



**1 Peter 2:9-10**  
***His Own Chosen People***

9 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;

10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

In verse 4 of this chapter you remember that Peter had set up a great contrast. He said that the Jesus Christ was ***“rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious.”*** The majority of men during Christ’s earthly ministry rejected him, he was a stone that the nation of Israel refused to build on. They looked at Him and they despised what they saw, a man of what they used to call *very low estate*. The wise men who came searching for the one who was born King of the Jews went searching for him in a palace, but Jesus was born in a stable and raised in the home of a humble carpenter.

Although he could rightfully have claimed the wealth of all the nations, who was the true owner of the cattle of a thousand hills, he lived life of poverty, and self-denial. At his death, his belongings were so scarce the Roman soldiers had to gamble to divide his one garment. No, this was no glorious, powerful rich king, and that was what Israel wanted, a king “just like all the other nations”, one who would lead them in battle, one who would ***win***.

So they had rejected Jesus, despite all of his miracle they had not the eyes of faith to see Him for who He really was. They did not see Him as the infinitely precious chosen one of God, to be sure someday they will. All men will see Him that way on the day of Judgment.

**With that in mind then, let me give you my first application.** As many of you know it is not easy to be despised, persecuted, and rejected. It is a hard thing for an individual to endure. Those who were not members of the “in crowd” in school (and I realize that in congregation made up of “the beautiful people, most of you don’t know what I’m talking about) have had a tiny taste of that. A taste but nothing to compare of course with what Christians in countries like North Korea have to endure. They know what it is to be rejected indeed by men. But in that very rejection that Christians endure at the hands of the world, has it occurred to you that they are being conformed to the image of Christ and that that too is part of God’s plan? Christ was the Living Stone, rejected by men yet chosen by God and precious, they are the living stones, rejected by men, yet chosen by God and precious. And so the persecution and rejection that Christians endure isn’t a mistake, it’s the norm, and it actually says something about them. It says they aren’t part of the world. That they’ve been chosen by God out of the world, taken out of the darkness and brought in His marvelous light. That very persecution the martyrs endure, proclaims them to be the beloved of God. Once you truly have a grasp on that you can understand not only why the Apostles were able to ***“rejoice that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name”*** but how you too can have reason to rejoice regardless of how men think of you, because you are God’s beloved, his chosen and redeemed ones.

That knowledge can and will sustain you through the hardest of times in your life, it reminds you of who you really are, what your destiny is, and how great is the Love of God towards you. Peter knew that firsthand. It was the love of Christ in choosing Peter, in changing Peter, in Preserving Peter even through his betrayal – you remember Jesus said to Him, ***“But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”*** That had kept Peter in the faith, and now that these Christians of the dispersion were going through persecution he knew they needed to hear that too.

Isn’t it ironic, they needed to hear about two things the modern church absolutely hates to acknowledge, rejection and election. The rejection of

men, and the Election of God. They regard them as things that can only cause trouble and yet Peter makes them central themes in His epistle!

I think Peter is willing to discuss election and rejection with the Church, because God has always been willing to discuss those themes as well. For instance, in using the phrases “royal priesthood and holy nation” Peter is obviously harkening back to what God had told Israel after he lead them out of Egypt. You’ll remember that while they dwelt there they had also endured terrible suffering and persecution. And yet God hadn’t forgotten them. They were still His chosen people:

***Exodus 19:3 And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:***

***4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.***

***5 'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.***

***6 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."***

They were a kingdom of Priests because God had come near to them in a way that He had not with any other people, and as such they were supposed to minister to Him and to be a light and an example to the other peoples of the world. A Holy nation, set apart by God and consecrated.

Now why did that happen to Israel? Why did they become God’s people? Was it because of all the peoples of the earth they alone were smart enough to choose God to be their God, to be their savior? Was it because they were just such a special and wonderful nation that God saw they were better and more holy than all the others?

