



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Numbers 4:21-7:89
- I Peter 2:4-10
- John 10:1-27

RACIAL PROFILING

- All Fall Short
- A Chosen Race
- My Sheep Hear My Voice

It's about to get controversial. But, that should not come as a surprise, because God is not bound by what feckless political hacks call inclusion. If you demand that the Creator of the universe operate in equity, then I have some disturbing news for you; we all deserve to burn! Let me be clear about what is meant by equity: the quality of being fair and impartial. I'm not sorry if this makes you uncomfortable. Yahweh's version of fair and impartial must include justice. You see, a just God who operates in equity must exact punishment on everyone equally. This, of course, is true unless He allows a third party to be inserted into the equation to cover the cost for some!

Some! How is that equitable? This is where the examination of inclusivity enters and is likely what will disturb you most. If Yahweh was all-inclusive, He'd not favor any particular person or group. Yet,

it is clear that He does: some get His name... some are special... some get double... some are chosen... some are above... some get blessed... He identifies, isolates, and then closely examines some. He treats them differently by offering them a unique opportunity. Should they accept, they are given special privileges. Some and not others? Yikes! God is guilty of racial profiling. His version of equity has an exclusivity clause—some and not others. Report that in today's "woke media" and you will witness the colossal character assassination of Yahweh. Let the indictment of the Judeo-Christian God begin!

Can you imagine the arrogance, the gaul, the utter absurdity? Mankind with his modern institutions and mores decides, using his own set of standards and beliefs, if the Creator of the universe is right or wrong. Let that sink in! I pray you are not fooled by the relative morality of the day. A culture of virtue is not defined by people. Virtue is simply, and in its purest form, defined by God. Yahweh decides what is good and right! That is reality.

If you don't like it; if you disagree with God, that He chooses some and not others, His use of racial profiling, take it up with Him. Be warned however; every example of every pious, self-righteous boob, who ever challenged God's right to make His own rules and standards, regretted his decision. What makes you think it will be different with you?

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘**This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: “The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.”**’” “So they shall **put My name** on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.””
Numbers 6:22-27 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“But you are **a chosen generation** *[a chosen race]*, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **His own special people** *[a people for His own possession]*, that you may **proclaim the praises of Him** *[proclaim the excellencies of Him]* who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” 1 Peter 2:9 NKJV

“**You did not choose Me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should **go and bear fruit**, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”
John 15:16 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This Torah portion picks up with the census of the Gershonites and the Merarites, from thirty to fifty years old, and details their specific duties. It then finishes the census of the Levites that was underway at the end of the last portion. It goes on to discuss the purification of the camp, the ritual for a woman suspected of adultery, the laws of the Nazirite vow, the priestly benediction, and the offerings of the heads of the twelve tribes brought for the dedication of the altar.

Numbers 4

2. The service of the families of the Gershonites includes (assigned by Aaron and his sons): carrying the curtains and covering of the tabernacle, and the screen for the door and the gate of the court, plus all the hangings around the tabernacle and the altar and furnishings for the service. Their duties shall be under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.
3. The service of the families of the Merarites includes (assigned by Aaron and his sons): they must carry the boards of the tabernacle, its bars, its pillars, its sockets, and the pillars around the court with their sockets, pegs, and cords, with all their furnishings and all their service. And very specifically, each man (by name) is assigned what items he must carry.

4. Then a census of Levites who are of age for service (30-50 years old) is taken (Total 8580 priests).
5. We see the census broken down specifically into three family lines: the Kohathites, the Gershonites and the Merarites.
 - a) Kohathites (2750 priests who are of age for service)
 - b) Gershonites (2630 priests who are of age for service)
 - c) Merarites (3200 priests who are of age for service)

Numbers 5

6. **Ceremonially Unclean Persons:** anyone unclean for any reason needs to be isolated outside the camp.
7. **Confessions and Restitution:** Anyone who sins must confess and make restitution (and add one fifth and give it to the one he has wronged.) If there is no one to give it to, then bring it to the priests (for Yahweh), plus a ram for atonement. In that case the priest shall own what is given.
8. **Unfaithful Wives:** If a spirit of jealousy comes upon a man as if his wife has been unfaithful, whether she has been or not, he is to bring an offering to the priest. The woman will come before the priest, she shall hold the offering in her hands, and drink water mixed with some dust from the floor of the tabernacle (bitter water). The priest will write the words of the curse in a book and scrape them into the water. She shall swear an oath of purity and drink the water. If she is lying, her belly will swell

and her thigh rot and she will become a curse among the people. The husband will be free and the woman will bear her guilt.

