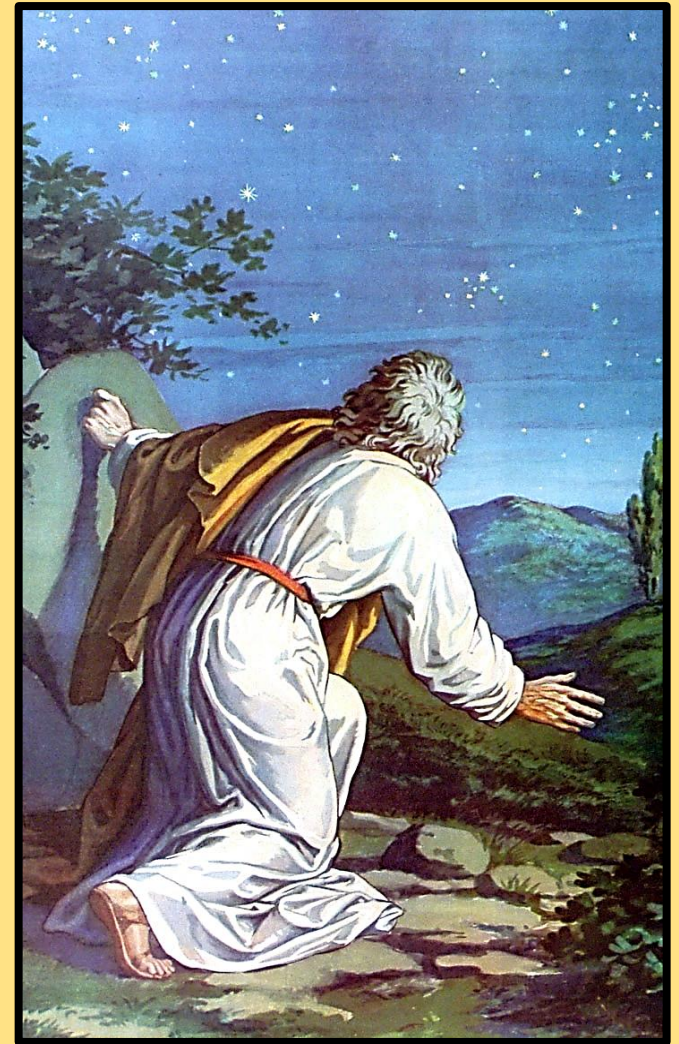




THE GENTILES

GENTILES DURING THE MOSAICAL AGE

Before the law of Moses God communicated his will to man for centuries without a written law. We refer to that period as the Patriarchal Age, for God spoke directly to the patriarchs or fathers and directed his will through dreams, visions, and the visitation of angels. Oral law was handed down from father to son. Then God gave the Israelites the written law of Moses which established a priesthood and gave specific regulations and commandments.



GENTILES DURING THE MOSAICAL AGE

The Gentiles were not in the lineage of Abraham or of the family of Israel (Jacob) who God selected as his “Holy people” (Deuteronomy 7:6).

Yet, we know the Gentiles were under law for
“where no law is, there is no transgression”
(Romans 4:15)

and we know they transgressed
“for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”
(Romans 3:23).

