

## DATING: INTRODUCTION, part 1, 3 pgs

The central theme of the Bible is God's calling out of the world a people for himself. This has a long history of continuity with the OT. We are his spotless bride, redeemed by Christ's blood, whom he loves and jealously guards.

### God has always Separated his people from the rest of humanity

Abram was raised in a pagan Chaldean culture [Acts 7:4] *beyond the Euphrates River where his ancestors worshiped other gods, Josh.24:2. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia ... and said, Go from your country, your people, and your father's household ... Gen.12:1; Acts 7:2-3. Separation from his entire background, old way of thinking, and living was necessary as the first step in his retraining as a supernaturalist [p.1-2 God's Training - 1].* God directed him to the land of Canaan. As Abram traveled through that land with his entourage, his nephew, Lot and his entourage accompanied him [Abram did not take him], Gen.12:4-5. Abram and Lot with their extended households moved about until the land could not support both groups because their possessions were so great. Quarreling arose between their herders. So they separated to avoid further disputes and have sufficient pasture for their livestock, Gen.13:5-12 [thus God brought about Abram's final separation from his former life]. Abram, whose name God changed to Abraham became the father of Isaac ... who became the father of Jacob who became the father of the twelve patriarchs, Acts 7:8. Abraham and all his descendants became nomads in a foreign country.

### God's Chosen People Must remain unaffiliated with all other peoples (Dt.7:)

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away ... seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, <sup>2</sup> and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, **then you must devote them to complete destruction.** You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. <sup>3</sup> You shall not intermarry with them ... <sup>4</sup> **for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods ...** <sup>5</sup> But **thus shall you deal with them:** you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire. <sup>6</sup> **For you are a people holy to the LORD your God.** The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession ...

### Joshua's Charge to Israel's leaders, Josh.23:

... when the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their surrounding enemies ... <sup>2</sup> Joshua summoned all Israel, its elders and heads, its judges and officers, and said to them ... <sup>3</sup> you have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake, for it is the LORD your God who has fought for you ... <sup>5</sup> The LORD your God will push them back before you and drive them out of your sight ... <sup>7</sup> that **you may not mix with these nations remaining among you** or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them, <sup>8</sup> but you shall cling to the LORD your God just as you have done to this day ... <sup>11</sup> **Be very careful, therefore, to love the LORD your God.** <sup>12</sup> **For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you ... the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a**

snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes ...

### **Solomon's foreign wives turned his heart away from the Lord God**

Now King **Solomon loved many foreign women** ... <sup>2</sup> from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods. **Solomon clung to these in love** ... <sup>4</sup> **when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods** ... <sup>6</sup> So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD ... <sup>7</sup> Then he built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. <sup>8</sup> And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods. <sup>9</sup> And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD ... But he did not keep what the LORD commanded. <sup>11</sup> Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant, **1Ki.11: [God voided the promises he made to Solomon]**

### **Ezra condemned marriage between Hebrews and Foreigners, Ezra 9-10:**

The officials approached me and said, The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not **separated** themselves from the peoples of the lands with their abominations ... <sup>2</sup> For they have taken some of their daughters to be wives ... so that the holy race has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands ... <sup>10</sup> And now, Our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken your commandments, <sup>11</sup> which you commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, The land that you are entering, to take possession of it, is a land impure with the impurity of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations that have filled it from end to end with their uncleanness. [The principal criticism was against mixing the races through marriage to the indigenous people who practiced idolatry and would lead Israel away from worship of the true God. This polluted the land and voided the land promises to Israel, ie they lost their inheritance. In the NT there are no land promises. They have been upgraded to the promise that the whole world would belong to God's people. See my essay, Progressive Fulfillment of the Promises in Salvation History.]

<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters for your sons, and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever ... While Ezra prayed and made confession ... a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly [Do you think this was easy for them?]. <sup>2</sup> And Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, addressed Ezra: We have broken faith with our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land ... <sup>3</sup> Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to **put away all these wives and their children**, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God ...

<sup>9</sup> Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem ... <sup>10</sup> And Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, You have broken faith and married foreign women, and so increased the guilt of Israel ... **Separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives**. <sup>12</sup> Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, It is so; we must do as you have said ... until the fierce wrath of our God over this matter is turned away from us.

### Nehemiah's final Reforms (Neh.13)

<sup>23</sup> In those days also I saw **the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab** ... <sup>25</sup> And **I confronted them and cursed them** ... And I made them take an oath in the name of God, saying, You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. <sup>26</sup> **Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women?**