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Dear Readers,

What follows is one man's weekly attempt to know the truth of God's Word and bring it to His people for their good and ultimately for His glory. Please regard these only as notes belonging to a busy pastor uploaded as they stand (for better or for worse, complete or incomplete, almost always with grammatical errors, and always with room for refinement in content, structure, presentation...) to support the ongoing study of God's Word. I firmly believe that the community of faith which is the body of Christ can and should bring their gifts to bear for the good of the rest of the body and that any one teacher can be taught by the others with an understanding of the truth. Therefore, should you have insight that would sharpen any of the thinking expressed here, know that I would be pleased to receive it. Clearly, the input that is most welcome and most helpful is that which is more concise than verbose, Biblically grounded and expressed with the goal of displacing misunderstanding and apprehending the truth of God's Word. Your thoughts of that nature are most welcome, certainly appreciated and will be thoughtfully considered. You are invited to send those insights to me at johnny@stoneharborchurch.org.

In pursuit of truth and growing a shepherd's heart, Johnny

Transformation Card

This page provides an overview of the message and resources for individual and group study.

Date: Feb 21, 2010

Series: The Church of God's Intention

Part: Part 1 – What God Intends the Church to Be

Section: The New People of God

Topic: The Church

Message Title: How the Church is the New People of God Short Title: The Church, the New People of God

Text: Ex 4:22-23; 12; 19-20; 24; Lv 26:12; John 4:7-26; Heb 10-13

Key Words: Israel, Moses, Covenant, Church

Message Outline

Series Setting

The Church of God's Intention

Part 1 What God Intends the Church to Be

God Intends the Church to Be The New People of God

How the Church is the New People of God

I. The First Adam Anticipates the Last Adam

II. Noah & His Family Anticipate Jesus & His Disciples

III. Abraham & His Descendents Anticipate the New Community of Faith

IV. Old Testament Israel Anticipates the New Testament Church

Related Scripture

- 1. Ex 4:22-23
- 2. Ex 12, 19-20
- 3. Ex 24
- 4. Deut 4:9-14 (esp. v.10)
- 5. John 4:7-26
- 6. Heb 10-11
- 7. Heb 12-13

Memory and Meditation Verse

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's

Questions for Thought and Discussion

- 1. Who does God regard the people of Israel to be according to Ex 4:22-23?
- 2. What two major actions did God do in order to bring the nation of Israel into formal existence? (Ex 12, 19-20, 24)?
- 3. Regarding deliverance from bondage and judgment, who was the one who delivered and by what means?
- 4. Regarding forming the nation Israel, what did God do and how did He accomplish it?
- 5. How did God's dealing with Israel anticipate His formation of the New Testament Church?

OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. 1 Peter 2:9-10 NASB

(4) How God Initially Worked with Israel Old Testament People of God (OT POG)

(a) God Chose Israel

(i) Remember

(a) God is "determiner"

He purposed and He created and He established and initiated His plan of redemption

(b) God had chosen to promise to Abraham...

Gen 12:1-3

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

When God was making His covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15, He told Abraham in advance of the time his descendants would spend in Egypt saying,

"Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve and afterward they will come out with many possessions." (13b-14)

(ii) Here with Israel

(a) God chose to advance His original plans and His promises to Abraham with Israel

Ex 3:1-8

1 Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. 3 So Moses said, "I must turn aside now

and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up." 4 When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6 He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob "Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. 7 The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. 8 "So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

God Chose to advance His grand plan of redemption with Israel

(b) God Called Israel Out of Physical Slavery in Egypt

(i) God Worked with Moses and through Him to Israel God commissioned Moses saying, "Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." (Ex 3:10)

God further instructed Moses Ex 4:22-23

22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, "Israel is My son, My firstborn. 23 "So I said to you, 'Let My son go that he may serve Me'; but you have refused to let him go Behold, I will kill your son, your firstborn.""

