

Next week's LifeLine is Psalm 42:5 (&11).

LifeLines October 31, 2022

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT

1 Peter was written to encourage the church in Asia Minor during a time of persecution. Peter emphasized hope in Christ – the hope that sees all of us through tough times.

Peter had just been describing differences between believers & unbelievers. He compared nonbelievers to stumbling stones, stumbling due to lack of obedience to God. He said believers were living stones, stones upon which God's church would be built. (Think back to Jesus' statement, "On this rock I will build My church." Matthew 16:18) The living stones were also people who had tasted & seen that the Lord was good (Psalm 34:8). Even though mortal men might reject them, God had chosen them from the beginning. He said God wanted them to be built up into a spiritual house, acceptable to God through Jesus. He told them that unbelievers stumble as they disobey God's Word – something they were destined to do because of their unbelief. Although Peter used the term *race*, we are all members of the same spiritual race because we have been adopted & grafted in through our faith in Jesus & share the same spiritual Father.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS

NIV

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

ESV

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

NLT

But you are not like that (like those who do not believe), for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light.

God's Word Translation

However, you are chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, people who belong to God. You were chosen to tell about the excellent qualities of God, who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

New International Reader's Version

But God chose you to be His people. You are royal priests. You are a holy nation. You are a people who belong to God. All of this is so that you can sing His praises. He brought you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

MSG

But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do His work & speak out for Him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference He made for you – from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

But you are a chosen race... We are chosen by the grace of God. Peter wants the people, Jews & non-Jews to consider themselves not as separate races any longer but as followers of Jesus united in Him, members of one unified family intended to be a spiritual body of believers. Every person of faith is valuable to God. God chose us of His own initiative to offer us salvation, & because God owns us, our lives take on amazingly great value. At the heart of God's choosing is His love, not our worthiness.

a royal priesthood... Peter depicts Jesus' followers as individuals functioning together as a priesthood. Formerly, priests offered the sacrifices for the people, but now, as a royal priesthood, believers are called upon to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to God's will. This includes being image bearers of God.

We are kings & priests unto God, declared righteous in His sight because of our union with Christ, & because of that union, all we say & do should be in keeping with the royal privileges He's bestowed on us. Our character & conduct should reflect the life of Christ in us. We have access to the very throne room of God & are able to stand in His Presence because we are eternally identified with Christ – joint heirs!

a holy nation... A nation holy unto God (Oh! To be one nation, under God!). This is a nation not restricted to the Hebrews of Israel, but a nation where people of different nationalities unite to worship & proclaim God. Remember, 'holy' means to be set apart for a special, sacred purpose.

God's own people... These are lovers of God & of Jesus, the One in whom God & humans are one as they were always meant to be. God's people present themselves as living sacrifices, as temples of the living Lord, because the Holy Spirit resides within them. We are declared holy & blameless in Christ.

in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light... Darkness is a life without God, without faith. It is the domain of those who reject God & His offer of salvation. With Jesus, there is light. In His Holy Presence we have eternal light & love.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES

Exodus 19:6, But you shall be for Me a priestly kingdom & a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.

Leviticus 26:12, And I will walk among you, & will be your God, & you shall be My people. (There are 43 such verses throughout the Bible.)

Deuteronomy 10:15, Yet the Lord set His heart in love on your ancestors alone & chose you, their descendents after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today.

1 Samuel 12:22, For the Lord will not cast away His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for Himself.

Psalms 8:5, Yet You have made them a little lower than God, & crowned them with glory & honor.

Psalms 36:9, For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalms 118:22, The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Isaiah 43:20b-21. To give drink to My chosen people, the people whom I formed for Myself so that they may declare My praise.

Isaiah 62:12, They shall be called, "The Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord;" & you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Jeremiah 30:22, And you shall be My people, & I will be your God.

Jeremiah 32:38, They shall be My people & I will be their God.

Ezekiel 11:20, ...so that they may follow My statutes & keep My ordinances & obey them. Then they shall be My people, & I will be their God.

Matthew 5:14a, "You are the light of the world."

Luke 4:43, But He said to them, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose.”

John 8:12, Again Jesus spoke to them saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Acts 26:17-18 (This was Jesus speaking to Paul, at his conversion), “I will rescue you from your people & from the Gentiles – to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light & from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins & a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”

Romans 8:16-17, It is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, & if children, then heirs, heirs of God & joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Romans 12:1, I appeal to you therefore, brothers & sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy & acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Galatians 3:28-29, There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male & female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Ephesians 2:19-22, So then you are no longer strangers & aliens, but you are citizens with the saints & also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles & prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. In Him the whole structure is joined together & grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Titus 2:14, He it is who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity & purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds.

1 Peter 2:4, Come to Him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen & precious in God's sight, & like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:5b-6, To Him who loves us & freed us from our sins by His blood, & made us to be a kingdom, priests serving His God & Father, to Him be glory & dominion forever & ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:10, You have made them to be a kingdom & priests serving our God, & they will reign on earth.

Revelation 21:3, And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be His peoples, & God Himself will be with them;

SUMMARY

God set us a little lower than Himself. He considers us royalty, royal priests in His household. To declare God's praise is one of our greatest privileges. To shine His marvelous light in the world is part of our calling. The incredible blessings we have received must motivate us to testify to the great goodness of God & Christ, the Gospel Message. When we praise Him, we fulfill our purpose. God called us out of a meaningless life of darkness & into an eternity of light with Him. Our faith promises us light, the light of Christ, the light of God through the Holy Spirit, because we belong to Him.

*Let this verse be a **LifeLine** for you!
Let's Continue Learning!*

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!