

# THE UNITING OF JEWS AND GENTILES (1)

By Keith Greer

“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.” {John 10:16} On the first creation day, before He created one thing, God had already formulated a plan for mankind’s salvation. He loved all people, not just one particular race or group. Universal salvation was always in God’s mind. Over and over, the Old Testament prophets pointed out this truth when they prophesied about the future. However, the Jews resisted the teaching regarding a universal Messiah for all nations. In their minds, the Gentiles could not possibly share in God’s promises. A careful study of the evidence shows that this was exactly what God predetermined. When He ushered in the Gentiles, the greatest opposition came from the Jews. They were so offended that they rejected the Messiah and eventually put Him to death! Let’s examine some of the Scriptural evidence regarding this situation.

**Old Testament Prophecies.** “There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots...And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.” {Isaiah 11:1, 10} Isaiah the prophet foretold that Christ (the Messiah) would spring from the root of Jesse and reign over other nations besides Israel. Listen carefully as he speaks further. “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles...I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles.” {Isaiah 42:1, 6} Even in the days of the Major Prophets, it was evident that the Gentiles would also enjoy the blessings of God’s salvation.

Would the Messiah come to save only the Jews? “Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'” {Isaiah 49:6} Israel was not the only nation under consideration. How would the Gentiles receive this news? “The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.” {Isaiah 60:3} “The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name.” {Isaiah 62:2}

**The prophets plainly spoke regarding God’s plan to unite the Jews with the Gentiles.** “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.” {Isaiah 2:2} Note that Isaiah said “ALL NATIONS” would flow into it. The Jews completely missed this point because they were prejudiced and their minds were closed. It was not that the prophets did not speak clearly or that they endeavored to hide this information. In fact, the opposite is true. Do not forget the promises God made to Abraham. “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” {Genesis 12:3} Again, notice the words “ALL THE FAMILIES” of the earth. God brought His Son to earth through the lineage of the Jewish nation—

this fulfilled the Seed promise. "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions...and it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved..." {Joel 2:28, 32} Sadly, the mistake made in much of the religious world today is believing that the nation of Israel is still God's people today. Scores of religious leaders and politicians believe we must remain close to Israel. Why? Just in case they really are the true children of God today! \*\*\*