

ENVY OF THE CHOSEN

Sunday Morning: October 7, 2001

Text: Nehemiah 9:7 "Thou art the LORD the God, who didst **choose Abram**, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of **Abraham**;"

The conflict of September 11 did not begin on that date nor in the past 100 years. This conflict started in Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Because we are living in the last days of the sixth millennium which is just before the millennial reign of Christ, we see the tempo of this conflict increasing. Satan has been stirring up opposition against the seed of the Woman from the day that Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden. The first act of hatred was when Cain saw that God preferred Abel's offering over his own. Abel was innocent of any wrong doing. He was just doing what the Lord wanted him to do and he was blessed.

In Nehemiah 9:7 we see that Abraham was chosen by God to be of the lineage of the Seed of the woman and God separated him from his family. God even changed his name, over riding the choice that his father had made in the Ur of the Chaldees.

ABRAHAM BLESSED

Genesis 12:3 "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

It is here in Genesis 12:3 we see that blessing that he had for Abraham, his chosen. Because God blessed Abraham with the phrases "I will bless them that bless thee" and "In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed" God knew that he would need to protect Abraham.

Abraham's protection comes in the phrase "I will ... curse him that curseth thee."

BLESSED ISAAC AND JACOB

Psalms 105:9-11 "Which covenant he made with **Abraham**, and his oath unto **Isaac**; 10. And confirmed the same unto **Jacob** for a law, and to **Israel** for an everlasting covenant: 11. Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance:"

This blessing of Abraham also included land as well. God made a covenant with Abraham that he would give him and his seed the land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates River. We find that in Genesis 15:18 "In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:" I believe the river of Egypt is not the wadi south of the land of Canaan but the Nile River. The Palestinians and Moslems have been fighting Israel for the little land that they have, but God is going to give much more than that to Abraham's seed.

This covenant was not made to just one person, but to Abraham's seed. That includes Isaac, Jacob, and the twelve patriarchs and their descendants that will inherit the land of Canaan known as the land flowing with milk and honey.

One thing that we need to keep in mind is that Abraham had more than one son. Ishmael was Abraham's first born, but not with Sarah. After Sarah died Abraham married again in Genesis 25:1-2 "Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. 2. And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shua." All of these and their seed must be included in the promise made to Abraham. The distinction between the land promised in Genesis 15:18 and the land promised in Psalms 105:11 is that the best inheritance was in the land of Canaan which is known as the land flowing with milk and honey.

ISAAC BLESSED

Genesis 21:10 "Wherefore she said unto Abraham, **Cast out** this bondwoman and her **son**: for the son of this bondwoman **shall not be heir** with my son, even with **Isaac**."

Abraham wanted Ishmael to be the seed that would receive the blessing as shown in Genesis 17:18 "And Abraham said unto God, O that **Ishmael** might **live before thee!**" but God had other plans. Genesis 17:19 "And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and with his seed after him.*" With this Ishmael was cut off from receiving the preferred blessing that was given to Abraham.

Here is Genesis 21:10 God uses Sarah to inform Abraham that Ishmael was to be cast out and that Isaac was to receive the inheritance promised to Abraham. Ishmael was to be cast out of the house of Abraham to live in the wilderness.

ISHMAEL MOCKING

Genesis 21:9 "And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, **mocking**."

Here in Genesis 21:19 we see the conflict between the chosen seed of Abraham, Isaac, and the seed of Abraham that was cast out. Ishmael was mocking Isaac and this distressed Sarah to the point that she said that Ishmael would not be included in the inheritance of Abraham left to his son Isaac.

ISHMAEL AGAINST EVERY MAN

Genesis 16:11-12 "And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou *art* with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name **Ishmael**; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. 12. And he will be a **wild man**; his hand *will be against every man*, and **every man's hand against him**; and **he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.**"

Why was Ishmael mocking Isaac? We find the answer to that question in Genesis 16:12. The Lord said that Ishmael would be a wild man. A wild man is one who is out of control. The Lord said further that he would be against every man. Ishmael and his descendant were not going to be too friendly with others. Because of Ishmael's attitude, every man's hand would be against him. One problem that Isaac and his seed would have is Ishmael would not go away. He would dwell in the presence of all his brethren. Abraham cast him out, but he did not move very far away.

ISHMAEL'S INHERITANCE

Genesis 21:14 "And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took **bread**, and a **bottle of water**, and gave *it* unto Hagar, putting *it* on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba."

If you compare the inheritance that Ishmael received with the inheritance that Isaac received you can see that there would be envy, anger, and hatred. Abraham gave Hagar and Ishmael a loaf of bread and a bottle of water.