Numbers 6

9. The Law of the Nazirite (a Nazirite Vow):

- a) This is voluntary oath for a man or woman to consecrate themselves for a set period time
- b) During that time of separation:
 - (1) They may drink nothing fermented nor eat of the fruit of the vines used to make wine or vinegar
 - (2) They may not shave at all
 - (3) They shall not go near a dead body (even for a father or mother)
 - (4) If they do contact a dead body because there is a sudden death nearby, they must shave their heads, bring an offering to the priest, and start their time of separation all over again from day one and complete the number of days of the original commitment.
- c) When the days are complete they must do this:
 - (1) Come to the tabernacle, present specific offerings (a burnt offering, a sin offering, a peace offering), and shave their head at the door of the tabernacle. They then take their hair and put it under the fire of the peace offering.

- (2) The priest puts part of the offering in the hands of the Nazirite and makes a wave offering to the Lord. At this point the vow is complete and they may resume drinking wine.
- (3) At that time, the one making the vow must also offer to Yahweh whatever else they had committed voluntarily to give (expenses) at the time they made the vow.

10. **The priestly Blessing:** *“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: “The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” ’ “So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.””* Numbers 6:22-27
NKJV

Numbers 7

11. Numbers 7 is a lengthy chapter (89 verses) all dedicated to the offerings made by the twelve leaders of Israel (heads of their father’s houses who were assigned in the census).
12. These offerings were made after Moses finished setting up the tabernacle.
13. **Total quantity of offerings:** six covered carts (one per two leaders) and twelve oxen (one per leader).

14. These offerings were for the priests to use for the work of the tabernacle. They would be distributed according to each family line's specific service.

- a) Two carts and four oxen went to the sons of Gershon
- b) Four carts and eight oxen went to the sons of Merari
- c) Nothing went to the sons of Kohath because they were to carry the holy things on their shoulders

15. The leaders then offered a dedication offering for the altar, one leader each day for twelve consecutive days. (The offerings and their names by tribe from days one to twelve are described in Numbers 7:12-88.)

16. **The voice of Yahweh:** *“Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him.”* Numbers 7:89 NKJV

17. You can see last two teaching on this portion here: [Counted In For Kingdom Business...Take a Vow](#) & [Vows and Vanity](#)

ALL FALL SHORT

1. Never Forget

A. Dead in the Water

- (1) All Aboard the Sinking Ship (Nautical Theme)

- (a) Mixed Metaphors, but you get the point.
1. The origin of “Dead in the Water” is a nautical term, which originally referred to a motionless sail ship on a windless day. It described a ship with no momentum or chance of progression, in other words, it appeared to be dead in the water. That was you!
 2. Actually, you were in an even worse condition; you were motionless with no wind (life) in you, no chance of ever moving, AND you were taking on water...SINKING!
 3. That was your destiny and there was nothing you could do about it!
- (b) And in that motionless, lifeless state—this happened!
Because of His great love for you, God made you alive in Christ!
1. **“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as

the others. **But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved),”

Ephesians 2:1-5 NKJV

(2) Who was motionless, without wind, dead in the water?

EVERYONE!

(a) Not one of us was righteous, understood a thing, was searching for God, or had a single good thing inside of us. We were in fact dead. And dead men can't swim!

1. “As it is written: **“There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.** They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; **There is none who does good, no, not one.**” “Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of asps is under their lips”; “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”” Romans 3:10-18 NKJV

2. See Isaiah 59 and [Re-Fund the Police](#)

(b) Every single one of us was condemned by sin and had no access to God's glory, other than if God would do something to bypass our sins. And He did! It came by way of faith in Christ.

1. "But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **even the righteousness of God, through faith** in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood**, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance **God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness**, that He might be just and **the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**" Romans 3:21-26
NKJV

(3) The Gift of Faith

(a) Each of us was given a gift of faith. It is the only way to be saved from our sins. We all get our faith from the same place, by the righteousness of Yahweh and

through His Son. Your faith was not by your will but by the will of God!

1. “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as **God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.**”

Romans 12:3 NKJV

2. “**For by grace you have been saved through faith,** and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God, not of works,** lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

NKJV

3. “Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those **who have obtained like precious faith** with us **by the righteousness of our God** and Savior Jesus Christ:” II Peter 1:1 NKJV

4. “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, **to those who believe in His name: who were born,** not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, **nor of the will of man, but of God.**” John 1:11-13 NKJV

B. He first loved us!

- (1) Guilty as Charged

(a) Guilt for iniquity passed three or four generations. In the broadest sense a biblical generation can fall anywhere between 27 and 100 years. Think about the penalty for iniquity running 81 to 400 years!

1. “The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but **He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.**” Numbers 14:18 NKJV

(b) But, He has mercy for a thousand generations for those who love Him. Love Him? How can dead people love God? Reminder Ephesians 2:1-5: because of His great love with which He loved us...

