

# A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Lesson 3 for April 15, 2017

In 1 Peter 2:1-12, the apostle Peter explained the characteristics of God's people, a people of priests that must light up the world.



- ❑ 1 Peter 2:1-3. The Christian life.
- ❑ 1 Peter 2:4-8. Living stones.
- ❑ 1 Peter 2:9-12. The people of God.
  - ❖ The people of the covenant.
  - ❖ The holy people.
  - ❖ The people that lights up.

# THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

1 Peter 2:1-3

“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” (1 Peter 2:1-3 NIV)

## RID OURSELVES OF

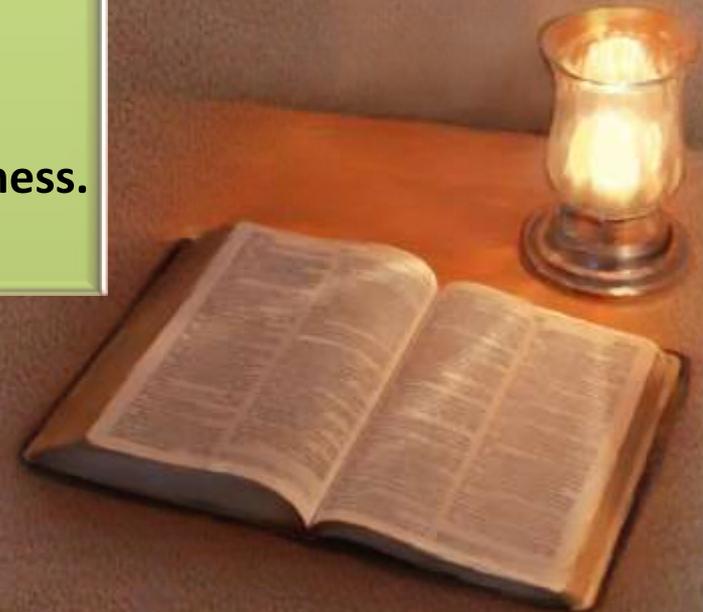
- All that is evil or that tries to deceive.
- All simulation or insincerity.
- All envy.
- All slander.

## LET'S CRAVE

- The spiritual food of God's Word like a newborn craves his mother's milk.
- Growing up in our salvation.
- Enjoying God's kindness.



Thanks to God, we can get rid of all bad attitude and fill that gap with the study of God's Word, that “is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16).



# LIVING STONES

"Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

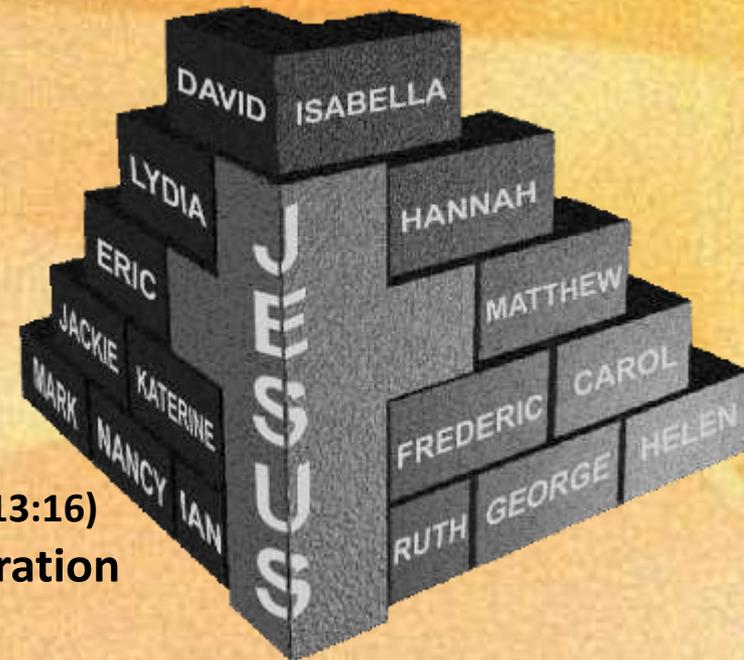


Jesus Christ is the main stone; He is the base and the support of the Church.