This gift of Abraham to Hagar and Ishmael did not go unnoticed. They had in abundance in the house of Abraham and now they were in want. It is human nature not to forget what others have done to you that you think are wrong. I do not have any scripture to support this idea that Hagar and Ishmael resented the treatment they received from Abraham, but it is the way of the flesh to build up resentment and envy against others. Ishmael was a wild man and by this he would become a trouble maker and this event in his life just added fuel to his uncontrolled behavior.

ISAAC'S INHERITANCE

Genesis 25:5 "And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac."

The very fact that Isaac received all of Abraham's inheritance, short a loaf of bread and a bottle of water, would not go unnoticed by Ishmael.

The point I am trying to present is that the blessing of God causes others to envy and covet the blessing that God has given you or will give you because you are his chosen one.

THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM

Genesis 28:1, 3-4 "And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, 3. And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; 4. And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham."

This passage affirms that the blessing of God upon Abraham was passed on from Abraham to Isaac and then to Jacob. In fact this blessing was passed on to all of Abraham's seed that were in the lineage of Isaac, Jacob, and the twelve patriarchs and their children. That includes the nation of Israel to day. They are still the chosen of God and are still being blessed by him because of the promises made to Abraham and the Fathers.

JACOB CHOSEN

Romans 9:12-13 "It was said unto her, The **elder** (Esau) shall serve the **younger** (Jacob)."

13. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."

In the family of Isaac we see another distinction made between brother with the same mother. In the case of Ishmael and Jacob, there were different mothers which might lessen the disparity between the inheritance of Ishmael and Isaac. In this case, they both had the same mother, Rebekah, which would make Esau, the first born, even more in line for the inheritance of the first born. That did not happen because God chose Jacob to rule over Esau. As the first born, Esau would feel slighted because he did not receive the blessing of the first born.

With the statement that Jacob was loved emphasizes that fact that the chosen are "the beloved." The word "hate" is a relative term used as in preference and not in an emotional sense. God preferred Jacob over Esau. This born out in the exhortation found in Luke 14:26 "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."

ESAU HATED JACOB

Genesis 27:41 "And Esau hated Jacob because of the **blessing** wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I **slay my brother** Jacob."

God predetermined who was going to be blessed the blessing of the firstborn and that was Jacob who was second born. This blessing that Jacob would receive would put in above Esau and generated feelings of hate and resentment against Jacob. This happens today when someone gets promoted to a higher position in a company quicker than some one who has been with the company a long time. When someone like Joseph who as a dream or hope of one day ruling and reigning with Christ over others in the family, that creates resentment. This is something that the blessed have to accept.

DESCENDANT OF ESAU

Genesis 36:12 "And Timna was concubine to Eliphaz **Esau's son**; and she bare to Eliphaz **Amalek**: these were the sons of Adah Esau's wife."

This verse will give us some insight into those who have developed a resentment toward those in the family. One of the descendants of Esau was Amalek, and the Amalekites fought with Israel when they were in the wilderness after coming out of Egypt.

ISRAEL'S ENEMY

Exodus 17:8 "Then came **Amalek**, and fought with Israel in Rephidim."

The record of this battle is found in Exodus 17 when Amalek came out against Israel. The enemy of Israel in this battle were part of the family even the descendants of Esau.

WITH THE ROD OF GOD

Exodus 17:9 "And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, **fight with Amalek**: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill **with the rod of God** in mine hand."

The "rod of Moses" was the symbol of God power and provision form Moses and the nation of Israel. God used the rod to produce the signs in the land of Egypt. The rod was used by God to open the Red Sea and then close the Red Sea to destroy the Egyptian army. It was the rod of God that provided water for the nation of Israel.

PREVAILED BY PRAYER

Exodus 17:11-12 "And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that **Israel prevailed**: and when he let down his hand, **Amalek prevailed**. 12. But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put *it* under him, and he sat thereon; and **Aaron** and **Hur stayed up his hands**, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun."

The outcome of this battle was dependent up prevailing prayer on the mountain, or in type, heavenly places. When the rod was held high, the tide of battle went in favor of Joshua. By lifting the rod up before the Lord, they were showing their dependence upon God's provision to give them the victory.

REMEMBER AMALEK

Deuteronomy 25:17-19 "Remember what **Amalek** did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; 18. How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all *that were feeble* behind thee, when thou *wast faint and weary*; and **he feared not God**. 19. Therefore it shall be, **when** the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land **which** the LORD thy God giveth thee *for an inheritance* to **possess** it, *that* thou shalt **blot out** the remembrance of **Amalek** from under heaven; thou shalt not forget *it*."