1. “Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps **covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;** and **He repays those who hate Him** to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them.” Deuteronomy 7:9-11 NKJV

(c) Second Commandment: iniquity to the third or fourth, or mercy for thousands...of those who LOVE GOD!
There it is again—for those who love God; but, how can dead people love God?

1. ““You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, **visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations** of those who hate Me, **but showing mercy to thousands**, to those **who love Me** and keep My commandments.”
Exodus 20:4-6 NKJV (Repeated in Deuteronomy 5:8-10)

(2) Loving God

(a) How do you love God?

1. “We love Him **because He first loved us.**” I John 4:19
NKJV

(b) Why does God love us first? Because those He was given, He will lose none of them!

1. **“that the saying might be fulfilled** which He spoke,
“Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.””

John 18:9 NKJV

- (c) **To what saying was Y’shua referring?** *“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me; this is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing; everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life.”*

1. **“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me,** and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but **the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing,** but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, **that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him** may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”” John 6:37-40 NKJV

- (d) Reminder: How do you come to believe in Him if you are dead?

1. **“And you He made alive, who were dead** in trespasses and sins,” Ephesians 2:1 NKJV

2. “even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),**” Ephesians 2:5 NKJV
3. “**For by grace you have been saved through faith,** and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God, not of works,** lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV

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There it is again—for those who love God; but, how can dead people love God?
- (2) Loving God
- (a) How do you love God? **“We love Him because He first loved us.”**
 - (b) Why does God love us first? Because those He was given, He will lose none of them!
 - (c) **To what saying was Y’shua referring?** *“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me; this is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing; everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life.”*

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A CHOSEN RACE

2. He Chose You

A. Abandon Ship

- (1) Overboard or to the Lifeboats (Nautical Theme)

- (a) What do you do when you are dead in the water and sinking?

1. **Jump out of the boat and into the water:** For our purposes we must consider this option in contrast to being saved in a lifeboat. Let's say the water is too cold to support life, or infested with hungry sharks.
2. **Blood in the water:** Even a small injury sustained in the panic will attract hungry predators, so let's say getting in the water is a bad idea.
3. **Space is limited:** There does not seem to be enough room for everyone on the lifeboats, so the simple, yet terrifying question is this? Who gets selected to take one of the limited seats?

- (2) The Selection Process (age, weight, ethnicity, gender?)

- (a) God's Sovereignty: You did not choose God—He chose you!

1. **“You did not choose Me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” John 15:16 NKJV
- (b) What or who you are in the natural is completely irrelevant! Somehow in our differences we have equal opportunity!
1. **“There is neither** Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for **you are all one in Christ Jesus.**” Galatians 3:28 NKJV
- (c) **Who decides?** Parable of the workers: *“These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’ ...Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?”* Matthew 20:12, 15 NKJV
1. *““For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. **Now when he had agreed with the laborers** for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the **third hour** and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said*

to them, 'You also **go into the vineyard**, and **whatever is right I will give you.**' So they went. Again he went out about the **sixth and the ninth hour**, and did likewise. And about the **eleventh hour** he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, '**You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.**' "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.' And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, saying, '**These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us** who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way. I wish

to give to this last man the same as to you. **Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things?** Or is your eye evil because I am good?' So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.'" Matthew 20:1-16 NKJV

2. **Who Decides?** *"You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things?"*

(d) **Who Decides?** Miriam and Aaron question God: *"So they said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" ...And the Lord heard it. So the anger of the Lord was aroused against them, and He departed. And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper."* Numbers 12:2, 9-10 NKJV

1. "Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. So they said, **"Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?"** And the Lord heard it. **(Now the man Moses was very**

humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.) Suddenly the Lord said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tabernacle of meeting!” So the three came out. Then the Lord came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward. Then He said, “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. **Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face,** Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the Lord. **Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?”** So the anger of the Lord was aroused against them, and He departed. And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper. So Aaron said to Moses, “Oh, my Lord! Please do not lay this sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned. Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed

when he comes out of his mother's womb!" So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!" Then the Lord said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received again." So Miriam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not journey till Miriam was brought in again." Numbers 12:1-15 NKJV

2. **Who Decides?** *Moses is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?*

(e) **Who Decides?** *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit..."*
John 15:16 NKJV

1. **"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **"I**

am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.** “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. **If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love,** just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. **You did not choose Me, but I chose**

you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.” John 15:1-17 NKJV

(3) How can this possibly be fair?

(a) **Who Decides what is fair?** Virtue: Moral excellence—but this really means what is right to God (not man)! It’s not about what you feel is right. And by the way, when you look at it like that, what is right is that you burn!

