

# ***Studies in First Peter***

Chapter 2:4-10; 13-17

March 22, 2020

## **A Royal Priesthood**

This Sunday is unique and it is difficult to focus strictly on an exposition of Peter's first letter without referencing our present circumstances. This is the first Sunday we are meeting in cyberspace as a virtual worship service. Fortunately, however, Peter gives us very timely advice for this period. It's as if he knew where we would be and wrote just for us. Of course that isn't the case with Peter, but it most certainly is with God. We are right where He wants us in the study and contemplation of His Word.

### **I. The Cornerstone of a Spiritual House**

- A. Jesus is the stone which the builders rejected. He did not fit their plans or fall into line with their idea of what they thought God ought to be doing.
- B. What God was actually doing, however, was building a new house, a spiritual house with living stones, and Jesus became the corner stone.
- C. While He anchors the building, the apostles become the rest of the foundation, and upon a firm beginning we are added in a living stones to form a spiritual house that cannot be shaken or destroyed.

### **II. First the Tabernacle, then the Temple, and now the Spiritual House**

- A. In tabernacle and then the temple it was the priesthood of Aaron in the lineage of the Levites who served to assist all of Israel to draw close to God and connect with Him.
- B. A priest is a mediator between God and human beings, one who stands in the gap and guides people into a relationship with God while interceding with God on behalf of the people.
- C. But these were a mere shadow of the reality to come. Like our predecessors, we are the new priesthood in a spiritual temple, and like them we are appointed to guide people into a relationship with God and to intercede for them before the throne of God.

### **III. A Chosen Race, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, a People for God's own Possession**

- A. Once again the human race is fully united in Jesus Christ, we are members of one another.
- B. We are a Royal Priesthood because we serve the King of Kings as Princes and Princesses in the royal lineage: members of God's family and joint heirs with Jesus the risen Savior—our elder brother.
- C. God has formed us into one Holy Nation under His banner and we are to lead the world to Jesus. We do this through our priestly duties: intercession and instruction.
- D. We now belong to God, we are not our own master. We are called to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness in His marvelous light.

### **IV. How Then Shall We Live?**

- A. In submission to every human institution, whether to the King (President) or to Governors sent by him to carry out His commands and judgment.
- B. In part, as we live godly lives, we silence those who slander and accuse us in their foolish ignorance.
- C. Our freedom is not to be exercised selfishly. We have been freed from the slavery of sin that we might serve the King as bond slaves—devoted to Him in love.
- D. In this way we will have a significant impact on those around us as they see our good works and glorify our Father in the Heavens.