Ex 6:6-8

6 "Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 7 'Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. 8 'I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession; I am the LORD.'"

The rest of the very worthwhile story of God delivering His people out of Egypt using Moses is recorded in Ex 3-18. It includes God displaying His power and exerting His will over those who work against Him. God brought a series of judgments against those who held His people back from His will for them including the terrible final judgment God brought upon the first-born of everyone in Egypt who did not mark their houses with the blood of a sacrificed unblemished lamb (Ex 12:5) according to His instructions. The blood applied according to the instruction of God caused God to literally "pass over" the first-born of that house and not strike him down. Thus the blood of the lamb saved the house so marked from God's judgment. What an incredible picture of Christ our Passover Lamb and the salvation we have in Him.

But we have looked at that before with some focus so our attention goes beyond that today to what God does next. God successfully delivered Israel from Egypt, then miraculously saved them from the pursuing Egyptian army by parting the Red Sea, He then provided Manna, then meat then water, and victory over a challenging army and finally good solid advice for Moses from His father-in-law Jethro.

Then in Ex 19 we read, (1-8)

1 In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 When they set out from Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness; and there Israel camped in front of the mountain. 3 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 sons of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 5 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, 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 that you shall speak to the sons of Israel." 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

(c) God Assembled Israel at Sinai

Sinai is a place that can be marked by coordinates of longitude and latitude. It was the place God assembled Israel.

Let's listen to Ex 19:10-20...

Then in Ex 20 God gives Moses the 10 commandments in verses 1-17 and then in verse 18 says, "All the people perceived the thunder and the lightening flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die."

For our topic today let's take note...

(i) God's Point-Man, Moses

God assembled Israel using Moses as their leader, mediator and intercessor.

(ii) God's Presence

God assembled Israel into His presence (Ex 19:11, 17, 20:18; 24:9-11)

(iii) The Heavenly Host

God assembled Israel not only to Himself but also in concert with the heavenly angelic host indicating participation in a larger heavenly reality that was breaking into the earthly reality. Clowney sees indications of a large angelic presence at the time of this meeting of God with His people at Sinai. (Clowney p. 31 citing Dt 33:2-3; Ps 68:17)

- (iv)God Made a Covenant with Israel at Sinai
 - (a) Formalized the Father-Son Relationship between God and Israel

God assembled Israel to formalize a father-son relationship, i.e., to take them as His Son and for them to take Him as their Father.

Ex 4:22-23a 22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, "Israel is My son, My firstborn. 23 "So I said to you, 'Let My son go that he may serve Me';

Hosea 11:1 1 When Israel was a youth I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.

(On Israel as son of God: see also Isaiah 63:16; Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 31:9; Hosea 11:1; Romans 9:4)

- (b) Mandated Israel's Priestly Role
 Ex 19:6 "and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."
- (c) God's Covenant with Israel
 - (i) mediated by Moses
 - (ii) requiring Israel's righteous adherence to its stipulations
 - (iii) ILLUS. Dina & Christian
- (d) Mission

God assembled Israel to commission them

(i) Dominion in the context of communion offered

This effectively unpacks to: Making God known to the rest of creation by living in relationship with Him as His covenant sons.

The success of their mission was dependent on Israel being Israel, i.e., on their effective communion with God which in turn was dependent upon their covenant faithfulness. They could not represent God to the world if they themselves were not being the devoted son by whom God is properly represented.

Even with all this redemptive activity of God, Israel still failed to be the devoted son to God the Father. Redemption was still yet to come! This is Israel in its foundation, now lets skip forward to the church.

(5) How God Advanced His Purposes in the Formation of the Church

(a) God Chose the Church

Continuing to advance His plan of redemption and make good on His promise to Abraham, having convinced mankind of their inability to be sons of God based on their own righteousness; God now sends His Son into the fallen world that in Him redemption would finally be realized – that in Him men would have true and eternal life.

