

God's Problem Children

Commentary for July 15, 2019 — YOU Are God's Problem Child, So Is Israel

The children of Israel were a problem for YHWH. As a people they were — and are — stiff necked and hardhearted (or uncircumcised of heart).¹ This means that most of them were and are problem children. God created His strong-willed children of Israel through Abraham.

Here are ten characteristics of a strong-willed child taken from the website "[10 Signs You're Raising a Strong-Willed Child](#)":

1. They Exhibit Intense Angry Outbursts
2. They Demand to Know Why
3. They Can Argue Forever
4. They're Bossy
5. They Refuse to do Things They Don't Want to Do
6. They're Impatient
7. They Make Their Own Rules
8. They Insist on Getting What They Think They Deserve
9. They Ignore Warnings They Don't Want to Hear
10. They Move at Their Own Pace

Not only do each of the ten characteristics fit the people of Israel, but the explanation of each characteristic presented in the article also fits Israel. Read them yourself. Many incidents in the biblical narratives of Israel show these characteristics fit perfectly as a group. Israel fulfills each of these character traits of a strong-willed child. Moses, an Israelite of the tribe of Levi, was meek,² and he fulfills many of the characteristics of a strong-willed child.

I do not present this to disparage Israel or the Jews. God forbid. Each one of these characteristics is also a powerful strength of character that fulfill God's purposes by His creation of His

¹ God called Israel a stiff-necked people in Exodus 32:9, 33:3, 5, 34:9; Deuteronomy 9:6, 13, 10:16, 31:27; 2 Chronicles 30:8; Psalm 75:5; Jeremiah 17:23; Ezekiel 2:4; and **Acts 7:51**. God also said Israel hardened their hearts toward Him in Psalm 95:8; Proverbs 28:14; Isaiah 63:17; Jeremiah 9:26; Ezekiel 44:7, 9; Matthew 19:8; Mark 3:5, 6:52, 8:17, 10:5, 16:14; John 12:40; again **Acts 7:51**; Romans 2:5; and Hebrews 3:8, 15, 4:7.

² In his day, Moses was the meekest of men, just the opposite of God's chosen people Israel. Although meek, he missed out on the one thing that he greatly desired: entry into the land God promised to the people of Israel. Numbers 12:3, King James Version: "**Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.**" This verse was not written by Moses, but likely was inserted by Samuel or perhaps Isaiah.

people Israel. They are a remarkable people, molded by God through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their mothers — and by their experiences through history. This was how God made them to be, just as He made you and me with our flaws and strengths, all — eventually — will be used to God's glory. This applies to every nationality, people, tribe, and clan. Remember, **“all Israel shall be saved”** (Romans 11:26) as will all mankind.

In fact, if you are chosen to know God's truths and be in His *ekklesia* now, you too are greatly flawed by normal human standards. Let us read about God's people He chose (before the foundation of the world!) to be in His *ekklesia* at present. All are flawed.

Are You the Wisest? Smartest? Mightiest? — You Are Not

Are you the best, brightest, and most obedient of God's children? No, you very likely are not. Neither am I. Not one of us is good or righteous until God justifies us and gives us His righteousness through Christ Jesus. In fact, we each are greatly flawed and will remain so unto death. Only God's resurrection of us will permanently change our character.

Here are the people God chose for His *ekklesia* in this present day ...

“²⁰ Where is the wise? where is the scribe [scholar]? where is the disputer of this world? has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

²¹ For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

²² For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: ²³ But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; ²⁴ But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: ²⁷ But

- **God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and**
- **God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸ And**
- **[God has chosen] base things of the world, and**
- **things which are despised, has God chosen, yea, and**
- **things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:**

[What is God's purpose in doing this?] ²⁹ **That no flesh should glory in his presence.**

• **1 Corinthians 1:20–29**

What I have written in the past about Israel also applies to you: Israel and YOU were **not** chosen because you were special. Israel and YOU are special because you were chosen. In the case of Israel, they were chosen to be a special people that YHWH deals with.

- WE are chosen now to learn the truth about YHWH and Christ.
- WE are chosen now to receive God's Holy Spirit.
- WE are chosen now, therefore, to be children of God, to be resurrected by God and Christ in the first resurrection when He returns.

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