

# Reprobation

by Wayne Camp

**Reprobation claims no victims for hell who *would have otherwise gone to heaven if there had been no election or reprobation of any of the human race***

**SCRIPTURE TEXT: *Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.***

**INTRODUCTION:** For a proper understanding of this doctrine, I think it needful to discuss two doctrinal views.

Some hold to the doctrine known as Supralapsarianism which is in essence the doctrine that when the election of certain ones to be saved was made, God considered man in his unfallen state.

Others hold to the doctrine that is known as Sublapsarianism which is in essence the doctrine that when the election of certain ones to salvation was made, God considered man in his fallen state.

While I have never made a careful study of the two positions and rarely use the terms, I guess I would fall somewhat into the latter group.

Since election is unto salvation and is of grace it just seems to me that it must be that God considered man in his fallen state and graciously chose to save sinners. Further evidence of this is that Christ is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world and that he was ordained to redeem us by his blood before the foundation of the world. This indicates we would need a Saviour to save us from our sins. It indicates that we would be such sinners that nothing less than the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ would save us. It further indicates that we would be in the bondage of sin and we would need redeeming from that bondage. ***Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

Therefore, I believe that when God appointed certain men to destruction and condemnation, he was considering man in his fallen state and thus the title of our study, ***Reprobation Claims No Victims For Hell Who Would Have Otherwise Gone To Heaven If There Had Been No Election Or Reprobation Of Any Of The Human Race.***

## **1. REPROBATION IS TAUGHT IN SCRIPTURE**

A. Our texts speaks of those who were before ordained to condemnation.

***Jude 4*** *For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

B. Peter tells us that some were appointed to stumble and to see Christ as a rock of offence.

**1 Peter 2:8** *And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*

C. Peter further infers this same doctrine in his second epistle.

**2 Peter 2:3** *And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

D. He is more blunt when he refers to false teachers who are as brute beasts made to be taken and destroyed.

**2 Peter 2:12** *But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption.*

E. Paul affirms this doctrine in his epistle to the Romans.

**Romans 9:21-22** *Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? 22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.*

F. In his letter to the church in Thessalonica, he strongly infers that some are appointed to wrath when he speaks of the fact that the elect are not appointed to wrath.

**1 Thessalonians 5:9** *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1. Please note that the word appointed pertains to both parts of this verse.

2. In the negative, God has not appointed us to wrath.
3. In the positive, God has appointed us to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Since all do not obtain salvation through Christ, it is obvious they were not appointed to obtain it.
5. Therefore, the opposite inference is that some were appointed to wrath.
6. These are called vessels of wrath in Rom. 9:21-21

G. Jesus also supported the doctrine of reprobation.

**John 12:39-40** *Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.*

H. Isaiah first made this declaration quoted by Jesus.

**Isaiah 44:18** *They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand. Isaiah 6:9-10 And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. 10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.*

**I. REPROBATION MAY BE ASSERTED FROM THE FACT THAT FROM THE FLOOD TO THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST GOD LEFT THE GENTILES, THE DESCENDANTS OF JAPHETH AND HAM, TO THEIR IDOLS**

A. Consider the fact that much of the human race, prior to the resurrection of Christ, did not have the external means of grace.

**Ephesians 2:12-22** *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: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

1. They were without Christ and without him they could do nothing spiritually acceptable.

**John 15:5** *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

2. He did not appear to the Gentiles as he did to the Jews.

- i It was he who was on the Mountain when Moses received the law but he made no such appearances among the Gentile people and gave them no law.

**Romans 2:14** *For 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:*

- ii It was he who was central in the preaching of all the Hebrew prophets as they preached to Israel but, except for rare occasions, they did not preach to the Gentiles.

**Acts 10:43** *To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*

- iii He never walked in the midst of a fiery furnace with any Gentiles as he did with Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego.
- iv He never sent prophets to them to call them to repentance except in the one case of the city of Nineveh.

3. The Gentile nations for the first several centuries of their existence were without Christ and without Christ there is no eternal life.

**1 John 5:12** *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

B. Consider the fact that in all ages the greater part of the human race living at any given time are not afforded the benefits of the preaching of the gospel.

1. During his ministry Jesus confined himself almost entirely to preaching and working among the Jews.

**Matthew 15:24** *But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

2. He was sent by the Father first to the house of Israel.

**Acts 3:25-26** *Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. 26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.*

3. Jesus forbade his disciples to go among the Gentiles preaching the word.

**Matthew 10:5-6** *These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

4. When the disciples were scattered from Jerusalem under the persecution of Saul of Tarsus, they went to Phenice and other places preaching Jesus to the Jews only.

**Acts 11:19** *Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.*

5. Consider his response to the woman of Canaan who came pleading for his mercy on her daughter.

**Matthew 15:22-26** *And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 25 Then came she and*

worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. 26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

6. Even in giving the commission to his first church he specified that they were to begin their ministries among the Jews.

