

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Berean Study Bible

⁹ However, you are
 a chosen clan,
 a royal priesthood,
 a holy nation,
 a people for His own possession,
 so that you can proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you
 out of darkness into His marvellous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people.
 However, now you are the people of God.
Once you had not received mercy.
 However, now you have received mercy.

My own translation

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Who am I? 1 Peter 2:9-10

The position which I enjoy. 2:9a

 I have a noble position. 9a "royal priesthood"
 I have a responsible position. 9a "holy nation"
 I have a humble position. 9a "God's own possession"

The practice in which I engage. 2:9b

 My declaration of rejoicing. 9b "proclaim the virtues"
 My declaration of redemption. 9b "out of darkness"
 My declaration of righteousness. 9b "into His marvellous light"

The privilege into which I enter. 2:10

 I have moved from alienation to acceptance. 10a "not a people, but now..."
 I have moved from judgment to justification. 10b "not received mercy, but now..."

A people with a purpose. 1 Peter 2:9-10

The people we are. 2:9a, 10

A defined people. 9a "a chosen clan"

A distinct people. 10a "now you are..."

A delivered people. 10b "now you have received..."

The position we hold. 2:9a

We are a royal priesthood. 9a "royal priesthood"

We are a holy nation. 9a "holy nation"

We are a Divine possession. 9a "His own possession"

The purpose we received. 9b

Our purpose is expressed in words. 9b "proclaim"

Our purpose is expressed in appreciation. 9b "excellencies of Him"

Our purpose is expressed in direction. 9b "out of... into His..."

What has God ever done for me? 1 Peter 2:9-10

Who I am, is what God made me. 2:9a

God put me in a better place. 9a "royal priesthood"

God helps me be a better person. 9a "holy... His own"

What I do, is what God gave me. 2:9b

It is worthwhile for me to tell who God is. 9b "excellencies of Him"

It is worthwhile for me to tell what God did for me. 9b "out of... into..."

Why I am, is what God did for me. 2:10

God put me into His relationships. 10a "people of God"

God filled me with His resources. 10b "received mercy"

Be who you are. 1 Peter 2:9-10

You are born into a place. You are born again into a position. 2:9a

You now have a position of honour 9a "chosen... royal... holy... His"

You now have a position of action. "clan... priesthood... nation... possession"

You are born into a program. You are born again into a power. 2:9b

You have a person to celebrate. 9b “excellencies of Him”

You have a past to relinquish. 9b “out of... into...”

You are born into a problem. You are born again into a privilege. 2:10

Rejects can become received. 10a “now the people”

Judged can become justified. 10b “received mercy”

5 – Youth service

Ultimate questions; ultimate answers. 1 Peter 2:9-10

Who am I? 2:9a

(If evolution is true, you are a large amoeba, alone in the universe)

You are not alone. You are part of an extensive group. 9a “chosen people”

You are not alone. You are part of an elevated group. 9a “royal priesthood”

You are not alone. You are part of an exclusive group. 9a “holy nation”

Why am I here? 2:9b

(if evolution is true, you are an accident, your purpose is for your cells to survive)

You are not here to be selfish, but because you belong. 9b “possession”

You are not here to be silent, but to sing the ultimate song. 9b “proclaim...”

You are not here to stagnate, but for an on-going journey. 9b “out of... into...”

Why should I care? 2:10

(if evolution is true, you don’t matter; no one matters; no one cares)

You matter to the God who wants a relationship with you. 10a “people of God”

You matter to the God who is working to benefit you. 10b “received mercy”

6 – Leaders and business devotion

Boosting your profit through your purpose. 1 Peter 2:9-10

Your purpose comes from who you are. 2:9a

A team with purpose is chosen on purpose. 9a “chosen clan”

A team with purpose is treated like royalty. 9a “royal... holy...”

A team with purpose has job security. 9a “own possession”

Your purpose determines what you do. 2:9b

Your team’s purpose is to enhance organisational reputation. 9b “proclaim...”

Your team’s purpose is to enrich customer experience. 9b “out of... into...”

Your purpose is strengthened by what your team receives. 2:10

A team with purpose needs to be united. 10a “you are the people”

A team with purpose needs your support. 10b “you have received”

My life has a purpose – and this is what it is! 1 Peter 2:9-10

Discovering the purpose of my life. 9b

I celebrate who God is. 9b “excellencies of Him”

I celebrate what God did. 9b “out of... into...”

Displaying the practice of my purpose. 9a

Adopt God’s team. 9a “a chosen clan”

Offer God’s grace. 9a “a royal priesthood”

Live God’s virtues. 9a “a holy nation”

Obey God’s commands. 9a “His own possession”

Declaring the preparation for my purpose. 10

I need to be within God’s team. 10a “people of God”

I need to receive God’s changes. 10b “received mercy”

Other possible titles

You are not just a person. You are a people.

