

The Week of Millenniums



Lesson Seven

The Week of Millenniums



Days Five and Six:
Salvation Comes to the Gentiles

The Jews are God's chosen people,
occupying a special place in his heart.

Deuteronomy 7:6

⁶ For thou *art* an holy people unto
the LORD thy God:
the LORD thy God hath chosen
thee to be a special people unto
himself, above all people that *are*
upon the face of the earth.



The Jews deserve this favor no more or less than any other people, but it was appointed them through God's covenant with Abraham.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8

- ⁷ The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people:
- ⁸ But because the LORD loved you, **and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers**, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

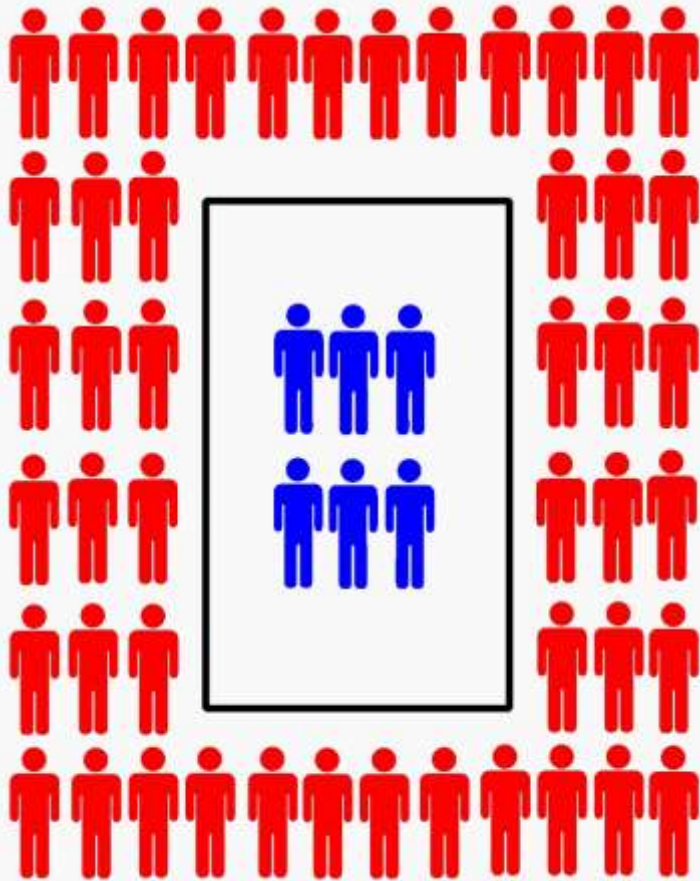


That covenant gave the Jews exclusive access to the things of God.

Romans 9:4

...to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service *of God*, and the promises;