**Luke 24:47** *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

C. The Gentiles were aliens to the commonwealth of Israel.

**Ephesians 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:*

1. When Israel was rebuilding Jerusalem Gentiles came and claimed they wanted to help but their not being a part of Israel was the reason given for not permitting their participation.

**Ezra 4:1-3** *Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel; 2 Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither. 3 But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves*



*together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.*

D. The Gentiles were strangers from the covenants of promise.

**Ephesians 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:*

7. The word that is translated "**strangers**" in this verse means they had no knowledge of, had no share in the covenants of promise; to them they were new and unheard of.

8. All the covenant promises had been for Israel and Israel only until after the resurrection of Christ.

E. The Gentiles had been without hope.

**Ephesians 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.*

1. The literal translation of this is "**hope not having.**" They had, for all those approximately 25 centuries had no hope.

2. Jehovah was the hope of Israel, not the hope of the Gentiles.

**Jeremiah 14:8** *O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night? Jeremiah 17:13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.*

3. Consider the words of Jesus to the Samaritan woman.

**John 4:22** *Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.*

4. Paul again referred to this hope having in the past been the hope of Israel and for that hope he had been bound in chains.

**Acts 28:20** *For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.*

5. As Paul had previously stated they were without Christ and to be without Christ is to be without hope.

**Colossians 1:27** *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

6. Any person who dies without Christ is without hope.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13** *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

7. Can you imagine, my dear fellow Gentiles, our fathers, our progenitors who lived before the resurrection of Christ were always, continuously without hope of having hope they were always **having no hope**.

8. Before the resurrection of Christ the Gentiles were without God.

**Ephesians 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.*

9. It was a terrible time in Israel when God temporarily withdrew his presence as a chastisement for sin.

**2 Chronicles 15:3-5** *Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. 4 But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them. 5 And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries.*

10. The Gentiles had never known his presence at any time as had the Israelites—they were without God; they had no knowledge of him so they set up their images and worshiped gods that could not save.

**Isaiah 45:20** *Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save.*

11. This ignorance of the true God of heaven was graphically revealed when Paul and Barnabas were in the Gentile city of Lystra.

**Acts 14:8-18** *And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: 9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, 10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. 11 And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. 12 And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice*

*with the people. 14 Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, 15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: 16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. 18 And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.*

12. All of their sacrifices to their gods had for those many years been sacrifices to demons.

**1 Corinthians 10:20** *But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*

13. They did not know the true God for all those centuries and were left to worship things where were no gods.

**Galatians 4:8** *Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. 1 Thessalonians 4:5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God.*

F. For all those centuries the Gentiles were afar off.

**Ephesians 2:13** *But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.*

- i They were so far off from God that he did not even reveal it to them that one day he would visit the Gentiles and take out a people for his name.

**Ephesians 3:5-9** *Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: 7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. 8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.*

- a. Our forefathers had no inkling that one day God would visit the Gentiles and take out of them a people for his name.

- b. Our forefathers never knew that one day in glory Gentiles would sing that wondrous story of redemption by the blood of Christ.

**Revelation 5:9** *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.*

- c. They were simply too far off to have any hope of this every being.

- d. From time to time God had had his prophets mention this but, after all, they were preaching to Israelites, not Gentiles.

e. Isaiah spoke of it.

**Isaiah 11:10** *And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*  
**Isaiah 49:6** *And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.*

f. Jeremiah revealed it.

**Jeremiah 16:19-21** *O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit. 20 Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods? 21 Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name is The LORD.*

(1) God had revealed it in the covenant of promise given to Abraham. **Genesis 22:18** *And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

(2) Hosea wrote of it. **Hosea 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.*

(3) David sang of it. ***Psalm 22:27 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.***

(4) Simeon believed this would come and spoke of it in the Temple. ***Luke 2:31-32 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.***

(5) Peter spoke of it on the first Pentecost after the death of Christ. ***Acts 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*** Note that Peter uses the term ***afar off*** similar to that Paul used in Ephesians 2:13.

(6) Paul uses the same terminology as did Peter in verse 17. ***Ephesians 2:17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.***

(7) The High priest spoke of it. ***John 11:51-52 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; 52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.***

(8) James spoke of our great blessing this side of the cross in the church in Jerusalem. ***Acts 15:14-17 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. 15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, 16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: 17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.***

(9) Paul related it when relating his experience on the road to and in Damascus. **Acts 22:21** *And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles. Acts 26:17-18* **Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, 18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

(10) In the providence of God this happened. **Acts 13:46-48** **Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. 47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. 48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.**

(11) Again Paul refers to those promises concerning the Gentiles. **Romans 15:8-12** **Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: 9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. 10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. 11 And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. 12 And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.**



(12) I close with one other reference to this matter. ***Romans 11:10-17 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. 11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. 12 Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? 13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: 14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. 15 For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? 16 For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. 17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert graffed in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;***

[Copied from PHBC, by Elder Wayne Camp, May 20, June 7, 1998]