1. “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,**” II Peter 1:2-3 NKJV

B. Special People—Race favor

(1) Yes you are special because God chose you!

(a) He chose you because He loves you (yes, He loved you first!) It had NOTHING to do with you!

1. ““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. 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; **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.”

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 NKJV

- a) **“You did not choose Me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

John 15:16 NKJV

- b) **“We love Him because He first loved us.”** I John 4:19 NKJV

(b) And that leads us to the Church. God calls us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people! And let's be clear. This is not the type of Racial Profiling that judges the color of a man's skin, or the nation from which he hails, the culture to which he identifies, or the language that he speaks. It does not consider the gender of which he or she was born. But it

does profile this one thing—the God to whom they bow! “**There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female...** [but and this is a BIG BUT, we are only one if we are] **one in Christ Jesus.**” Galatians 3:28 NKJV

1. “But you are a **chosen generation** [a chosen race], a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **His own special people** [a people for His own possession], that you may **proclaim the praises of Him** [proclaim the excellencies of Him] who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” I Peter 2:9 NKJV

(2) Racial Profiling (Separating God’s people from the world)

- (a) Obey God’s voice (how do we do that?) and you will be His special treasure, kingdom of priests and a holy nation. The other side of that race coin is—Egypt. **Point of Revelation:** if any person from Egypt became of child of Yahweh (through faith), then that person would be “profiled” as one of God’s chosen. Paul could just as easily have said... “**There is neither Jew nor Greek [nor Egyptian], there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female...** [but we are only one if we are] **one in Christ Jesus.**”

1. “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed **obey My voice** and keep My covenant, then you shall be a **special treasure** to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me **a kingdom of priests** and a **holy nation.**’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.” Exodus 19:4-6 NKJV

(b) God’s servants received a double portion

1. “But you shall be **named the priests of the Lord**, They shall **call you the servants of our God**. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, And in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame you shall have **double honor**, And instead of confusion they shall **rejoice** in their portion. Therefore in their land they **shall possess double**; Everlasting joy shall be theirs.” Isaiah 61:6-7 NKJV
2. “Let the **elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor**, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.” I Timothy 5:17 NKJV

(c) Yahweh has chosen a people for Himself...

1. “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God, and **the Lord has chosen you to be a people for Himself**, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.” Deuteronomy 14:2 NKJV
- (d) God has set His special people above all other nations. This is clearly favoritism of one people over others!
1. “**“This day** the Lord your God commands you to observe these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul. Today you have proclaimed the Lord to be your God, and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice. **Also today the Lord has proclaimed you to be His special people**, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments, **and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made**, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the Lord your God, just as He has spoken.”” Deuteronomy 26:16-19 NKJV
- (e) There is only one people that God chose to use to identify with His name and make them His very own

people. *“You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever.”*

1. **“And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—**before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? **For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever;** and You, Lord, have become their God.” II Samuel 7:23-24 NKJV (Also I Chronicles 17:20-22)
- (f) As Paul addresses those people in the New Testament, he calls God’s chosen people “the elect of God.” This is yet another “exclusivity clause.”
 1. “Therefore, as the **elect of God, holy** and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts,** to which also you were called in one

body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:12-17 NKJV

(g) God purifies for Himself His own Special people out of a selection of All men! This is why we continuously seen the designation of holy people and holy nation. Holy means to set-apart, and connotes the idea of separating the “impurities” from the rest—to purify or sanctify.

1. **“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,** teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great **God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people,** zealous for good works. **Speak these things,** exhort,

and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.” Titus 2:11-15 NKJV

(h) We’ve seen that this separation of this special people seems to point to Israel, *“You have made **Your people Israel** Your very own people forever; and You, Lord, have become their God.”* (II Samuel 7:23-24) And yet we have also seen that, *“**There is neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* (Galatians 3:28) How does this get reconciled—how can we get in the “chosen club”, or in other words, how can we get profiled as the “chosen race”? It’s simple—you need a blood transfusion!

1. “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—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. **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** For He Himself is our peace, **who has made both one**, and has

broken down the middle wall of separation, {19}...

Now, therefore, **you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens** with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." Ephesians 2:11-14, 19-22 NKJV

- (i) Now as we revisit Paul's words in Romans 3 it becomes ever clearer. God chooses and yet all people opt out! He then reconciles some, gathered from all peoples "*... through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference...*" There is no difference if you started off as Israel or not, you can end as Israel... "*you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ... He has made both one...you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens...*"
- 1. "What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously **charged both Jews and Greeks** that they are all under sin. As it is written: "**There is**

none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. {21}....But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even **the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.** **For there is no difference;** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,**" Romans 3:9-11, 21-24 NKJV

C. Blessing for those who bear his name!

(1) Looking back— now it all makes sense!