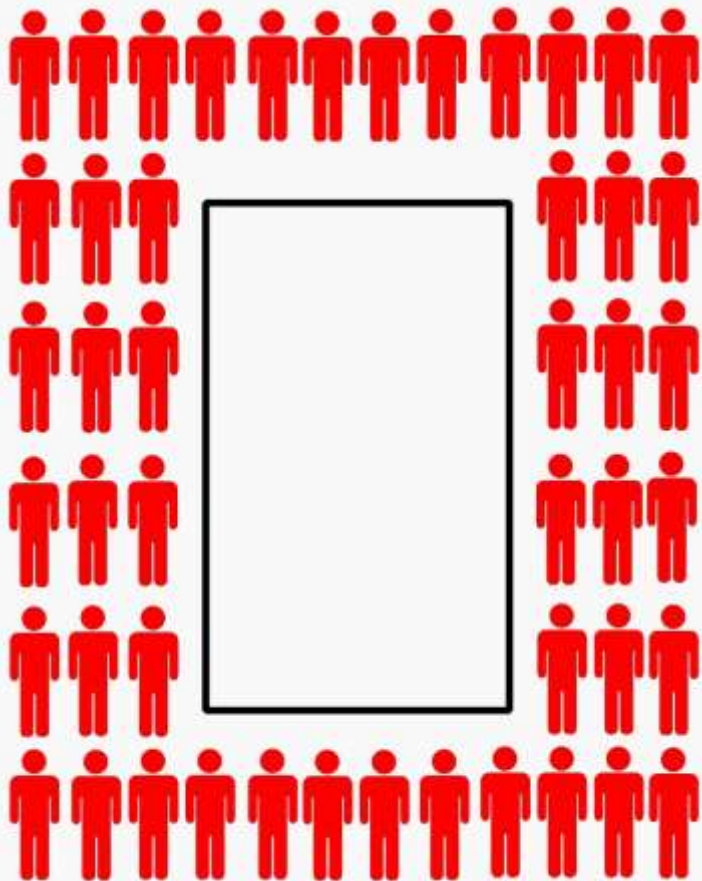




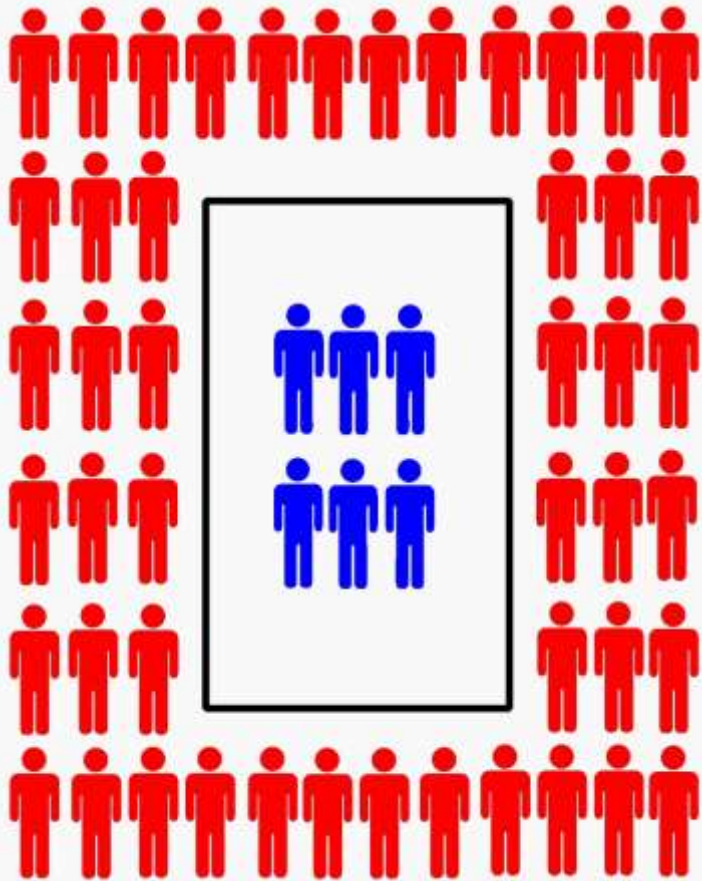
The covenant God made with Abraham reduced the world's population to just two kinds of people:



The JEWS ...



... and EVERYBODY ELSE.



The Jews were the chosen few;
the others, the rejected multitude.

Remember that when Jesus first sent out his apostles, he forbid them to speak to anyone but “the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Matthew 10:5-6

- ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:
- ⁶ But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.





