



**Dear Precious Friend,**

*September, 2018*

## **The Fullness of Israel and the Gentiles**

For those who have eyes to see, everything is connected in God's economy. This is especially true for Jews and Gentiles, who are eternally connected for the purpose of bringing synergy and great blessing.

Now if the fall of them (*Israel*) be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness? *Romans 11:12*

For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles is come in. *Romans 11:25*

There is a fullness of Israel and there is a fullness of the Gentiles and when these two converge and align in the right way, it leads to resurrection life for the world.

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles is come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: *Romans 11:25-26*

The fullness of the Gentiles leads to the salvation of Israel, and the fullness of Israel brings life from the dead. One fullness synergizes with the other fullness and leads to an exponential explosion of resurrection life for the whole world!

For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? *Romans 11:15*

What does this fullness mean? Is it a number? Is it qualitative, quantitative or both? Or is it something else?

The NT Greek word for fullness (*pleroma*) and its verb form has to do with filling or being full, completing or being complete. It is the state of total fullness or abundance, particularly relating to the nature of God. The word is common in the New Testament and is used in a variety of contexts.

In Mathew 1:22 it is translated to fulfill (prophecy). In Mathew 13:48 it is used to describe a full net of fish. In Acts 2:2, the sound of the rushing wind “filled” the house and in Acts 2:28, Peter quotes David as being “full” of gladness. In non-biblical usage, *pleroma* is used of a “full” ship or even a “fully manned” ship.

Paul uses *pleroma* in Colossians 1:9 to speak of being “filled” with the knowledge of God’s will; in Colossians 1:25 to say that he is “fully” carrying out his ministry; in Colossians 2:10 to tell the believers they are “complete” in Christ; and in Colossians 4:17 to encourage someone to “complete” his ministry. In Colossians Paul uses the word two times in reference to the deity of Christ. Colossians 1:19, “For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him” and Colossians 2:9, “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.” In Ephesians 1:23 and 3:19, Paul uses the word to refer to His fullness in us, His Body.

It is the word used by Paul pointing to the ultimate goal for the believer:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness (pleroma) of Christ. *Ephesians 4:13*

Some Bible versions translate the phrase, the fullness of the Gentiles, as *the full number of the Gentiles*. This is clearly incorrect and inconsistent for if Paul had meant to say *full number* he could have used the word, arithmos, as in Revelation 7:4. Paul's consistent use of pleroma is never translated anywhere else as full number, but only as fullness and completion. Thus *the fullness of the Gentiles* refers to the yielding of Gentile believers to God's will and calling as it relates to the fullness of the nature of God. Gentiles must mature in having Him fully formed in them. This maturity in the Messiah will bring about the salvation of Israel. Then Israel's fullness (*the pleroma of the nature of God in her*) will cause resurrection life to come to the whole world.

God's deepest desire has always been to see His Son fully formed in a body, thus restoring His image in a people who had fallen short of His glory. The salvation and fullness of Israel which is contingent on the fullness of the Gentiles clearly leads to resurrection life from the dead. Resurrection life is connected to our being restored to the image of the last Adam, the heavenly Messiah.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam, a quickening spirit. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. *I Corinthians 15:22-49*

God's ultimate purpose is for Jews and Gentiles to be one in Him, so that together we will bear His heavenly image throughout all ages, world without end.

### **Good News:**

I just completed a few weeks of touring Israel with a Greek lady who has assisted me in building up the bridge between Israel and Greece. It was a rich journey which included a trip to the desert, the north and plenty of quality time in Jerusalem. This was also a scouting trip for bringing other teams to the land in the future. We spent an exceptional time with the Messianic Body of believers in the land for Yom Kippur, at prayer watches, shabbat dinners with friends, visits with my pastors and deepening of relationships with the Messianic body in the land. A man got saved, another was strengthened in his faith through prayer, and an Israeli tour guide I spoke to desires to hear more about Yeshua and the Messianic body and to visit Greece. Praise God for all His wonderful blessings!

The Lord bless you my dear friend and keep you and cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you Shalom.

In His Great Love,

**Greta**



