

# CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE



Lesson 10 for December 9, 2017

# PAUL'S SORROW

**"I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart." (Romans 9:1)**

**Like Moses, Paul was willing to lose his own salvation to save the people of Israel.**



**PAUL**

**"For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh." (Romans 9:2-3)**



**MOSES**

**"Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."  
(Exodus 32:32)**

**God didn't accept any of those "exchanges", since "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book." (Exodus 32:33)**

# CHOOSING A SPECIAL PEOPLE

Why was Paul so worried about the people of Israel? Were they a special people? (Romans 9:4-5)



- ❖ The adoption.
- ❖ The glory.
- ❖ The covenants.
- ❖ The law is given.
- ❖ The service of God.
- ❖ The promises.
- ❖ The patriarchs.
- ❖ The Messiah.

The people of Israel was a special people because they had great privileges. The greatest of all was being the birthplace of the Messiah: Jesus Christ.

# CHOOSING A SPECIAL PEOPLE

## Why did God choose the people of Israel?



- He chose Seth from *Adam's* descendants (Genesis 4:25-26)



- He chose Noah from *Seth's* descendants (Genesis 6:8)



- He chose Shem from *Noah's* descendants (Genesis 9:26-27)



- He chose Abraham from *Shem's* descendants (Genesis 12:1-3)

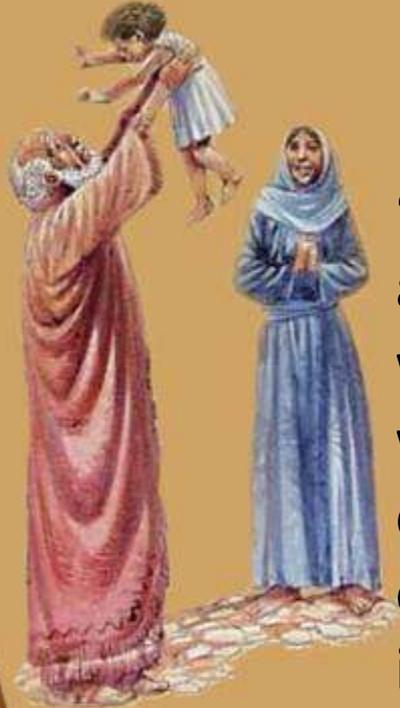


- He chose Isaac from *Abraham's* descendants (Romans 9:7)



- He chose Jacob from *Isaac's* descendants (Romans 9:10-13)

When Paul talks about Isaac and Jacob, he clarifies that there was nothing special on them when God chose them to be part of His people [“for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls.” (Romans 9:11)]. God chose them just because He wanted to do so.



**“Both Isaac and Ishmael were sons of Abraham, according to the flesh; however, the promises were given to Isaac and his descendants. Ishmael was excluded, but that didn’t mean that he and his descendants were out of salvation; God had chosen Isaac’s descendants to be His missionaries in the world.**

**They had to reveal the principles of God’s kingdom to the nations, so every man could be attracted to the Lord. God reserves the right to assign responsibilities to men and nations”**