That "building" is made up of living stones (us) who offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God.

What sacrifices are acceptable to God?

- ❖ Consecrated lives (Romans 12:1)
- ❖ Praises (Hebrews 13:15)
- ❖ Acts of kindness and helping each other (Hebrews 13:16)
- ❖ Material gifts that reflect the love and the consecration of the one giving them (Philippians 4:18)



# THE PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT

1 Peter 2:9-12

“Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, ‘All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.’” (Exodus 24:7)

God made a covenant with Israel at Sinai. He was renewing the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 15:18; 17:21; Exodus 2:24).

That was a conditional covenant. If they obeyed Him, they would receive the blessings of the covenant. If they didn’t, they would lose them (Deuteronomy 11).



Then Peter introduces the Christian Church as the heir of the covenant—  
“who once were not a people but are now the people of God.”

We are the priests of the King. We are responsible for keeping and proclaiming the covenant.

# THE HOLY PEOPLE

1 Peter 2:9-12

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9)

**A chosen generation.**

- God has made the privileges and responsibilities of the Hebrew nation available to the Christian community.

**A royal priesthood.**

- Christians are priests, so they must offer the "spiritual sacrifices" that are mentioned in 1 Peter 2:5 to God.

**A holy nation.**

- The Church is the people that shows God's holy character on Earth.

**His own special people.**

- Christ bought the Church with His blood. He considers her His precious possession in a special sense.

# THE PEOPLE THAT LIGHTS UP

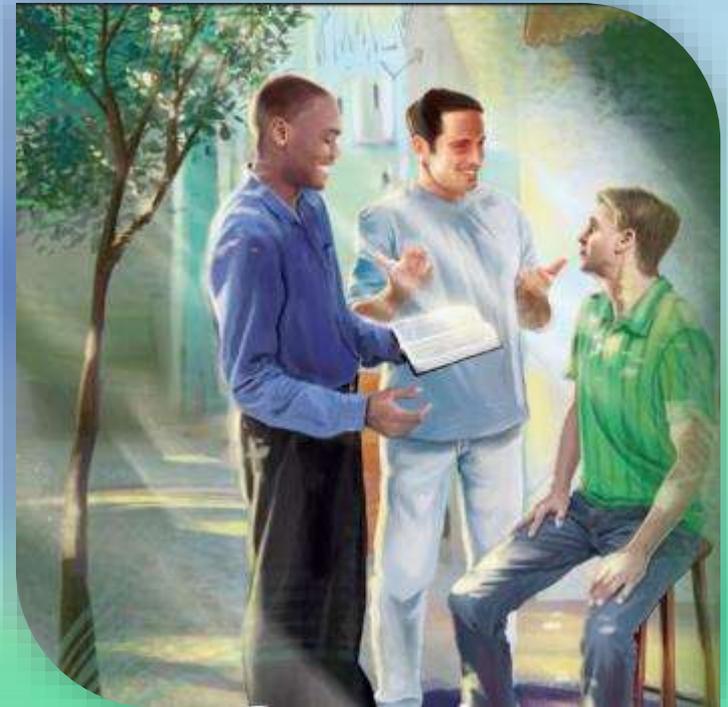
1 Peter 2:9-12

“having your conduct honorable among the *Gentiles*, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.” (1 Peter 2:12)

Since we are heirs of Israel’s old covenant, we are also responsible for fulfilling their mission.

Israel was given “as a light to the *Gentiles*” (Isaiah 42:6), so we are also called to share about God and about all He has done for us through Jesus Christ.

That work has two aspects:



1. Our preaching: “that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you...” (v. 9).
2. Our acts: “they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God...” (v. 12).

**“Christ came to give to men the wealth of eternity, and this wealth, through connection with Him, we are to receive and impart. Not to ministers only, but to every believer, Christ says, The world is enshrouded in darkness. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Everyone who truly loves God will be a light in the world.”**