John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

In John 15 Jesus is speaking to His disciples, who are the first century church, and He says in the beginning of verse 16, "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit..."

The church was not a group of people who chose Jesus – The church was a people who Jesus chose!

Eph 1:3-6 -- "3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."

(i) Similarity

(a) *Just as...*

God chose to redeem Israel

(b) So...

He has chosen to redeem the people from Jesus day forward including us and beyond us until He comes again

(ii) Progression

(a) *From...*

God's calling of the biological descendants of Abraham Isaac and Jacob who later was named Israel from whom the nation of Israel came

(b) To...

God's calling of all people everywhere irrespective of the biological ancestry

<u>Galatians 3:28</u> -- There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

(iii)If we are to be the church of God's intention...

...we will celebrate that God has chosen us to be his church. That is heady stuff. I hope you feel fortunate. But don't let it go to your head. God did not choose the nation of Israel because they were special apart from Him, and He has not chosen us because we are special in and of ourselves. It is in Him that we are special. I am special because God loves me and has redeemed me. The same is true for you. Outside of God's choosing we would be deserving objects of His wrath.

...we will recognize the global scope of the people He has chosen. It is not about being Jewish, it is not about being male; in God's economy it is about being His chosen people.

(b) God Called the Church Out of the World

(i) Similarity

(a) <u>Just as...</u>

God called Israel out of bondage in Egypt,

(b) So...

He has called the church out of their bondage – but it is the bondage to "the world…" i.e., the fallen world governed by "the prince of the power of the air" and by people who see themselves as their own kings – the unredeemed world.

Continuing His conversation with His disciples, Jesus says in John 15:19, "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, <u>but I chose you out of the world</u>, because of this the world hates you."

(ii) Progression

But even more completely...

(a) From Physical

Emerging Israel was held against their and God's will in the physical land of Egypt by Pharaoh who proved to be exercising the typical "procedure of the king" extracting from those under his control all he could for his benefit with out regard for their best interest. From that bondage God set the descendents

of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob free that they might become the Israel of God.

(b) To Spiritual

Once freed from foreign oppression, God was in the church freeing His people from a force less visible yet more oppressive – the master that still remained over His people even when living in the Promised Land – the master of sin, i.e., unredeemed human nature estranged from God.

Urging the church into the redemption that Christ has secured from them Paul says in Romans 6:14, "For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

Ephesians 2:1-5 – "1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),"

Do you see this effective calling of God upon His Church? In Christ He rescued us out of this unredeemed world and into the new heavenly reality apart from sin and with Christ.

(iii) If we are to be the church of God's intention...

...we must respond to His call out of this world driven by our own lusts and governed by God's enemy and come into the redeemed world where Jesus is king and we are His subjects. This is no small task. Join me in dying to our old sinful nature and living as the new creature Christ has regenerated us to be.

(c) God Assembled the Church in Zion

A "place" that came to be defined over time less by physical boundaries of rivers, mountains and seas and more by the spiritual coordinates indicating the place of God's dwelling with man.

(i) Similarity

God's dealings with the church is like His dealings with Israel.

(a) *Just as...*

God had assembled Israel in Sinai using Moses as His point-man, in His presence, with the angelic host, to formalize a father-son relationship by a covenant and to commission them to make Him known amongst the nations

(b) So...

God has now assembled the church using His own Son incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth as His presence and the connection with the heavenly realm to establish again a Father-son relationship by another new covenant and with a renewed mission in the world to make Him known.

God, with His Church, continues to do what He was doing with Israel...

(ii) Progression

God was working in a progressive way, advancing redemption from picture to reality, from partial to full.

Note this progress in several of the similarities of God's dealing with Israel and His dealing with the church.

(a) God's Point-Man -- from Moses to Jesus -- God Himself was now Point-Man

Where Moses had been the point-man for God's dealing with Israel, Jesus was now the One who would bring about God's purposes and promises Himself. As great as Moses was the superlative greatness easily goes to Jesus, Himself being God the Son.

