

## PAUL AND THE MISSION OF THE SERVANT OF THE LORD

### INTRODUCTION

1. Recent survey of Acts 1-15. Apostles obeyed Lk 25:46-48.
2. A 15 is historical pivot pt in Acts. Gospel goes to all nations - missionary journeys of Paul - churches, courts, prison -> Rome.
3. Connect Paul's ministry to Isaiah's prophecy re: Servant of YHWH.

#### 1st: Paul: the Pivot of Redemptive History

1. Paul's sense of his own apostolic stewardship - declaring fulfillment of much wh/ constituted the eschatological hope of an OT believer.
2. cf. 1C 10:11 we are those *upon whom the ends of the ages have come*. In 2C 3, he compares his ministry w/ that of Moses!
3. Paul's *mystery*: what was previously not revealed [OT] now revealed [NT]
  - i. R 16:25-27 *mystery - now manifest* = pivot in redemptive history
  - ii. Eph 3:1-12 see same themes related to making the mystery known
4. We participate in the pivotal event of the gospel of the death & res of Jesus

#### 2nd: Paul and the Servant of the Lord

1. Paul's sermon in A 13 - Davidic Covenant - Jesus the Messiah.
2. Decisive rejection by Jewish hearers -> pivot to Gentile hearers A 13:44-48
  - i. v45 - despite warning of Hab 1:5, *contradict & blaspheme*
  - ii. v46 - Paul & Barn recognize pivot - to Jew 1st & also Grk [R 1:16].
  - iii. why? v47 cites Isa 49:6 = Paul's mission wh/ is mission of the Servant. Paul is identified w/ the Servant & advances His mission.

#### 3rd: The Servant of the Lord

1. Isa 40-55 Israel called to be YHWH's Servant but failed. YHWH to send His Servant: identity - individual & corporate; mission to Israel & nations
2. Isa 42:1-9 spoken by Father at Jesus' baptism - the Servant is identified. \_
3. Isa 49:1-6 Paul cites v6 in A 13. Servant complains: ministry to Israel is for nothg but is assured that He will be a light for the preserved ones of Israel & of the nations - extends boundary of "Israel" to end of earth.
4. Servant is called to suffer [50:4-11] & esp'ly Isa 53 [Lk 22:37 & A 8]

5. Profile of Servant ends w/ suffering wh/ issues into resurrection victory.

#### 4th: Jesus is The Servant of the Lord

1. We have already seen that Jesus is Isaiah's Servant of YHWH.
2. Paul understood the 2-stage nature of Servant's mission: 1st in His life, death & res; 2nd thru His Spirit - international church until 2nd coming.
3. Paul presents Jesus as Servant - R 15:4-13.
  - i. Unified worship of converts from Judaism & paganism in NCov
  - ii. v8 Jesus - servant to the circumcision [Jews] & v9 to gentiles
  - iii. v9 = cites Ps 18:49; v10 = Dt 32:43; v12 = Isa 11:10. Paul preaches Christ from Pss, Law & Prophets [as directed in Lk 24:44]
  - iv. v13 - concerns *hope* [2x] in promises cited in v9-12 wh/ we joyfully believe in power of HS - that is, the power of resurrected Jesus.
4. Jesus is the Servant whose resurrection victory is preached to ends of earth

#### 5th: Paul and the Mission of the Servant of the Lord

1. A 13:46-48 Paul also understands that he is to preach *to the end of earth* as apostle of the Servant of YHWH - Jesus & Israel of God.
2. Jesus accomplished the mission of the Servant in death & resurrection but the mission to extend salvation to end of earth is given to apostles.
3. The redemption of Israel of God has begun - Jesus builds His church.
4. All according to promises of OT. [Chris Wright, *Mission of God*, 521]. The salvation of God's Israel is the salvation of the world.
5. A 7 & 13 - two overviews of redemptive history - locate church in history.
6. Paul before Jewish Kg Agrippa - A 26:22-23

#### 6th: The NCov Church is the Israel of God

1. Nations brought into "Israel" to form eschatological Israel - Isa 19:19-25
2. In Christ, we are one new man [humanity] - Ab's seed - remnant from OCov Israel & from Gentile paganism - 1 olive tree & one Redeemer who has come from Zion & *thus* [in this way] *all Israel shall be saved* [R 11:26].
3. Prophecies & promises of OT are fulfilled in Jesus in whom we are *saved*: forgiven, justif'd, adopted, sanctif'd, res'd into eternal glory. Rv 5:9-14.

4. Let us demonstrate that we are the people of God in Christ Jesus. AMEN |