

WHAT ABOUT US GENTILES?

We who are saved know that the Lord Jesus Christ is our central figure when it comes to our Christian faith.

He is our saviour; He is our life, our peace, our hope. Turn to:

Col. 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Listen, everything that we as believers need is found in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Many are taken back when they read a verse and discover that they were excluded from God's program in "Times Past":

Rom 15:8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:

Paul wrote by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Did he pen something wrong? Of course not! So then, what is Rom. 15:8 about? How can it mean just what it says?

Well, the answer can ONLY be understood when we look into the records of our Saviour's earthly ministry.

Most of 'today's preaching and teaching' would make one think that the Lord's earthly ministry was for everyone Jews and Gentiles -- ALIKE --

BUT believing exactly WHAT the VERSES say is the KEY to understanding. It is time for all of us to stop ignoring the actual WORDS in the verses in the Word of God. We have but to read and examine to find WHO Jesus' ministry was TO. When Jesus called and commissioned His 12 disciples, here is what He told them:

Matt 10:5-6 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:
6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Christ told the woman of Canaan:

Matt 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Can that be any clearer? I don't think so! Next, let's look at what Christ told a woman of Samaria:

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship:
for salvation is of the Jews.

That's quite simple, huh? Again, the scripture speaks plainly about WHO Christ was ministering to:

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Surely, we all know just WHO 'His own' were. They were the Jews:

Matt 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Jesus was of the tribe of Jacob's fourth son, Judah:

Heb 7:14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

Isa 9:6-8 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

8 The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it hath lighted upon Israel.

Matt 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The "US" in those verses was NOT 'us Gentiles' ---- It was actually 'them' --- The 'us' there was 'Israel'. It is very important to realize that.

Now the question to any 'well-behaved student' of the Word of God, who obeys 2 Tim. 2:15, is this: What about the rest of us we Gentiles ? ? ?

We must first realize that 'at one time' there was a BIG difference between Jews and Gentiles. Again, we can see this in God's Word. Get:

Eph 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye being **in time past** Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

'That time' called 'Time Past' was from Gen. chapter 12 to Acts ch. 7.

The words 'time past' here in Eph. 2:11 make a distinct difference between the nation Israel --- and the other nations of the world (the Gentiles).

The Jews certainly recognized this distinction, and they well knew that God had separated them from the rest of the nations of the earth.

Moses knew it and he spoke to God about it:

Exod 33:16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

God reminded Israel of their distinct calling:

Lev 20:24 But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the LORD your God, which have separated you from other people.

Here is what King Solomon said about Israel 'being separated from all other people' when he stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:

1 Kings 8:51-53 For they be thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt, from the midst of the furnace of iron:
 52 That thine eyes may be open unto the supplication of thy servant, and unto the supplication of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them in all that they call for unto thee.
 53 **For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, to be thine inheritance**, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.

They had a token in their physical flesh to prove it. This 'division' between the 2 types of people is marked by the titles 'the Circumcision' (which is Israel) and 'the Uncircumcision' (which is the Gentiles).

They certainly had the advantage they had God they had God's WORD:

Rom 3:1-2 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?

2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

What was circumcision all about? Was it 'something NEW'? By all means, NO! We can see the origin of it in:

Gen 17:9-11 And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

10 *This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.*

11 **And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.**

12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

So, we see that God Himself began circumcision with Abraham's family (now known as 'the Jews') as a SIGN of the eternal promise He made with them.

Yes, the act of 'circumcision' separated the entire world into 2 groups, and set up a middle wall of partition there to make a DIVIDE between Jew and Gentile.

Let's look at Eph. 2:14, to see that wall though 'NOW' through Paul's revelation that wall has come down:

Eph 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

God 'made the divide' between the two. Let's go back to Eph. 2:12 to see what the condition of the Gentile was in 'time past':

Eph. 2:12 That **at that time** ye were

- without Christ,
 - being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel,
- and
- strangers from the covenants of promise,
 - having no hope,
- and
- without God in the world:

Looks to me like we were in BIG trouble back then!

Israel had everything from God, and we Gentiles had nothing!

Listen, God (who wrote this book) and Israel (to whom God gave the circumcision) in 'time past' recognized this difference, and it is 'high time' that the Gentiles come to the understanding of it! If not, they will have very little understanding of the Bible.

*Now the question is ... Just how long did that difference EXIST in God's plan?
The answer is (found in the same passage):*

Eph 2:13 **"But now"** in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

When you consider how things used to be in 'time past' ----

It becomes easy to understand that there has been a CHANGE take place ----

because of the words 'BUT NOW'. They indicate something is 'now' different than it previously was.

So, we see that the Gentiles have 'NOW' been brought 'NEAR' to God because of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

That was a position that Israel previously held:

Deut 4:7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

Ps 46:7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

God was 'nigh unto Israel' but ever since the Tower of Babel, historically, that is when God gave up the Gentiles. We can see in these scriptures:

Acts 14:16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.

