

“CHOSEN TO KNOW HIM”

Lesson 3 ☐ For week ending January 17, 2015

Although the Bible is clear that the message of the gospel is for everyone, it also reveals to us that God in His wisdom chooses those who know Him. God's chosen people are those who do His will. When we live according to His will, we become a peculiar treasure to God. We become witnesses of His saving grace and mercy!

KEY TEXT: “But you are my witnesses, O Israel!” says the LORD. “You are my servant. You have been chosen to know me, believe in me, and understand that I alone am God. There is no other God- there never has been, and there never will be” (Isaiah 43:10 NLT).

1. In order to better understand the fulfillment of the key text for our day, we must first establish who God's Israel is today. Study Romans 9:3-8 and Galatians 3:26-29 to confirm that God's chosen seed today are those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ.

• **Romans 9:3-8**

3 *For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race,*
4 *the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises.*
5 *Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.*
6 *It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.*
7 *Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”*
8 *In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.*

• **Galatians 3:26-29**

26 *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,*
27 *for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*
28 *There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
29 *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

2. Although we may think that we are the ones who chose God, the reality is that God is the One who chose us (John 15:15,16). The reason God chooses us is to know Him. Expand upon this as you study Deuteronomy 7:6-9.

• **John 15:15-16**

15 *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*
16 *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.*

• **Deuteronomy 7:6-9**

6 *For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.*
7 *The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.*

8 *But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

9 *Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.*

3. The biblical concept of knowing God is describing something very intimate. The word know in Isaiah 43: 10 is the same word used in Genesis 4: 1 which states, "And Adam knew his wife; and she conceived". It is describing the process in which two become acquainted with one another and become one (Genesis 2:21- 25). Compare this with John 17:20-26 and Ephesians 5:28-32.

• **Isaiah 43:10**

10 *"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.*

• **Genesis 4:1**

1 *Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man."*

• **Genesis 2:21- 25**

21 *So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.*

22 *Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

23 *The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."*

24 *That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

25 *Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

• **John 17:20-26**

20 *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

22 *I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one*

23 *I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

24 *"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*

25 *"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.*

26 *I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."*

• **Ephesians 5:28-32**

28 *In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

29 *After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church*

30 *for we are members of his body.*

31 *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will*

become one flesh.”

32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

4. The Lord's instruction to us is, "Believe in Me!" One of the meanings of the word believe is to be faithful. How and why did God reveal Himself to Moses in Numbers 12:6-8? Yahweh alone is the One whom we should seek (Hebrews 11:6)!

• **Numbers 12:6-8**

6 he said, “Listen to my words: “When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams.

7 But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house.

8 With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”

• **Hebrews 11:6**

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

5. God has chosen us to be His witnesses. What does the Lord say about His chosen people in Isaiah 43:21? God's people will live in obedience to His Word and shine as light in a dark world (Exodus 19:5,6, I Peter 2:9).

• **Isaiah 43:21**

21 the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

• **Exodus 19:5-6**

5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,

6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

• **I Peter 2:9**

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.