

JESUS IS ALSO FOR GENTILES (Gentiles = non-Jews)

Creator God's Promise for Gentiles – in about 2000 B.C.

Genesis 12:1-3

¹God said to Abraham, ²“I will make you into a great country – [you will be the father of Israel]. ³And I will bless all peoples in the world through you.”

A Prophecy About Gentiles – about 700 B.C.

Isaiah 24:15-16

¹⁵Countries in the east, shout to Creator God: “You are very great.” Islands of the sea, shout to God: “Your name is very great.” ¹⁶In all the earth we hear singing: “God is very great.”

JESUS SAYS TO PAUL: GO TELL THE GENTILES ABOUT JESUS – about A.D. 60

Acts 21:26 - 22:10 & 9:15, 28 & 22:17-21

^{21:26}Paul went to the temple in Jerusalem. ²⁷Some Jews saw Paul at the temple. The Jews were from Turkey. [Many months before, the Jews saw Paul teaching about Jesus in Turkey.]

The Jews from Turkey grabbed Paul in the temple. ²⁸They shouted, “Help us! This man teaches bad things everywhere.” ³⁰Many people came running. ³¹They tried to kill Paul. ³²The Roman commander and Roman soldiers came running. ³³And the Roman commander arrested Paul. The commander asked, “Who are you? And what did you do?”

^{22:2}Paul said, ³“I am a Jew. I was born in Turkey. But I grew up in Jerusalem. My teacher was Gamaliel [the great Jewish teacher]. I was very passionate about God. ⁴So I persecuted people who believed in Jesus – I tried to kill them.

⁵“One day I was going to Damascus [in Syria] – I wanted to persecute people who believed in Jesus. ⁶Suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. ⁷I heard a voice. And the voice said, ‘Paul! Paul! Why do you persecute me?’ ⁸I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The voice answered, ‘I am Jesus. You are persecuting me.’

¹⁰“I asked, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ ^{9:15}Jesus said, ‘[You] must tell Gentiles about me – and [you] must tell Jews about me.’ ²⁸So in Jerusalem [I] talked boldly about Jesus.

^{22:17}“In Jerusalem I was praying in the temple. ¹⁸Jesus spoke to me, ‘Quick! Leave Jerusalem now. The Jews will not listen to you – the Jews do not want to hear about

Jesus.’ ¹⁹ I answered, ‘The Jews know that I arrested and beat your people [so I think they will listen to me].’ ²¹ [But] Jesus said to me, ‘Go. I am sending you far away – I am sending you to the Gentiles.’ ”

LATER IN ROME, PAUL SAYS TO THE JEWS...

Acts 28:28

²⁸“I want you to know this – God has sent his salvation to the Gentiles – God wants to save Gentiles. And the Gentiles will listen!”

BUT PAUL SAYS TO THE GENTILES...

Romans 11:25-26 & Ephesians 2:18-19

^{11:25}I will tell you God’s secret plan – I will tell you this so you Gentiles will not be proud. Why has Israel’s heart become hard? One reason is this: So you Gentiles have a chance to hear about Jesus and believe in him. Then, after the full number of Gentiles believes in Jesus, ²⁶all Israel will be saved! Because God promised in the Old Testament: “I will take away [all of] Israel’s sins.”

^{2:18}So both Jews and Gentiles can come to God the Father – we come to God the Father by believing in Jesus Christ. ¹⁹So, now, you Gentiles are not foreigners – but you also are God’s citizens – you also are in God’s family!

CONTENT QUESTIONS**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Abraham was the father of what country? (Genesis 12:2)
- Who will God bless through Abraham? (verse 3)

Does this include Japanese? Does this include Americans?
Does God care about us?

How does God bless all people through Abraham?
(Jesus Christ came from Abraham / Israel)

- When did God make this promise? (In the title: God's Promise for Gentiles)

What do you think about this?

Are you surprised that God was thinking about your people 4,000
years ago?

- Who will shout to God? (Isaiah 24:15)

Where is Japan in the world? What part of the world is Japan in?
What kind of country is Japan? What is it made of?

What does Isaiah say about eastern countries and islands?

- Who will sing to God? (verse 16)
- Who saw Paul in the temple? (Acts 21:26-27)
- What did the Jews from Turkey do to Paul? (verse 27)
 - Then what did the Jews try to do to Paul? (verse 31)
- Who saved Paul? (verses 32-33)
- What is Paul's ethnicity? (Acts 22:3)
- Why did Paul go to Damascus? (Acts 22:5)
- Who did Paul meet on the way to Damascus? (verse 8)
- What did Jesus tell Paul to do? (Acts 9:15)
 - What two groups of people did Jesus tell Paul to go to?
- But, which group would not listen to Paul talk about Jesus? (Acts 22:18)

- So, Jesus told Paul to go to which group? (verse 21) What group did Paul go to?
- What does God want to do for Gentiles? (Acts 28:28)
- Will the Gentiles listen to God's message? (verse 28)

For 2000 years, from Abraham to Jesus, God focused on Israel.

For 2000 years, from Jesus to today, who is God focused on?

- Why has Israel's heart (why have the Jews' hearts) become hard? (Romans 11:25)
 - After the full number of Gentiles believe in Jesus, what will the Jews do?
(verse 26)

So, how much do you think God loves Gentiles?

And how much do you think God loves Jews?

- What people groups can become members of Creator God's family?
(Ephesians 2:18-19)
 - How do we become a member of God's family? (verse 18)