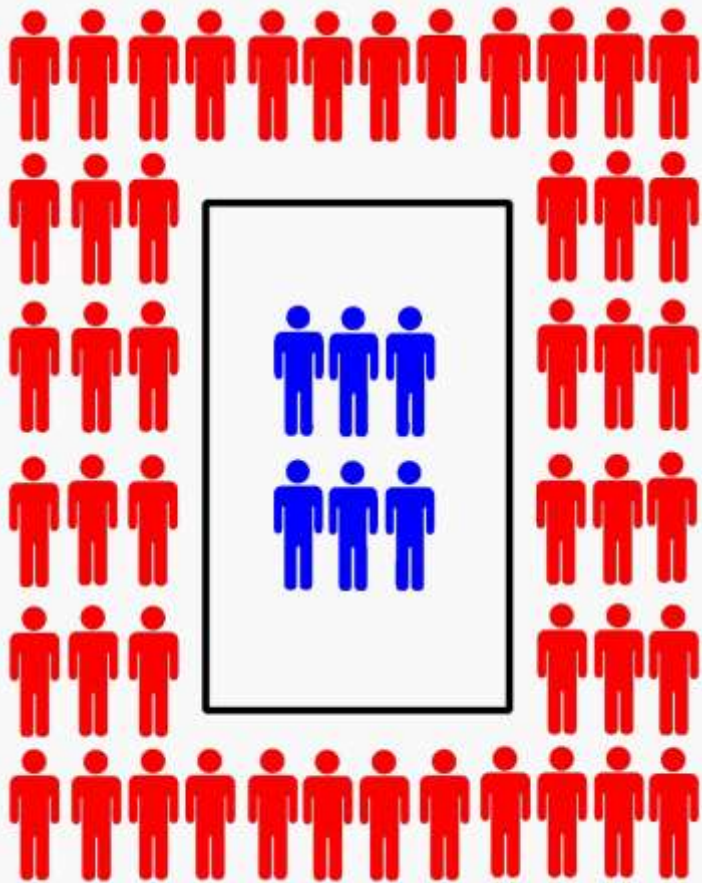
Any blessings that *did* reach the Gentiles were like crumbs fallen from the table which they gobbled up like hungry dogs.



Matthew 15:25-27

- ²⁵ Then came she [a woman of Canaan] and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.
- ²⁶ But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs.
- ²⁷ And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.





But things were about to change!

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The FIFTH millennial day began on the day of Christ's ascension.



The gospel of the grace of God came first the Jews, but it would not stop there.

And Christ's new instructions to his disciples indicated that a big change had come.

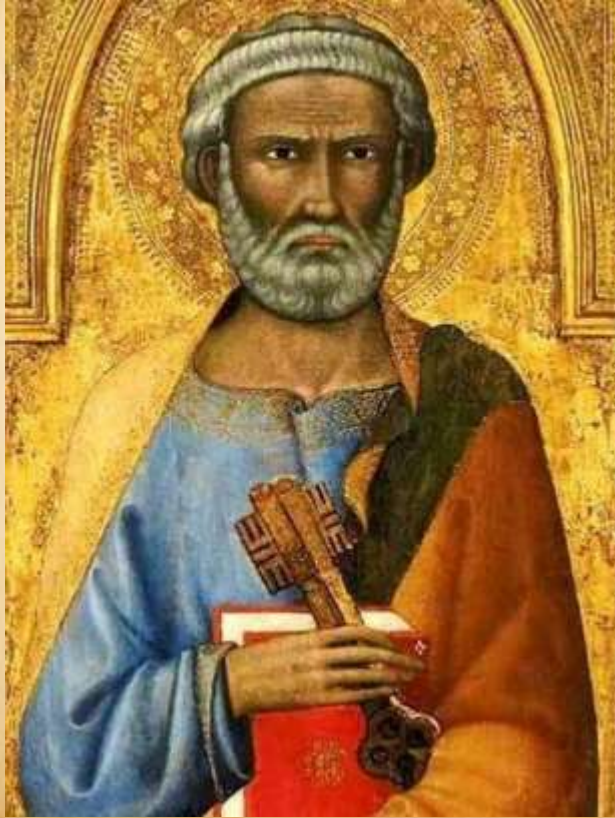
Mark 16:15

And he said unto them,
Go ye into all the world, and preach
the gospel **to every creature.**





Ten days after the Ascension,
on the Day of Pentecost,
Peter declared to the same people
who had cried out for Christ's death
just 50 days before that Jesus was
the Son of God sent to the children
of the covenant.



Acts 3:13

The God of Abraham,
and of Isaac,
and of Jacob,

the God of our fathers,
hath glorified his Son Jesus;
whom ye delivered up,
and denied him in the presence
of Pilate, when he was
determined to let *him* go.



Acts 3:25-26

- ²⁵ **Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers,** saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.
- ²⁶ **Unto you first** God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.



On his first missionary trip, Paul confirmed that the good news of Christ was sent *first* to the chosen people.



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But if there is a first, there must also be a second.



Acts 13:45-46

- ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.
- ⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, **It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you:** but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, **we turn to the Gentiles.**



It is nearly impossible for modern Christians to appreciate how *blasphemous* this statement sounded to the Jews' ears.