**SDA Bible Commentary, on Romans 9:7**

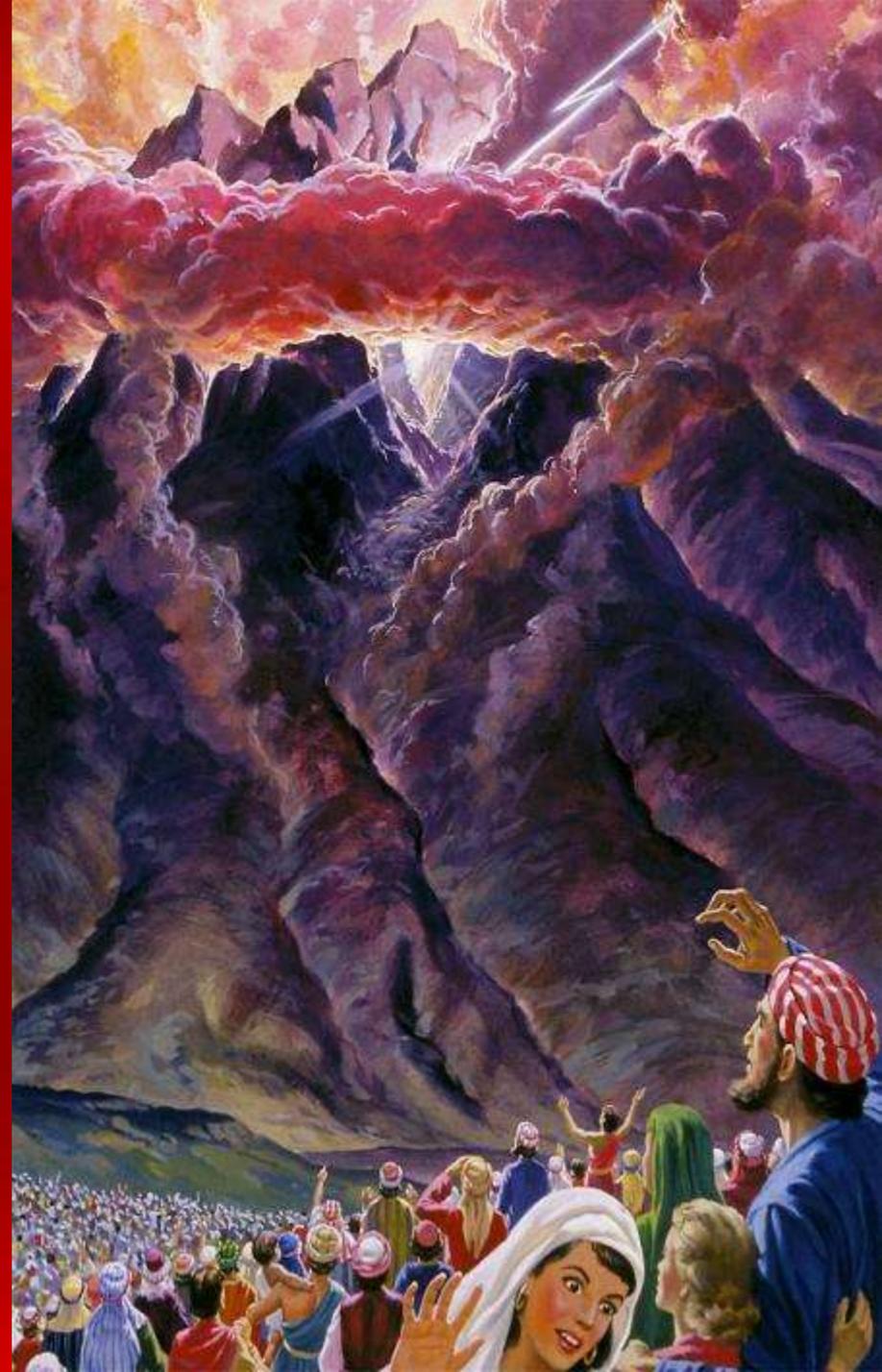


# CHOOSING A SPECIAL PEOPLE

The people of Israel rejected the Messiah, so they didn't accomplish their mission. Did God make a mistake by choosing them?

"But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called.' That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed." (Romans 9:6-8)

God never makes a mistake. Although the physical descendants of Abraham failed, their mission was perpetuated with the descendants according to the promise: the spiritual Israel (and we are part of it)



# CHOOSING PEOPLE



God hardens some people and have mercy of others. Is He unfair?

“For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, ‘For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.’ Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.”

(Romans 9:17-18)

“What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! For He says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.’ So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.” (Romans 9:14-16)

The Scriptures sometimes show God as doing something that He is actually not preventing. The hardening of Pharaoh is showed sometimes as caused by him (Exodus 8:15, 32) and sometimes caused by God (Exodus 4:21).

God knows the decisions of everyone in advance, so He can announce their fate:

