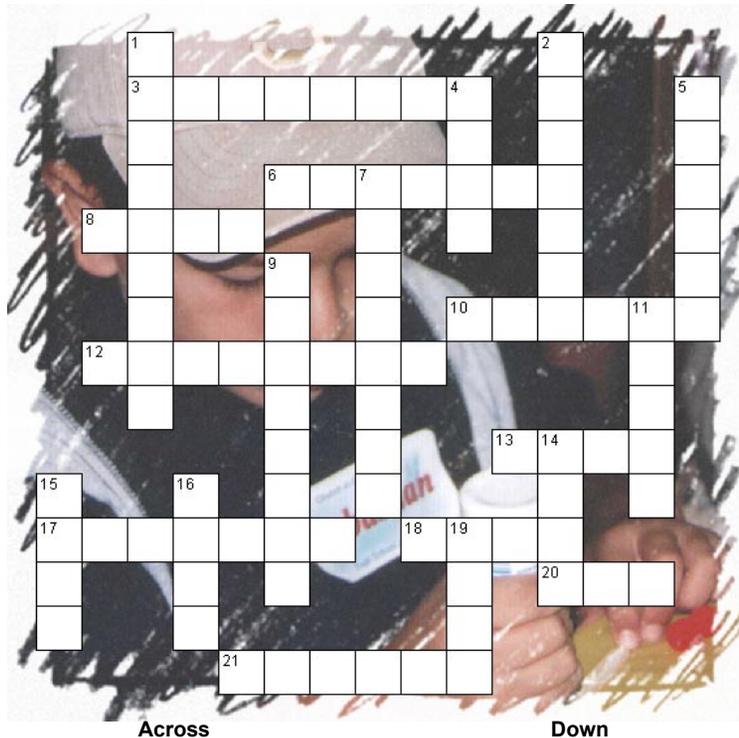


Crossword Puzzle

God's Calling in the New Testament

- Lesson Twenty-Two -

The Jew's Rejection of God's Calling

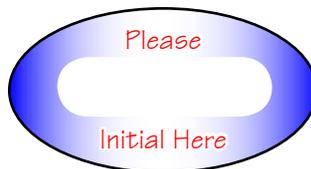


Across

Down

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3. The Jews opposed and _____. | 1. ...had Him _____ by the Romans. |
| 6. ...their _____ began to be filled again with jealousy. | 2. They placed them in _____. |
| 8. ...plotted to _____ Him... | 4. ..."spirit of _____ sleep"... |
| 10. ...rejected the preaching of the _____. | 5. When the apostle Paul began to _____ to bring the gospel... |
| 12. ...filled again with _____. | 7. They _____ the apostles, threatened them not to speak of the name... |
| 13. ...threatened them not to speak of the name of Jesus and _____ them. | 9. They arrested the _____, threatened... |
| 17. The Jews _____ and rejected... | 11. ...throughout His ministry on the _____. |
| 18. ...ears that _____ not and eyes... | 14. ..._____ that hear not... |
| 20. ...eyes that _____ not. | 15. ...rejected the _____ Jesus throughout His ministry on earth. |
| 21. ...had him crucified by the _____. | 16. ...poured out His _____ Spirit upon... |
| | 19. ...eyes that _____ not... |

Parent's Initials:



I. Overview.

God's chosen people were the children of Abraham – the Jews. God sent His own Son, Jesus Christ to be born out of them and among them. The Lord Jesus sent His disciples first to the Jews, not to the Gentiles. The apostles were also sent out firstly to the Jews, for they had been the ones among whom God had spoken.



Although the gospel first went to the Jews, they rejected it.

Unfortunately, the Jews did not receive God's calling, but rejected it. When the Lord Jesus ministered, He was not opposed by the Gentiles, but by the Jews. It was the Jewish leaders, the Pharisees, Sadducees, elders, scribes and priests, who rejected and opposed the Lord Jesus. Actually, they were jealous because many people followed the Lord Jesus and believed into Him. But the rejection of the Jews opened the door of the gospel to the Gentiles. Even today, the Jews still reject Jesus Christ, but the door of the gospel is open wide to all who believe.

II. Memory Verse.

"It was necessary for the word of God to be spoke to you first. Since you thrust it away... we turn to the Gentiles."

(Acts 13:46)

III. Lesson.

The Jews opposed and rejected the Lord Jesus throughout His ministry on the earth. Their rejection reached its highest point when they plotted to kill Him and had Him crucified by the Romans.



Because the Jews rejected the gospel the door was opened to the Gentiles.

Speaking to the Jews

After the Lord Jesus' resurrection and ascension, He poured out His Holy Spirit upon His disciples. The disciples testified strongly concerning the Lord's resurrection. Their speaking was in Jerusalem, among the Jews. At first thousands believed. But this caused their leaders to be filled again with jealousy. They arrested the apostles, threatened them not to speak of the name of Jesus and beat them. They placed them in prisons.

The Jews Reject the Gospel

Just as the Jews had rejected the Lord Jesus when He was on the earth, they rejected the preaching of the gospel by the apostles and disciples. Their rejection again resulted in killing when they stoned Stephen to death after he spoke to them concerning God's work and of their resistance.

The Apostles Turn to the Gentiles

When the apostle Paul began to travel to bring the gospel to other places, again he spoke to the Jews. He entered the synagogues of the Jews to reason with them concerning the Lord Jesus. But the Jews continually rejected God's speaking through the apostles. Eventually, Paul declared that because of their rejection, the gospel would turn to the Gentiles.

Many among the Gentiles gladly received the salvation of God. Many churches were raised up among the Gentiles. Because the Jews had rejected Christ, their hearts became hardened and God gave them a "spirit of deep sleep and eyes to see not and ears to hear not." Even unto this very day, the Jews have rejected God's calling.

Although as a nation the Jews have rejected God's calling, the door of the gospel is still open to whoever would turn his heart to the Lord and believe on Him. Today we have received the mercy to have the gospel preached to us and we have believed. This means that we have answered God's calling and have received all of His blessings.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. Who rejected and opposed the Lord Jesus?

2. Who were the first ones that the apostles and disciples spoke the gospel to?

3. Why did Paul turn to the Gentiles?

4. To whom is the door of the gospel open today?