(a) *"So they shall **put My name** on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."* (Numbers 6:27) His name is on the children of Israel and you are Israel! His Blessing is on the children of Israel and you are Israel!

1. "And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: "The Lord **bless you** and **keep you**; The Lord make His **face shine upon you**, And be **gracious to you**; The Lord **lift up His countenance upon you**, And **give you peace.**"

' *"So they shall put My name on the children of*

Israel, and I will bless them.”” Numbers 6:22-27

NKJV

(2) Seven Blessings for Israel and you are Israel!

(a) You are...Adored—Preserved—Encountered—

Illuminated—Graced—Completed—Named. He will...

1. **Bless You:** to be blessed, be adored, to cause to kneel; abundantly bless; greatly bless; persisted in blessing...
2. **Keep You:** to keep, guard, watch, preserve, observe, give heed, keep watch, protect...
3. **Make His face shine upon you:** (*Face*) presence, person, before and behind, toward, face-to-face. (*Shine*) to be or become light. Think of the Mount of Transfiguration (read Matthew 17 where Jesus become pure light.)...
4. **Be gracious to you:** to grant grace (supernatural power of God), show favor, beseech (plead with you to accept His grace)...
5. **Lift Up His countenance upon you:** (*Lift*) to lift, bear up, carry, He does the the heavy lifting, as in “*you did not choose Him, He chose you*” and “*He loved you before you could love Him.*” (*Countenance is again the word face*) presence, person, before and

behind, toward, face-to-face. (*“You shall have no other gods before Me (my face).”* Exodus 20:3 NKJV)

6. **Give you peace:** completeness, soundness, welfare, *“...work out your own **salvation** with fear and trembling;”* (Philippians 2:12) [Salvation: from the Greek (so-tay-ree'-ah)—rescue or safety, temporal well-being; welfare, prosperity, deliverance, preservation.

7. **Put His name on you:** (*Put*) place, set, appoint, make. (*Name*) reputation, fame, glory, memorial (*“Now then, **we are ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”*) II Corinthians 5:20— (*“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages **for our glory,**”*) I Corinthians 2:7

(3) Let us summarize in a refreshing and exciting way—*“This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel,”* and you are Israel:

(a) Yahweh adores you and will persist in blessing you. He will preserve and protect you in every way. He will encounter you as if you are standing face-to-face with

Him and He will fill you with His light. He will place His supernatural power over you and then in you, and also convince you to receive it. He does all the heavy lifting because He chose you and loves you. It has nothing to do with you! He provides for your every need and safety right now, in this world. And, He trusts you with His name and reputation to such a degree that you can be His literal representative and spokesperson to others. And He does all this for your edification and glorification!

D. Many are called, few are chosen!

- (1) Further Clarification: God will always weed out the imposters!
 - (a) We see the entire story of mankind. The “originals” want nothing to do with God and they go their own way. So, God opens up His invitation to everyone and the crowds are happy to stream into the party. But, there is something amiss. Not everyone who shows up to the party is there for the right reason; everyone loves a good party, but the party is not the point. It’s who the party is celebrating that matters. Those who showed up only for the good food, booze, and dancing can’t stay; they will

wind up on the street just like the original invitees who rejected the invitation.

1. “And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were **invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.** Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. **Come to the wedding.”**’ **But they made light of it and went their ways,** one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest **seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.** But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘**The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.** Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ **So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good.** And the wedding hall was

filled with guests. **“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.** So he said to him, **‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’** And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, **‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”** Matthew 22:1-13 NKJV

2. **“For many are called, but few are chosen.”** Matthew 22:14 NKJV

(b) Wheat and Tares: **“For many are called, but few are chosen.”** The true believer and the imposter will look the same up until the very end. But, it is clear that anyone who has not been **“chosen”** will be **“weeded out.”**

1. **“Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir,**

did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. **Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”**’” Matthew 13:24-30 NKJV

Summary: A CHOSEN RACE

2. He Chose You

A. Abandon Ship

(1) Overboard or to the Lifeboats (Nautical Theme)

(a) What do you do when you are dead in the water and sinking?

1. **Jump out of the boat and into the water:** For our purposes we must consider this option in contrast to being saved in a lifeboat. Let’s say the water is too cold to support life, or infested with hungry sharks.

