

Romans 15:7-12

It's All Part of the Plan II



Vs. 8

- Christ – a servant of the Jews
- A covenant/promise fulfilled – confirmation that God keeps His word
- The Divine ambition accomplished



Paul's calling was to evangelize the people ***OUTSIDE*** the borders of Israel. He realized that God had called/chosen/elected Israel to be the earthly vehicle through which He could reach out to the world!

[Ex. 19:5,6 – a kingdom of priests]

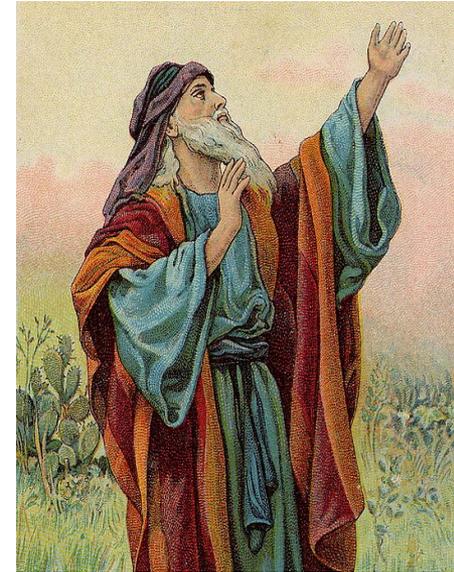
[Rev. 1:6- another/the same kingdom of priests]



Paul was key in changing the understanding, the hearts, and the ***direction*** of the 12 original apostles!

[Acts 15:5-18]

- God also used great miracles – **Ex.9:13-16**; Josh. 4:24; **Josh. 2:11**; Josh. 9:9,10; etc... etc...
- Prophets/preachers went to foreign lands or received foreigners – Joseph, Jonah, Elijah
- God had always held out His hands to foreigners [**Isa. 56:3,6-8**]



For almost 1900 years before Christ, God's home base was in Israel but His target was ***ALL*** of humanity!

But Israel had such a bunker mentality. They were self-focused. When they were doing poorly, spiritually (which was most of the time) they couldn't care less!



[Matt. 21:33-43; 22:1-10]

Vs. 12

“Root of Jesse” – (Jesse was David’s father)

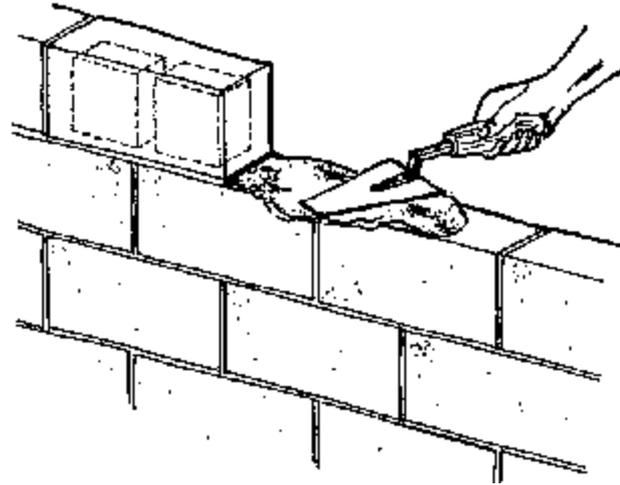
Abraham was the primary lineage. Then Judah, and later, Jesse (David), were the sub-lineages within Abraham.

The goal of all this was, of course, Jesus, born to be a purposeful redeemer sent by the Creator/God (**John 3:16**), to ultimately win and rule the hearts and minds of a **patchwork of the races**. Remember the song

children’s Sunday School song – “**Jesus loves the Little Children**”? The author got it very right! “**Red and yellow, black, and white, they are precious in His sight...!**”



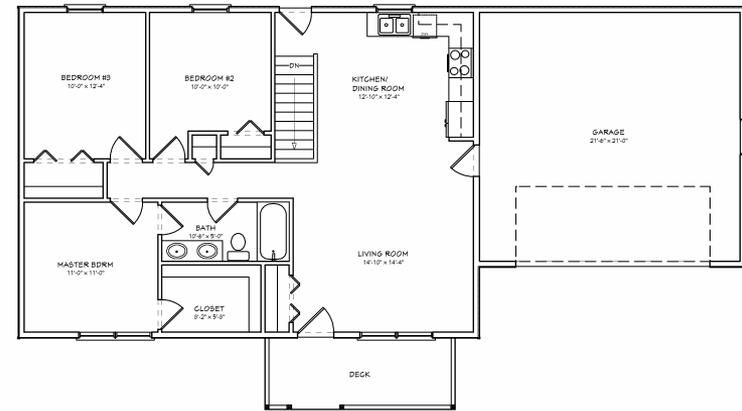
During His 3-plus year ministry Jesus stayed in Israel and won Jewish believers and followers to Himself. He remained focused on Jewish people, branching out only occasionally. He was focused on building the Jewish foundation of His church. But upon that foundation there still remained walls to be built, and a roof.



The super structure of the church – that part which is build above the foundation – was being comprised of the people of the nations of the world – **the gentiles**. Even a well-built foundation without a building upon it is useless as it stands. Conversely, even a magnificent building without a foundation is unstable and will not last. The two racial parts of the church *needed each other* to form the living temple of God! They completed each other – because both were in the Divine blueprint!

[Gal 5:14,15]

[Eph. 2:14-22]!



Unity is not optional for the true follower of Christ! It is a New Testament/apostolic mandate based upon the command of Christ to **LOVE EACH OTHER!** To abandon this mandate in favor of your own agenda is to literally abandon Christ and become a destructive force aligned with Satan *against* the Kingdom of God and His great purposes!

