

The Vision of God for the Nations of the World

Ephesians 2:11 – 3:21

August 12, 2007

Key Questions:

How will God take the world as we know it and cause this vision to come about?

How did God take an utterly sinful humanity and drive them toward this vision?

Six Steps or Stages:

1. When all of humanity was dead in their trespasses and sins, God chose for himself a people out of all the peoples of the earth, not because of who they were, but because of his gracious and sovereign choice.

Six Steps or Stages:

2. God sent Jesus Christ into the world to live a righteous life and die a real death and be raised from the dead in order to break down the dividing wall of hostility between Jews and Gentiles, allow for the free-flow of the gospel to all nations, and to reconcile Jews and gentiles to God.

Six Steps or Stages:

3. God the Father, through the Holy Spirit, revealed his actions and purposes to the apostles and prophets and thereby fixed the truth and meaning of the gospel in writing.

Six Steps or Stages:

4. Jesus Christ sent his disciples into the world to spread the good news of the mercy of God in Christ so that some from every tribe and tongue and nation would believe.

Six Steps or Stages:

5. The vision of God in breaking down the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles and winning to himself some from every nation under the sun is to build them into a holy temple which will be a dwelling place for God!

Six Steps or Stages:

6. The ultimate end of all of this is the display of the manifold wisdom of God through this temple called the church, not only here on earth but also to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Some Closing Thoughts:

1. Pray with me that God will give us patient hearts to stay with him as he teaches us things that are for our good and his glory.
2. God includes passages like this in the Bible to confront us with his world for his own glory.
3. One of the ultimate purposes of Ephesians 2:11-3:13 is to humble us so that we won't become proud about our salvation.