

The Jewels of YAHWEH

Yirmeyah Tan, 25 February 2026

Shalom.

Today I am going to share on **The Jewels of YAHWEH**. You may find the title intriguing but just bear with me. Let's look at a few scripture verses first and then we will see the detailed explanations. Refer to **Exo 19:3-6** –

Exo 19:3 *And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;*

Exo 19:4 *Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.*

Exo 19:5 *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then **ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people:** for all the earth is mine:*

Exo 19:6 *And ye shall be unto me **a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.** These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

Then we turn to **1Pe 2:9-10** –

1Pe 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

1Pe 2:10 *Which in time past were not a people but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

Then **Tit 2:11-14** –

Tit 2:11 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

Tit 2:12 *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

Tit 2:13 *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

Tit 2:14 ***Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.***

Let's look at Israel as a nation and examine why Yahweh called Israel a peculiar treasure. First, we know that Israel was a chosen nation. Refer to the ESV (English Standard Version) of **Deu 32:8-9** -

I. Israel: A Peculiar Treasure

a. A Chosen Nation

ESV Deu32:8 *When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, **he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.***

Deu 32:9 *But **the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.***

There are many corrupted versions of the Bible which say that, when God judged Babel, He divided the nations according to the number of the children of Israel. Please note that Israel did not exist at that point in time and it had not yet been called. The correct translation is that, at the time of Yahweh's judgment of Babel, He dispersed the nations of the world and appointed angels [called sons of God] to be in charge of them. In the course of time, He would appoint Israel as His people [nation] through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

b. A called-out people

1. Abraham was called out from Ur
2. The Israelites were delivered by the hand of Moses from Egypt:

Look at **Hos 11:1** –

Hos 11:1 *When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.*

Note: this verse also applied to Yeshua who was taken by Mary & Joseph to Egypt to escape King Herod's massacre of the children below two.

Next Israel was also to be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. Refer to **Exo 19:6** –

c. A holy nation, a kingdom of Priests

Exo 19:6 *And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

The word "holy" always means separation from the world, from other nations of the world.

The fourth characteristic of Israel as a peculiar people was that it would be a nation free from idolatry or it should be. Look at the **ESV Deu 7:3-6** -

d. A nation free from idolatry

ESV Deu 7:3 *You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons,*

Deu 7:4 for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.

Deu 7:5 But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire.

Deu 7:6 "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

No idolatry, no intermarriage and the context of Deu 7 is the seven hidden tribes in Palestine that were to be totally exterminated by Joshua and his armies.

The fifth characteristic of the people of Israel, the nation of Israel, that Yahweh required was that they would be a people who do not or would not get tattoos; neither would they cut their flesh and they would only eat clean food and avoid unclean food. Again, we look at the **ESV Deu 14:1-3** –

e. A people who do not get tattoos, cutting of the flesh and only eat clean food

ESV Deu 14:1 *"You are the sons of the LORD your God. You shall not cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads for the dead.*

Deu 14:2 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Deu 14:3 You shall not eat any abomination.

If you go to Leviticus 11, you have the whole list of forbidden animals, birds and fishes that we are not supposed to eat because they are abomination to Father Yahweh.

The sixth characteristic of Israel was to be a people who would obey Him and walk in all His ways. Refer to **Deu 26:17-19** where the KJV (King James Version) is fine here –

f. A people who obeys Him and walks in His ways

Deu 26:17 *You have declared today that the LORD is your God, and that you will walk in His ways, and keep His statutes and His commandments and His rules and will obey His Voice.*

Deu 26:18 And the LORD has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments,

Deu 26:19 and that he will set you in praise and in fame and in honor high above all nations that he has made, and that you shall be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised."

II. Hebrew Word “Segulla” means Jewel

The BDB definition is possession, property, valued property, peculiar treasure or treasure. The Strong's definition is jewel, peculiar treasure, proper good, special.

