

The People of God

2 Tim. 2:20-21

Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. [21] Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

I. A Prophetic Word . . .

A. January 2001 --- A Time for Heroes

Hebrews 11:32-33

I could go on and on, but I've run out of time. There are so many more—Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets. . . . Through acts of faith, they toppled kingdoms, made justice work, took the promises for themselves.

B. It is Time for A New Generation of Heroes!

Our character is revealed in our heroes

II. A Chosen People . . .

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a CHOSEN RACE, A royal priesthood, a HOLY NATION, a PEOPLE FOR God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

A. God loves all people.

Acts 2:17-21

I will pour out my Spirit on all people . . . ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

All opinions are not equal

- 1) Privacy & individuality exceed responsibility
- 2) Lack of clarity with regard to national identity

B. God has a people in the earth.

Exodus 3:7 (NIV)

The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of **my people in Egypt**. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

C. God's people are at the center of His plans.

Proverbs 13:22

A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

Genesis 12:3

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;

III. Israel and the Church

A. Israel Rejected?

Romans 11:1-2 (NASB)

I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew

B. Jesus, point of offense!

1 Corinthians 1:22-24 (NIV)

Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

C. The Church

Matthew 16:18-19 (NIV)

. . . I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

1. Unity not Division

Acts 2:14-16, 40-41 (NIV)

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: . . . ⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

2. On Assignment

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

"This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

Prayer

Heavenly Father, awaken me to your purposes as never before. May the Holy Spirit open my eyes to your activity in the world around me. Help me to lay aside every distraction and turn away from anything that hinders my participation in Your Kingdom. We join together in praying for the peace of Jerusalem, watch over the people of the Land. We also pray for the Church in the earth, may our generation be faithful to your purposes. In Jesus' name, amen.