

Intent and Importance of Israel's Influence (1)  
Gen. 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Duet.7:6-8

Introduction: It is my prayer that this study will stir a passion to better understand God's Word which is His story about His dealing with the entire world. We must understand that it is all about Him and His desires.

A. Intent and Importance of Israel's Influence

1. Well into the OT before God chooses Abraham, Gen. 12:1-3, about 2090 BC
  - a. Creation happens somewhere between 6-4,000 BC
  - b. Genesis 3 - 11 record some 2,000 plus years of rebellion
    1. Gen. 3 - Adam and Eve
    2. Gen 4 - Cain kills Abel
    3. Gen. 5 - Approximately 1,500 years from Adam to Noah
    4. Gen. 6 - Sons of God and the great wickedness of man
    5. Gen. 7 - Noahic flood
    6. Gen. 8 - Offering to God after 371 days on the ark
    7. Gen. 9 - Fear in animals and institution of the death penalty
    8. Gen. 10 - Noah's sons
      - a. Japheth - 10:2 - 5, Indo-European
      - b. Ham - 10:6 - 20 - North Africa, Eastern
      - c. Shem 10: 21-31 - Fertile Crescent
    9. Gen. 11 - Tower of Babel
  - c. Kingdom of priests
    1. Priestly function - symbolizes their covenant relationship with a holy God
      - a. Offer sacrifices, Lev. 1
      - b. Bless the people, Duet. 10:8
      - c. Carry the Ark of the Covenant, Duet. 10:8
      - d. Maintain purity, Duet. 24:8
      - e. Determine the will of God, Jud. 18:5
    2. Set apart nation, Duet. 4:2
2. Intent - Israel will display God, Gen. 12:3; Ex. 19:5 - 6
  - a. Salt and light
    1. The world was a wicked place
    2. Salt and light are both purifiers
  - b. Kingdom of priests
    1. Priestly function - symbolizes their covenant relationship with a holy God
      - a. Offer sacrifices, Lev. 1
      - b. Bless the people, Duet. 10:8
      - c. Carry the Ark of the Covenant, Duet. 10:8
      - d. Maintain purity, Duet. 24:8
      - e. Determine the will of God, Jud. 18:5
    2. Set apart nation, Duet. 4:2
  - c. Answers question "Who is such a God to have laws such as these?", Duet. 4:7 - 8
3. Importance, Deuteronomy 4:1 - 40
  - a. God will be displayed by His people living for Him, Duet. 4:7 - 8
  - b. God's people will be at peace, Duet. 4:40
  - c. God's people will be well, Duet. 4:40

B. Significance

1. God chooses Israel, Deuteronomy 4:36 - 40, 7:7 - 8, 10:15, 33:3; Hosea 11:1
  - a. He chooses them out of love
  - b. There is nothing in them that He desires
2. God does not reject or neglect all other nations

- a. False concept that God chose all other nations to go to hell
- b. God continually works with other nations for His glory

Conclusion: We must understand the importance of Israel. We must understand God's plan for them and for all the nations of the earth. That does not mean we give the nation of Israel a pass when they violate God's Word.