

Some words, images, and New Testament passages to assist 4th presentation in 2020 Lenten Bible study series on Race, Ethnicity, and New Testament

Here are the very few uses of the word “race” in the New Testament. None of them use the word in relationship to skin color:

--“my own race” Romans 9:3 (*Greek: genos*)

--“of their race” Romans 9:5 (*Gr. sarx*)

--“you are a chosen race” I Pet. 2:9 (*genos*)

Gr. word *ethne* translated people, nation, tribe, ethnicity, gentile

Greek. Word *ethne* used more than 100 times, used predominantly as in a positive sense.

“Barbarian” *Gr. (barbaros)* is a slander used by Romans and Greeks, meaning uncivilized and not completely human. It is used only twice in the New Testament, but ironically and positively in lists of those belonging to God’s family.



Battle between “barbarian” Penthesileia and Greek Achilles



Roman Emperor Claudius defeating barbarian Britannia (Photos 2610: H. Taussig)