

THE “CHOSEN PEOPLE”: CHOSEN FOR A SERIOUS AND SPECIFIC PURPOSE

Yes, according to the Five Books of Moses, the Jews are God’s chosen people but what does that mean? The concept is widely misunderstood and it has also been intentionally abused, by religious leaders who knew better, for the purpose of stirring up resentment, wild hate, cruelty, and horrible violence against the Jewish people.

The Misunderstanding

Many Jews and non-Jews think that being “chosen” by God to be His people comes with many enviable privileges: good fortune, protection, etc. Yet, anybody who takes even the hastiest look at Jewish history would see that we have not enjoyed that kind of treatment.

On the contrary, there might be no other people throughout history who have suffered more. We have experienced every cruelty at the hands of other nations over the centuries, and then it was all topped by the Holocaust. There is no group who would want to be “chosen” if it knew what has happened to us.

Only the childish who think that they missed out on being their parents’ favorite, and are jealous of a sibling in that position, can bring themselves, or be driven to the raging, murderous hatred that the Jews have encountered

The Correct Meaning of “the Chosen People”

The Jews were chosen for a specific purpose, for a very special social experiment. THAT IS ALL!! That is who we are. That is our sole reason for being! It is our sole distinction!

We were freed from Egypt and, in return, voluntarily became the subjects of a demonstration. God gave us a set of laws which, if followed by the Jewish nation, would result in an ideal (utopian) society, one that is prosperous and strong, and at the same time sensitive to all living creatures (people, animals, and the rest of the environment). It would be at peace with neighbors, only waging defensive wars. The Jews would demonstrate the benefits of the laws.

If the laws were followed by the Jewish nation, everything would be fine; but if not, if the society went astray, then it would see hardship. If the wise recommendations of God were ignored, there would be suffering, brought not by God; but rather all the troubles would be essentially self and naturally inflicted.

Also if the laws were followed, other countries would see their benefits and adopt them. This is teaching by example, a very important aspect of Judaism. Every society would eventually benefit from the laws and the whole world would reach its greatest potential for happiness.

As Individuals

On the individual level each Jewish person has to decide how he or she will handle their special mission, the chosenness. Please read my essay, **CHOOSE YOURSELF**, where I discuss this topic.

A Couple of Additional Notes

1. In our world, when a scientist is conducting an experiment, he protects the subjects from outside harm so that his research design can run its course and his hypothesis can be conclusively shown to be correct. God did not protect the Israel experiment and even scattered the Jewish people. In exile we experienced terrible harm and even attempts at genocide by the host countries. It seems that the Jews went from being the chosen people to the abandoned people.
2. If a person doesn't believe in God, the Five Books of Moses should still be studied because there is much wisdom there. The laws or recommendations are intended to enhance human life, i.e. encourage us to live sensitively and justly and to reap the rewards of such behavior. One might ask, "If the laws were not given by God, then by whom?". A reasonable question! My answer to that would be: some extremely smart and well-intentioned human beings.

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