

#8 - Circumcision and Valuables

Samuel Lam

What do we know about circumcision?

Genesis 17

You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the *sign* of the covenant between me and you. Any uncircumcised male, ..., will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant. (v11-v14)

Circumcision = a *sign*



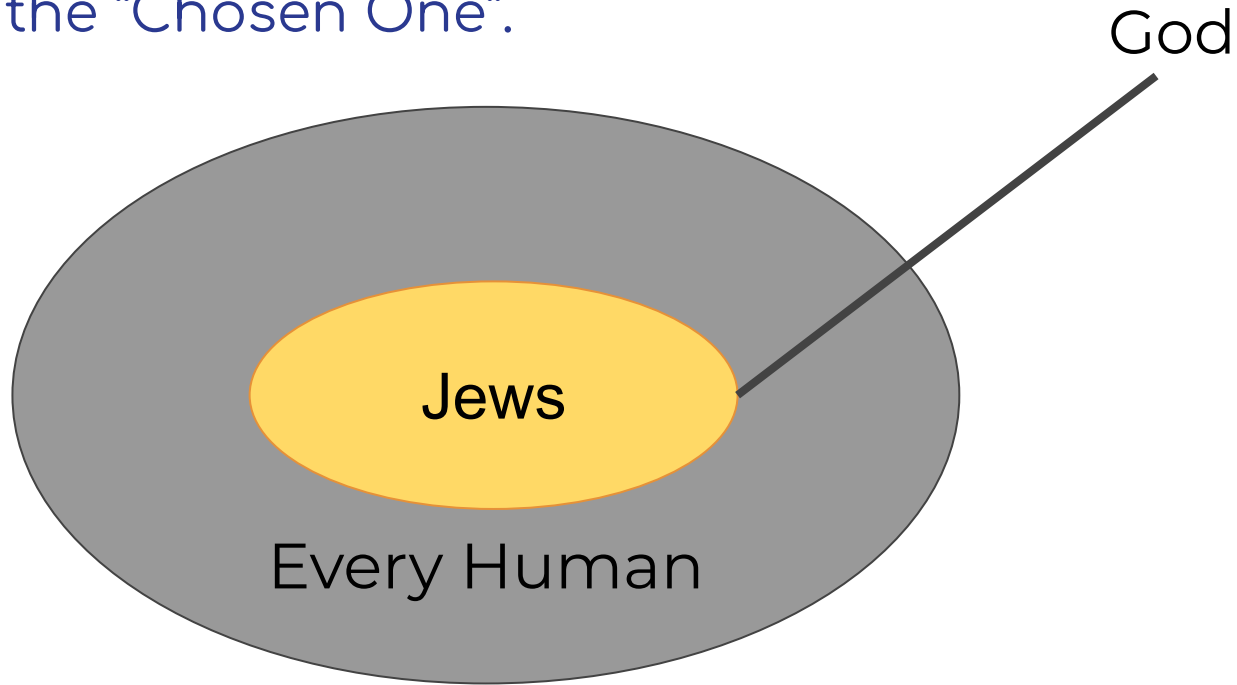
But what is the covenant?

I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you ... **to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.** (v8)

