

Created After the Image of God

Lesson 5 – God’s Chosen People

October 6, 2019

“... and to put on the new self, **created to be like God** in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:24)

“... and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge **in the image of its Creator**” (Colossians 3:10)

1. God purposed to choose a special people to Himself from the very beginning of the creation
 - a. “By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so **on the seventh day he rested from all his work.**” (Genesis 2:2)
 - b. “**Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath** to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. **For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.** Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” (Exodus 20:9-11)
 - c. Did God create everything in six days and rest on the seventh for no particular reason? Or, did He do this with His chosen people in mind to live by this same pattern about 2,500 years later?
2. God didn’t look upon all nations of people then decide to choose Israel—He actually raised up Israel
 - a. “As for me, this is my covenant with you: **You will be the father of many nations.** No longer will you be called Abram; **your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.**” (Genesis 17:4-5)
 - i. About 2,000 years after creation, God called a man named Abram which means “father of a nation” and changed his name to Abraham which means “father of many nations”
 - ii. God gave Abraham a son named Isaac and then a grandson named Jacob
 - iii. Jacob fathered 12 sons then God changed his name to Israel—his 12 sons and their descendants continued to be called by this name of Israel
 - iv. During 400 years in Egypt, his 12 sons multiplied into millions but still grouped into 12 tribes
 - v. God later raised up Moses to deliver them out of slavery in Egypt—this is called the Exodus
 - b. “**The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples,** for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and **kept the oath he swore to your ancestors** that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” (Deuteronomy 7:7-8)
 - c. Abraham is now the father of many nations because the gospel message of salvation is not just to the one nation of Israel but to all nations of people
 - i. “**And this gospel of the kingdom** will be preached in the whole world as a testimony **to all nations,** and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14)
 - ii. “Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations, baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19)
 - iii. “**There is neither Jew nor Gentile,** neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed,** and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:28-29)
3. The distinction between the Israelites, the Jews, and the Gentiles
 - a. After Saul, David, and Solomon (the first three kings of Israel), the kingdom was divided into two:
 - i. The Northern Kingdom of Israel consisting of 10 tribes
 - ii. The Southern Kingdom of Judah consisting of the other 2 tribes—Judah and Benjamin

- b. The name *Jew* comes from the tribe of Judah (pronounced like 'Jew-dah') but later became synonymous with the entire nation of Israel regardless of tribe
- c. The name *Gentile* refers to all other nations and people groups that are not Jewish (not of Israel)
- 4. The Jewish people served as a conduit or channel through which God brought the Savior into the world
 - a. We must keep the big picture (God's plan of salvation) in mind when considering the Jewish people
 - i. God's plan from the creation was to bring His Son into the world to save the world
 - ii. Choosing one people was necessary for the greater purpose of saving all people through Christ
 - b. Jesus Christ was Jewish because He was a descendant from David of the tribe of Judah
 - c. In order to be a king, Jesus needed to descend from a lineage of kings in a kingdom nation
 - d. "Theirs are the patriarchs, and **from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah**, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen." (Romans 9:5)
- 5. God also used the Jewish people as a subset of humanity to prove that all of humanity has sinned
 - a. "Now we know that **whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law**, that every mouth may be stopped, and **all the world may become guilty before God**." (Romans 3:19 NKJV)
 - b. If His own people were given every advantage to succeed yet failed, then the rest of the world without the same advantages are proven to have failed
 - c. "There is no difference between **Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:22-23)
- 6. God gave them commandments for them to be holy and separate from all other people around them
 - a. In the book of Deuteronomy – "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God" (7:6), "for you are a people holy to the LORD your God" (14:2), "But you are a people holy to the LORD your God" (14:21), "that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God" (26:19), "The LORD will establish you as his holy people"(28:9)
 - b. "Unless the LORD Almighty had left us some survivors, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah." (Isaiah 1:9)
 - c. His holy people became just as sinful as Sodom and Gomorrah—if not for His purpose of bringing the Savior into the world He would have destroyed them entirely as He did Sodom and Gomorrah
- 7. "Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, **excluded from citizenship in Israel** and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, **without hope and without God in the world**." (Ephesians 2:12)
 - a. Gentiles were without hope because God didn't reveal Himself to them
 - b. "**You Samaritans worship what you do not know**; we worship what we do know, **for salvation is from the Jews**." (John 4:22)
 - i. God decides how we come to Him—He spoke through the Jews and finally through His Son
 - ii. All world religions are people trying to come to God their own way rather than His way
 - iii. Even Judaism (a Jewish religion) is just another way of trying to get to God their own way
- 8. Gentiles now get to be partakers with the Jews of the salvation found only through Jesus Christ
 - a. "Rejoice, you **Gentiles, with his people**." (Romans 15:10)
 - b. "For if the **Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings**, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings." (Romans 15:27)
 - c. "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but **fellow citizens with God's people** and also members of his household" (Ephesians 2:19)
- 9. The church began with the Jewish people first then Gentiles were later included
 - a. "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Matthew 16:18)

