

ADOPTION

υἱοθεσία uihotesia

1) adoption, adoption as sons

1a) that relationship which God was pleased to establish **between himself and the Israelites** in preference to all other nations

1b) the nature and condition of the true disciples in Christ, **who by receiving the Spirit of God into their souls become sons of God**

ADOPTION in the Tanach:

- As Pharaoh's daughter adopted Moses;
- Mordecai Esther;
- Abraham Eliezer (as a slave is often in the East adopted as son) (Genesis 15:2-3);
- Sarai the son to be born by Hagar, whom she gave to her husband;
- Leah and Rachel the children to be born of Zilpah and Bilhah, their handmaids respectively, whom they gave to Jacob their husband.
- Jacob adopted as his own Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, on the same footing as Reuben and Simeon, his two elder sons (Genesis 48:5).

The handmaid at the birth brought forth the child on the knees of the adoptive mother (Genesis 30:3); an act representative of the complete appropriation of the sons as equal in rights to those by the legitimate wife.

ADOPTION in the Greco-Roman world.

- *Usually* the oldest son of proven value.
- The adoptive father's PEROGATIVE.
- A PRICE was paid.
- PERMISSION was sought from a higher authority.

Common element:

- NO legal distinction made between the natural children and the adopted children.

Critical differences:

- In the Roman culture a father could disown or even kill his natural son but could not do so with the adopted son.
- In the Roman culture once the adoption was final whoever the adopted son was, whatever his condition, responsibilities, debts, etc. were no longer relevant. The pre-adopted "person" no longer existed. It was indeed like being "born again."

ADOPTION in the Apostolic writings:

- In Romans 8 the metaphor is used of all believers.
- In Romans 9 it is used of Israel.
- In Galatians it appears Paul refers to the Jews.
- In Ephesians it appears Paul uses the metaphor to refer to all believers.

What are we to make of this?

Eph 2:11-16 LITV

Because of this, remember that you, **the nations**, were then in *the* flesh (those having been called Uncircumcision by those having been called Circumcision in the flesh made by hands) (12) that at that time you were **without** Christ, **alienated** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** of the covenants of promise, **having no hope** and **without God** in the world. (13) But now, in Christ Jesus you who then were afar off, **came to be near** by the blood of Christ. (14) For He is our peace, He **making us both one**, and **breaking down the middle wall of partition**, (15) in His flesh **causing to cease the enmity**, the Law of the commandments in decrees, that He might in Himself **create the two into one new man, making peace**, (16) and might **reconcile both in one body to God through the cross, slaying the enmity in Himself**.

Consider!!

- What we were:
 - **alienated** from the commonwealth of Israel
 - **strangers** of the covenants of promise
 - **having no hope** and **without God**

- **Consider!!**
- How this was done:
 - **breaking down the middle wall of partition**
 - **causing to cease the enmity**

Consider !!

- What we are now:
 - **came to be near**
 - **making us both one**
 - **making peace**
 - **reconcile both in one body to God through the cross, slaying the enmity in Himself.**

What does this mean for you and I?

2Co 5:17

- So that if **anyone** *is* in Christ, *he* is a **new creation**; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new!

“new” here is the Greek **Καινός** *kainos* which carries the meaning: of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, unheard of.

So???????

Rom 12:1-2 LITV

Therefore, brothers, I call on you through the compassions of God to present your bodies **a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to God, which is** your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **in order to prove by you what is the good and pleasing and perfect will of God.**

Consider!

Rom 2:17-24 LITV

Behold, you are called a Jew, and rest in the Law, and **boast in God**, (18) **and know the will, and approve the things excelling, being instructed out of the Law**, (19) and persuading yourself to be a guide of blind ones, a light to those in darkness, (20) an instructor of foolish ones, a teacher of infants, having the form of knowledge and of the truth in the Law.

(21) Then the *one* teaching another, do you not teach yourself? The *one* preaching not to steal, do you steal? (22) The *one* saying not to commit adultery, do you commit adultery? The *one* detesting the idols, do you rob temples?

(23) *You* who boast in Law, **do you dishonor God through transgression of the Law?** (24) For the name of God is blasphemed among the nations through you, even as it has been written: *Isa. 52:5*

How do we then live?

(Php 4:4-9 LITV)

Rejoice in *the* Lord always. Again I say, Rejoice! Let your reasonableness be known to all men. The Lord *is* near. Be anxious about nothing, but in everything by prayer and by petition with thanksgivings, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **For the rest, brothers, whatever is true, whatever honorable, whatever *is* right, whatever pure, whatever lovely, whatever of good report, if *of* any virtue, and if *of* any praise, think on these things. And what things you learned and received and heard and saw in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.**

How do we do this?

Psa 119:4-12 LITV

You have commanded to carefully keep Your Precepts. **O that my ways were fixed to keep Your Statutes!** **Then** I shall not be ashamed, when I look to all Your Commands. **I will thank You with integrity of heart, in my learning the judgments of Your righteousness.** I will keep Your Statutes; do not forsake me utterly. **By what shall a young man purify his way? To keep it according to Your Word.** I have sought You with my whole heart; do not let me wander from Your Commands. I have hidden Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Blessed *are* you, O Jehovah; teach me Your Statutes.