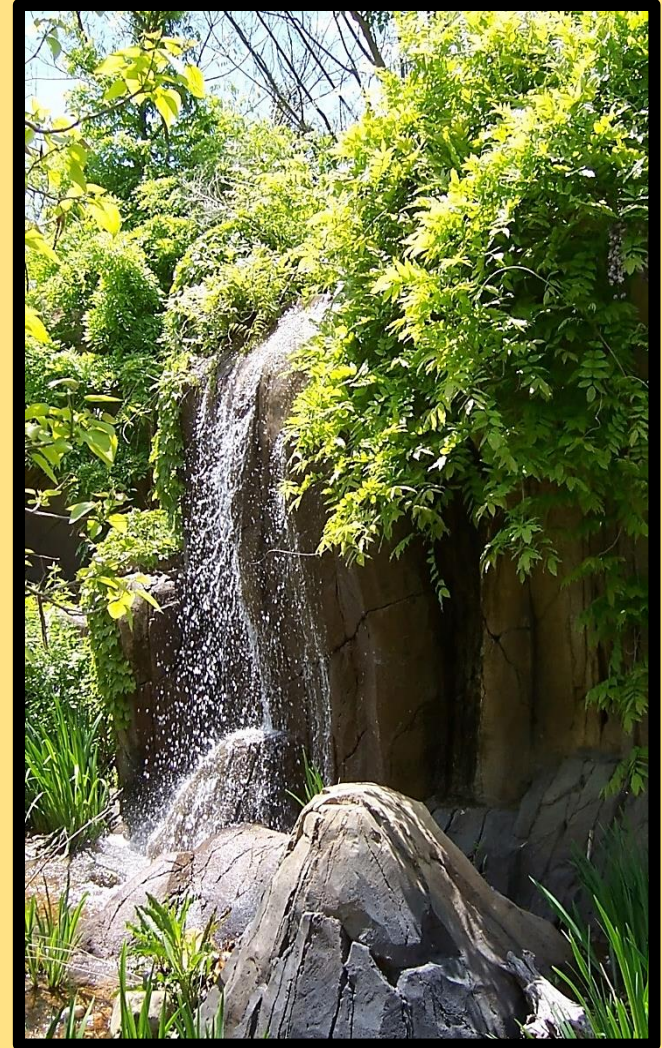
GENTILES DURING THE MOSAICAL AGE

Our best insight into the relationship Gentiles had with God in ancient times are the following verses:

“¹⁴For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: ¹⁵Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness . . .” (Romans 2:14-15).

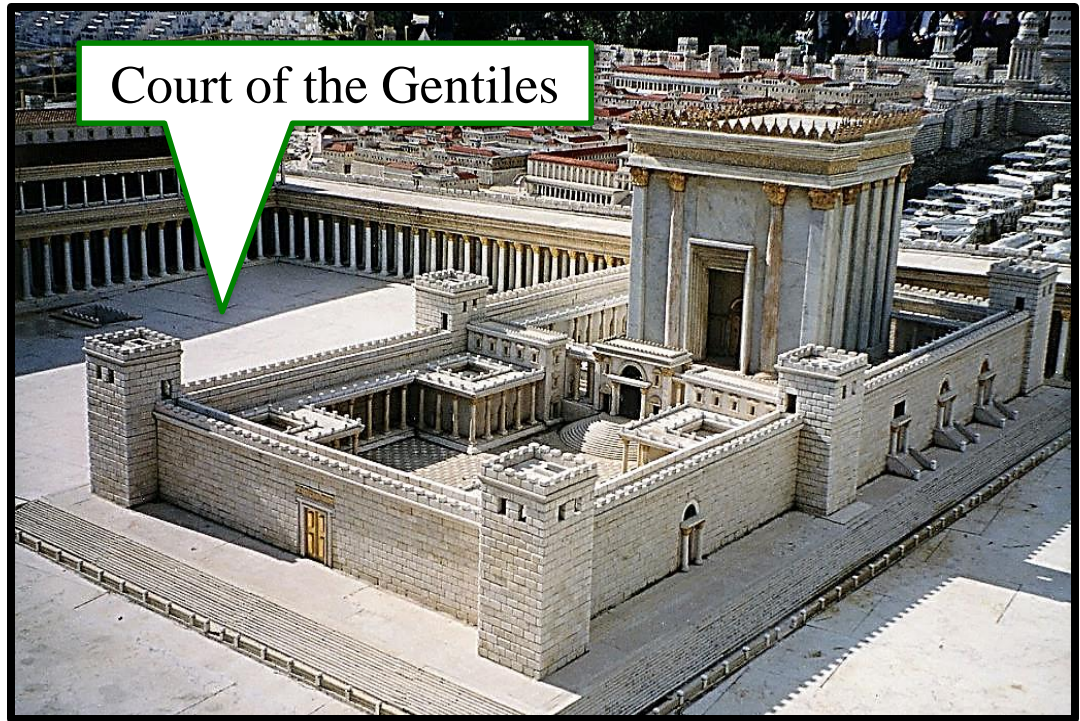
GENTILES DURING THE MOSAICAL AGE

Consider the phrase “by nature.” It suggests some Gentiles naturally followed their conscience which was trained by the knowledge from their ancestors and from following the example of faithful Jews. “By nature” does not mean *looking at nature* for it is impossible to know the will of God by observing mountains, trees, and clouds. Also, it does not mean they just *naturally* knew God’s will for “It is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps” (Jeremiah 10:23).