- (b) God's Presence -- From Unapproachable to Immanuel, to Christ in Us -- God assembled the Church to Jesus and then indwelt them!
 - (i) At Jesus Birth

Jesus was God incarnate and as such He was Immanuel, God with us.

Mat 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

(ii) At the Beginning of Jesus Ministry
Where God had appeared in fire and thunder
and earthquake and glory cloud to Israel at
Sinai, at the formation of the church He
appeared in Jesus Christ. And to Jesus His
Church was gathered.

"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29, 36) John the Baptist said to his disciples redirecting them to Jesus.

"Come" (John 1:39) Jesus said to Andrew His first disciple -- Come and spend time with Me.

Andrew then found his brother Simon Peter and said that they had found the Messiah and "he brought him to Jesus." (John 1:42)

"Follow Me" Jesus said to Phillip. (John 1:42)

And so God began to gather His Church to Himself in the person of Jesus.

(iii) At Pentecost

Further progressing, at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given to the church we move from Immanuel, God with Us, to God in us. The Spirit of God lives within every believer in Christ. This represents serious advancement of God's redemptive work!

- (c) The Heavenly Host From Angels on Earth to the Church in Heaven
 - (i) His Conception and Birth
 - (ii) Our Union with Christ -- who is seated in heaven -- indicates that our participation in the church is a participation in a heavenly reality.
 - Members of the church are described as being "in Christ"

Romans 6:11 -- Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:23 -- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

 Christ is described as being in the members of His Church

Colossians 1:27 -- to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Galatians 2:20 -- "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Where is Christ?

He is seated at the right hand of God in heaven (Col 3:1)

• Where is His Church?

By sight we are right here; but, by faith and God's declaration we are seated with Christ in Heaven. (Eph 2:1-5, Col 3:1-4)

- (d) Covenant From a covenant dependent on man to a new covenant dependent on God -- A New & Better Covenant
 - (i) Jesus Instituted a New Covenant Luke 22:20 -- And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. (Cf. 1 Cor 11:25)
 - (ii) It is a New and "better" Covenant not requiring the ongoing righteousness of the people of God (POG) ...

The writer of Hebrews in chapter 8 says of Jesus enthroned in heaven, (see 6-13)

- (iii) ...but dependent on the righteousness of Jesus vicariously applied to the new people of God (NPOG) by grace through faith.
- (iv) Father-Son Relationship
- Abba Father

Mark 14:36 -- And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."

Speaking to the church in Rome Paul says in Romans 8:15, "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!""

<u>Galatians 4:6</u> -- Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

 How did Jesus teach His disciples to pray?

"Our Father..."

The Church can address God as Jesus did-"Abba! Father!"

• How are we seen as God's sons?

Ephesians 1:5 – "He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will"

Israel was considered son of God - we all the more!

(v) Kingdom of Priests

1 Peter 2:9 -- But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Rev 1:4- ⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood-- ⁶ and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father--to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- (e) Mission From Mission Impossible to Mission Possible
 - (i) Dominion in the Context of Communion Realized

Communion with God for the church of Christ is now realized as a gift of God not dependent on the obedience of man. What is that gift? It is the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Eph 1:13-14 describes what I see as the normative Christian experience (Cf. Acts 2 esp. 38-39).

"13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of

promise, ¹⁴who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

(ii) Be my witnesses! (Acts 1)

1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. 3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. 4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

The OT mission to be sons of Abraham, and to be Israel, God's covenant son, was advanced in this NT charge from Jesus to be His witnesses. Not only was the mission advanced, it was also empowered by the Holy Spirit's dwelling within the believer. Every Christian now, because of the Holy Spirit within them, can live in intimate communion with God and therefore be sons of God and therefore His witnesses.

(iii) If we are to be the church of God's intention...

...we will live in the reality of heaven even though sometimes it feels (excuse me) more like 'hell.'

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