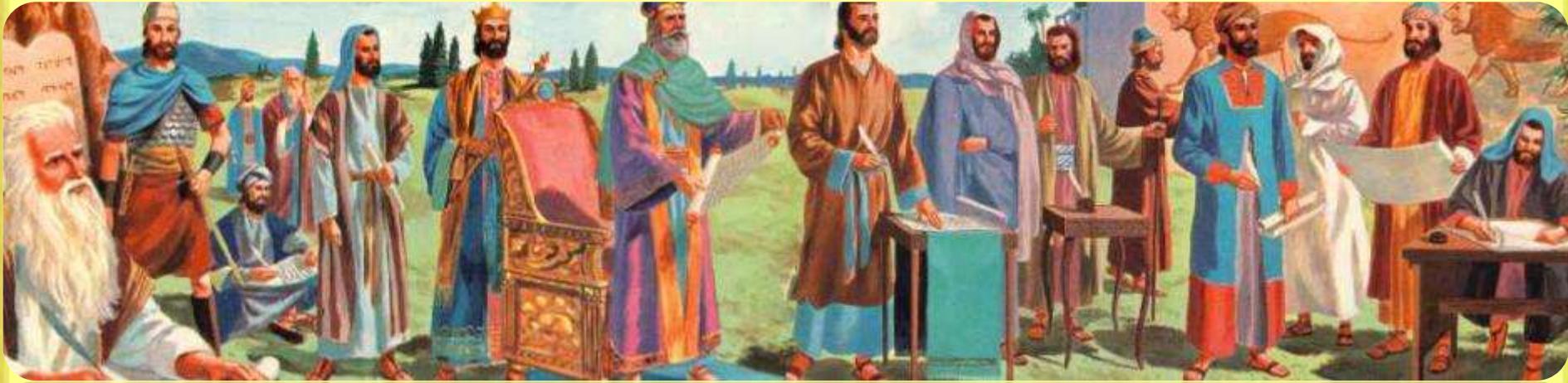
“Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” (Romans 9:13).

# GOD'S SPECIAL CHOICE

**"But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, 'Why have you made me like this?' Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?" (Romans 9:20-24)**



# GOD'S SPECIAL CHOICE



**God reserves the right to choose certain people for special tasks.**

**For example, he chose kings and prophets. He also distributes spiritual gifts the way He wants to give, according to the work of each member of His church (1 Corinthians 12:11).**

**God has chosen you for a special work; maybe it's something big or maybe it's something apparently less important before men.**

**That is a mystery to us.**

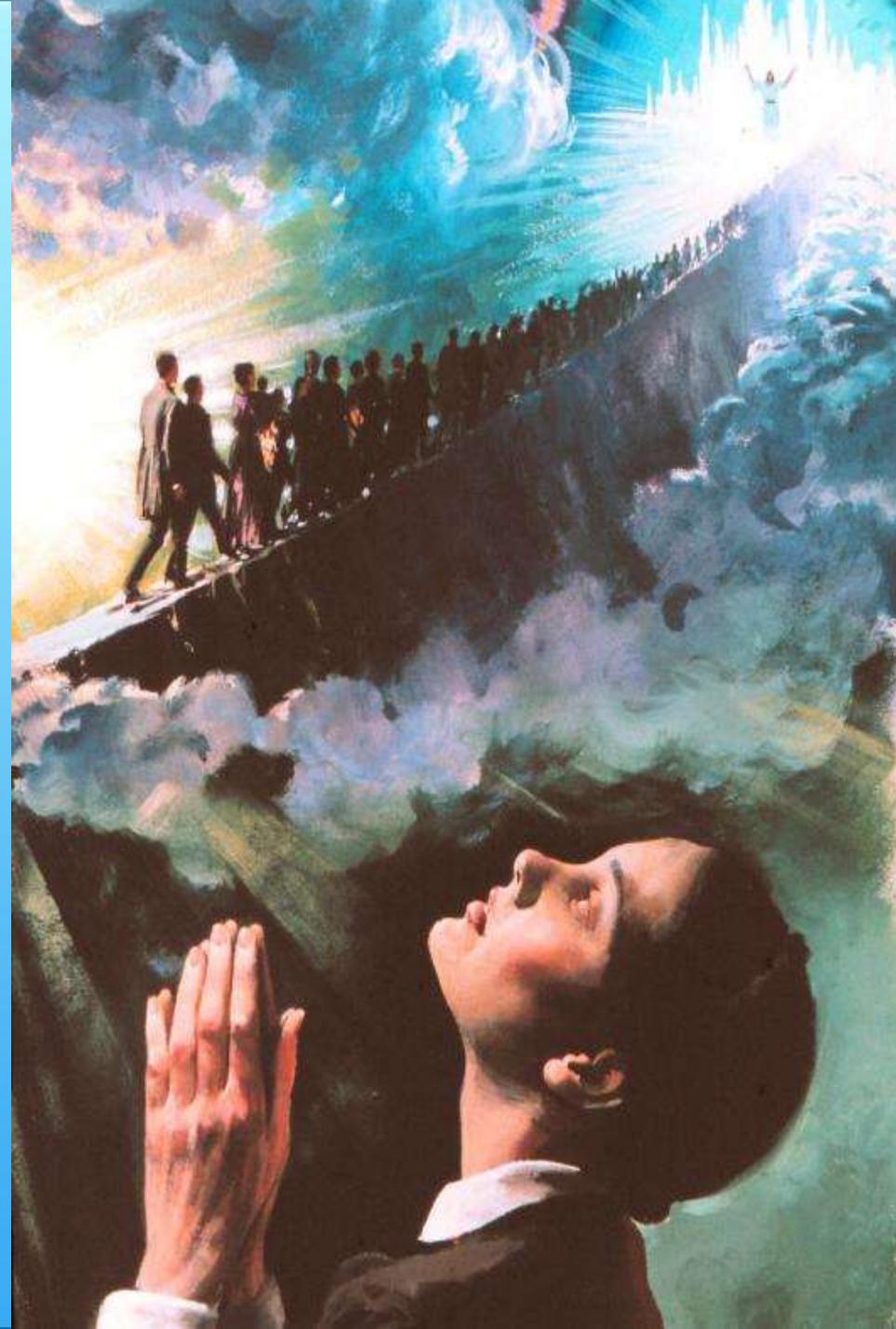
**"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'"**

