**The Un-Chosen People - (The Gentiles)**

## Reading Ephesians 2:11-18

***(Deuteronomy 7:6-8) "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. {7} "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; {8} "but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.***"

***(1 Peter 2:9-10) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; {10} who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.***

**I. Examples of faithful Gentiles in the Old Testament**

1. Job ***(Job 1:1 & 22) There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.... In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.***

2. Rahab ***(Joshua 2:9-11) and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. {10} "For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. {11} "And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.***

***(Hebrews 11:31) By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.***

***(James 2:25) Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?***

3. Ruth ***(Ruth 1:8-18) And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.... {14} Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. {15} And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." {16} But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. {17} Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me." {18} When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her***.

4. Ninevites (Book of Jonah) ***(Jonah 3:10) Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it. (Jonah 4) But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. {2} So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. {3} "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!" {4} Then the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?".... {11} "And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left; and much livestock?"***

**II. Examples of Faithful Gentiles in the New Testament**

1. The Centurion of Matthew 8: 5-13

2. Cornelius ***(Acts 10:1-6; 31) There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, {2} a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. {3} About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" {4} And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. {5} "Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. {6} "He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do."...... (Acts 10:31) "and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.***

**III. God Is No Respecter of Persons**

***(Acts 10:34-35)*** ***"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that fears him, and works righteousness, is accepted with him."***

 ***(1 Peter 1:17) "And if you call on the Father, who without respect of persons judges according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:"***

***(Romans 2:7-12) "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that does evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that works good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;"***

(2 Chronicles 19:7) Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

**IV. Abraham Is “Father” of All The Faithful**

***Romans 1:10…*** ***“the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes; to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”…[12] and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised....***

This is an important point: Israel was God’s chosen people for His ***plan***. They were NOT chosen for salvation. ***-Romans 9:1-5***

**V. So What Was The State of the Gentiles During the Old Law?**

***Ephesians 2:11-18*** ***Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh; who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands; {12} that at that time you 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 you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ… {Romans 1:18-32---------------------} [14] For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, {15} having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, {16} and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. {17} And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. {18} For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.***

The point of Ephesians 2 is to show the terribleness of one’s condition outside of Christ NOT outside the Old Law.