

SPECIAL PEOPLE SPECIAL PURPOSE

Sunday, September 28, 2025 -- 1 PETER series -- msg 14 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

1 PETER 2:3-9

English Standard Version (ESV)

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, **5** you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For it stands in Scripture:

*"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."*

Isaiah 28:16

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

*"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,"*

Psalms 118:22

8 and

*"A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense."*

Isaiah 8:14-15

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. **12** Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

REVIEW & CONTEXT:

- 1) The Apostle Peter**, was one of the closest disciples to Jesus who initially failed many times, but after being filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost he was a bold and effective preacher and leader for the early church.
- Several years after Christ ascended to heaven and the Holy Spirit had come to fill God's people, Peter writes to first century believers who were being persecuted. His letter is also to **all** followers of Jesus who live in a sinful world that is hostile to the ways of God.
- In chapter 1, Peter seeks to lift up their eyes to their great _____ through Jesus Christ. Though rejected by the world, they are _____ and saved by God.
- Most recent message in ch 2: **YOU ARE THE HOUSE OF GOD** made up of _____ **stones** into a **spiritual house** where Christ is the **CORNERSTONE**.

GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE: Verse 9 Key Observations

- 1) **BUT**— This is contrasting the people of verses _____ with the people of verses _____.

Verse 7-8

Those who do not _____ vs 7

Those who _____ the Cornerstone (Christ) vs 7

Those who _____ over Christ vs 8

Those who _____ the word vs 8

Brutal Point: You were _____ ! (see vs 9-10 and 1 Cor. 6:11)

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

2) You are a _____: vs 9

Peter draws from God's terminology in the Old Testament...

DEUTERONOMY 7:6-8

*6 "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord **set his love on you and chose you**, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations."*

Peter wants Christians to remember and understand that just as God chose Israel for a special purpose in His redemptive plan, so He has also chosen them through His own sovereign, electing purpose and will. (See John 15:16; Acts 13:48; Romans 9:13-16; 11:5; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 1:3-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:9; 2:10; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 20:15 — also see our sermon & handout THE BEAUTIFUL DOCTRINE OF DIVINE ELECTION)

FOUR Key Observations about the DIVINE ELECTION of Believers by GOD:

- 1) It is the solitary _____ of God therefore it crushes all our _____.
(Jonah 2:9; John 1:12-13; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- 2) Election by divine grace _____ God more than anything else.
(Romans 9:23; Ephesians 1:6-7; 2:7; 2 Thessalonians 2:13)
- 3) God's election inspires and compels believers to live a life of holiness and obedience.
We _____ Him because He _____ us!
We obey Him not out of mere _____ but sincere _____.
(Deuteronomy 11:13; Joshua 24:24; Romans 6:17; 7:25)
- 4) God's divine election is eternal and _____ —
nothing else gives more security, peace and _____.
(Psalm 85:8; John 14:27; 1 Cor. 14:33; Eph 2:14-15; Colossians 1:20; 3:15; 2 Thess. 3:16)

3) You are a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD. Vs 9

Priests have _____ to God.

Priests are used to help others have _____ to God.

God told Israel (through Moses) that He would use them as priests to the world.

EXODUS 19:5-6

5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

Did they obey and keep His covenant? _____.

Did God still use them? _____.

(we see grace and consequences)₂

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

4) You are a HOLY NATION: vs 9

'holy' (ἅγιος or *hagios*) literally means ' _____ , DIFFERENT, NOT LIKE THE REST'

Again, remember Exodus 19:6... 'and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

While God brought His messiah into the world through Israel, we now see that ALL the truly re-deemed make up not just a special earthly nation but a heavenly spiritual nation. This is God's holy nation that Peter speaks of... both Jews and (non-Jews) who recognize Jesus as the Messiah of God.

This does not negate God's special plan for the _____. He still is at work in them.

5) You are a PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN _____: vs 9

This is an often repeated term for God's people (Exodus 19:5; Deut 7:6-7; 14:2; 26:18; Mal. 3:17).

'possession' (περιποίησιν or *peripoiēsin*) literally means ' _____ , preserved, acquisition'

Believers belong to God because he bought them for an _____.

(1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23; Hebrews 13:12; Revelation 5:9)

This points to the ultimate plan of God in heaven — when _____ and _____ are finished.

REVELATION 21:3-4 (the scene in heaven after the final judgment)

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God." 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

6) You PROCLAIM GOD'S _____ WORK... vs 9

The word 'excellencies' comes from the idea of ' _____ '.

Christ's work in saving His people from darkness is heroic and valorous!

Saved FROM DARKNESS:

- _____ darkness: inability to see and know the truth
- _____ darkness: inability to see and do what is right

Saved TO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT:

- this light comes from HIM (Colossians 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 130; 1 Cor 2:15-16)
- it illumines the **mind to** _____ and the **heart to** _____.

APPLICATION for BELIEVERS:

How does learning the way God sees and declares His people in vs 9 make you feel?

What does it motivate you to do with your life?

APPLICATION FOR NON-BELIEVERS:

Can you see what Christ offers His people?

Will you _____ to Him and _____ Him?