This verse in Deuteronomy give us insight into the character of the Amalekites. They were cowardly in that they attacked the feeble, faint, and weary. They would not attack the army of Israel. This is the tactic that the terrorist used when they flew the high jacked planes into the Trade Center in New York City. Those who were killed in the Trade Center were the weak, weary, faint who were innocent. The terrorist are part of the family of Israel. Israel, or Jacob, has been chosen by God and so the descendant of Esau still hate them. I believe that this hatred has been passed down even taught as it is being done in certain camps in the Middle East.

These verses are very clear that God hates this kind of terrorist activity. God will give Israel the land and when they have rest they will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. Keep in mind that the Amalekites are only one line of the descendant of Esau, not all of Esau's

relative are to be removed.

THEY HATED HIM

John 15:18-20 "If the world hate you, ye know that it **hated** me before *it hated* you. 19. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I **have chosen you** out of the world, therefore the world **hateth** you. 20. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If **they have persecuted** me, **they will also persecute** you; if **they have kept** my saying, **they will keep** yours also."

Jesus warned his Apostles they would be hated. The reason they will be hated is because "they" hated him. The lord used the word "world" but it is clear that the world in this verse is a reference to those who hated Him. The following verse affirms that was the nation of Israel that hated him. John 15:25 "But *this cometh to pass*, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause."

THEY SOUGHT TO DESTROY HIM

Luke 19:47 "And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to **destroy him**,"

The Romans did not persecute the Lord, it was the Jews who would not have him rule over them. Luke 19:14 "But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this *man* to reign over us." It was these citizens that hated him and the Lord said they would hate you as well.

FOR ENVY

Mark 15:10 "For he knew that the chief priests had **delivered him for envy**."

At his trial in the house of the high priest Jesus confessed that he was the Christ and that he would reign at the right hand of God. Luke 22:67-70 "Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe: 68. And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go. 69. Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God. 70. Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am." Again from Luke 19:14 we are reminded "We will not have this *man* to reign over us."

HIS CRIME

Luke 23:38 "And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**"

Israel hated Jesus the Christ because he said in assonance that he would be their king and rule over them. As their king, they would be judged for their rebellion against God, and they did not want that to occur.

AN HOLY NATION

Exodus 19:5-6 "Now therefore, if ye will **obey** my voice indeed, and **keep** my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar **treasure** unto me **above all people**: for all the earth *is mine*: 6. And ye shall be unto me **a kingdom of priests**, and an **holy nation**. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of **Israel**."

The use of the words "treasure", "above all people", "kingdom of priest", and "holy nation" could bring feelings of envy and resentment by those in the family that should have held this position because of the law of the land. God reversed this in the lives of Ishmael and Isaac; Esau and Jacob; Manasseh and Ephraim; and Zarah and Pharez in Genesis 38:27-30.

Joseph was the next to the last of his brothers to be born, yet God chose him to be over his brothers in Genesis 37. Joseph's brothers resented the fact that they would bow down to him and serve him, but that is what God had chosen for Joseph and appointed for his brothers. That

is the way it is going to be in the family of God in the coming millennial kingdom of our Lord.

Deuteronomy 28:13 "And the LORD shall make thee the **head**, and not the **tail**; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do *them*:" Verse 13 tells us clearly where Israel will be one day. This place in the family did not sit too well with the others in the family of Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob. The thought of Israel being the head and not the tail of the nations does not go over well with Esau, Ishmael and others in the family of Abraham.

A FRUITFUL NATION

Matthew 21:43 "Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom** of God shall be **taken from you**, and given to a **nation** bringing **forth the fruits** thereof."

Because Israel would not produce the fruits required to enter into the kingdom of the heavens, the Lord said that he would take that kingdom and give it to a nation that would produce the fruits to qualify them to enter into the kingdom.

CORNELIUS AND HIS HOUSE

Acts 15:14 "Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the **Gentiles**, **to take out** of them a **people for his name**."

Peter declared to the saved Jews that the nation that God had chosen was to be taken out of saved Gentiles. Just as the Father had given eyes and ears to certain saved of the nation of saved Israel, he has done the same among saved Gentiles.

GENTILE ROYALTY

1 Peter 2:9 "But ye are a **chosen** generation, a **royal** priesthood, an **holy nation**, a **peculiar people**; that ye should show forth the praises of him **who hath called you** out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

Even though the Lord told his disciples not to go to Gentiles nor into any city of the Samaritans with the message of the kingdom; he gave us a clue to his plans and purposes in John 4. Jesus sent his disciples away while in presented the kingdom to the Samaritan woman at the well.

Jesus was calling her out of darkness in advance to help us understand that this was his plan all along. In 1 Peter 2:8 "And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to *them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed." we see that Israel had been appointed to stumbling over the message of the kingdom to open the door for Gentiles to enter into that heavenly inheritance. They were not appointed to being lost, but not entering into the kingdom of the heavens.