**(Isaiah 55:8-9)**

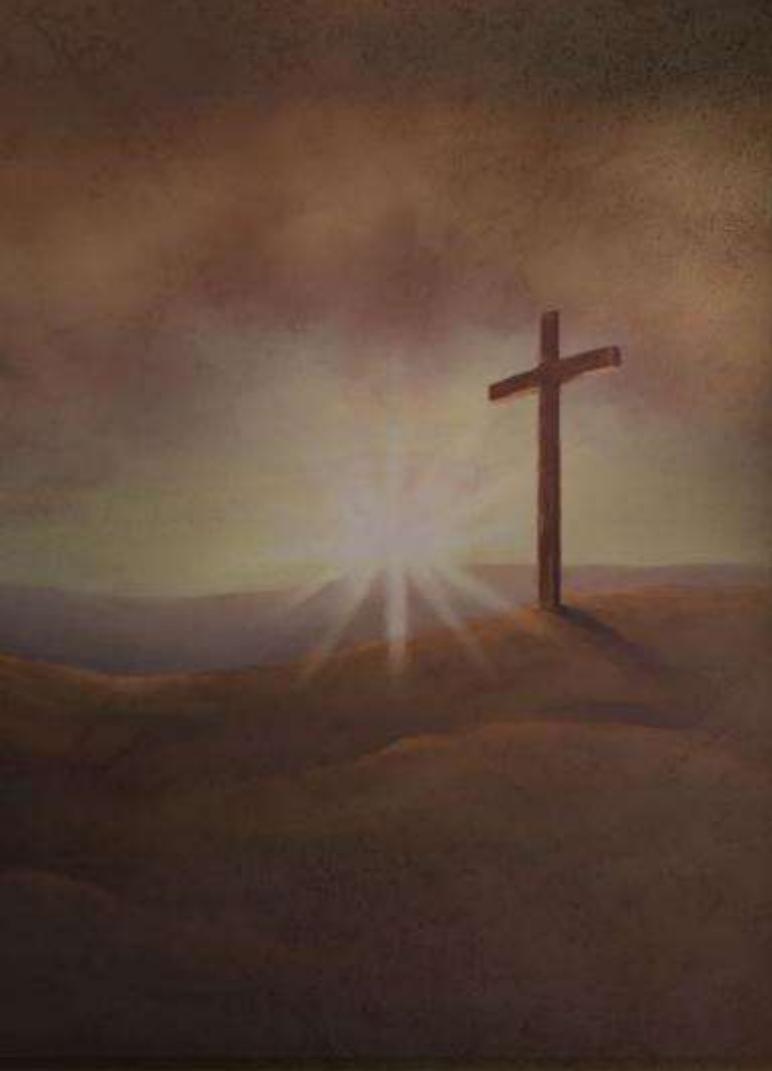
# WHO DOES GOD CHOOSE?

