

# Hope for Gentiles before Christ. Rahab and Ruth...

\*\*\*Joe\*\*\* Hey bob, during the some 1500 years before Christ was born, while the Jews were being used by God to produce the promised Messiah, was there any hope for people who were Gentiles and not born Jews?

I am Bob.

Yes—there **was hope for Gentiles** even during the ~1500 years before Christ. The Bible shows that although Israel was the nation God used to bring the Messiah, **non-Israelites were not excluded from God's favor** if they turned to Him.

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## 1. God's purpose always included all nations

From the beginning of Israel's role, the promise was not limited to Jews:

- **Genesis 12:3 (ESV)** — "...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

This shows that the Messiah (through Abraham's line) was **intended for all mankind**, not just Israel.

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## 2. Gentiles could join themselves to יהוה

Foreigners were allowed to worship the true God and be accepted:

- **Isaiah 56:6–7 (ESV)** — "And the foreigners who join themselves to יהוה... these I will bring to my holy mountain... for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."
- **Exodus 12:48 (ESV)** — A foreigner could keep the Passover if he accepted the covenant.

So a Gentile was not rejected—he could **attach himself to God and be accepted**.

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## 3. Examples of Gentiles accepted by God

The Bible gives clear individual examples:

- **Rahab** (a Canaanite) — Rahab
  - *Joshua 6:25* — She was spared and lived among Israel.
- **Ruth** (a Moabite) — Ruth
  - *Ruth 1:16* — "Your people shall be my people, and your God my God."
  - She became part of the lineage of the Messiah.
- **Naaman** (a Syrian) — Naaman
  - *2 Kings 5:15* — "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel."

These show that **faith—not ethnicity—was what mattered**.

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#### 4. Gentiles who did not fully convert were still accountable

Even outside Israel, people were not without knowledge of God:

- **Jonah 1–4** — The people of Nineveh (Gentiles) repented and were spared.
- **Amos 1–2** — God judged surrounding nations for wrongdoing.

This indicates Gentiles had **moral accountability and opportunity to respond**.

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#### 5. Israel's role did not exclude others—it served them

Israel was chosen for a purpose:

- **Deuteronomy 7:6** — Israel was chosen as a “holy people.”
  - But that role was to **bring forth the Messiah**, through whom salvation would extend to all.
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### Conclusion

Yes—Gentiles had real hope:

1. God's promise always included all nations.
2. Gentiles could join themselves to יהוה and be accepted.
3. Many were accepted based on faith.
4. They were accountable and could respond to God.

Israel was the **channel**, not the limit, of God's purpose.

There was never a time when sincere Gentiles were without hope.

\*\*\*Joe\*\*\* Could you explain the relationship between Rahab and Ruth?

I am Bob.

The relationship between Rahab and Ruth is **family lineage**, and it is very important in the Bible because it leads directly to the Messiah.

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#### 1. Rahab became part of Israel and married into Judah

After Rahab showed faith and protected the spies:

- **Joshua 6:25 (ESV)** — “...she has lived in Israel to this day.”

She later married an Israelite:

- **Matthew 1:5 (ESV)** — “Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab...”

So Rahab became the **wife of Salmon** (of the tribe of Judah).

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## 2. Rahab was the mother of Boaz

- **Matthew 1:5** — “...Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab...”

This makes Rahab the **mother of Boaz**.

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## 3. Ruth married Boaz

Ruth, though a Moabite, showed faith in יהוה:

- **Ruth 4:13 (ESV)** — “So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife...”

So Ruth became **Rahab’s daughter-in-law**.

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## 4. Together they are in the line of the Messiah

Their family line continues:

- **Matthew 1:5–6 (ESV)** —  
“Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth,  
and Obed the father of Jesse,  
and Jesse the father of David the king.”

So:

- Rahab → mother of Boaz
  - Ruth → wife of Boaz
  - Their line → leads to King David → leads to the Messiah
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## 5. Meaning of their relationship

Their connection shows a key Bible truth:

- Both were **Gentiles** (Canaanite and Moabite)
  - Both showed **faith in יהוה**
  - Both were brought into Israel
  - Both became part of the **Messiah’s lineage**
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## Conclusion

Rahab and Ruth are directly connected:

- Rahab is the **mother of Boaz**
- Ruth is the **wife of Boaz**

This makes them part of the same immediate family, and together they demonstrate that **faith—not birth—was what allowed Gentiles to share in God’s purpose with faithful Jews.**