

Lesson Aim	To understand the human two things, first, that the Gospel was once revealed only to the nation of Israel but now is revealed to all the nations (the Gentiles) and second, the reason the Gospel now goes out today to all the nations (the Gentiles).
Steps to Learning	Read the Canons of Dort, Heads 3&4, article 7 and Galatians 3:10-29. Also discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>When was the Gospel restricted?</p> <p>The Gospel was restricted to Israel, the Jews. This occurred, according to the Old Testament, when the Jewish people <u>were</u> the chosen people of God. If anyone wanted to know God, through the Gospel, they had to come into Israel. There are numerous examples of this like some of the Egyptians that came out of Egypt with the Jews and others like Rahab. But the Old Testament speaks of a time in the future when the Gospel will go out to all the nations (e.g. Isaiah 2) and the New Testament confirms this (e.g. Galatians 3:27,28 and Ephesians 2).</p> <p>Why did the Gospel have to be restricted to Israel before it would be preached beyond Israel?</p> <p>The answer lies, in large measure, in understanding the function of the Mosaic Law. In short, the Law makes the need for the Gospel clear. According to Galatians 3:19, the Law imprisoned people, particularly Israel, because of transgressions (sin). That is, the Law was given to make sin a legal offense against God, to make it clear that people who sin are in trouble with God. But this was done until Christ came.</p> <p>What is the reason the Gospel goes out today to only some of the nations and not all?</p> <p>The Canons of Dort explain that the reason is not ascribed to the superior worth of one nation above another. Even Israel did not have this superior worth; the Gospel came to them because they were chosen by God who loved them (see Deuteronomy 7:7,8). Likewise, the Gospel is not sent to one nation above another because of the better use of the light of nature. This is true because, as Paul argues in Romans chapter 1, people suppress the truth of God revealed in nature through their unrighteousness. The Gospel is sent to some and not others simply because of the free good pleasure and undeserved love of God. Ephesians chapter 1 makes this clear.</p>
Bible Reading	Revelation 17-22 (Reading through the New Testament)