

Coach House Church BEACONS

BELONGING

11TH NOVEMBER 2021

Let me tell you a story about a father that had two sons. One of them was an obedient son when his father was present - but disobedient when he was not there; and the other son was impulsive and short sighted when it came to decisions. One day the impulsive son asked his father for his inheritance in advance, packed up and off he went into the big wide world.

His father missed him very much and sat waiting for him at the opening of his tent. Every evening he was there, the father was sat watching the road; waiting for his son to return. The father knew that his son would return when he realised where he belonged . His patience payed off; one day the impulsive son returned to his father's house, he had returned to where he belonged.

A long way back in history, God made a covenant with Abraham , his descendants were to receive the land of Canaan as their inheritance.and they did . God kept his promise , he provided for them until they were a big enough as a people to give them their land.

God's faithfulness did not stop there .The Lord also provided for the strangers and foreigners that would choose to live among his people and close to Himself. Let's read from Ezekiel 47:13-14

"This is what the Sovereign Lord says: "These are the boundaries of the land that you will divide among the twelve tribes of Israel as their inheritance, with two portions for Joseph. You are to divide it equally among them. Because I swore with uplifted hand to give it to your ancestors, this land will become your inheritance." and from verse 21-23 It says the following:

"You are to distribute this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. You are to allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the foreigners residing among you and who have children. You are to consider them as native-born Israelites; along with you they are to be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. In whatever tribe a foreigner resides, there you are to give them their inheritance," declares the Sovereign Lord."

If we look at the book of Ezekiel as a whole, we know that the main theme going through it, it's social justice and a vision for the future. We can look at it from the point of view of the prophet at the time and the physical division of the land, and the justice administered in the world at the time, and also, we can look at it as a prophesy regarding the end time when the new Jerusalem would be revealed and every person would get payment for what they achieved in this life.

From the passage we read from Ezekiel, we can see clearly that the Lord made provisions for everyone - He did not exclude people on the basis of their nationality when it came to the division of the land. Whoever choose the Lord had a part in the promised land. He not only accepted them but also made provisions for them. If you had land in those days, it meant you could provide food for your family and also you could prosper.

Paul, in the New Testament tells us that we - as non Jews - have been grafted into the Lord's family; adopted by God as sons and daughters and made the same as Abraham's descendants when it come to the inheritance.

Romans 11:17

"If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root," . This passage in Romans does talk about a completely different issue but however, I mentioned it here as it uses the same imagery.

Ephesians 3:6

"This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus."

I suppose what I'm trying to tell you in this beacon is the fact that the Lord has provided for whole human race. In the Old Testament we can see it from the way he instructed his people to live and relate to one another and to foreigners living

alongside them which foreshadows his salvation plan; and in the New Testament we can see the accomplishment of this amazing plan to which the disciples are witnessing. Jesus' life, death and resurrection. His resurrection made it possible for everyone that believes in it, to belong to God's family.



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