

Why “To the Jew First”?

Dr. Mike Stallard, Friends of Israel

Introduction: The Basic Passages

Romans 1:14-17

- Paul says he is a **DEBTOR** (v. 14-15)
- **The GOSPEL** is the power of God (v. 16)
- “Everyone who believes” means _____ (v. 16)
- For the Jew **FIRST** and also for the Greek (v. 16)
- **The just shall live by FAITH** (v. 17)

Romans 2:9-11

- Punishment of evil – of the Jew **FIRST** (v. 9)
- Rewards for good – to the Jew **FIRST** (v. 10)
- There is no **PARTIALITY** with God (v. 11)

Acts 3:26

Debate Over the Meaning of “to or for the Jew first” – what does “first” mean?

Three Views:

- 1) Chronologically – “first in time”
- 2) Priority – “first in priority, status, eminence”
- 3) Both ideas merge together

1. Chronologically – First in Time

Gen 10 to Gen 12 to Exodus – the start of the nation of _____

The **OLD TESTAMENT** comes before **NEW TESTAMENT**

- ROMANS 9:1-5
 1. PAUL’S HEART FOR HIS PEOPLE (V. 1-3)
- COVENANTS – HERITAGE OF THE FATHERS
- PROMISES – In Christ
 2. WHAT PERTAINS TO THE ISRAELITE’S (V.4-5)
 - The _____
 - The _____ of the fathers
 - The _____

Other Evidence of the Israelite’s/Jews Being First Chronologically

- **JESUS** came to Israel first (Matt. 10:6; Rom. 15:7-8)
- Jesus’ ministry began in **Galilee** (Acts 10:37)
- Jesus taught that salvation is of the **Jews** (John 4:22)
- The spread of the gospel began in **Israel** (Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8)
- **Gentiles** were strangers from the promise (Ep. 2:11-13)

The Chosen People (Jews) have inherited a land and are the **ROYAL FAMILY** of the human race.

The emphasis on universal availability in Romans 1:14-17 & 2:9-11 seems to suggest the chronological view.

Priority – First in priority, status, eminence

- Perhaps this idea can be supported conceptually in the Bible
- **The Promises & Covenants** still hold true for Israel (Romans 9:1-5, Gen. 12, Deut.29, 2 Sam. 7, Jer. 31)

- **Romans 11:11-15** – Israel still seems to occupy **Center Stage** in some respects
- **Paul's missionary PRACTICE**
 - 1) Acts 13:46 (SEE PREV. V 42-44)
 - 2) Acts 17:2, 17
 - 3) Acts 18:4, 19
 - 4) Acts 19:8
 - 5) SHOULD WE REPEAT EVERYTHING FORM THE APOSTOLIC AGE?

Both chronologically and priority

- The evidence cited above seems to suggest a belief in **BOTH** views even if the basic passages (Rom.1:16, 2:9-10) are emphasizing **CHRONOLOGY**
- Francis Schaeffer: “Jews should not be **LAST OR IGNORED.**”

Conclusion

1. What does all of this mean for the ministry of a local church in its geographical area?
2. What does all of this mean for the Ministry of a local church globally?
3. What does this mean for missionary budgets?