***Deut 7:6 " For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.***

**7 "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;**

**8 "but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.**

Why did the Lord choose Israel? Why did He love them? Why were they redeemed? He loved them because He loved them! He purposed to make them His holy people before they were even a people. Way back when the nation was just Abraham and His Family God had called Abraham and said:

**"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing."**

Now Peter is able to use the same titles for the Church in the New Testament that God used for Israel in the Old because they are one people. God is building one Temple out of Living Stones, not two. There is one people of God, a visible church in every age. In the Old Testament the visible church was limited mostly to the boundaries of the nation of Israel, but now in the New Testament the visible church has spread to the four corners of the earth. Now I'm zealous to make a visible/invisible church distinction, just as the Apostles were they wanted to remind us that not everyone in the Visible church in the covenant community was necessarily saved. That is why Peter for instance although he is writing to the churches says ***if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious***. Not all ***For they are not all Israel who are of Israel***. Paul reminded us and again, ***For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh***. Salvation is not a matter of simply being numbered amongst the members of the Covenant community or found on the membership rolls of a church, there are tares in every wheat field. It is matter not of circumcised flesh, but of a circumcised heart. It is not a matter of having been only been washed with a baptism of water, it is a matter of having had the washing of regeneration that only the Holy Spirit can do. Salvation has never been a matter of law keeping or external membership brothers and sisters, it has always been a

matter of the Holy Spirit's calling you to faith in God's promised and precious Jesus Christ.

And all of us have this in common, that regardless of whether we were male or female, Jews or Gentiles, born into a believing or unbelieving family, we were all born in the same lost spiritual condition. Even David confessed brought forth in iniquity, born in a sinful condition. Some of us are big sinners, some small, but we are all sinners, and every sin which is a violation of God's law deserves death. We all once dwelt in darkness and were properly called *Lo Ami* – the Hebrew words for “Not My People”. All men are born, cut off, estranged from God, in a damned and hell bound condition. We were all once like Bunyan's character Graceless, living in the City of Destruction.

But God, out of His Mercy chose some from amongst that perishing mass to be His people, and he called them to Him, called them out of the Light. his special people. And in that moment by His Mercy through Faith in Jesus Christ we went from being Graceless to Christian. Many men have great difficulty with this doctrine - they complain at this point, that it is not right that God should choose us, we should be allowed to freely choose him. But you see we never would “freely choose”. The Spiritually dead never choose spiritual life.

Two Chairs, Horse and Steak, Freely Choose phenomenon. haters of God never choose to love him

Now the purpose of God in doing all of this was that we might proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness. How do we do that?

***First via a changed Life!*** You are set apart by God to be a Holy People. One of the caricatures of election is antinomianism – Sin all I want, I'm ELECT – Predestination becomes Tetzels plenary indulgence. No blithe sinner has any right to think he is saved! You are to be a light to your neighbors a distinctly different people, that is one of the reasons they will reject you. You and yours are DIFFERENT!

***Secondly via a Changed profession!*** I know it is popular to say that we can preach the gospel by how we live, but that alone will never change a heart. They aren't going to figure out that they need to believe in Jesus Christ *unless* you tell them: **Psalm 51:13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.**

So in conclusion first a word to struggling believers, as you struggle with persecution for your faith. If your Christianity is an annoyance to others remember what Jesus said: John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

17 "These things I command you, that you love one another.

18 " If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Remember who you are, that Christ has purchased you and made you His bride and that nothing can change that! ***Ann Audebert: "On a Saturday I was first married, and upon a Saturday I am being married again"***

And second a word to those who may yet be in the thrall of carnal presumption. ***"The doctrine of this high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care, that men, attending the will of God revealed in his Word, and yielding obedience thereunto, may, from the certainty of their effectual vocation, be assured of their eternal election. So shall this doctrine afford matter of praise, reverence, and admiration of God; and of humility, diligence, and abundant consolation to all that sincerely obey the gospel."*** –

You see God has revealed his will to us in the Gospel, is that you repent and believe in the Lord Jesus, he nowhere says, figure out if you are elect!