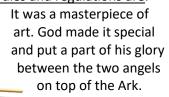
One of Abraham's grandchildren was Jacob. God changed Jacob's name to Israel. <u>Israel had 12 sons</u>; the heads of the 12 tribes of Israel. Abraham's other offspring became many of the Arab tribes. Because of a famine, Israel and his offspring moved to Egypt where they multiplied. After a few hundred years in Egypt, God brought them out by miracles under the leadership of Moses in an event called 'the Exodus'.

All the nations had many gods that they could see.

But the children of Israel could not see their God, as God is a spirit. (John 4:24) When Moses disappeared onto Mount Sinai for forty days, they also wanted a god that they could see. They made a golden calf and worshipped it. Moses returned. He was furious and smashed the golden calf, reducing it to dust.

On Sinai, God had given Moses laws for them to live by. God told them to make a beautiful box called 'the Ark of the Covenant', which they could also see. In the box they had to put the ten commandments to show how important rules and regulations are.



He also gave them more laws to live by

and if they would obey these then God would bless them abundantly, but if not, it meant trouble. After 40 years in the desert, he told the Israelites to settle in the land that he had promised to Abraham.

The people that lived in that land did not respect any laws and worshipped whatever they wanted (Isaiah 2:8) Ashtoreth, Dagon, Baal, Moloch, etc. They made their children pass through the fire. They sacrificed their babies to the statues that had fire inside and would burn the babies alive, which made the so-called god happy.

Another thing is that parents would kill one of their children and put the <u>body in the foundation</u> of the



house, so the house would become a 'happy home'. Others killed their firstborn son to make of the skull an object that could tell the future. It was total anarchy and without laws or morals, along with human sacrifices, cutting out people's hearts for their puppet gods.

This is unbelievable you might say, and so did God who loves these little creatures called babies. The Israelites were not to intermarry with the locals, but to conquer the land promised to Abraham as God needed a people that could at least live by some rules and would follow the example of their father Abraham who was known to be 'the Friend of God.' (James 2:23)

However, we have the freedom of choice and...

'They mingled with the nations and adopted their customs... worshipped their idols... They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons.... by their deeds they prostituted themselves.' (Psalm 106:34-39) God compared his relationship with the nation of Israel to being married with a prostitute.

'You have made your beauty to be abhorred, and have opened your feet to everyone that passed by...' (Ezekiel 16:25)

Yet the Lord always said, 'Return and I will not be angry with you, for I am merciful.' (Jeremiah 3:12)

Under king David, who loved the Lord, Israel grew into a strong kingdom. His son, king Solomon, built a temple for the Lord and the Lord appeared to him twice. However later in life he also built temples to other gods for his many wives.

After Solomon the nation broke into two; eleven tribes on the one hand and the tribe of Judah on the other. Jerusalem was in the land of Judah and this tribe became known as the Jews.

Seeing the Israelites were God's chosen people, he gifted them with smart brains, beautiful talents of art, music, science, mathematics and comedy. You can see it, even recently, from Houdini to Arthur Rubenstein, from Einstein to Spielberg, from Chagall to George Gershwin to Harrison Ford, etc., etc.

However, some of the big Jewish financiers and industrialists went over to the dark side and they have given negative sting to the Jewish name.

Two thousand years ago, God sent his Son and said, 'We need to find among the children of Israel those that seek me with their whole heart. (John 4:23)

They will no longer be members of an earthly kingdom, but of our heavenly kingdom. It will be a big shocker for them, but will you go love them and be



their Messiah? You'll be 'the Light of the world' but people will also hate you as 'they love darkness more than light for their deeds are evil.' (John3:19) Yet all can receive our heavenly Kingdom residency status if they believe you, as he that receives you

status if they believe you, as he that receives you receives me. These will be our new 'chosen ones' and will be given power to personally become my sons and daughters.' (John 13:20 & 1:12)

The Lord had given <u>several hundred indications</u> in his word that the Messiah would come, so people were on the lookout for him. Jesus came <u>to find the lost sheep of the house of Israel</u>. (Matthew 15:24) Jesus stated, 'he that sees me, sees him that sent me.' (John 12:44,45) He was the embodiment of our Creator, our Father; Life and Love in its purest form.