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Moses had expressly forbidden the Jews from entering into any covenant with the heathen.

Deuteronomy 7:2

And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee;
thou shalt smite them,
and utterly destroy them;
thou shalt make no covenant with
them, nor shew mercy unto them:

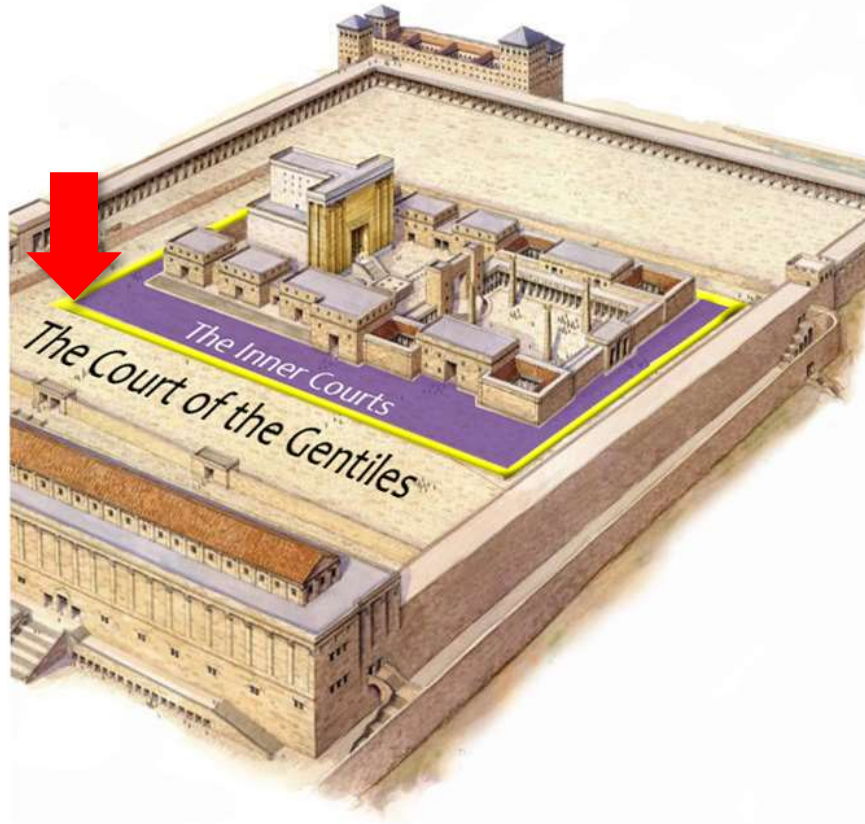


Gentiles were forbidden to enter the sanctuary of God.

Ezekiel 44:9

Thus saith the Lord GOD;
No stranger, uncircumcised in heart,
nor uncircumcised in flesh,
shall enter into my sanctuary,
of any stranger that *is* among the
children of Israel.





The wall separating the Court of the Gentiles from the Inner Courts of the temple was a daily reminder of this.

Any Gentile caught crossing this boundary could be put to death!

But God appointed Paul to be “the apostle of the Gentiles” (Rom. 11:13).

God used him to bring to light something hidden deep within the Scriptures:



The Mystery of Christ

Ephesians 3:2-6

² If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:
³ How that by revelation he made known unto me **the mystery;**
(as I wrote afore in few words,
⁴ Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

