

Which In Times Past Were Not A People

I. Introduction:

A. Prior to the initial coming of Christ into this world, God had a people that were special to Him (**Exodus 4:22-23**).

1. If they obeyed God they would continue to be special to Him (**Exodus 19:5-6** and **Deuteronomy 7:6-7**).

2. Israel had the promises, covenants, etc. (**Romans 9:4**).

B. The thing is, behind those promises to Israel was a greater promise (**Galatians 3:8-9**). **Note, how could "the Scripture" foresee? Remember that when the word is personified, you are talking about Jesus (John 1:1-14).*

1. The message, of greater promises, was echoed through the words of old (**Acts 15:11-19**; cf. **Isaiah 49:1-7** and **Isaiah 66:18-21**).

2. Jesus, as Simeon said, was a light to lighten the Gentiles (**Luke 2:25-32**).

II. Body: I Peter 2:1-10

A. Regarding being a chosen [elect] generation [kin; offspring; nation]; Follow this thought... Consider what was said to the Gentiles in Ephesus (**Ephesians 2:1-17**).

1. Now, when did God decide that Gentiles [non-Jews] would be chosen (**Ephesians 1:3-4**)?

2. So, we Gentiles, should not at all feel that we are God's second choice. What Christ did for all people (**I John 4:14**) was planed before the world was created (**I Peter 1:18-20**).

B. Think about being a royal priesthood to God (**Revelation 1:5-6**).

1. We offer "spiritual sacrifices" (**Hebrews 13:15-16**).

2. Our bodies (**Romans 12:1**).

3. When the saints in Philippi supported Paul, such was referred to as: "a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God" (**Philippians 4:11-18**).

C. A peculiar [beyond usual, special, possession] people (**Titus 2:13-14**).

1. That once applied to Israel (**Psalms 135:4**).

2. Jesus paid significantly so that all could be included (**Mark 10:45**).

D. Jesus taught that he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than John the Baptist (**Luke 7:28**).

1. Who you are (**John 1:12-13** and **I John 3:1-3**).

2. Whose you are (**I Corinthians 3:20-23**).

3. What you are (**Philippians 2:14-16**) and are a part of (**Revelation 1:9**).

III. Conclusion: Knowing you are the people of God, live up to it to the praise and glory of God (**Ephesians 1:6** and **Philippians 1:10-11**)!