

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Are the Jews God's Special People?

There are some people who believe that the Jews are God's special people today. They look upon the Jews of the world as having some advantage over other people because they think that God is watching over them and protecting them in some special way. Is this idea true? Can it be advocated BY FAITH? Let us consider what the word of God has to say along this line. The following facts will be helpful:

1. It is true that the children of Israel were chosen by the Lord "to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth." (Deuteronomy 7:6). God through Moses said unto Israel: "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Exodus 19:5-6a). NOTE: This would last only until "the last days," (Acts 2:17; Hebrews 1:2) i.e., until the gospel age which began on Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2 (cf. Hebrews 8:6-8, 13; 9:15-17; 12:24; 10:9-10; etc.).
2. While speaking to the Jews, Peter said: "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:39). NOTE: "all who are afar off" would definitely be the Gentiles (cf. Ephesians 2:13, 17; Acts 10:34-35)!
3. Acts 10:34-35 says: "Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."
4. Acts 15:9 says: "and made no distinction between us [the Jews – CRS] and them [the Gentiles – CRS], purifying their hearts by faith."
5. Romans 1:16 teaches that the gospel "is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

6. In Romans 3:9 Paul said: ". . . For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks [Gentiles – KJV] that they are all under sin."

7. Romans 10:12 says: "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him."

8. Ephesians 2:11-18 teaches that Christ died "that He might reconcile them both [Jew and Gentile; the commonwealth of Israel and uncircumcised Gentiles – GFS] to God in one body through the cross, . . ."

9. In 1 Corinthians 12:13 Paul said: "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, . . ."

10. We learn from Galatians 3:26-29 that all of God's children are "one in Christ Jesus" and that "There is neither Jew nor Greek".

No, the fleshly Jews are not God's chosen and favored people today. ALL WHO OBEY HIM ARE HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE!

- Carrol R. Sutton, via The Instructor, January, 1979
[Slightly edited, Scriptures revised to the NKJV – GFS]

Clippings . . .

WHAT NEEDS CHANGING?

When you look into the mirror and your face appears dirty, it is your face, not the mirror, which needs attention. The Bible is the mirror of the soul. It reveals our imperfections and shows us opportunities to make needed corrections. However, some try to rework the Bible instead of reshaping their lives.

- Unknown

Call to Me and I Will Answer You!

God visited His prophet, Jeremiah, while he was imprisoned, giving him the encouragement of consoling promises. Jerusalem continued under siege by the Babylonians and despair filled the hearts of the inhabitants as they felt all hope dwindling. But the promise to the prophet: God's people will be restored and they will prosper.

The Lord invited Jeremiah to ask Him for answers about what the future would hold: "Thus says the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it, the LORD is His name, 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'" (Jeremiah 33:2-3). In those days, this was the only trusted source of knowledge regarding the future. The Lord made it available to His inspired prophet, which encouraged him to trust His guidance.

Looking at the Lord's inspired message, the Bible, I can have confidence that the Lord desires that I call upon Him in prayer today. And I do not have to wait for such desperate conditions that befell Jerusalem in Jeremiah's day. I have all that I need to know regarding the future, so I do not ask for additional revelation. But I do ask for things defined by God's instructions (cf. James 1:5), and I ask according to His will (1 John 5:14). John affirms, "He hears us." We "ask in faith without any doubting" (James 1:6).

The Lord desires His children to call on Him in prayer today, to be devoted to it in a spirit of thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18). Peter strengthened the encouragement: "casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7). What a wonderful blessing is ours in that we may call upon our Father anytime and anywhere. He hears and answers His faithful servants (Psalms 3:4; 4:3; 18:6; 27:7-8; 28:1-2; 30:8; 34:4, 15-18; 55:17; Matthew 7:7; 1 Peter 3:12)!

- Gary Smalley

* "Some people spend more time developing their wishbone than they do developing their backbone!"

* "If you want to hear about the trouble in the church, ask some ungodly person!"

* "Giving is grace - Not giving is disgrace!"

* "People seldom 'lose their religion' by a blowout - it's usually a slow leak!"

* "Gossip is like mud on the wall - you can wipe it off, but it leaves a stain!"

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR THE GOSPEL

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

REPENT OF PAST SINS

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

CONFESS CHRIST

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

BE BAPTIZED

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)