**“As He says also in Hosea: ‘I will call them My people, who were not My people, and her beloved, who was not beloved. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ there they shall be called sons of the living God.’ Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: ‘Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, the remnant will be saved.’”  
(Romans 9:25-27)**

**Israel was the chosen people but they rejected God. Then, God extended that choice to those who weren't their people: the Gentiles. The choice was transferred to the “spiritual Israel.” God has a special remnant that must preserve the truth and preach it.**



# WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE DOES GOD CHOOSE FOR SALVATION?



“What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.” (Romans 9:30-32)

God chooses those who accept that **“righteousness is by faith”** to be saved, and He rejects those who seek righteousness **“by works.”**

# WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE DOES GOD CHOOSE FOR SALVATION?

“As it is written: ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’”  
(Romans 9:33)

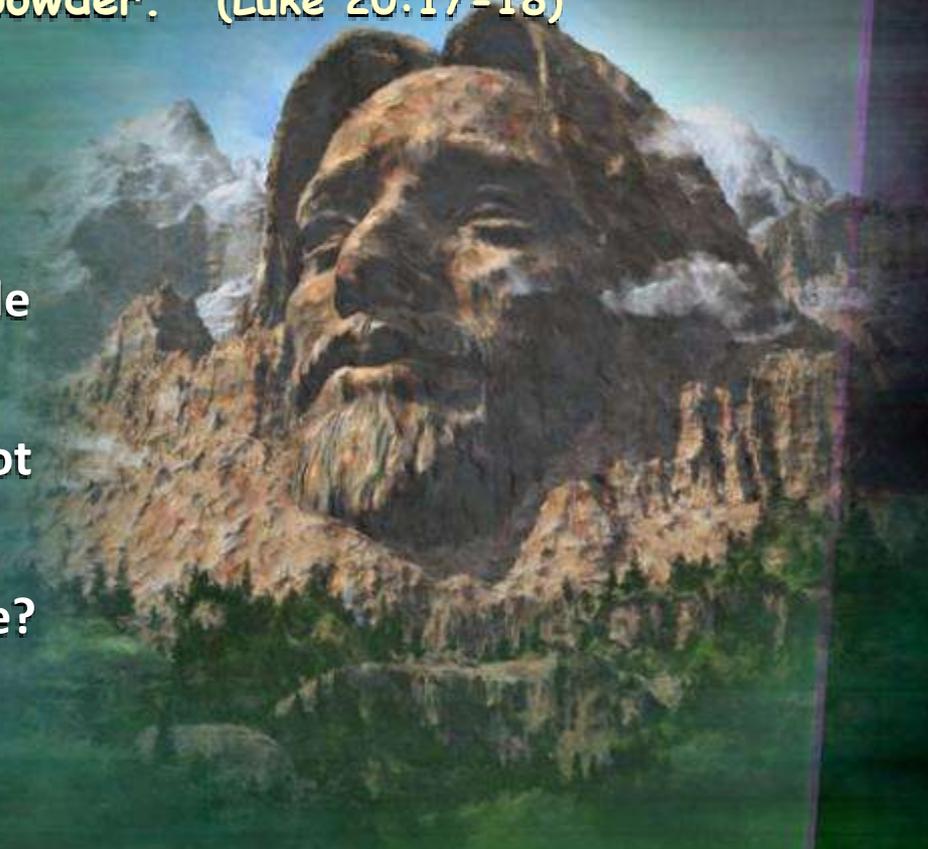
“Then He looked at them and said, ‘What then is this that is written: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone’? Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.’” (Luke 20:17-18)

