

Paul points out that when the Messiah came Gentiles would be called “Children of the living God.” This prophecy is in Hosea. Imagine how that would have sounded to the Jewish people at this time. They would probably have felt like something they had always treasured was being taken away from them. But that isn’t exactly what is happening. Through Jesus Christ, who fulfilled the promise given to Abraham, in a very powerful way, the blessing given to Jesus Christ was passed on to those who believed in Him. This was not taken away from the Jewish people. It was available to them as well. What changed, was that Gentiles could receive blessings that had been promised to the descendants of Abraham.

Only a Remnant Will Be Saved

[Romans 9:27-29](#) “27 And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **only a remnant of them will be saved**, 28 for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.” 29 And as Isaiah predicted, “**If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.**””

[Isaiah 10:22-23](#) “22 For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, **only a remnant of them will return**. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness. 23 For the Lord God of hosts will make a full end, as decreed, in the midst of all the earth.”

[Isaiah 1:9](#) “9 If the Lord of hosts had not left us a few survivors, **we should have been like Sodom**, and become like **Gomorrah**.”

[Hosea 1:10](#) “10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, “**You are not my people**,” it shall be said to them, “**Children of the living God**.”

[Romans 9:6](#) “6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For **not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel**,” 9{+

As Jesus was called “Son of God”, those who are in Christ will also be called God’s sons (see [Romans 8:3](#); [29](#), [32](#)).

Jesus is the “change agent” who transforms non-Israelites into Israelites, from aliens to “children of the living God.” Some who were born as descendants of Abraham do not belong to God – they are among those who are not part of the remnant, and they are not God’s chosen people. Paul says they do not belong to Israel (Romans 9:6). This was not something that changed with Jesus. There had been a remnant that didn’t return long before Jesus was born. What changed was that Gentiles could be part of the blessings promised to the descendants of Abraham.

Whoever believes

By Faith

[Romans 10:11-13](#) “11 For the Scripture says, “**Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame**.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.””

[Isaiah 28:16](#) “16 therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘**Whoever believes will not be in haste**.’”

[Joel 2:32](#) “32 And it shall come to pass that **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved**. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.”

By faith in the work of Jesus a person comes to belong to God (John 6:29). Those who believe in Jesus belong to God. It doesn't matter whether they are Jew or Gentile. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Some who were born as descendants of Abraham won't belong to God, because they have no faith in Jesus. However, both Jews and Gentiles who believe in Jesus, who obey His command to believe in Him, will be saved (John 12:36, Acts 16:36).

How Are Gentile Believers Changed?

One head

[Hosea 1:11](#) “11 And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they **shall appoint** for themselves **one head**. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.”

[Romans 1:4](#) “4 and **was declared to be the Son of God** in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;”

[Romans 8:29](#) “29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order **that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.**”

[Ephesians 1:22-23](#) “22 And he put all things under his feet and **gave him as head over all things to the church**, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

Under the headship of Jesus Christ those who believe in Him are conformed to His image. He is the Son of God. He is the head of Israel. He is also the head of the church. Those who are in Christ, then, are adopted as sons of God, as we will see next.

Christians are adopted sons

[Romans 8:15](#) “15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but **you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons**, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!””

[Romans 8:23](#) “23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as **we wait eagerly for adoption as sons**, the redemption of our bodies.”

Those who believe in Jesus are transformed by Jesus into adopted sons of God. As head of the church and head of Israel Jesus Christ is the one who can change them in this way.

Christians are of Israel

[Galatians 3:16](#) “16 Now the **promises were made to Abraham** and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but **referring to one**, “And to **your offspring,**” who is Christ.”

[Galatians 3:26-29](#) “26 for **in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith**. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus**. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are **Abraham's offspring**, heirs according to promise.”

[Galatians 6:16](#) “16 And as **for all who walk by this rule**, peace and mercy be upon them, and **upon the Israel of God.**”

Jesus fulfills the role of Israel, as the offspring of Abraham. By being one in Christ Christians are sons of God, and offspring of Abraham.

Who do you say that Jesus is? If you say He is your Lord and Savior, Son of God, and you believe it in your heart, then you are saved. God calls you one of His own people. You will have total victory through Jesus over all the sin that has been a part of your life. You will live free from sin and death for all of eternity.

But if you do not say that Jesus is your Lord and Savior, then you have no part in God and God does not call you one of His people.

Ask yourself, do you believe in Jesus?

Ephesians 3

C J G K O A C C O R D I N G For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf
H R I H E A R T I G R A C E of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the
R E V E L A T I O N L H S N the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have
I A E A U S B E I N G P T E written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my
S S N V P S P R I S O N E R insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made
T O J E S U S J J Y S M W A known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now
C N T N W M A D E R P Y A T been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.
H F F B R I E F L Y E S R I This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of
S P P V I N B Y E R L T D O the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus
A O A V T G E N T I L E S N through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister
I W U G T C H U R C H R H S according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by
N E L L E F A I T H E Y I W the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of
T R L O N C L O V E A H P O all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles
S P I R I T F O P S R C K R the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for
M D J Y K N O W N B D U B K everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in
God, who created all things, so that through the church the
manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the
rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was
according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in
Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access
with confidence through our faith in him. So I ask you not to
lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your

glory. For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

(ESV)