BLESSING OF THE ELECT

Ephesians 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath **blessed** us with all **spiritual blessings in heavenly places** in Christ: 4. According as he hath **chosen us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5. Having predestinated us unto the **adoption** (to place us above others) of **children (sons)** by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"

This passage here in Ephesians tells of the heavenly blessing that the Father is going to provide for the elect or chosen in His family. These spiritual blessing have to do with the chosen becoming sons of God. The word adoption is not a good translation of the word that should be translated "to place as a son". To be placed in a position of a son is to be in a position of honor and glory as a sovereign in the family. As a sovereign we will be ruling over others in the family and those in the family, as in the case of Joseph's brothers, do not like to hear such talk. There are those who teach that all in the family will be sovereigns in the family and will obtain honor

and glory in the coming kingdom. That is just simply not the case.

CHOSEN OF GOD

1 Thessalonians 1:4 "Knowing, **brethren beloved**, your **election** of God."

The word 'brethren' gives insight into who the elect or chose of God are. Brethren are those who desire to not just see the kingdom of the heavens but to enter into the kingdom of the heavens. The following two verse tells us who a brother is. He wants to do the will of the Father so that he can enter into the kingdom of the heavens. Matthew 12:50 "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

The word 'knowing' is a perfect active participle and is in the nominative case. It is the subject of this sentence. This participle tells us that God knew the elect in the past and he continues to know them. He uses the vocative case to address them as 'brethren' and 'beloved.' The vocative case of the word beloved is in the perfect tense. It also is a participle meaning that it is an adjective describing the chosen or elect. Because of the perfect tense, this is in agreement with Ephesians 1:4 in that they were chosen before the foundation of the world to be brought out of the family for special position over the family.

PERSECUTED AS ISRAEL

2 Thessalonians 1:4-6 "So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: 5. *Which* is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: 6. Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;"

It is because the elect at Thessalonica were suffering so much at the hand of the Jews, that believed, that Paul wrote them to encourage them. I believe this persecution was from the hand of those in the family. Saved Jews wanted to lord over the elect Gentiles by requiring circumcision and the keeping of the law to enter into the kingdom of the heavens. with the law, and the chosen of God have liberty in the Lord.

I am reminded of Acts 14:22 "Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." Acts 13:45 "But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming." Paul was plagued with type of persecution from save Israel.

EVEN SO IT IS NOW

Galatians 4:28-30 "Now we, brethren, **as Isaac was**, are the children of promise. 29. But as then he that was born after the flesh **persecuted** him *that was born* after the Spirit, **even so it is now**. 30. **Nevertheless** what saith the scripture? **Cast out the bondwoman** and her **son**: for the son of the bondwoman shall **not be heir with the son of the freewoman**."

Paul is telling those in Galatia that the persecution that they as well he were having to endure was the same persecution that Isaac had to endure from Ishmael. Genesis 16:12 "And he will be a wild man; his hand *will be* against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren." The issue between these brethren was that of inheritance. Isaac will have an heavenly inheritance were in type Ishmael will have an earthly inheritance. You try to explain you hope of glory to some in the family, they get a bit huffy, believing that all will have an heavenly inheritance. They want to believe that just salvation will

give them an heavenly inheritance because all the saved are the elect. You have to be in the family before inheritance becomes an issue. Both Ishmael and Isaac were in the family of Abraham, but they would not both received the same inheritance.

OFFENDING THE LITTLE ONES

Matthew 18:6 "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

The little ones in this chapter are the ones who are seeking to enter and not just to see the kingdom of the heavens. How are they seeking to enter into the kingdom of the heavens? This is found in Matthew 18:3-4 "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." The word 'convert' is not a reference to getting saved, but a reference to turning around and changing your life style and attitude. A little child is also one who is submissive to the will of the Father. They are able to pray even as their Lord prayed in the garden. Mark 14:36 "And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt." They know that they serve a powerful God that can change anything, but what is more important for them is the will of the Father. To submit to His will takes humility and obedience.

The Word of God clearly warns those that would offend them to cause them to stumble and stop doing what is required to enter into the kingdom of the heavens. It is those who are in the family of God that can cause the greatest hurt. If anyone in the family of God causes one of these little ones to stumble, it would be better if person had died early in life.

Just as Jesus warned his Apostles about the world hating them, little children are also warned that offences or persecution will come. Matthew 18:7 "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!"

In light of terrorism in the world and in the church the following verse takes on added meaning. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men." Paul also counseled Titus in Titus 1:9-11 "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 10. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11. Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."