

FINDING YOUR GOD INTENDED PURPOSE IN LIFE.

“THE PROMISE OF A NEW HEART”

The picture the bible gives of the human heart is not very nice. As it says in Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.” It is incurable. If we were told that we had an incurable disease that would not be good news. Well the bad news is we all have an incurable heart but the good news is that God promises us a new heart if we are willing to accept it. When we speak of the heart, we mean what the bible means, our mind, emotions and will. We could include our conscience and our inner knowledge of right and wrong.

God promises to give to the people of Israel a new heart when Jesus comes back again. Ezekiel 36:26-28 “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.”

This is a figurative way of saying they would be spiritually born again and wholeheartedly converted to God, in other words the same thing that can happen to us now if we put our full trust in Jesus Christ as our saviour. The people of Israel, like us, have a natural deceitful and incurable heart which is hard like stone, unfeeling and insensitive towards God, but fully sensitive toward its desires and self interest. God promises to give them a heart of flesh, a heart soft and sensitive towards God. Try to hammer a nail into a rock and it won't feel a thing but the gentle touch of a hand on your soft flesh you will immediately feel. So it is with those with a new heart, they are intimate and in close a close relationship with God .

The Spirit of God within them moves them to do those things that please God and avoid those things that grieve him. It really is a picture of a Christian walking in the Spirit being constantly full of the Spirit which God expects of all his people. This is future for the Nation of Israel but present now for all those willing to turn to God whether from the nations of the world or of the people of Israel today.

The question for us is “How can we fully realise this in our own experience?” Learning how the nation of Israel gets it in the future can be helpful to us living now. We need to remember the nation of Israel largely rejected Jesus the first time he came, and had him crucified. Not everyone rejected him, the first Christians were all from Israel and then the message spread to all the other nations.

When Christ comes back the second time we read, Revelation 1:7, “Look he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all peoples on earth will mourn because of him.”

The nation of Israel who pierced him (had him crucified) will see him and we read in Zechariah 12: 10, “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.” (who has died)

The Spirit of God will come upon the whole nation and they will realise what their people had done, they had crucified the Son of God their Messiah. They will mourn, weep and grieve bitterly and humble themselves. Then we read in Zechariah 13:1 “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.”

That fountain will be the very blood of Jesus that flowed from his pierced hands and feet. Like the old hymn says, “There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel’s veins and sinners who plunge beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.” Emmanuel, of course, means, “God with us” They had failed to recognize the first time he came, that he was God in human flesh. In Romans 11:26, “All Israel will be saved” That is, all those living on the earth when the Lord comes back. They will be given a new heart to love and serve the Lord.

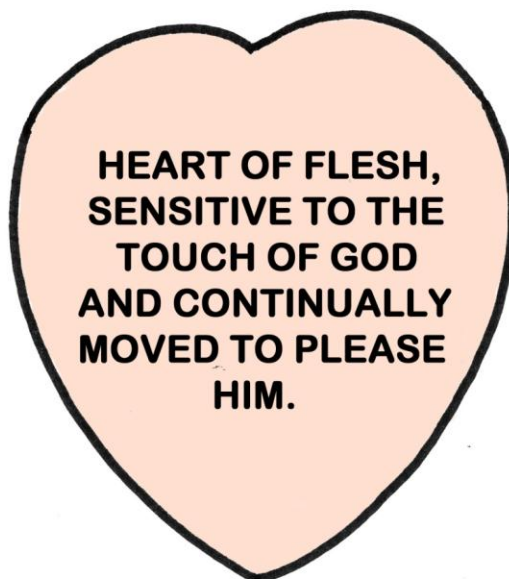
What they are going to experience in the future, we can experience now. Like them we need to humble ourselves and confess it was for our sins that Jesus was pierced on the cross. That only his blood poured out can wash away our sins and as we mourn our failures and look to him we will begin to experience the workings of the new heart, that is sensitive to God and His Spirit and that moves us to want to do the things that please him and avoid the things that grieve him.

But even after we begin to experience the new heart we soon realize that we still have the old human heart that can get in the way and that we can easily slip back into it. We have to learn how to maintain living our lives through our new heart. I plan in our next lecture to look at this.

OLD NATURAL HEART



NEW HEART



WHICH ONE DO YOU CHOOSE?

FRANK HUTCHINSON