

God's People Are Special

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:1-7

Leviticus 20:26 And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.

1. **Without exception, God has always desired that His people be unique, separate, and special.**

2. **In every dispensation of time, God has required severance and holiness for His intended purposes.**
 - A. **In the first dispensation, the Patriarchal age, a family religion, the Father of the family was to see that his children remained unique.**

 - B. **In the second dispensation, the Mosaical age, the ten commandments were given along with other laws to sever God's people from the pagans.**

 - C. **In the third, and present dispensation, the Christian age, we have the law of Christ (the New Testament) to sever us from those of the world.**

The Call of Abraham

1. We can clearly see that Abraham was special, separate in regards to His dedication and service to almighty God as evidenced by his call.

Genesis 12:1-3

- A. He was a man who was severed from his country, his family, and his father's house.

- 1) So that God might make of him a great nation, a unique and peculiar people who will be zealous of good works directed by God.
- 2) The nation developed in Egypt and was required to be severed from the Egyptians in order to serve Jehovah God.

Exodus 8:20 And the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me."

- 3) God bore them out to be a special treasure, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

Exodus 19:4-5

- a. Notice what God says in Leviticus 20:

Leviticus 20:8, 22, 24, 26

Israel – A Separate People

- 1. In Leviticus 20 several sins are listed that Israel (as well as Christians) are to avoid in order to be seen as truly a separate, special people.**
 - A. Idolatry (1-5), Witchcraft (6, 27), Disrespect for parents (9), Adultery (10), Incest (11-14, 19-20), Homosexuality (13), Bestiality (15-17), Eating unclean meat (25).**

- 2. These things were common place for the inhabitants of Canaan**
 - A. God hated these sins, so he drove the Canaanites out of the land and gave the land to Israel.**
 - 1) But it was conditional. Conditioned on their obedience and holiness (26).**

- 3. God said, “I have separated you” from other people.**
 - A. This should be evident based on their daily habits.**

- 4. However, they became rebellious, changed God’s government; they served other gods and inter-married with the heathen of the land.**
 - A. As punishment – Israel was carried into Assyrian captivity during the reign of Hoshea in 722 B.C. (2 Kings 17:3-6)**

 - B. Judah was carried into Babylonian captivity by king Nebuchadnezzar during the reign of Jehoiakim in 606 B.C. (First captives taken)**

 - C. They came again during the reign of Jehoiachin in 597 B.C. and took 10,000; in 586 B.C., Judah was completely besieged.**

5. **Israel learned the tragic lesson of disobedience. Sadly, it was a choice they had made.**

Christians Are to be Separate, Peculiar

1. **All Christians today, in like fashion, are to be severed, separate, and special to those around us.**

1 Peter 2:5, 9

- A. **We are a “chosen generation” (an elect race - ASV), a people for God’s own possession.**

2. **Christians are set apart and sanctified by the Word**

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

3. **This uniqueness is now seen in the following ways:**

- A. **Our Name:**

- 1) **Christians (Acts 11:26)**

- B. **Our Creed (rule of faith and practice):**

- 1) **We do not accept human creeds**

Matthew 15:8-9 'These people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. and in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

- 2) **The Bible is our only guide.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17; Jude 3 (“contend earnestly for the faith”)

C. Our Attitude and Way of Life.

1) We try to maintain a separateness from the world.

1 Peter 2:11-12 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, **glorify God** in the day of visitation.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 therefore "come out from among them and **be separate, says the lord**. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord almighty."

D. Our Organization

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond servants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, **with the bishops and deacons**:

E. Our Worship

- 1) Practicing simple New Testament worship of teaching, praying, singing, giving, and the Lord's Supper.**
- 2) It truly is unique for the Christian to refuse more or less than this in our worship to God.**

2 John 9

F. Our Teaching (baptism for the remission of sins)

**Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16, 1 Peter 3:21,
Romans 6:3-4**

G. Our Unity

1 Corinthians 1:10

Conclusion

1. **After reading the Bible and meditating on the truth contained therein, a simple question must be asked:**
 - A. **Have we truly been severed from the world and living as God's own "special" people?**

2. **Let us never forget what is taught in James 4:4 – that friendship with the world is enmity with God.**
 - A. **The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).**

3. **May we all take what we have learned from God's Word and be shining lights to all who are in the world.**

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

4. **We truly are a "special" "peculiar" people – devoted to God!**