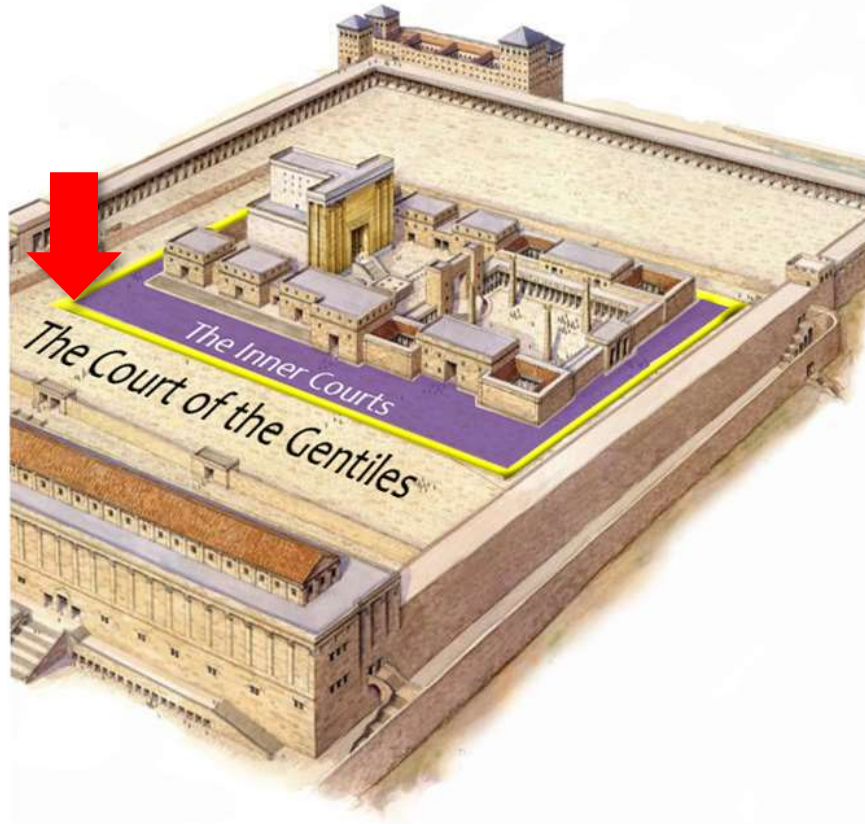
⁵ Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;
⁶ That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs,
and of the same body,
and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

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⁶ **That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs,**
and of the same body,
and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

People who had been entirely excluded from the covenant promises were now complete shareholders.



Just like the walls of Jericho, Christ broke down the spiritual “middle wall of partition” that separated the Gentiles from the Jews.

We read Paul's word to Christians who came from the tribes of the Gentiles:

Ephesians 2:11-14

¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

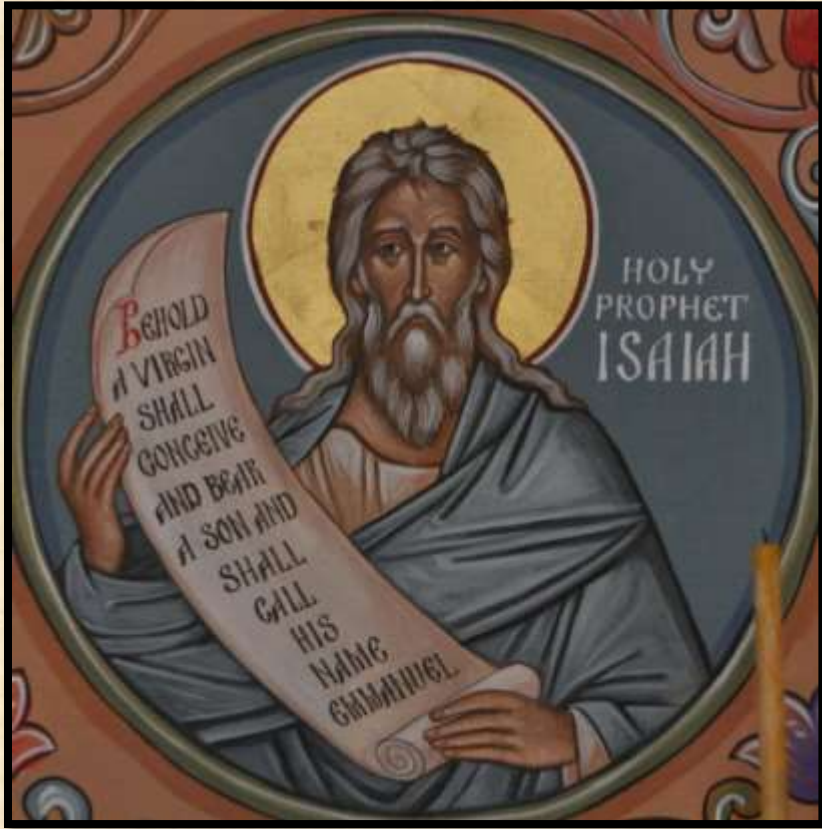
¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh [near] by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, **and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us***;



Isaiah's prophecy of the fullness of the Messiah's ministry could now be understood:



Isaiah 49:6

⁶ And he said,
It is a light thing that thou shouldest be
my servant to raise up the tribes of
Jacob, and to restore the preserved of
Israel:

I will also give thee for a light to the
Gentiles, that thou mayest be my
salvation unto the end of the earth.