2. **Blood in the water:** Even a small injury sustained in the panic will attract hungry predators, so let's say getting in the water is a bad idea.
 3. **Space is limited:** There does not seem to be enough room for everyone on the lifeboats, so the simple, yet terrifying question is this? Who gets selected to take one of the limited seats?
- (2) The Selection Process (age, weight, ethnicity, gender?)
- (a) God's Sovereignty: You did not choose God—He chose you!
 - (b) What or who you are in the natural is completely irrelevant! Somehow in our differences we have equal opportunity!
 - (c) **Who decides?** Parable of the workers: *...Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things?*
 - (d) **Who Decides?** Miriam and Aaron question God: *"So they said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?*
 - (e) **Who Decides?** *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit..."*
- (3) How can this possibly be fair?

- (a) **Who Decides what is fair?** Virtue: Moral excellence—but this really means what is right to God (not man)! It's not about what you feel is right. And by the way, when you look at it like that, what is right is that you burn!

B. Special People—Race favor

(1) Yes you are special because God chose you!

- (a) He chose you because He loves you (yes, He loved you first!) It had NOTHING to do with you!

- (b) And that leads us to the Church. God calls us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people! And let's be clear. This is not the type of Racial Profiling that judges the color of a man's skin, or the nation from which he hails, the culture to which he identifies, or the language that he speaks. It does not consider the gender of which he or she was born. But it does profile this one thing—the God to whom they bow! *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female... [but and this is a BIG BUT, we are only one if we are] **one in Christ Jesus.**”*

(2) Racial Profiling (Separating God's people from the world)

- (a) Obey God's voice (how do we do that?) and you will be His special treasure, kingdom of priests and a holy

nation. The other side of that race coin is—Egypt. **Point of Revelation:** if any person from Egypt became of child of Yahweh (through faith), then that person would be “profiled” as one of God’s chosen. Paul could just as easily have said... *“There is neither Jew nor Greek [nor Egyptian], there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female... [but we are only one if we are] one in Christ Jesus.”*

- (b) God’s servants received a double portion
- (c) Yahweh has chosen a people for Himself...
- (d) God has set His special people above all other nations. This is clearly favoritism of one people over others!
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MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE

3. For those who are listening—this is the way...

A. A Seat on the Lifeboat

(1) Reaching Dry Ground (Nautical Theme)

- (a) What do you do when you are dead in the water and sinking? Do you jump overboard or grab a seat on the lifeboat?

1. Do you know you are bleeding? Do you see the sharks in the water? Do you know you will die from hypothermia minutes after you leap (or fall, or get

pushed) into the water (if you are not torn to pieces by sharks first)?

2. Sinking ships create panic. Panic creates frantic thoughts. Frantic thoughts are so loud in your head that they make it difficult to hear.
3. Calm down, listen to me, there is a lifeboat right over there. And although it appears overcrowded, I promise I have space for you.
4. Stay dry, climb aboard and have a seat. That ship is sinking, but this vessel will be on dry ground shortly.
5. However, there is only one way to board the lifeboat—you have to hear My voice and listen to My instructions.

(2) Ears to hear...I won't shout!

(a) About the Parable of the Sower and Soils: *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"* (Matthew 13:9) The offer is made, join Me in the lifeboat. But, the people are hard of hearing. Blessed are your ears for they hear! What kind of blessing? *"The Lord bless you and keep you..."*

1. "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah [6:9-10] is fulfilled, which says: '**Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown**

dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' **But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;** for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." Matthew 13:14-17 NKJV

2. **Also about John the Baptist:** "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Matthew 11:15 NKJV
- (b) A still small voice—get in the lifeboat, He is NOT shouting!
1. "Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but **the Lord was not in the wind;** and after the wind an earthquake, **but the Lord was not in the earthquake;** and after the earthquake a fire, **but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice."** I Kings 19:11-12 NKJV

B. This is the way...if you are listening

(1) Walk in it...

(a) Again—This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel.

1. ““Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘**This is the way** you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:” Numbers 6:23 NKJV

(b) God must exact justice, but He is patient beyond human understanding. He is gracious and He is releasing the sound of your teachers in this day, more than ever. Listen to their words and live the way they instruct!

1. **“Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you;** And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. **For the Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.** For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; You shall weep no more. **He will be very gracious to you** at the sound of your cry; When He hears it, He will answer you. And though the Lord gives you The bread of adversity and the water of affliction, Yet **your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, But your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall**

hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.” Isaiah 30:18-21 NKJV

- (c) Ancient Paths: If you are being led in new directions, new ways of seeing things, then reset your thinking. God wants you to look back at His ways, His ancient paths!
1. “Thus says the Lord: **“Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it;** Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’” Jeremiah 6:16 NKJV
- (2) They are not listening...
- (a) History repeats itself: Listen to the teacher and go back to the ways of God. But they would not, **WILL NOT** listen! Maybe this is a word today, even for many who call themselves Christians. Are they following ancient paths of chasing new vistas?
 1. “Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, **‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’**” Jeremiah 6:17 NKJV
 - (b) Reject God’s ways, ignore His laws and what is the result? “I will certainly bring calamity...”