- b. "He said to Abraham, **'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.'** When God raised up his servant, **he sent him first to you** to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways." (Acts 3:25-26)
 - c. "Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: **'We had to speak the word of God to you first.** Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, **we now turn to the Gentiles.'**" (Acts 13:46)
 - d. "For I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: **first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.**" (Romans 1:16)
10. God's dealings with humanity (particularly the Jews) in the past teaches us how to walk with God today
- a. **"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us**, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." (Romans 15:4)
 - b. **"These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us**, on whom the culmination of the ages has come." (1 Corinthians 10:11)
 - c. **"All Scripture** is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
11. God's chosen people were given more advantages but also have more responsibility and accountability
- a. **"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."** (Luke 12:48)
 - i. There is a principle in Scripture that the more God gives, the more He requires from us
 - ii. The apostle Paul had great advantages—circumcised the 8th day, of the tribe of Benjamin, great knowledge of the Scriptures, taught personally by Jesus Christ Himself, was given spiritual gifts to heal and work miracles—therefore God required far more from him than from us.
 - iii. **"Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly."** (James 3:1)
 - b. The Jewish people who reject Christ will receive harsher judgment than the Gentiles
 - i. **"There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.** For God does not show favoritism." (Romans 2:9-11)
 - ii. **"But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."** (Matthew 11:24)
12. Those who repented when hearing less will condemn those who didn't repent when hearing more
- a. **"The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment** with this generation and condemn it; for **they repented at the preaching of Jonah**, and now something greater than Jonah is here." (Matthew 12:41)
 - i. At the final judgment, God will call upon these men of Nineveh to stand up in the courtroom and will use them to condemn the Jews in Christ's day who rejected Him
 - ii. The point is that if Gentiles repented at the preaching of Jonah, then there will be no excuse for Jews who didn't repent at the preaching of Jesus Christ Himself
 - b. **"But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath**, when his righteous judgment will be revealed." (Romans 2:5)
 - i. If the people of Nineveh repented after hearing one preacher one time, what will happen to those who have been hearing many times for months and even years but don't repent?
 - ii. Rather than asking what will happen to those who never heard, you really should be asking what will happen to you who *have* heard but didn't ever repent!
 - iii. The longer we live in sin, the more wrath we're storing up against ourselves

Basic Lecture Lesson Plan – Fall & Winter 2019

1. The Creation of the Universe and Man (9/8)
2. The Purpose for Creating Man (9/15)
3. The Fall of Man (9/22)
4. The Curse (9/29)
5. God's Chosen People (10/6)
6. Prophecies about Jesus Christ (10/13)
7. The Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ (10/20)
8. The Death and Burial of Jesus Christ (10/27)
9. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ (11/3)
10. The Lordship of Jesus Christ (11/10)
11. Conformed to the Image of Jesus Christ (11/17)
12. Treasure on Earth or in Heaven (11/24)
13. The Strength, Comfort, and Peace of the Holy Spirit (12/1)
14. Trusting God (12/8)
15. The Whole Armor of God (12/15)
16. The Christian Home and the Local Church (12/22)