Let's turn to the **ESV Mal 3:17** –

ESV Mal 3:17 *They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.*

In the **KJV Mal 3:17** –

KJV Mal 3:17 *And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.*

See the term jewel, something very precious, a treasured possession so that is the meaning of the Hebrew segûllâh.

Next, we will look at the translations into the Greek.

III. Greek Word “periousios”[G4041]

Translated by the Septuagint from the Hebrew word “Segulla” [H5459]

Thayer Definition:

1) that which is one's own, belonging to one's possessions

1a) a people selected by God from the other nations for his own possession

There are two words that are used by the Septuagint in translating the Hebrew word segûllâh and one is the Greek word periousios G4041. The Thayer definition is that which is one's own belonging to one's possessions, a people selected by God from the other nations for his own possession. In **Tit 2:14** –

Tit 2:14 *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a **peculiar people**, zealous of good works.*

You can see the translation of the Hebrew segûllâh to the Greek word periousios results in a similar English translation.

IV. Greek Word “peripoiēsis” [G4047]

Then the second Greek word that is used by the Septuagint in translating the Hebrew word segûllâh is the word peripoiēsis G4047 and the meaning is preservation, peculiar, purchased, possession, saving. An example in **1Pe 2:9-10** –

1Pe 2:9 *But ye are a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

1Pe 2:10 *Which in time past were not a people but **are now the people of God**: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

You can see again the use of the term peculiar people is similar to the translation from the Hebrew. Let's look at the English word peculiar.

V. The English Word “Peculiar”

Strange, weird, unique:

In modern English, when you say something or someone is peculiar, you are conveying the idea that the person is strange or weird but the ancient definition of the English word peculiar was actually the term **unique**.

Let me take you to some verses that give you some ideas about this. In **1Pe 2:11-12** –

1Pe 2:11 *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as **strangers and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.*

1Pe 2:12 *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

We are called by Yahweh to be His treasured people and His peculiar people. However, we are strangers and pilgrims to the world. Look at **1Pe 4:3-5** –

1Pe 4:3 *For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:*

1Pe 4:4 *Wherein they think it **strange** that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:*

1Pe 4:5 *Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.*

a. **The people of God are aliens, strange to the world, strangers and pilgrims:**

1Pe 2:11 *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as **strangers and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

You can see that the chosen people of God are really aliens to the world. We do not laugh at their crude jokes, do not enjoy their illicit pleasures of life, do not enjoy drunkenness, gluttony, womanizing so on.

b. **Our citizenship is in Heaven:**

ESV Php 3:20 *But our **citizenship is in heaven**, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ*

You may be citizens of a particular country, but our real citizenship is in Heaven.

Let's look at us the gentile followers of Christ who are also described as a peculiar people, just like the Israelites. The common characteristics of us versus Israelites: first point, coming out [separation] in the **ESV Rev 18:4-5** –

VI. **Gentile Followers of Christ: A Peculiar People**

a. **Come out**

ESV Rev 18:4 *Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "**Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;***

Rev 18:5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

We are to come out of Babylon, out of the Babylonian system [worldly system] that we may not partake of their sins, the judgments and the plagues on their sins.

Second point, we are told to touch not the unclean. Refer to **2Co 6:17-18** –

b. **Touch Not the Unclean**

2Co 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and **touch not the unclean thing;** and I will receive you,*

2Co 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Remember we saw earlier that the Israelites should not engage in idolatry, idolatrous practices, eat abominable things [unclean food] so likewise for us. Touch not the unclean if you want to be sons and daughters of the Most High.

Third point, we are to walk as children of the light. In **Eph 5:7-8** –

c. **Walk as children of the light**

Eph 5:7 *Therefore do not become partners with them;*

*Eph 5:8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light.***

The Israelites were instructed to walk in obedience to Father Yahweh, to His commandments, His statutes, His ordinances and that is walking in the light.

