

Devotion 5- The Chosen Nation

Have you ever heard of the nation of Israel? They are a nation that exists in the Middle East today. Their foundation began with Abraham. He is the forefather of the Israelite nation. Through Abraham, God would build the Israelite nation. Abraham's son Isaac had two twin boys; one named Esau and the other Jacob.

God prophesied that Esau and his descendants would bow down to Jacob and his descendants. Both Esau and Jacob were not good men. They lived immoral lives. But God chose to show favor to the line of Jacob. He chose to love the line of Jacob and make Jacob's descendants his own possession.

Exodus 19: 6 reads, "Now then, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be my own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Israel was built to be a nation that represented God to the world, but their sinful hearts prevented them from being a light to a dark world.

When God chose Israel as his own possession, God knew that they would rebel. He knew that they would worship other gods. He knew that they would not obey his commands. He knew that they would deny him as Lord and King. But God never gave up on the nation of Israel. God's persevering love has continued for thousands of years to a people that have not reciprocated this love.

God also loves the church as his own possession. He treasures those who belong to Christ. His love perseveres through difficulties and hardships. God's love for Israel brings confidence to those in the church. His love was demonstrated on the cross. He knew who he was dying for. He knew that the hearts of men were sinful, yet he died for them anyways.

Questions to Consider:

1. What people group were special to God?
2. Did he love Israel because he knew they would obey him?
3. What makes God's love different than man's love?
4. Should believers respond differently to God than Israel did? How?