Rom 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Rom 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

God was far away from the Gentiles ---- 'But now' all that has changed:

Eph 2:16-19 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off,
and to them that were nigh.

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 **"Now"** therefore ye are **no more** strangers and foreigners,
but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

In view of this great change in the Gentiles status ---- where does that leave Israel now?

Gal 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

God counts Israel no different than us Gentiles now:

Rom 3:21-22 **"But now"** the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Rom 10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Well, "now" in this present dispensation, Israel no longer enjoys 'favored-nation-status' with God. Instead of 'rising and shining' the glory of God to the rest of the world, Israel has fallen down in unbelief and God sent salvation to the Gentiles:

Rom 11:11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Rom 11:30-32 For as **ye in times past** have not believed God, **yet have now** obtained mercy through their unbelief:

31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.

32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

Israel has crucified their King and refused their Kingdom.

They stumbled at the cross, but recovered but in Acts chapter 7, after Stephen preached that great 'Reminder Message' to them (about what all God had done for them, as a nation) they stoned him, and did actually fall.

However, they did not fall straight down, immediately. From Acts 7 through Acts 28, Israel was diminishing. They fell down gradually. By the end of the book of Acts, Israel was 'all the way down' and God no longer dealt with them as a nation.

In Acts chapter 9, God saved Saul of Tarsus (who then was a persecutor of believers). Saul's name was afterward called Paul, and God sent him out to the Gentile nations. God gave Paul a NEW message NOT about the long-awaited earthly kingdom Jesus had promised Israel that He would set up but a mystery revelation that God had previously kept hidden in Himself.

Let's go to Eph. chapter 3 and read the new thing that God introduced by way of His new apostle, Paul:

Eph 3:1-11 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,
 2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God
 which is given me to you-ward:
 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery;
 (as I wrote afore in few words,
 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)
 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men,
 as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;
 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body,
 and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:
 7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God
 given unto me by the effectual working of his power.
 8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given,
 that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;
 9 And **to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery,**
 which **from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God,**
 who created all things by Jesus Christ:
 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places
 might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

There we see a lot of new things the body of truth committed to Paul but the 'biggy' is the program God called 'the Mystery.'

The main confusion today that people have with scripture is caused by mixing the period called 'times past' with the 'but now' revelation. That one element, not being acknowledged, causes multitudes to be 'tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine' (Eph. 4:14). Masses of people who claim to be Christians are unstable in their faith and embarrassed by their lack of knowledge and understanding of the scriptures yet they regularly attend church, hoping God is somehow pleased with them and appeased by their works.

Because they have failed to 'rightly divide' the word and recognize Paul's distinct ministry they are not established and grounded in sound doctrine they are not strong:

Rom 16:25-26 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to **my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery,** which was kept secret since the world began,

26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

Let's consider for a while, just HOW the Gentiles could get to God for blessing --- before Paul's message came on the scene.

God had not given them any promises, but He had made provision for them:

When God initially called Abram, and started a nation with him God promised that THROUGH Abraham, every family on earth would be blessed:

Gen 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.

That would be, because Jesus Christ paid for the sins of the entire world, and He came (as we have already seen in Matt. 1:1) through Abraham.

This next passage explains God's plan (in time past) for Gentiles to come in:

Isa 60:1-3 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

3 And the Gentiles shall come to THY light, and kings to the brightness of THY rising.

Israel was to 'rise & shine' God's glory and draw the Gentiles to their light.

Gentiles could 'bless Israel'

Consider Rahab:

Joshua 6:17 And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

Heb 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

James 2:25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

Consider the Roman Centurion:

Luke 7:1-5 Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

4 And when they came to Jesus, **they besought him instantly**, saying,

That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

Consider the Canaanite woman:

Matt 15:22-28 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost **SHEEP of the house of Israel.**

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the **CHILDREN'S** bread, and to cast it to **DOGS.**

27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the **DOGS** eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

That woman 'took her rightful place' her 'rank' was BELOW Israel

She recognized that THEY were God's chosen SHEEP and she was just a dog.

She realized that THEY were the 'children of God' yet she worshipped their God.

THEY sat at the table and she could scramble up what overflowed from them.

Consider Cornelius:

Acts 10:22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

So, one way for Gentiles to 'BE' blessed by God --- was for them (Gentiles) to bless God -- and do that through HIS Chosen People Israel -----

---- OR ----

Another way for Gentiles to be blessed by God --- was for them to become a Jew by converting to the Jews' religion

They could become a 'PROSELYTE' and get the same rights and priviledges:

Exod 12:48 And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.

Esther 8:17 And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And **many of the people of the land became Jews**; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

God didn't leave the Gentiles out --- BUT the ISSUE regarding 'Gentile salvation in Time Past' was the ORDER in which the Gentiles were able to get to God they had to go THROUGH Israel.

