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## Abounding in Hope – Easter 2023

Romans, Part LXIV

Romans 15:4-13

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### I. The Glories to Follow (1 Pet 1:10-12)

The Apostle Peter and our Lord Jesus declare that the glories that would follow Jesus' death were proclaimed by the OT prophets:

- 1 Pet 1:10-11 - <sup>10</sup>*Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, <sup>11</sup>searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. (1 Pet 1:10-12)*
- Lk 24:46f - <sup>46</sup>... *"Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*

### II. How the Glories to Follow Should Shape our Conduct Now

Paul has been urging both the Gentile and Jewish Christians at Rome to \_\_\_\_\_ *one another* (14:1; 15:7). So why should they *receive one another* despite their dietary and cultural differences? Quite simply because the Scriptures which had been given to the Jews promised that one day the \_\_\_\_\_ would be fellow heirs with the Jews of God's promises (Romans 15:4-13):

<sup>4</sup>*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. <sup>5</sup>Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, <sup>9</sup>and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name." [Ps 18:49] <sup>10</sup>And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" [Dt 32:43] <sup>11</sup>And again: "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" [Ps 117:1] <sup>12</sup>And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope." [Is 11:10] <sup>13</sup>Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Paul urges both *Jewish* and *Gentile* Christians in the Roman Church to *receive one another* (7). Why? Because the Scriptures reveal that God's lavish mercy is for both *Jew* and *Gentile*, for *all nations*. The hope proclaimed by the prophets is that Christ would cause His Name to be exalted in *all the earth*. Eventually, all *nations* will bow before Him, worship Him, and give thanks to Him.

### III. Isaiah's Visions of the Glories to Follow

#### A. The Latter Days (Is 2:1-4 cf. Heb 1:1-4; 12:22)

<sup>1</sup>*The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. <sup>3</sup>Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. (Is 2:1-4)*

Isaiah announces that the *latter-day glory of Mount* \_\_\_\_\_ would be incredible. And the NT insists that this promise is already being fulfilled. The "*last days*" prophesied by

Isaiah have been *inaugurated* (Heb 1:2), and we who believe in Christ “*have come to Mount \_\_\_\_\_ and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem*” (Heb 12:22).

#### B. The Increase of His Government (Is 9:6-7 cf. 42:4; Lk 1:31-33)

<sup>6</sup>For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Is 9:6-7)

Isaiah celebrates the rule of the coming Messiah which began with His first advent. We are not waiting for Jesus to rule as king; He is the King of kings and Lord of lords, *the ruler over the kings of the earth* (Rev 1:5). As the angel declared to Mary, “*And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end*” (Lk 1:31-33).

#### C. The Gentiles Shall Seek Him (Is 11:1-10)

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. [The Messiah will be a Son of David] <sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. [Sevenfold Spirit will rest on Him – cf. Rev 1:4] <sup>3</sup>His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; <sup>4</sup>But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. [He loves righteousness and defends the righteous, judges the wicked] <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. [He shall rule righteously] <sup>6</sup>“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, [These are images of wicked men whom He converts into righteous men who love peace.] For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>“And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious.”

So what are the *glories to follow*? *Justice, righteousness, the knowledge of the Lord, peace, conversion of wicked men into righteous men, a universal knowledge of the Lord among all the nations.* As Christ rules from the right hand of the Father, these things will be gradually realized.

### IV. Further Prophetic Visions of the Glories to Follow

The Father promised the nations to Jesus: “*Ask of Me and I will give you the \_\_\_\_\_ as your inheritance and the ends of the earth as your possession*” (Ps 2:8). This promise is repeated again and again in the prophets (e.g., Jer 16:19-21; Dan 7:13-14; Mic 5:4-5; Hab 2:14; Zech 9:9-10; Mal 1:11).

### V. Conclusion (Rev 7:9-12)

<sup>9</sup>After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” <sup>11</sup>All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.” (Revelation 7:9–12)