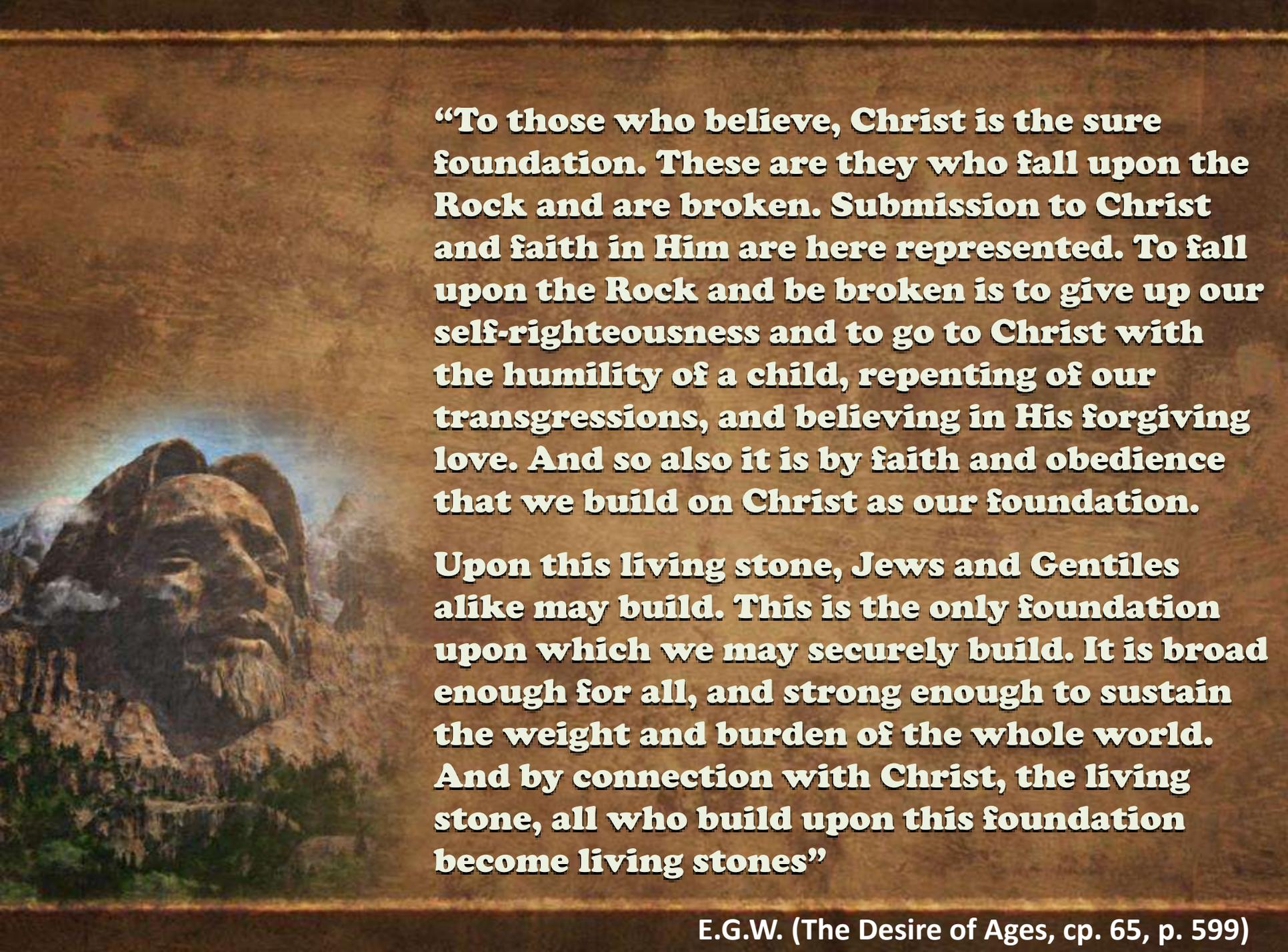
The same “stone” (Jesus) brings salvation and condemnation.

Those who reject Jesus as the Jewish people did are “crushed.”

Those who fall broken on Jesus’ feet will not be ashamed, but will be saved.

Has your hearth been broken by Jesus’ love?  
Have you decided to leave your life in His hands?





**“To those who believe, Christ is the sure foundation. These are they who fall upon the Rock and are broken. Submission to Christ and faith in Him are here represented. To fall upon the Rock and be broken is to give up our self-righteousness and to go to Christ with the humility of a child, repenting of our transgressions, and believing in His forgiving love. And so also it is by faith and obedience that we build on Christ as our foundation.**

**Upon this living stone, Jews and Gentiles alike may build. This is the only foundation upon which we may securely build. It is broad enough for all, and strong enough to sustain the weight and burden of the whole world. And by connection with Christ, the living stone, all who build upon this foundation become living stones”**