It is as Paul declared at the end of the book of Acts:

Be it known therefore unto you,
that the salvation of God is sent
unto the Gentiles,
and *that* they will hear it.
(Acts 28:28).





But what about the covenant
God made with Abraham,
Isaac, and Jacob?

Romans 11:1

I say then,
Hath God cast away his people?
God forbid.

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In Days 5 and 6 of the Week of Millenniums,
“blindness in part” has come upon Israel.

God's dealing with Israel during this time is also part of this great mystery.

Romans 11:25

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of **this mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.



Israel's eyes have been shut to the truth that Jesus is their long-awaited Messiah.

A portion of Jews have come to salvation, but it is mostly the called-out among the Gentiles who have been given eyes to see.

Romans 11:25

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits;
that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.



But this blindness is only for an appointed time.

Romans 11:25

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.**



Why has God done this? Did he decide to cut off his chosen people?

Romans 11:11

¹¹ I say then,
Have they stumbled that they should fall?
God forbid:
but *rather* through their fall
salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles,
for to provoke them to jealousy.



Why has God done this?

1. To bring salvation to the Gentiles.

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Deuteronomy 32:21

They have moved me to jealousy
with *that which is* not God;
they have provoked me to anger
with their vanities:

and I will move them to jealousy
with *those which are* not a people;
I will provoke them to anger
with a foolish nation.



“Those which are not a people” and
the “foolish nation” are the Gentiles.

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Hear Peter's exhortation to the Gentile believers:

1 Peter 2:9-10a

- ⁹ But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
- ¹⁰ *Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God...*



The chastisement of the Jews has been to the enrichment of the Gentiles.

Romans 11:12

¹² Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world,
and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles;
how much more their fulness?



If Israel's chastisement brought such good to the world, think how much good will come when she is restored to glory!

Romans 11:12

¹² Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; **how much more their fulness?**



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The covenants that God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in Days 3 and 4 were unconditional and unbreakable.

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But for almost 2,000 years, the door to salvation has been opened chiefly to the Gentiles. This is the era in which we now live.

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But how can one say that this era will last TWO millennial days?

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In part, it is a matter of simple deduction:

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The first 2,000 years are recorded in Genesis 1 to 11.
The Bible itself gives witness of these two millennial days.

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The next 2,000 years – the rise and fall of Israel –
are verified by the Scriptures and secular history books.

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The LAST millennial day – the Sabbath – is the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth.

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With the other days accounted for, these two days are all that remain.



Remember God's promise to restore Israel, and consider this prophecy from Hosea:

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Hosea 6:2

After two days will he revive us [Israel]:

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Hosea 6:2

After two days will he revive us:

in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

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This current age – The Church Age – ends with the Rapture of the Church.
Meanwhile on the earth, “the time of Jacob’s trouble” will begin.

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Only God knows when the Bridegroom will come for his bride,
but surely our patience will soon be rewarded.

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The *timing* and *reason* for the Great Tribulation is the subject of the next lesson.

Questions to Test Your Understanding of this Lesson

1. What was the difference in Christ's instructions to his disciples before and after his resurrection?
2. According to Ephesians 3:6, what is the "mystery of Christ"?
3. What is "the middle wall of partition" in Ephesians 2:14?
4. According to Romans 11:25, what is the current condition of Israel?
5. Also according to Romans 11:25, how long will this last?
6. According to Romans 11:11, what are two reasons for Israel's fall?
7. The Bible is clear that no man knows the day or hour of Christ's return to earth (Matt. 25:13). But if the reasoning of this lesson is true and we are near the end of the 6th Millennial Day, could there be much time remaining before the Rapture of the Church?



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