

## Waiting For The Promise Of The Father.

Or

## Not Departing From Jerusalem.

Part 1, Acts 1:4 and Galatians 4:1-7.

### I. The scope of the promise.

#### A. It involved help and a Helper in an impossible situation.

1. The Lord Jesus was leaving, and the disciples were going to be left behind.
2. They were called to be witnesses of the Lord and His kingdom, and they were not prepared for the task.
3. A work had to be done in them and a work had to be done through them.

#### Application:

No matter what situation you are facing in your life, this promise is good for you too.

Help and a Helper have been promised to you too. Luke 11:9-13 and Hebrews 4:16.

Two things have to be done in your situation as well; a work in you and a work through you. You too are told these two things: “Wait for the promise of the father, and do not depart from Jerusalem.”

#### B. The significance of Jerusalem.

1. The earthly city of Jerusalem was the heart and soul of the OT administration of the Kingdom of God. It was the dwelling place of God. It was in type the foreshadowing of a better city and a better country. Here the disciples were told to wait at the close of the OT dispensation.
2. That better country is the heavenly country Abraham saw by faith in Hebrews 11:16 That better city is what the NT calls “New Jerusalem, Jerusalem above, or the heavenly Jerusalem.” It is the dwelling place of God in truth; not in type. It is where the Lord Jesus sits enthroned and where we go up to worship “in

the

Spirit.” It is where we have fellowship with the Lord, sitting at His table.

#### Application:

For us the significance of “not departing from Jerusalem” is not to depart from New Jerusalem; from the throne of grace, and from the Lord’s presence. The close of the old dispensation was also the opening of the New dispensation. As such we find the disciples not only in earthly Jerusalem, but simultaneously in New Jerusalem, for, “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication...” (before the throne of God) Acts 1:14.

### II. Biblical imagery pertaining to waiting in (New) Jerusalem.

The Lord gives us many earthly images to convey spiritual truth. (Father and child; Shepherd and sheep; King and subjects etc.)

When it comes to waiting in New Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, and fellowshiping with Him, the NT pictures that as what happens around the Lord’s table, and what happens around the Lord’s throne.

- A. The table speaks to us about nearness; about belonging; about having a place

and being a part of the family.

B. The throne speaks to us of distance and separateness. The Lord is so far above and beyond us in His wisdom and power and holiness etc.

Both images enter into our waiting for the promise of the Father in New Jerusalem.

### III. Waiting at the Lord's table.

Part 1: As an emancipated son. Galatians 4:1-7.

A. The heir as a child. Vss. 1-3.

1. As the heir he is master and owner of all his father's realm
2. As a child he is under tutors and governors, or guardians and stewards, until the time of emancipation; that is until he shall be fully accounted as a man, and be given a seat at the table with other men.
3. So the OT church has been as a child under bondage to the elementary things of the faith, that is the typical foreshadowings of OT ceremonies. The OT church could not enter into full fellowship as an emancipated son at the Father's table.

B. The emancipation. Vss. 4-7.

1. The Lord Jesus came and fulfilled all that the tutors and guardians tried to teach and point us to. He sent them all home.
2. He set us free, and provided us with the emancipation; the adoption as full sons at the Father's table.
3. The Father has sent forth the Spirit of sonship into our hearts crying Abba, Father.
4. We are seated at the Father's table, together with our older brother, the Lord Jesus Christ, as heirs of God. Ephesians 1:3

#### Implications and Applications

1. Remember who you are while waiting in Jerusalem at the Father's table.  
You are an emancipated son and heir of God together with Christ.  
You are given a voice at the Lord's table, and your voice counts!
2. Remember what is important as an heir of God's Kingdom together with Christ.  
It is the progress of the Kingdom rather than our own pleasures and prosperity.  
Remember in this context the opening of the Lord's prayer.
3. It is the heir who has accepted his position of privilege and responsibility together with  
Christ who may know that whatever he asks with regards to the Lord's kingdom, it will be done for him. 1 John 3:22 and 5:14,15.
4. It is like King Ahasuerus and Queen Esther. As the King sat at the table with the queen he said: "What do you wish, Queen Esther, and what is your request; it shall be given to you -- up to half the kingdom." Ester 5:3 and 7:2. That is the position you are in at the Lord's table as an heir. How will you answer? Remember Solomon's answer? It wasn't about Solomon, but about administering the Lord's kingdom wisely.
5. Being seated with Christ as an emancipated son at the Lord's table, you loose yourself;  
you forget about yourself; it's all about doing right by the Lord's people and Kingdom.

“Seeking first the kingdom of god and His righteousness...” Matthew 6:33.