

## Chosen Representatives

### *Selected Texts*

#### Introduction

How would you answer the following questions: Who am I? And, why am I here? If you want to live a life of purpose, fulfillment, and joy, I believe you must be able to answer these questions, who am I, and why am I here?

This morning, if you are Christian, I want to help you answer these question in light of God’s Word. In fact, over the course of the next three weeks, we are going to be answering these questions as part of our study on “The Mission of God’s People.” Those of you who belong to God have a specific identity and particular purpose in this world from God Himself. But before we consider our specific identity and particular purpose in the world, I want us to consider the identity and purpose of a group of people in the Old Testament. Specifically, I want to consider the identity and purpose of the people of Israel in **Exodus 19:1-6**...

#### **Exposition**

There are three things that I want you to note in this passage:

- I. **Their Past Redemption (Vss. 1-4)** – Sovereign saved by YHWH
- II. **Their Present Work (Vs. 5a)** – Obedience to the Covenant (Note that their redemption precedes their obedience)
- III. **Their Future Goal (Vss. 5b-6)** – A Kingdom of Priests and Holy Nation (Kingdom of Priest – “They were to bring God to people and bring people to God.” | How would they do this? Through a provocative and attractive holiness. They would be a light unto the nation in fulfillment of Genesis 12:1-9)

#### Conclusion

Now, having considered the identity and purpose of the Israelites in Exodus 19, what significance does this have for us, the church, which is made up of Jews and Gentiles alike? Is there any continuity between their identity and purpose, and the church’s identity and purpose?

Well, if we ask Peter, it would appear that the only answer to that question is “yes.” Yes, there is continuity between the identity and purpose of Israel and the church. Just consider **1 Peter 2:9-12**...

Note how Peter applies the languages of identity and purpose from Exodus 19:1-6 to the church of Jews and Gentiles in 1 Peter 2:9-12.

The church is the “chosen people, a royal priesthood, a people belonging to God.” In fact, Peter tells them that this was once not true of them, but because of Christ, it is now true of them. We who were alienated from God have been brought near to God. Now, this does not mean that the church has replaced Israel, but rather, that God has extended the identity and promises of His people to include all who have believed in Jesus Christ. Hence, in Roman 9, Paul tells us that it is not the physical descendent of Abraham that is true Jew, but instead, it is the one who has trusted in Jesus Christ, who has exercised the faith of Abraham.

If this were not the case, then Peter would not have been allowed to apply language about the identity and purpose of Israel to the church of Jesus Christ. Yet, that is exactly what He does in 1 Peter 2:9-12. Now, what does that mean? It means that just as the Israelites in the Old Testament had a responsibility to serve as God’s representatives of bringing God to people and people to God, so we, as Christians, we share in that responsibility to be holy priest who bring people to God and God to people through living provocative and attractive lives in obedience to Christ, which is how Peter concludes his instruction to the church in 1 Peter 2:11-12.

As believers in Christ, you are called to live as holy priest, chosen representatives, who bring God to people and people to God, by living provocative and attractive lives of holiness in Jesus Christ. This is who you are, and this is why you are here! To be chosen representatives of Christ who lead others to encounter his grace and mercy through faith.