

Discipleship Guide
Lesson 9
The People of God (Part I)

"I believe in . . .the holy catholic church, the communion of saints. . . ."

As a result of studying this lesson, the student will:
(1) See God's faithfulness to Israel, especially the Remnant.
(2) Learn how to relate to the Jewish / Gentile questions as they relate to the community of faith.

God and Israel

Reading

The student should read Romans chapters 9, 10, and 11 and answer the following questions. This is one of the most controversial sections in the Bible. Here Paul writes to Gentile Christians about Jewish people, about relationships between Jews and Gentiles in Messiah, and about the future hope of Jews being found in the Lord. Paul compares "children of the flesh" to Ishmael and "children of the promise" to Isaac.

1. Do all the physical children of Abraham receive God's benefits?
2. On what basis are benefits extended, by the grace of election or by the works of the Law?
3. Is there a difference between all of Israel and the Remnant of Israel?

Reading

The student should read Genesis 12.

4. When did God choose the Jewish people?
5. Why did God choose the Jewish people? (see also Deuteronomy 7:6-8)

Paul and Israel

6. Who is the Remnant today?
7. If it were possible, Paul wanted to trade in his salvation for what?
8. What was Paul's hope for unregenerate Israel?

9. Does Paul consider himself a former Jew or currently still a Jew?

Israel and Salvation

10. Are all Jews automatically saved because God made them Jewish?

Reading

The student should read Deuteronomy 28.

11. What did God promise Israel if she were faithful to God's Word?

12. What did God promise Israel if her faith failed and she became disobedient to God?

13. How is anyone saved? (see also Romans 10:9-10)

Jews and Gentiles

Reading

The student should reference Romans 9-11 again. Also Ephesians 2.

14. Is more required of Jewish believers than Gentile believers in order to be saved?

15. Does God love Jewish believers more than Gentile believers?

16. Some people use the phrase, "The New Israel" to refer to the Church. Are Gentiles ever called "Israel"?

17. What emotion should be evoked in the Jewish people because Gentile Christians know the Lord? (11:14)

Encouraging the Faithful

Comment

The author of the New Testament letter to the Hebrews addresses the fact that some Jewish believers in Jesus were turning away from the Lord into a messiah-less Judaism. Hebrews 2:1-3 says believers are to give "earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away." In Hebrews 10:19-25, believers are told to

Hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stimulate one another to

love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but encouraging one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching .

In lesson 1 of this manual we read Hebrews 11, the Hall of Faith. It recounts the stories of men and women who walked closely with God. By their deeds and faith, these stories inspire us. Consider this background about the Book of Hebrews as you continue this lesson.

Reading

The student should read Hebrews 12. Verses 18-21 refer to the gathering of the Jewish community around Mount Sinai as Moses received the Law (see Exodus 19).

18. Who are the “cloud of witnesses”?

19. As we consider the “cloud of witnesses,” what are we to do?

Comment

We Jewish believers are both part of “all” Israel and yet separate from many by being called *The Remnant of Israel*. Even as a rug’s remnant is part of the whole carpet, so are we part of all Israel, yet distinct. God is faithful to Israel in that he is faithful to the Remnant.

Let the Apostle’s longing (Romans 10:1) for his family and friends to know messiah be a motivator for you. Pray for your family. Pray for your friends. Live out your new life in their sight being aware of the separation Y’shua makes. Sharing Y’shua with our Jewish relatives and associates may not always be met with faith, nevertheless it is right for us to share.

Memory Verse: Romans 10:14

“How shall they call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”