

Precious Cornerstone

1 Peter 2:4-10

PART TWO

Chosen

“For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined” (Luke 22:22).

“For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment” (Luke 22:37).

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men” (Acts 2:22-23).

Peter prayed “Sovereign Lord...for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place” (Acts 4:24, 27-28).

Precious

“and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased’” (Luke 3:22).

“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased” (Matthew 12:18).

Likewise, Christians are “living stones” *chosen* and *precious* to God:

“For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you” (1 Thessalonians 1:4)

“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” (v5).

- † As the God/Man Jesus was the holy *Temple* of God.
- † As the God/Man Jesus was the High *Priest* for humanity.
- † As the God/Man Jesus was the living *Sacrifice* for mankind.

- Christians are individually and collectively the spiritual *temple* of the living God.
- Christians are a *holy priesthood* by virtue of their direct access to God through Jesus Christ.
- Christians *offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*.

The OT truth: no one can come into the presence of holy God and live.

In the NT Christians are now a “royal priesthood” (v9).

The OT requirements for the priests parallel our NT *holy priesthood* role.

1. Priests were *chosen* by God (Exodus 28:1).

“For the law appoints men in their weakness as priests” (Hebrews 7:28).

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood” (v9).

“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise...not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish... God chose what is weak... God chose what is low and despised in the world...so that no human being might boast in the presence of God” (1 Corinthians 1:26-29).

2. Priests were *cleansed* from sin. (Leviticus 8:5-6, 10).

The Lord commanded they be washed with water, anointed with oil, and He “consecrated them.”

“If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.... And you are clean” (John 13:8, 10).

“Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us...to purify for himself a people for his own possession” (Titus 2:14).

Titus 3:5, “he saved us...by the washing of regeneration...”

“But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11).

3. Priests were *clothed* for service. (Exodus 28:2, 4, 40-43; Leviticus 8:7-9). They had to wear undergarments to cover their flesh. They wore the various pieces of outer wear, special coverings or garments, which spoke to purity, virtue, and identity with God. They were called to separateness.

Zechariah 3:1-10: The Change of Raiment for Joshua the High Priest

Our Savior: A *Righteous Branch*

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness’” (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

“And say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord”’” (Zechariah 6:12).

Our Savior: A Single Stone – A Single Sacrifice – A Single Day

“For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua...” (v9a).

“therefore thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: “Whoever believes will not be in haste.”” (Isaiah 28:16).

“a single stone with seven eyes...” (v9b)

“For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near” (Hebrews 10:1).

“For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified” (Hebrews 10:14).

“...I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day” (v9c)

“In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree” (v10).

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:1-2).

“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility” (Ephesians 2:14-17).

Paulus Orosius (375-418; historian, theologian, and student of Augustine): "Look ye to the Branch of the Lord; set Him as the example of life; in Him, as a most strong tower, place with most becoming faith all your hope of salvation and immortality. For He is not only a Branch, who shall fill you with the richness of divine fruit, but a stone also, to break all the [criticisms] of the enemy." (Barnes' Notes).

“Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your saints shout for joy.... Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy” (Psalm 132:9, 16).

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you” (Romans 16:20).