

God's Then and Now

“Let my people go!” These are the four words God told His servant Moses to speak to Pharaoh in Exodus 9:1. In fact, nine times in the book of Exodus we can read about God presenting the King of Egypt with these orders. And notice very carefully how God called these people (the people of Israel) His people. He owned them; they belonged to Him; they were in fact His possession. But why were these people His? What made God address a nation of slaves in this way at this time?

I. Why were the people of Israel God's people in the Old Testament?

- A. They were a special _____.
 - 1. God promised to build this nation from Abraham's seed (Genesis 12:1-3).
 - 2. From Genesis 12-50, God goes through great measures to fulfill this promise.
- B. They were given a special _____.
 - 1. This law was given to them at Mount Sinai.
 - 2. It was designed to keep them holy and separate from the other nations (Exodus 19:5-6).
- C. They were given a special _____.
 - 1. The land of Canaan was promised to Israel from the days of Abraham (Genesis 12:1, 7). It would be a land that God chose for them Himself.
 - 2. But, unfortunately, they had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years until they finally received it (Joshua 21:43-44). This was due to their own lack of faith (Numbers 13 and 14).
- D. They were given a special _____.
 - 1. Through these people God would orchestrate a very magnificent plan to secure man's salvation (Genesis 12:3; 22:18).
 - 2. No other nation was ever given a promise so great and marvelous as this!
- E. They were to give birth to a special _____.
 - 1. These people would bring Jesus the Savior into the world (Isaiah 11:1-2).
 - 2. This took place during the time of the Roman Empire (Luke 2:1-11).

II. God has created a new holy nation!

- A. Christians are now God's special _____ (1 Peter 2:9-10).
 - 1. We are a _____.
 - 2. We are a _____.
 - 3. We are a holy nation.
 - 4. We are a people for God's own _____.
- B. Christians have received a special _____ (Romans 1:16).
 - 1. The gospel is to be preached to _____ (Mark 16:15).
 - 2. The gospel speaks of the death and resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
 - 3. The gospel _____ us to serve God (2 Thessalonians 2:14).
 - 4. The gospel has _____ the old law (Romans 7:6).
- C. Christians are promised a new special _____ (1 Peter 1:3-5).
 - 1. In heaven we will be with God and Jesus (John 14:1-3).
 - 2. In heaven we won't have any _____ (Revelation 21:4).
 - 3. In heaven every need will be _____ (Revelation 22:5).
- D. Christians exist for a special _____.
 - 1. We are to be _____ (1 Peter 1:15-16).
 - 2. We are to _____ and stand out (1 Peter 2:12).
 - 3. We are to share our faith (1 Peter 2:9).
 - 4. We are to offer works of _____ (1 Peter 4:10).
- E. Christians serve the one special _____ (Hebrews 1:1-2; Philippians 3:13-14; Matthew 28:18-20).
 - 1. Jesus makes us holy!
 - 2. Jesus makes our salvation possible!
 - 3. Jesus gives purpose and meaning to our lives!