

## My People

*As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people, and her beloved, which was not beloved. And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.*

Romans 9:25,26

Throughout the Old Testament the phrase “my people” is used repeatedly in reference to the Israelites, the children of God. Abraham was called out from among the heathen to become the patriarch of the fledgling nation Israel. Imperfect as they were, the Hebrews received divine favors from Jehovah throughout their pilgrimage on earth. From the many miracles displayed during the exodus from Egypt to the establishment of their kingdom, the nation Israel prospered because of being God’s people. God’s love certainly extends to all people, but He chose the Hebrews as the people of His covenant to be a witness to the world that they served the true and living God. The Lord’s promise to Abraham was that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed, which ultimately was fulfilled in the Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ who gave himself as the sacrifice for the sins of the world. Though Israel was chosen of God, their disobedience and blindness eventually led to captivity and the opening of a door for the Gentiles to enter also as the people of God.

Before our conversion, the Bible describes us as *being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.* The Bible uses many endearing terms to describe the closeness of His relationship with us as believers. There can be a trap in reading these precious portions of scripture too casually without allowing the fullness of its truth to speak to our soul. How often do the inspired writers of the epistles address the believers as *beloved*. Remember, that though the apostles were the writers, it is God who is speaking, and He refers to us as *beloved*. When reading 1John 3:1 do we really *Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God?* Despite all of our shortcomings we are still addressed as God’s children. The Lord also uses possessive terms as *my sons* and *daughters*. In the teaching of the Good Shepherd the Lord refers to believers as my sheep whom He calls by name. What a precious thought that the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus calls us His own and knows us by name.

We now have the privilege to use terms of endearment to God. The Lord is our Shepherd, and when we pray to Him, we can as His children say *Our Father which art in heaven*. Because we have become His people, we can now say like Thomas said: *My Lord, and my God*. Remember to live as His people today. - J. Ekis