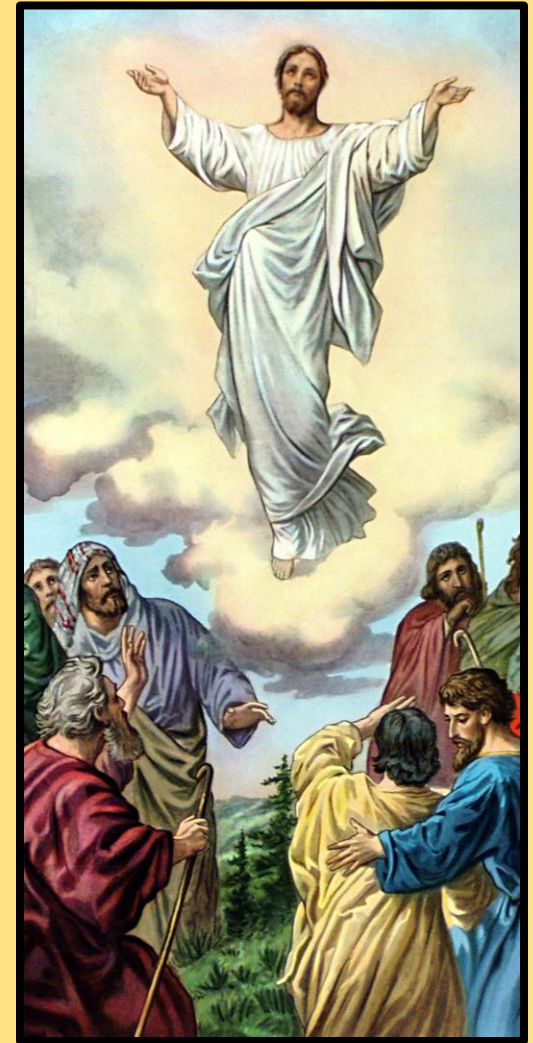
GENTILES DURING THE MOSAICAL AGE

Gentiles who desired to follow the Law that had been given to the Jews could become proselytes (converts). The male proselytes would even be circumcised. In Acts 2:10 it says on the day of Pentecost there were assembled at Jerusalem both “Jews and proselytes.” There was even a place in the temple called the Court of the Gentiles to accommodate these adherents to Judaism.

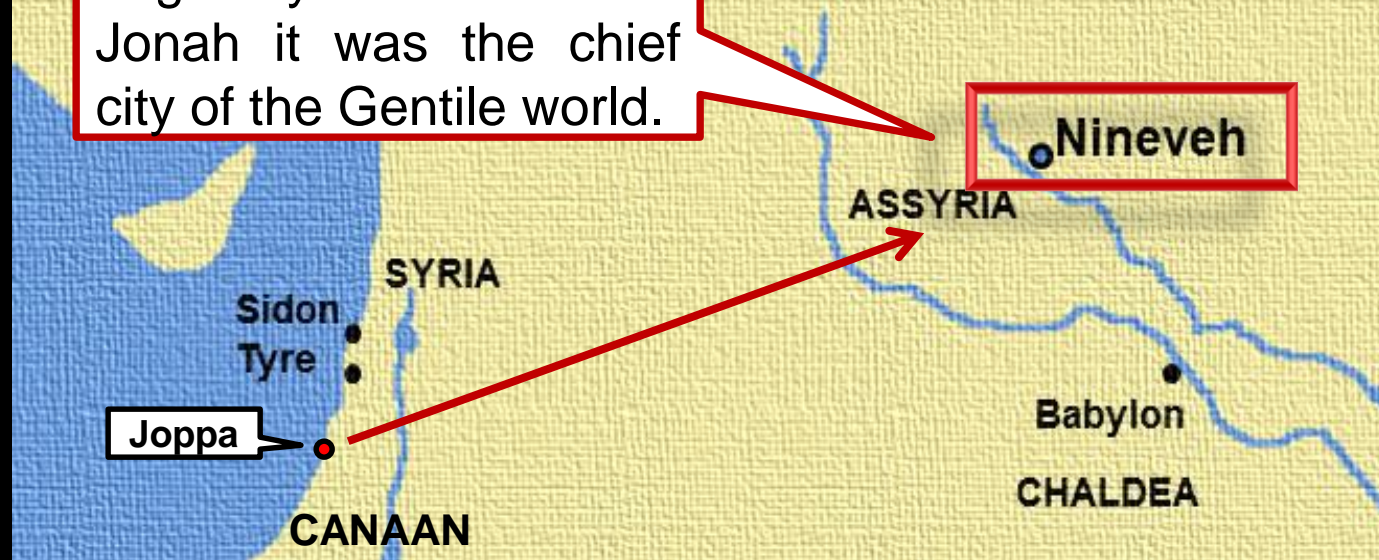


GENTILES DURING THE MOSAICAL AGE

The Old Testament gives much more attention to the history of the Jews than it does to the Gentiles, for the Bible primarily is concerned with the unfolding of prophecy and its fulfillment in Christ. The Jews were chosen to carry out God's purpose, but God was not unconcerned with the Gentiles. God's rebuke of Gentile nations through his prophets demonstrates their accountability. A great example is that of the prophet Jonah being sent to preach to the people of Nineveh, a Gentile city in the heathen nation of Assyria.

