

Covenant & Kingdom
Week 17 - The Mystery Revealed and Rejected
Ephesians 2:11-3:6

- God's plan has always been the establishment of His kingdom in creation through Christ
 - Doesn't have different plans for different people groups
 - Doesn't adjust or change His plans based on human behavior
 - The one plan is revealed progressively throughout history as a mystery
 - The Old Covenant and its institutions were a means to God's ultimate end, not the end itself - it was the means of bringing the Messiah into the world
- God's promise from the beginning was to bless all the nations through Abraham's offspring
 - The Jews' Messianic expectation became a large scale kingdom of Israel - OC order continuing in perpetuity
- Jesus came as the full revelation and fulfillment of the mystery
 - His mission was particularly directed at the Jews (Mt. 15:22-24, Jn. 4:21-23)
 - The Jews were the first to receive the revelation of the New Covenant Kingdom
- All the types of the OC were fulfilled in Christ, including the original promises made to Abraham
 - **Land** - Christ and His people inherit the earth
 - **Kings** - Christ is the King of kings who has made His people a royal priesthood
 - **Offspring** - Christ makes the innumerable elect adopted offspring of God and fills the world with a righteous seed
- The Jews missed the fuller meaning of Abraham - God's true people were Abraham's offspring of his faith, not his flesh - Gal. 3:7-9
 - The way of being reconciled to God has always been **New Covenant** membership through **faith**
 - Natural descendents of Abraham were OC members; spiritual descendents are in NC
 - The Jews were always called to imitate Abraham's faith, yet they found pride and false security in their ethnic lineage
- The NC church is the natural successor to God's OC people - Rom. 11:11-23
 - Jewishness was essential to bring the blessing into the world, but after Christ came, it had served its purpose
 - Circumcision was the inflection point of this controversy - Gal. 5:2-6
 - "True Israel" was always those who believed the promises by faith
- A huge number of Jews stumbled over this Gentile inclusion
 - Prized outward Jewish identity over what it truly meant to be a Jew
 - Ultimately, Jewish rejection of their own birthright led to the opportunity for Gentiles to enter the Covenant, and led to their own judgment