

“CORRECTING PREJUDICE”

READING: Amos 9:11-12

“And all the gentiles who are called by My name...”

INTRODUCTION:

Having been subject to the law of Moses (**1 Corinthians 10:1-2**) for approximately 1500 years, it was just natural that the Jews would consider the New Testament church, to continue as a Jewish institution. After all, the founder and head of the church, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was a Jew (**Galatians 4:4**) They failed to see how it could be anything but exclusively the preserve of the Jews. (**2 Corinthians 3:12-16**)

However, this was not in the plan of God, and they (the Jewish believers) had to be re-educated. (**1 Corinthians 14:22**)

This was done through the experience of the apostle Peter as well as the six Jewish brothers who accompanied him to the house of Cornelius.

DISCUSSION:

The Gentile nations were known for their ungodly and immoral behaviour (**1 Corinthians 10:19-21**) and to the Jewish believers, it was considered unthinkable, that any Gentile, without first becoming a Jewish proselyte, could become a member of the church (so as to be saved) But this was not according to the Lord's plan (**Acts 15:7-9**)

When Peter was lambasted for having gone to a Gentile house, and having baptised Cornelius and his family (**Acts 10:47-48**) he rehearsed the matter in detail, had six Jewish brethren with him, as well as the outpouring of the Holy Spirit who verified the events and the only conclusion the brethren in Jerusalem could come to, was as Luke recorded in (**verse 18**)

These events led others (Jewish believers) to preach to other Gentiles elsewhere which resulted in them having Barnabas and Saul as their teachers and a great number of people were added to the Lord's body. This (new revelation and relationship) was cemented by the (financial) benevolence of the Gentile believers towards the Jewish believers when the latter experience a great famine (**Romans 15:27**)

CONCLUSION:

God proved, through this incident, once and for all, that any nation (in addition to Jews) are eligible for salvation (forgiveness of sin) through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)

Will you today accept (regardless of your nationality) God's gracious gift of salvation through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ? (**Acts 22:16**)