

John 17:20-23, 26 “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. *As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one.*”

I in them and you in me, that they may *become completely one*, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that *the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.*”

I. The Creation. Gen. 1:26-27

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion”...So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

II. BABEL. Gen. 11:8-9.

“The LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.”

III. Israel's Calling

Gen. 12:2-3 “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that *you will be a blessing*... in you *all* the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Is. 49:6 “The Lord says, ‘It is too light a thing that you should be my servant. I will give you as a *light to the nations*, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.’”

Is. 55:1, 4-5, 8-9. “Ho, *everyone* who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! See, I made him [David] a witness *to the peoples* [lit. “the nations] ... you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

IV. The Ministry of Jesus

Eph. 2:13 –17. “ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups [Jews and Gentiles] *into one* and has *broken down the dividing wall*, that is, the hostility between us.

He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that *he might create in himself one new humanity* in place of the two, thus making peace, and might *reconcile* both groups to God *in one body* through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near...”

Gal. 3:27-28. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is *no longer* Jew or Greek, there is *no longer* slave or free, there is *no longer* male and female; for *all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

Jn 17:23 “...they may be one, as we are one.”

Rev. 5:9 “[The Redeemed] sing a new song: ‘You are worthy...for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints *from every tribe and language and people and nation*’”

Rev. 7:9-10 “I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, *from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,* standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white [clothed with Christ!].... They cried out in a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

Rev. 21:24, 26 “*The nations will walk by its light (the glory of God) and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.*”

V. Early Church.

Acts 2: Day of Pentecost. Babel reversed. (people are still babbling)

Acts 10: Peter FINALLY gets the vision

Acts 15: The difficult council to resolve cultural issues

Gal. 2:11-14. Peter rebuked for racism!

Three Challenges

1. Receive Healing

2. Let Go of the Western Addiction to Comfort and Convenience

3. Be a Bridge

Acts 2:44-46 “All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts