

Studies in Titus

Chapter 1

God's "elect"

ΕΚΛΕΚΤΟΣ
(*eklektos*)

= "chosen [people]"

Matthew 22:14

“For many are called, but few *are* **chosen**.”

Deuteronomy 7:7-8

“Adonai did not set His love on you nor **choose** you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because ...

[a] **Adonai loved you** and ...

[b] **kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers,**

...Adonai brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

1 Peter 2:9

But you are A **CHOSEN** RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. (c. Deut.7:6)

Colossians 3:11-12

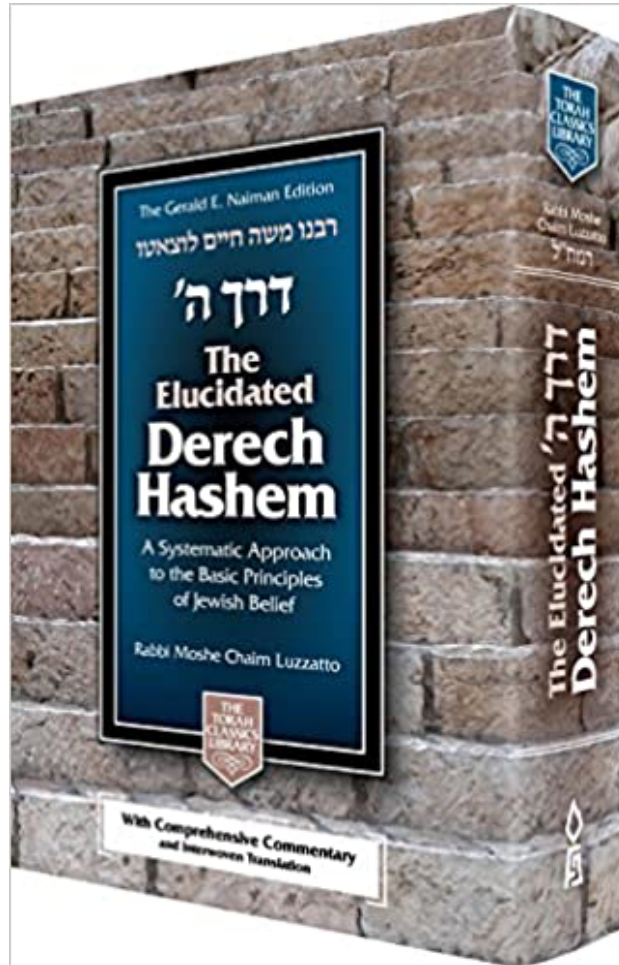
... a renewal in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Messiah is all, and in all. So, as those who have been **chosen** of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience ...

Nehemiah 9:6-8

“You alone are Adonai. You have made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them and the heavenly host bows down before You. You are Adonai Elohim, Who **chose** Abram and brought him out from Ur of the Chaldees, and gave him the name Abraham. You found his heart faithful before You and made a covenant with him to give him the land of the Canaanite, of the Hittite and the Amorite, of the Perizzite, the Jebusite and the Girgashite – to give it to his descendants. And You have fulfilled Your promise, for You are righteous.”

Derech Hashem

by Moshe Chaim Luzatto
(1707 – 1746)



Once we assume that Hashem created the world in order to bestow goodness, it is axiomatic that He should want to bestow the maximum amount of goodness that is possible. Anything less is not absolute goodness.

☞ *Derech Hashem* (footnote p.34)

Titus 1:7

For an overseer ... must not be **arrogant** ...

αυθαδης
(*authadeis*)
“pleasing one’s self”

“...someone who is so pleased with himself that nothing else pleases him and he is not interested in pleasing anybody.”

∞ Wm. Barclay

Titus 1:9

...**rebuke** those who contradict it.

παρακαλεω
(*parakaleo*)
“exhort”
lit. “to call alongside”

2 Corinthians 1:4

... who **comforts** us in all our affliction so that we will be able to **comfort** those who are in any affliction with the **comfort** (*n.*) with which we ourselves are **comforted** by God.

Prejudice of the “Circumcision Party”

Acts 10:45

All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the holy spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

Acts 11:2

And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them!”

Acts 22:20-22

‘And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I also was standing by approving, and watching out for the coats of those who were slaying him.’ “And He said to me, ‘Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’” **They listened to him up to this statement, and then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!”**

Romans 2:26-29

So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Torah, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Torah, will he not judge you who though having the letter of the Torah and circumcision are a transgressor of the Torah? For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the spirit, not by the letter, and his praise is not from men, but from God.

Paul, Pagans & Poets

Titus 1:12

One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

They fashioned a tomb for thee, O holy and high one—
The Cretans, always liars, evil beasts, idle bellies!
But thou art not dead: thou livest and abidest forever,
For in thee we live and move and have our being.

✎ Epimenides, *Cretica* (6th century B.C.)

Acts 17:28

For in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

Let us begin with Zeus, whom we mortals never leave unspoken.

For every street, every marketplace is full of Zeus. Even the sea and the harbor are full of this deity.

Everywhere everyone is indebted to Zeus. For we are indeed his offspring...

✎ Aratus, *Phaenomena* (3rd century B.C.)

Titus 1:16

They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and **worthless** for any good deed.

αδοκιμος

(*adokimos*)

“unfit / counterfeit / rejected”