Israel was to 'rise' first, then extend salvation to all the nations.

That's why we have these next verses:

Matt 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

When we look at this issue of the ORDER of the people, it is important to also notice the ORDER of the LOCATION where they were to START their ministry. Jesus instructed them to start at 'head-quarters':

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, **beginning at Jerusalem.**

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem,** and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

So you see, they were to BEGIN at Jerusalem ... then expand out everywhere. But when you find them on over in almost the middle of Acts, they are NOT spreading out to the Gentiles because Israel was supposed to 'get it first':

Acts 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

Then when we move on to Acts chapter 15 the apostles are STILL at Jerusalem:

Acts 15:4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

Actually, when you think about it, the Gentiles who were saved at Pentecost (which many wrongly believe to be the 'Birthday of the Church' we are in) they were proselytes! THAT fact is important to know. The scripture specifically says:

Acts 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem **Jews,** devout men, **out of every nation under heaven.**

*In verses 9-11 (here in Acts 2), there are 15 nationalities listed --- BUT the people from them were **Jews and proselytes,***

The people being ministered to at Pentecost were JEWS:

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

That was NOT the Body of Christ !!!!

Then how about the Ethiopian eunuch? I'm glad you asked. Let's examine it:

Acts 8:26-37 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, *(Look WHERE he went -- to Jerusalem -- and look WHY he went there -- to worship that gives the implication that he was a proselyte)*

28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. *(Notice WHAT he was reading --- the 'Jewish' scriptures)*

29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. *(Notice what he did -- he REQUESTED that Philip explain the word to him)*

32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? *(The eunuch had some questions about what he read)*

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. *(Philip supplied the answers for him)*

36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? *(Water baptism was STILL in effect)*

37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.** *(The eunuch believed that Jesus was Israel's Messiah. That would make him a proselyte. The CONTENT of their faith was basically the same as it had been during the gospels except after the resurrection of Christ, their understanding had been opened to see that Jesus was crucified as the sacrificial LAMB of God.)*

A basic issue 'back then in Times Past' (as it will be again, in the 'Ages to Come') was to believe that Jesus was God's Son:

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her *(that's Mary, Jesus' mother)*, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

John 1:49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

Matt 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Matt 26:63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

Matt 27:41-44 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: **for he said, I am the Son of God.**

44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

1 John 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

If you think about it, that's where the ever-popular John 3:16 'FITS'. Notice vs. 18, about the issue of believing that Jesus is the Son of God:

John 3:16-18 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

We saw BOTH cases in the book of Acts of how Gentiles could be blessed by God. We looked at

- *the Ethiopian eunuch - who was a proselyte*

and we saw

- *Cornelius - who had blessed Israel*

The fact that Gentiles could get saved was 'NOT' the mystery

When we read Rom. 15:8 earlier, we did not read the verses following verse 8 but we will now --- and, hopefully, it will make sense to you, in light of all we have said so far, about the Gentiles.

Rom 15:8-12 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: *(that's Israel)*

9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.

11 And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.

12 And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

BUT it was the 'WAY' that Gentiles would be saved that WAS a mystery.

NOW we can sing 'Just As I Am' ---- before, we couldn't do that.

The MYSTERY had to do with Jew and Gentile having equal opportunity now.

Rather than being saved THROUGH Israel's RISE instead we Gentiles are NOW being saved through Israel's FALL (Rom. 11:11-13).

In review of Eph. chapter 2, we find many NEW truths through Paul:

- *God made BOTH of us into 'one' (Eph. 2:14)*
- *He broke down the wall that He had built between Jew and Gentile (Eph. 2:14)*
- *We both have peace (Eph. 2:14)*
- *He has made 'one new man' of us BOTH (Eph. 2:15)*
- *We are BOTH reconciled to God in 'one body' by the cross (Eph. 2:16)*
- *We BOTH have access to the Father by the Spirit (Eph. 2:18)*
- *We are ALL fellow-citizens in God's household (Eph. 2:19)*

Paul's gospel message is sent to ALL nations, without Israel having supremacy:

Rom 1:5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

Rom 16:25-26 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

Paul's gospel message is sent to ALL people, without distinction:

1 Tim 2:3-7 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.
7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

God emphasizes 'the MYSTERY' again in Eph. chapter 3, and re-affirms Paul's particular apostleship --- given particularly to him by God's grace:

Eph 3:1-7 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,
 2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:
 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,
 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)
 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;
 6 **That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:**
 7 **Whereof I was made a minister,** according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

So, the initial question and title of this message "What About Us Gentiles?"

Well, in 'times past' we had no hope (Eph. 2:12) Thank God for 'but NOW' because NOW we DO have hope and a blessed one, at that (Titus 2:13)!

That certainly gives us plenty of reasons to make our message clear and simple.

2 Cor 3:12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

This is David Dowell, saying "Think about it!"