Jesus manifested the real side of God the Father

and his deep, unfathomable love for mankind, by <u>healing</u> the sick, raising dead ones, <u>forgiving</u> sinners and ultimately <u>giving his life</u> for our salvation.

The Israelites had the law given by Moses, but then grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)

Jesus simplified the many "thou shalt not" laws and commandments for us by saying, 'I give you a new commandment that you love each other.' (John 13:34) This puts us all on equal footing as sinners, as we have all failed in loving others and we need his outside help to show unconditional love. Jesus made that love available to us and carved a path through this jungle of life by connecting us back to the true Energy of Love, to our Creator. When we accept Jesus, we'll understand why we are here on earth and what salvation means.

If there is no salvation our life on earth would be futile. 'Let the reader understand this.' (Mt.24:15)
Until Jesus 'salvation was of the Jews' (John 4:22), but he made salvation available to the world population, Jew and Gentile. (John 3:16) His disciples first told the Jews. Thousands upon thousands believed, after this the message went worldwide.

Paul, one of the most fervent, law abiding, educated Jews of his day, after having his eyes opened, stated, 'Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.' (1Cor.15:50) 'There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ.' And 'If you truly belong to Jesus, then are you Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.' (1Tim.2:5; Gal.3:29) The offspring of Abraham was no longer physical but became spiritual and circumcision was that to be of the heart. Jesus said 'you don't need to worship in this mountain or in Jerusalem', but 'we must worship God in spirit and truth' (John 4:22,23).

Conclusion: Every person can now choose to be one of God's chosen kingdom people, if they choose Jesus, which is the prerequisite set by the Father. God's presence went from a stone building to the living temple of our heart, where each person can have a direct relationship with the Almighty.

Jesus cared more for the honest sinners than for the high religionists, which cost him his life. Just before his crucifixion Jesus told Pilate, 'my Kingdom is not of this world'. Notice, how he did not say religion.

Pilate said, 'Are you a king then?' Jesus answered, 'You said it.' Jesus also told him, 'He who wants the truth will listen to me.' (John 18:36,37) In other words; I came for those who seek the truth in a world of lies and empty promises; those who want to know the reason for their life on earth.

Jesus was a great leveller and lifts us high above the divisions of race and religion to connect each of us back to our Creator, to be 'His Chosen One'.

A prayer:

"Dear Jesus, I am not very good at this praying business, but I ask you to guide me throughout my life. With this I refuse to be a child of darkness and want to live in the light. I am tired of; justifying the 'white' lies and the 'for money' focus. I will study what your disciples: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John recorded about you. You said, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' That is what I desire; to find my way, to embrace the truth, to live life to the full, to hear from you. I choose to be a chosen one and citizen of your heavenly Kingdom. I mean it, because I've made my choice of my own free will... So be it!"

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Do 'the Chosen People' Choose? (history synopsis)



When <u>God</u> made the heavens and the earth, he gave us life and the <u>freedom of choice</u>. However, because of our rebellious nature, most of us did not want to have anything to do with God. 'The earth was filled with violence... the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually' (Genesis 6:11) So, God had to destroy everything in the biggest ecological <u>natural disaster</u> ever, <u>the flood</u>. Noah, his wife, three sons and their wives survived. Son Shem's offspring populated all of Asia; Ham went to Africa and Japhet to Europe. From <u>Shem</u> we derive the word <u>anti-Semitism</u>.

People quickly forgot why the flood took place and it was again: No Rules and Anarchy!

God knew how mankind needed rules to live by.

Although he tried to get people's attention, no one

listened. Finally, God found Abram who chose to listen. He told Abram, 'Look, I will make of you a great nation. You will be called Abraham.' He showed him a good land that he promised to his descendants.



Abraham @ 2191-2016 B.C.

God separated him and his offspring from other people and nations by means of circumcision.*

* Circumcision is the surgical removal of the penis foreskin.