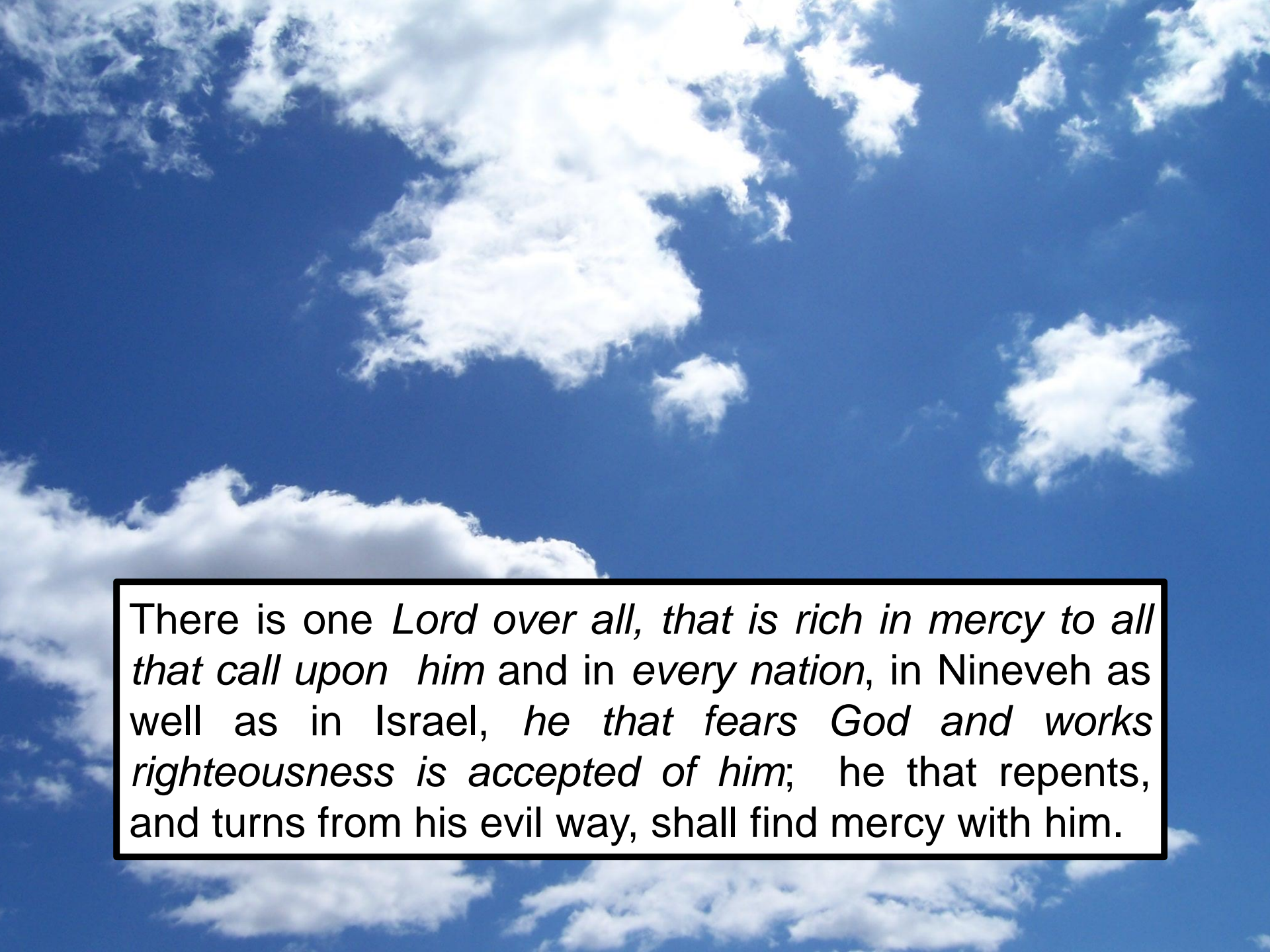


Nineveh was a very large city. In the time of Jonah it was the chief city of the Gentile world.



Jonah 3

“¹And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, ²Arise, [from Joppa] go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. ³So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days’ journey.”



There is one *Lord over all, that is rich in mercy to all that call upon him* and in every nation, in Nineveh as well as in Israel, *he that fears God and works righteousness is accepted of him*; he that repents, and turns from his evil way, shall find mercy with him.

The background is a stained glass pattern. It features a central horizontal band of yellow glass. Above and below this band are sections of light brown or tan glass, each divided into diamond shapes by dark, thick lead lines. Two horizontal bands of green glass separate the yellow band from the diamond-patterned sections. The overall effect is that of a decorative window or a stained glass panel.

THE END