Fourth point, commonwealth of Israel. Remember Israel had this special calling and until Yeshua came, the gentiles had no part in the commonwealth of Israel. Look at **Eph 2: 11-13**

d. **Commonwealth of Israel**

Eph 2:11 *Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called **Uncircumcision** by that which is called the **Circumcision** in the flesh made by hands;*

*Eph 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, **being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel**, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

So, gentiles are now admitted into the commonwealth of Israel, treated by Yahweh as His peculiar treasure, peculiar people and eventually His jewels.

Fifth point, we too are a chosen family of God just like Israel. In Amos, we are told that Yahweh only knew Israel of all the families of the world. Turn to **Gal 3:29** on what Paul says –

e. A chosen family

Gal 3:29 *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye **Abraham's seed**, and heirs according to the promise.*

Being in Christ, we are the spiritual seed of Abraham and therefore part of the commonwealth of Israel and heirs to the promises given to Israel.

Sixth point, we have been specially selected. We were called not my people and now we are His people in **Hos 2:23** –

f. Specially selected: from not my people ['Loammi'] to His people

Hos 2:23 *And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.*

Gentiles were excluded from being the people of Yahweh until Christ came but now, we are His people. We did not have mercy but now we have obtained mercy.

Seventh point, we are very special to Him. We are peculiar people because we are purchased with His blood. Refer to this important verse in **Act 20:28** –

g. Purchased with His Blood

Act 20:28 *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

We are purchased, a possession of Yahweh and the price paid is the blood of His Son, Yeshua.

Eighth point, we are spiritual Israel in **Gal 6:15-16** –

h. Spiritual Israel

Gal 6:15 *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.*

Gal 6:16 *And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon **the Israel of God**.*

We become the spiritual Israel of God.

Ninth point, like Israel, we are to be a holy nation. Look at **1Pe 2:9** –

i. Holy nation

1Pe 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **a holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

The final point, we are to be the kingdom of priests just like the Israelites. In **Rev 1:6**, it confirms what Peter wrote in 1Pe 2:9 –

j. Kingdom of Priests

Rev 1:6 *And hath made us **kings and priests** unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

Now let me say a few words about the title - The Jewels of YAHWEH. We look at the **KJV Mal 3:16-17** –

VII. Jewels of YAHWEH

KJV Mal 3:16 *Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.*

Mal 3:17 *And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, **in that day when I make up my jewels**; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.*

If you turn to the Septuagint version of these verses, they make it a lot clearer. Let's look at the **Septuagint Mal 3:16-17** –

Sep Mal 3:16 *Thus spoke they that feared the Lord, everyone to his neighbour: and the Lord gave heed, and hearkened, and **He wrote a book of remembrance before Him for them that feared the Lord and revered His name.***

Mal 3:17 *And they shall be mine, saith the Lord Almighty, in the day which I appoint for a peculiar possession; and **I will make choice of them, as a man makes choice of his son that serves him.***

- a. From the KJV, we get the translation of the Hebrew word “segullah” as jewels
- b. From the Septuagint, we get the idea that the jewels are not only His peculiar possession but will be His chosen sons
- c. From both translations, the jewels/sons are those who fear [reverence] YAHWEH and who esteem His Name

VIII. Summation

[see Charles Seet, “Motivations for being a Peculiar People” Life Bible Presbyterian Church]

- a. The Privilege of being a peculiar people: a very special people to YAHWEH, a prized possession to be called His own
- b. The Price of being a peculiar people: the need to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts in order to “live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world’ [Tit 2:12]
- c. The Problems of being a peculiar people: we live in the midst of “a crooked and perverse generation” [Phi 2:15]
- d. The Power to be a peculiar people: the grace of God to motivate and enable us and the blessed hope of the Rapture [Tit 2:11-13]
- e. We are not merely jewels but He will be selecting us as His sons and daughters. Hallelujah! What a wonderful God that we serve that we are called to be His treasured possession, His jewels, His sons and daughters.

Shalom.