

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD?

Introduction

- 1) There is confusion in the world as to understanding who the people of God are
 - a) Caring, virtuous, lovers of God, or fanatical, cultists, self-righteous hypocrites
- 2) While this is to be expected, we must be sure that *we understand who we are!*
- 3) Epistle of First Peter uses several descriptions of God's people – pilgrims, elect, Christian
 - a) ***“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy”*** (1 Pet. 2:9-10)
- 4) Understanding these descriptions helps us know who we are as the people of God

I) A Chosen Generation

- A) Compare OT Israel (Deut. 7:6)
- B) “Generation” – family, race
- C) “Chosen” – picked, selected (1 Pet. 1:2 – conditioned on faith/trust – Eph. 1:4, 11-13)
- D) We are a ***chosen generation*** because we have obeyed the call of God to be saved
 - 1) Are we continuing to grow and display the character of God's elect (2 Pet. 1:10)?

II) A Royal Priesthood

- A) Compare OT Israel (Ex. 19:6)
- B) “Priesthood” (1 Pet. 2:5 – offer up spiritual sacrifices; Heb. 13:15; Rom. 12:1)
- C) “Royal” – kingly, regal in Christ (Rev. 1:5-6; 5:10)
- D) We are a ***royal priesthood*** because of our association with the reigning King and High Priest, Jesus Christ (Heb. 8:1)
 - 1) Are we continuing in fellowship with our High Priest and King (Heb. 4:14-16)?

III) A Holy Nation

- A) Compare OT Israel (Ex. 19:6)
- B) “Holy” – pure, separated, consecrated to God's service (1 Pet. 1:15-16)
- C) “Nation” – multitude, company of believers (brotherhood – 1 Pet. 2:17; 5:9)
- D) We are a ***holy nation*** because we are a multitude of believers that are separated from the world to God
 - 1) Are we continuing to remain separate from the world (1 Pet. 2:11)?

IV) His Own Special People

- A) Compare OT Israel (Ex. 19:5; Deut. 7:6)
- B) “Special” – peculiar (KJV), God's own possession as no other people are; lit. *a people for a possession* (see Eph. 1:14; Titus 2:14)
- C) We are a ***special people*** because we have been purchased and redeemed by the blood of Christ to be God's own possession (1 Cor. 6:20; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 1:18-19)
 - 1) Do we live each day as special people in His service (Rom. 12:2)?

Conclusion

We are these things that we might ***proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light*** (see also Col. 1:13-14)! Only those who are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a special people can praise God as their Savior.

Are you a part of the people of God? Obtain His mercy by obeying His call!