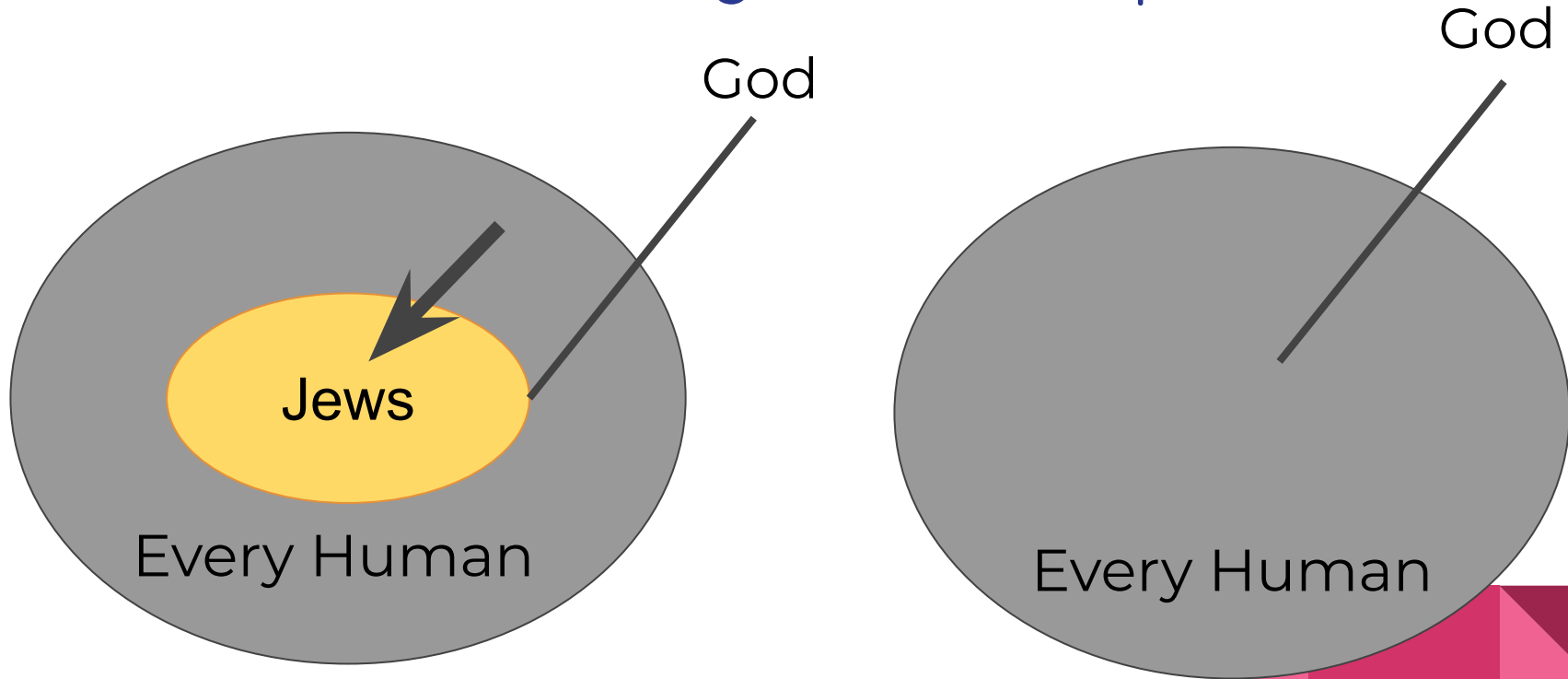


The original plan

Israelites as the “Chosen One”.



Which of the following is the new plan?



New Covenant

- ...To be your God and the God of your descendants after you.
- Who are “you”? Everywhere!
- Evidence of Universality:
 - ... *whoever* believes in him shall perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)
 - For it is by grace you have been saved... not from *yourselves*... not by *work*... (Ephesians 2:8-9)



The SIGN has CHANGED.

Philippians 3

For it is we who are the circumcision we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh. (v2)

Any initial thought?



We are distinguished by...

- serve God by his Spirit
- boast in Christ Jesus
- put no confidence in the flesh.
- **Not circumcision of flesh.**



PAUSE!

We can easily end up placing confidence in our own efforts rather than in Christ's finished work on the cross.

When this happens, how does it affect your joy in Christ, or your relationship with him?

How does Christ's righteousness truly accomplish what you're trying to achieve by your own efforts?



We are special. So what?

Recall... who is Paul

- Circumcised on the eighth day
- Of the people of Israel
- Of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrew
- A Pharisees
- Persecuting the church
- *Faultiness (based on the law)*



Recall... who is Paul

- Whatever the gain to me is now consider loss for the sake of Christ. (v7)
- sinners - of whom I am the worst (1 Timothy 1:15)
- was shown *mercy*.



We return to the lesson of humbleness.

- But why?
- Surpassing worth of knowing Christ.
- The Christ who “humbled himself by becoming obedient in death” (2:8)



PAUSE!

- What did we want to seek in our life before knowing God?
- What did we want to seek in our life before knowing God?
- How did God change your way of seeing life?
- What did Paul want to understand?



What did Paul want to understand?

- Power of Resurrection
- Participation in his suffering.
- Attaining resurrection.



Final question

Some people think they are too good to need forgiveness, whilst others think they are too bad to be offered forgiveness. How should these two perceptions shape the ways you communicate the message of the cross to each group?



We end this session with prayer.