

*What was God doing with the rest of the world while he chose Jews before Christians? Were they just left to "fend for themselves"?*

God was aware of sin's affect on the world (Ro 5:12–19). He called a man, Abram, from Ur of the Chaldeans (Ge 11:28, 31). God had a plan to call out a people for his namesake (Ac 7:2–4).

When one supports God, his plan and his people, it is a good indication that he is saved (1 Jn 3:14).

The Psalmist wrote:

With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful;

With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless;

With the pure You will show Yourself pure;

And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. Ps 18:25–26

God has been gracious and merciful to all people. It is his nature (Eph. 2:4, 5). Undeserving people (1 Ti 1:12–16) worldwide (Ac 17:27) have learned to put their trust in him (Mt 12:17–21).

Men have always been saved the same way—by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9). The apostle Paul said that God's people were chosen unto good works: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (v. 10)."

Christians have been set apart to live holy lives (Col 3:1–17). They have been given an all-new nature (v. 10); so, ancestry becomes less important. Paul said, "There is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all (v. 11)."

Abraham came from pagan ancestors (Josh 24:2). What made him God's man was his faith (Ge 15:6, 22:12; Ro 4:3). Hypothetically, had Abraham *not* demonstrated faith, God would have chosen another man. We know the name Abraham (Ge 22:17) today because of his faith (He 11:8).

Isaac became the heir of God's promise (Ge 17:19–21) and then Jacob after him (Ge 27:1–40). The Messiah was promised through Jacob and Leah's son (Ge 29:15–35), Judah (Ge 49:10). Christ came from the tribe of Judah (Lk 3:23–33).

God kept his promises to Abraham. His land promise to the Jews is yet to come (Ac 7:2–4, Re 20:1–10).

Christians (Ro 8:15) naturally (11:24) have a love for God's people (Ge 12:3)<sup>1</sup> because they are indwelled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 3:14–19).

Jews and gentiles alike are welcomed to join God's family (Jn 3:16, 2 Pe 3:9).

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<sup>1</sup> The chosen (nation) (Deut. 7:6–11; 9:1–6; 10:12–22): Moses reminds the Israelites that God's love for them is based on his grace, not their goodness. How is Israel to respond? "What does the Lord your God require of you? He requires you to fear him, to live according to his will, to love and worship him with all your heart and soul, and to obey the Lord's commands and laws that I am giving you today for your own good." Willmington, H. L. (1999). The Outline Bible (Dt 6:6–7:11). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

