What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound (Rom. 6:1).

For further information see: -

- Romans chapter 6 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Commonwealth of Israel.

To understand God's eternal promises made thousands of years ago it is important to know that the promised seed of the woman in (Genesis 3:14-15), the promised seed of Abraham and the promised seed of David is Christ and that all the eternal promises God made to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ and are therefore no longer limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ. This is because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew).

Jews and Gentiles become One New Nation in Christ.

The Apostle Paul said: -

- Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS of PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near

by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles).

In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God because in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

The practical application of what this means to you: -

If you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to you. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

End