

Relationships between Israelites/Judeans and others in the Hebrew Bible (selected examples)

Hebrew, *goy[im]*, 560x in Hebrew Scriptures, sometimes for “us” (e.g., Gen 17.4-5; 25.23) but most often for “them”

Hebrew, *gar*, 92x in the Hebrew Scriptures, meaning “refugee” or “stranger”

Greek, *ethnos*, 1014x in the Septuagint, 767x in the Hebrew-based texts, meaning “nation(s)”

Greek, *proselutos*, 85 in the Septuagint, meaning “resident foreigner” (Acts 6.5; 13.43)

Greek, *allophulos*, 317 in the Septuagint, meaning, “another tribe,” mostly as “Philistines”

“Gentiles” is foreign to the Hebrew Bible, as an English version of a Latin translation of Greek.

“God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1.27)

“by your [Abraham’s] offspring shall **all the nations of the earth gain blessing** for themselves” (Genesis 22.18)

If a foreigner who resides with you wants to celebrate the passover to YHWH, all his males shall be circumcised; then he may draw near to celebrate it; he **shall be regarded as a native of the land**. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it; there shall be one law for the native and for the foreigner who resides among you. (Exodus 12.48-49; also, Numbers 9.14)

You shall not oppress a resident foreigner; you know the heart of a foreigner, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt. (Exodus 23.9)

The foreigner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the foreigner as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt: I am YHWH your God. (Leviticus 19.34)

Many intercultural marriages, including:

Moses and Midianite Zipporah

Joseph and Asenath, an Egyptian priest’s daughter

Solomon and pharaoh’s daughter

Solomon and hundreds of foreign women (condemned for idolatry, not foreignness)

Boaz and Moabite Ruth

In days to come the **mountain of YHWH's house** shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; **all the nations shall stream to it**. (Isaiah 2.2)

I am YHWH, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I **have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations** (Isaiah 42.6)

And the foreigners who join themselves to YHWH, to minister to him, to love the name of YHWH, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant--**these I will bring to my holy mountain**, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for **my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples**. (Isaiah 56.6-7)