

Jews and Gentiles
(John 10:16; Ephesians 2:14-17)

And I have other sheep that I will gather which are not of this Jewish flock. And I, their Shepherd, must lead them too, and they will follow Me and listen to My voice. And I will join them all into one flock with one Shepherd (John 10:16)! Jews and Gentiles were united at the death and resurrection of YAHSHUA. We are united in the covenant of blood. YAHSHUA is our reconciling Peace! He offered His body as a sacrifice to break down every wall of prejudice between Jews and Gentiles. He united the world as one; He, the Seed of Abraham, engrafted the Gentiles into the family of Abraham through our faith in Him. In Him Jews and Gentiles are fused as one new man (Ephesians 2: 14-16).

While God the Son was on the cross dying to redeem the world, God the Father was reconciling Jews and Gentiles to Himself. That does not mean that God is finished with His chosen people, Israel, to whom He gave the Law. Absolutely not! The prophecies found in all the books of the Old Testament will someday be fulfilled in the lives of God's chosen people through restoration and also through judgment. To the Israelites belong God's adoption [as a nation] and the glorious Presence (Shekinah). With them were the special covenants made, to them was the Law given. To them worship was revealed and promises announced (Rom. 9:4-5). However it has been about two thousand years since the Lord YAHSHUA'S prophetic words of judgment came to the nation of Israel saying: Behold, your house is forsaken! And I tell you, you will not see Me again until the time comes when you shall say, Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord (Luke 13: 35)! Until then God is dealing with Israel individually and not as a nation. Those of them who have accepted YAHSHUA as their Messiah are united with the Gentiles in the new covenant established by YAHSHUA through His death. Together, we are called the true Israel, the true children of Abraham, through his Seed- YAHSHUA, we are blessed, as it was promised to Abraham in Genesis 22: 18: And in your Seed [Christ] shall all the nations of the earth be blessed and [by Him] bless themselves, because you have heard and obeyed My voice. Many understand that the blessings to the Gentile nations are through Israel; however when Abraham was given this promise, he was a gentile not a Jew; the promise refers to the Seed, not to seeds. Therefore I conclude that was the promise of salvation to the entire world of Jews as well as Gentiles.

In chapter four of his book, John registers a divine appointment; YAHSHUA meeting the Samaritan woman. That was a true picture of the love of God embracing the world with salvation. He well knew that that woman was not a Jew. He knew all about her life and there He offered her the Living Water. When He asked her for water in that heat of the day, her response was, Why would a Jewish man ask a Samaritan woman for a drink of water? Jews won't even drink from a cup that a Samaritan has used! YAHSHUA distancing Himself from the rest, said, If you only knew Who I am and the gift that God is wanting to give you- you would be asking Me for a drink, and I would give to you Living Water (John 4:9-10). The deep meaning of YAHSHUA'S words was that He had come to the world to bring salvation to all who believed in Him: Jews and Gentiles. In His sight there was no difference between the two, for He had come to fulfill the Law, which no man could do.

The Samaritan woman believed Him and salvation was granted her and to all who had come to see YAHSHUA because of her words. They too believed in Him as the Word of God registers: So there were many from the Samaritan village who became believers in YAHSHUA because of the woman's testimony: He told me everything I ever did!" Then they begged YAHSHUA to stay with them, so He stayed there for two more days, resulting in many more coming to faith in Him because of His teachings. Then the Samaritans said to the woman, We no longer believe just because of that you told us, but now we have heard Him ourselves and are convinced that He really is the true Savior of the world! (John 4:39-42).

YAHSHUA'S words to Nicodemus was, For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son for whosoever believe in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Whosoever includes all- Jews and Gentiles. In the Garden of Eden when there was not yet a people called Jew, God promised salvation through His Son for the human race. Satan has been bruised and his head treaded underfoot by YAHSHUA when He died on the cross and was victoriously raised to life. In the fullness of time God sent His Son, born of a woman, born subject to the Law to purchase the freedom of those who were subject to the Law, that we might be adopted and have sonship conferred upon us and because you are [His] sons, God has sent the [Holy] spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba Father (Gal. 4:4-5)! For in Christ YAHSHUA you are all sons of God through faith; there is [now no distinction] neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is not male, and female; for you are all one in Christ YAHSHUA; and if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring and heirs according to promise (Gal. 3:26,28-29). All believers – Jews and Gentiles are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ YAHSHUA the chief Cornerstone; in Him the whole structure is joined together harmoniously, and it continues to rise into a holy temple in the Lord (Eph. 2:20-21). In His priestly prayer YAHSHUA prayed that we be one as He is one with the Father. In a family which is constituted by father, mother, brother and sister, although individually different, they are one in the frame of a family. The body of Christ has many parts and each has different functions; but all in one body. The Jews cannot reject the idea of the unity that God Himself established between them and the Gentiles. They will not be able to enter the Kingdom of God on their terms. YAHSHUA was the One Who paid the price for the salvation of the entire world. Salvation for the Gentiles was not God's plan B. He knew all along that the Jews were going to reject His Son. But it would be through them that the Gospel would be spread throughout the world for the remission of sins from all who believed the message.

Paul affirms that there is only one body and one Spirit just as there is also one hope to the calling you received- there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is above all pervading all and in all (Eph. 4:4-6). God's intention is the perfecting of His saints to accomplish the call given to each one, as we labor as one in Him to bring glory to His name without distinction of race. This way His church is built in the measure of the fullness of Christ. God has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all (Eph. 1:22-23). Before He went to the cross YAHSHUA prayed for the unity of all those who would believe in Him through

the testimony of the apostles. Jews and Gentiles as one should embrace the message of unity to shine the light of YAHSHUA'S love to the entire world until He comes.