1. “Therefore hear, you nations, And know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth! Behold, **I will certainly bring calamity** on this people — **The fruit of their thoughts, Because they have not heeded My words Nor My law, but rejected it.**”

Jeremiah 6:18-19 NKJV

- (c) Stumbling Blocks: if you insist on rebelling, He will make it easier for you!

1. “Therefore thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will lay **stumbling blocks** before this people, And the fathers and the sons together shall fall on them. The neighbor and his friend shall perish.”” Jeremiah 6:21 NKJV

- (d) Stumbling Blocks vs. a Chosen Race. It is interesting how we see the contrast between God’s chosen people and those who *stumble for being disobedient to the word!*

1. “Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, **but chosen by God** and precious, you also, as living stones, are being **built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who

believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”
Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,” and “**A stone of stumbling** And a rock of offense.”
They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. **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; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” I Peter 2:4-10
NKJV

C. God Calling

- (1) Can you hear His voice?
 - (a) The very last verse of our portion solidifies the final piece of what it looks like when you are His chosen. We hear His voice!
 1. “Now when **Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him** from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the

two cherubim; **thus He spoke to him.**" Numbers 7:89
NKJV

(2) My Sheep Hear!

(a) Not chosen, not one of His—equals deaf to His voice.

"You do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

1. "Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. **But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.** And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one.'" John 10:22-30 NKJV

(b) You may try to sneak your way into His sheepfold, but that will not make you one of His sheep! Some may even attempt to sneak in and lead His sheep to follow them. This is a fabulous diagnostic test. God's real sheep know His voice and will not follow a false shepherd. By inference, those willing to follow the strange voice of an imposter are therefore not God's sheep!

1. ““Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.** And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; **and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger,** but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.” John 10:1-6 NKJV

(c) Y'shua is the Good Shepherd and He is calling with His voice. “This is the way, walk in it. Follow the ancient paths.” Do not listen to any other voice! He will even

go out and find other sheep that will hear His voice and bring them into ONE SHEEPFOLD under ONE SHEPHERD! Ah! Now it all makes perfect sense. No Jew, no Greek, and no more Gentiles once they are made one in Christ. What will the voices of the imposters sound like? *“Why do you listen to Him?”*

1. “Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, **but the sheep did not hear them.** I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.** “**I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.** But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. **I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.** As the Father knows Me, even so I know the

Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And **other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.** “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” **Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. And many of them said, “He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?”** Others said, “These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”” John 10:7-21 NKJV

(3) His VOICE His WORDS Your EARS your MOUTH

(a) Who is listening? Who is Speaking? What are they Saying?

1. “He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. **For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God,** for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.” John 3:33-35 NKJV

(b) The sent ones speak God's words. The testimony is simple. What God says stands! The greatest ministry of all, the ministry of reconciliation. We should minister as though we are channeling Christ through us! And notice, "Christ has committed to us the word of reconciliation." We use His words, through our lips, to reconcile others to Christ!

1. "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, **and has given us the ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, not imputing their trespasses to them, **and has committed to us the word of reconciliation**. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, **as though God were pleading through us**: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." II Corinthians 5:18-21 NKJV

(c) Impart Grace: we can impart God's supernatural power to others

1. "Let no corrupt **word proceed out of your mouth**, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**" Ephesians 4:29 NKJV

(4) Once Voice

- (a) Moses could hear His voice; Israel could hear His blessing! There is only one way to become the "Chosen Race." And there is only one way to get into the sheepfold! *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. This is My way, Walk in it! I am the propitiation for your sins."*

1. "Now when **Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him...**" Numbers 7:89 NKJV
2. "And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, '**This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: "The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."**'"
' "So they shall **put My name** on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.'" Numbers 6:22-27 NKJV

3. “And **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.**” 1

John 2:2 NKJV

Summary: MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE

3. For those who are listening—this is the way...

A. A Seat on the Lifeboat

(1) Reaching Dry Ground (Nautical Theme)

(a) What do you do when you are dead in the water and sinking? Do you jump overboard or grab a seat on the lifeboat?

1. Do you know you are bleeding? Do you see the sharks in the water? Do you know you will die from hypothermia minutes after you leap (or fall, or get pushed) into the water (if you are not torn to pieces by sharks first)?
2. Sinking ships create panic. Panic creates frantic thoughts. Frantic thoughts are so loud in your head that they make it difficult to hear.
3. Calm down, listen to me, there is a lifeboat right over there. And although it appears overcrowded, I promise I have space for you.

