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## God's chosen people – Pt 1 God chose Israel

With antisemitism growing there is again ignorance in the body of Christ and outside as to the place of Israel in God's plan. In this first study we will establish the historicity of Israel according to the Bible and affirm that God chose Israel to be His children above all the nations on the earth.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. God made a covenant with Abraham, his son Isaac, and his son Jacob.

"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee" (Gen. 17: 7). See also Gen.17: 19, and c.f. Ex.2: 24.

God told Abraham "I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen.12: 2 & 3). And the great nation is through the line of Isaac and Jacob. Hence anyone that curses Jacob will be cursed.

### 2. God chose the descendants of Israel as a peculiar people unto himself.

"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" (Deut.14: 2). See also Deut.7: 6.

God Almighty changed Jacob's name to Israel (Gen.32: 28), and brought his descendants out from under the bondage of the Egyptians, He brought them out "with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen" (Deut.7: 8).

### 3. God gave the children of Israel His law – His oracles.

"This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and [with] our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us" (Acts 7:38). C.f. Rom.3: 2 – "Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God."

God's purpose in bringing His children out from under the bondage of the Egyptians was to make them a great nation, to give them His law that they would love Him, walk in His ways, and keep His commandments (Deut.30: 16), that they would be a "kingdom of priests, and an holy nation" (Ex. 19: 6), because He loved them (Deut.4: 37). For no other reason but that He loved them!

Additional comments on our three points.

There is no other people-group that God Almighty chose, called to Himself and gave His law. Hence, the nation of Israel will always be "beloved for the fathers' sakes" (Rom.11: 28).

Applying the teaching to our life today.

A Muslim will often touch on the common ground he has with a Christian because of Abraham, but that is where our unity stops, because their heritage takes them back to Ishmael whereas a Christian's heritage takes him back to Isaac and Jacob who was called Israel. And it was from the tribe of Judah that the Lord Jesus Christ was born.

Question to think about.

What is the benefit to the Christian today to learn about the history of Israel?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

To hold "fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" (Tit.1: 9), whether he be a Jew who only knows the law given to Moses or a Muslim who only knows Abraham and Ishmael. Be ye not ignorant – God did **not** choose Ishmael or Muhammad but Israel to Himself to be a peculiar people (Deut.2: 14).