At last, a Purpose Statement that says something.

This is the purpose for your life.

Abraham, version 2.

What do ancient Bible stories have to do with me?

Commentary

“chosen people” 9a is γένος ἐκλεκτόν

γένος [Strong's 1085] is derived from γίνομαι [Strong's 1096] meaning to emerge, become, to come into being, to happen, and signifies a change of condition, state or place. It is a noun occurring 21 times in the New Testament, including only once in 1 & 2 Peter. It is variously translated as: offspring, family, race, nation, kind, kindred countrymen, native, descent, descendant. It is part of the family of words that include, γέννησις (genesis), γέννησις (birth), and γεννητός (born).

ἐκλεκτός [Strong's 1588] meaning elect, select, chosen, by implication favourite. An adjective occurring 23 times in the New Testament, including 4 times (17%) in 1 Peter. Those four occurrences are: 1 Peter 1:1, 2:4, 2:6, 2:9.

In theology textbooks, Election and Predestination are often bound together. But, in the Bible, these two doctrines are never found together.

Cross references

³ Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, “This is what you are to tell the house of Jacob and explain to the sons of Israel: ⁴ ‘You have seen for yourselves what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you will be My treasured possession out of all the nations—for the whole earth is Mine. ⁶ And unto Me you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites.” Exodus 19:3-6, BSB

⁵ Instead, this is what you are to do to them: tear down their altars, smash their sacred pillars, cut down their Asherah poles, and burn their idols in the fire. ⁶ For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His prized possession out of all peoples on the face of the earth. Deuteronomy 7:1-11, BSB
for you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD has chosen you to be a people for His prized possession out of all the peoples on the face of the earth. Deuteronomy 14:2

¹⁸ And today the LORD has proclaimed that you are His people and treasured possession as He promised, that you are to keep all His commandments, ¹⁹ that He will set you high in praise and name and honour above all the nations He has made, and that you will be a holy people to the LORD your God, as He has promised. Deuteronomy 26:16-19

²¹ “On that day I will respond—”
declares the LORD—
“I will respond to the heavens,
and they will respond to the earth.
²² And the earth will respond to the grain,
to the new wine and oil,
and they will respond to Jezreel.
²³ And I will sow her as My own in the land,
and I will have compassion on ‘No Compassion.’
I will say to those called ‘Not My People,’
‘You are My people,’
and they will say,
‘You are my God.’” Hosea 2:21-23, BSB

He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. Titus 2:14

Music and songs

Songs based on this text

For you are a chosen people. SiS 348

Songs about people

People need the Lord.

People to people. 88

We are a people of power. SiS 652

We, we are God's people. Ot 6

Songs about light, or about darkness to light

Even the darkness is light to Him (Michael Card)

Light of the world You stepped down into darkness... Here I am... 960

My eyes have been enlightened. SiS 352

My lighthouse. Ot 35

The Light (All who are poor in spirit...) Ot 17

This little light of mine. Ot 83

Songs about the mercy of God

O the mercy of God... To the praise of His glorious grace (Bullock)

A pilgrim was I... Surely goodness and mercy... CWH 10

Call to worship

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the name of the LORD.

Give praise, O servants of the LORD,

² who stand in the house of the LORD,

in the courts of the house of our God.

³ Hallelujah, for the LORD is good;

sing praises to His name, for it is lovely.

⁴ For the LORD has chosen Jacob as His own,

Israel as His treasured possession.

⁵ For I know that the LORD is great;

our Lord is above all gods...

¹³ Your name, O LORD, endures forever,

Your renown, O LORD, through all generations.

¹⁴ For the LORD will vindicate His people

and will have compassion on His servants...

¹⁹ O house of Israel, bless the LORD;

O house of Aaron, bless the LORD;
²⁰ O house of Levi, bless the LORD;
you who fear the LORD, bless the LORD!
²¹ Blessed be the LORD from Zion—
He who dwells in Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

Psalm 135 (selections from)

Discussion starters for personal reflection or group discussion.

1. What is the purpose of having a purpose?
 2. Our purpose is stated in the end of 1 Peter 2:9. What is it; and how can such a small statement convey vast dimensions?
 3. Our purpose is preceded by four statements in the beginning of v9. How do they each prepare us to fulfil our purpose?
 4. Read Psalm 103:1-5. What is the purpose of the repetition in v1-2?
 5. In that Psalm, in v3-5, why is it important that the first line of each verse precedes the second line?
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