

Our Spiritual Blessings in Christ
Part 4 – Living in the Fullness of Times
Ephesians 1:8b-10

Introduction:

- A. Who is the most influential person in history?
 - 1. There are many top 10 lists.
 - 2. In every list, J_____ is listed.
- B. Eph 1:10 describes the time when Jesus came to unveil God's plan to "restore" all things as the f_____ of times.
 - 1. Jesus was entrusted with the r_____ of carrying out the plan of salvation.
 - a. The Greek word used (translated as dispensation, administration, or put into effect) literally means, house m_____
 - 1) It refers to a person entrusted by the o_____ to manage all of the owner's household matters.
 - 2) Jesus was entrusted by the Father to carry out His plan of s_____
 - b. Jesus f_____ the Old Covenant and put into effect the New Covenant.
 - 2. We are living in the New Covenant time period, the fullness of times.
- C. There are two reasons why we should praise God that we live in the fullness of the times.

We have personally experienced God's final revelation (9)

- A. The plan of salvation was slowly revealed over time (called p_____ revelation).
 - 1. Adam and Eve (Gen 3:15) – the serpent would be bruised on the head by a descendant of Eve but would be b_____ on the heel.
 - 2. Moses (Deut 18:18) – the Savior would be p_____ who would speak God's word without flaw.
 - 3. Hebrew people
 - a. Psalm 2 – The Savior would be a k_____ of Israel
 - b. Is 7:14 – The Savior would be born of a v_____ and be God with us.
 - c. Is 9:9,7 - The Savior would be the Mighty G_____ and a descendant of David who would reign forever.

- B. Christ is the f_____ revelation.
1. Heb 1:1-3 states – God spoke in many different ways to the people of Israel but finally spoke everything in His Son, who is the e_____ representation of God’s being.
 2. The Gentiles (i.e. non-Jewish people) received the revelation through the preaching of the g_____.
 - a. Almost all of Paul’s readers were Gentiles (Eph 3:1)
 - b. It was only by God’s k_____ intention (literally, good pleasure) that they heard about Jesus and received Him.
- C. What can we praise God for?
1. For living in the New Covenant time period (what would you have been like if you lived among at the time of Moses?)
 2. For being born where the g_____ is preached.
 3. For hearing the gospel and r_____ Christ
 - a. It is only by His g_____ that we are saved (Eph 2:8,9)
 - b. God caused us to be b_____ again (1Pet 1:3)

We will personally experience God’s future restoration (10)

- A. This future restoration
1. Is the summing up of all t_____ in Christ (KJV – gather together in one all things in Christ; NIV - bring unity to all things under Christ; NLT – bring everything together under the authority of Christ)
 2. Includes everything in the h_____ and on earth
- B. What happen to God’s creation after He said that it was very good (Gen 1:31)? - Adam and Eve s_____
1. It affected every person’s entire b_____ (we are born into sin)
 2. It affected every person’s e_____ (the heavens and the earth) – e.g. thorns and thistles
 3. It affected birthing children – l_____ pains.
- C. Rom 8:22,23 states that the entire creation suffers and is waiting for the time when God reveals the sons of God, which will occur when Jesus r_____
1. He will r_____ our earthly bodies (Rom 8:23)
 - a. He p_____ our bodies.
 - b. He f_____ our bodies from all the affects of sin.

2. The process of restoring all things to harmony
 - a. The 1000 year r_____ of Christ – believers will rule the nations of unbelievers (Rev 5:9,10; 20:6)
 - b. Satan will be bound to prevent him from deceiving the world until the 1000 years expire. He then is released.
 - 1) The unbelieving world will be deceived and come to war against C_____
 - 2) All unbelievers will be consumed by f_____
 - c. God will destroy the old heaven and earth and make a n_____ heaven and earth.
 - 1) There will be no p_____ of sin.
 - 2) There will be perfect harmony with G_____, with one another, and with our e_____.