4. Stay dry, climb aboard and have a seat. That ship is sinking, but this vessel will be on dry ground shortly.
5. However, there is only one way to board the lifeboat—you have to hear My voice and listen to My instructions.

(2) Ears to hear...I won't shout!

- (a) About the Parable of the Sower and Soils: *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"* (Matthew 13:9) The offer is made, join Me in the lifeboat. But, the people are hard of hearing. Blessed are your ears for they hear! What kind of blessing? *"The Lord bless you and keep you..."*
- (b) A still small voice—get in the lifeboat, He is NOT shouting!

B. This is the way...if you are listening

(1) Walk in it...

- (a) Again—This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel.
- (b) God must exact justice, but He is patient beyond human understanding. He is gracious and He is releasing the sound of your teachers in this day, more than ever. Listen to their words and live the way they instruct!

- (c) Ancient Paths: If you are being led in new directions, new ways of seeing things, then reset your thinking. God wants you to look back at His ways, His ancient paths!
- (2) They are not listening...
 - (a) History repeats itself: Listen to the teacher and go back to the ways of God. But they would not, WILL NOT listen! Maybe this is a word today, even for many who call themselves Christians. Are they following ancient paths of chasing new vistas?
 - (b) Reject God's ways, ignore His laws and what is the result? "I will certainly bring calamity..."
 - (c) Stumbling Blocks: if you insist on rebelling, He will make it easier for you!
 - (d) Stumbling Blocks vs. a Chosen Race. It is interesting how we see the contrast between God's chosen people and those who *stumble for being disobedient to the word!*

C. God Calling

- (1) Can you hear His voice?
 - (a) The very last verse of our portion solidifies the final piece of what it looks like when you are His chosen. We hear His voice!

(2) My Sheep Hear!

(a) Not chosen, not one of His—equals deaf to His voice.

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QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. The phrase “Dead in the Water” is a nautical term, which originally referred to a motionless sail ship on a windless day with no momentum or chance of progression.**
 - A. How was this true about you according to Ephesians 2:1-5 and Romans 3:10-26?
- 2. Exodus 20:4-6 contrasts visiting iniquity on sinners from mercy for those you love God:**
 - A. How is it possible for us to love God? (See: I John 4:19; John 18:9)
 - B. What saying is Y’shua referring to John 18:9? (See John 6:37-40)
- 3. Reconcile the following verses:**
 - A. You did not choose Me, but I chose you. (John 15:1-17)
 - B. You are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)
 - C. And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins. (Ephesians 2:1-9)
- 4. It is obvious that God has race favor...**
 - A. Use the following passages and craft a single detailed statement that describes how God see His chosen people. (See: Deuteronomy 7:6-8, 14:2, 26:16-19; I Peter 2:9; Exodus 19:4-6; Exodus 19:4-6; II Samuel 7:23-24; Colossians 3:12-17; Titus 2:11-15)
- 5. Yahweh consistently identifies His people as Israel:**

A. How does Ephesians 2:11-22 help reconcile these other two areas of Scripture?

(1) "You have made Your people Israel Your very own people."

(II Samuel 7:23-24)

(2) "There is neither Jew nor Greek." (Galatians 3:28)

(3) How does Galatians 3:28 explain God's type of racial profiling?

6. How does Ephesians 2:11-22 then make Numbers 6:22-27 applicable to you?

7. In confusing fashion, Y'shua ends His great parable about the Wedding Feast with these words: "For many are called, but few are chosen."

A. Read Matthew 22:1-14 and then use the parable about the "Wheat and Tares" in Matthew 13:24-30 to reconcile what Y'shua means when He says that "some good and some bad" came to feast.

B. What was He referring to when He said, "*Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?*" (Again, refer to the Wheat and Tares to explain your answer.)

8. Hearing and recognizing God's voice is a common theme throughout the entire Bible:

A. How does His voice often seem? (See Kings 19:11-12)

- B. What does Isaiah mean by, "This is the way, walk in it," in Isaiah 30:18-21?
- C. How might that relate to Jeremiah's words in Jeremiah 6:16?
- D. What happens when you do not listen? (See Jeremiah 6:17-19)
- E. How might the stumbling block of Jeremiah 6:21 relate to 1 Peter 2:4-10 and being chosen by God!

9. Y'shua made great emphasis on hearing His voice:

- A. Describe how that manifest according to John 10:22-30.
- B. What warning do we get about listening to other voices in John 10:1-6 and how can we recognize "false sheep"?
- C. How can we recognize false shepherds from John 10:7-21?
- D. What will the voices of the imposters sound like? (Hint: John 10:20)

10. Moses could hear the voice of Yahweh in Numbers 7:89:

- A. How should this encourage you in light of Numbers 6:22-27, John 10:7-30 and Isaiah 30:18-21