**1 Peter: Believers: Chosen and Royal**

*1 Peter 2:9*

**Context**

**1 Peter 2:9**—*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*

There is much that the Word of God has to say about the believer’s position of being *in Christ*. When we “*come to Him*” (**2:4**), we must understand the riches that our union brings. It must frame not only our identity but also our thinking. Paul admonishes us to never think lightly of such riches.

**Romans 2:4**—*Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?*

All too few people think of themselves in this context. Learn to think of yourself as highly [or as rightly] as Peter, Paul, and John do.[[1]](#footnote-2)

Peter in this context is helping these scattered aliens, chosen of God, to remember their calling and challenging them to live in light of their calling.

**The Believer’s Calling**

1. **You are a chosen race**

**1 Peter 2:6**—*For this is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”*

1. The conjunction “but” (v**9**)
   * + 1. “On the other hand” or “in contrast to”
       2. The contrast between the doom of those who stumble and are crushed vs. those who believe
2. Chosen by whom?
   1. God Almighty
   2. God’s choice of His People in the OT

**Deuteronomy 7:6-9**—*For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.* ***7****“The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples,****8****but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the Lord brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.****9****Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments*

**Isaiah 43:10-13, 21**—“*You are My witnesses,” declares the Lord, “And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.* ***11****“I, even I, am the Lord, And there is no savior besides Me.* ***12****“It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses,” declares the Lord, “And I am God.* ***13****“Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?”…****21****“The people whom I formed for Myself Will declare My praise.*

1. *Chosen (*eklektos*)—*picked out, chosen, rare, the chosen or elect of God
2. Peter identifies those who believe in Christ as chosen

**John 15:16**—You did not choose Me but I chose you, and *appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.*

**Acts 13:48***—When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*

**Romans 9:13-16***—Just as it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”* ***14****What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!****15****For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”****16****So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.*

**Romans 11:5**—*In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God’s gracious choice.*

**1 Corinthians 1:9***—God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Ephesians 1:3-5***—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,****4****just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love****5****He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will*

**1 Thessalonians 1:4**—knowing, brethren beloved by God, His *choice of you*

**2 Thessalonians 2:13-14***—But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.****14****It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**2 Timothy 1:9**—*who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity*

**2:10***—For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.*

**Revelation 13:8**—*who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity*

**17:8**—“*The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.*

**20:15**—*And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

1. Being chosen of God is the great truth from which all our spiritual privileges derive[[2]](#footnote-3)
   1. A chosen race produced form a life source
   2. That light source is God Himself
2. **You are a royal priesthood**

**1 Peter 2:9—***…A  royal priesthood,*

1. A priest that comes from a royal line
   * + 1. The combination comes from the OT

**Exodus 19:5-6***—Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;****6****and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”*

* + - 1. However, the Israelites did not fulfil their God given role

**John 12:37-48***—But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him.****38****This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”****39****For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again,****40****“He has blinded their eyes and He hardened their heart, so that they would not see with their eyes and perceive with their heart, and be converted and I heal them.”****41****These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him.****42****Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;****43****for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.* ***44****And Jesus cried out a d said, “He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me.****45****He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me.****46****I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.****47****If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.****48****He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.*

**Romans 10:16-21***—**However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?”****17****So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.* ***18****But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.”* ***19****But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says, “I will make you jealous by that which is not a nation, By a nation without understanding will I anger you.”* ***20****And Isaiah is very bold and says, “I was found by those who did not seek Me, I became manifest to those who did not ask for Me.”* ***21****But as for Israel He says, “All the day long I have stretched out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people.”*

**Hebrews 3:16-19**—*For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?****17****And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?****18****And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?* ***19****So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.*

* + - 1. Nevertheless, those who believe in Jesus as Messiah and come to faith become royal priests

**Revelation 5:8-10***—When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.****9****And they \*sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.* ***10****“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”*

1. Royal priests have:
   1. Access to the King as a given right
   2. Approach God directly (no one comes between them and God)
   3. Serve the King
   4. Rule with the King
   5. **Point:** You can’t get a higher calling!

“…we occupy so high a position that no man can be higher in this life: as a “priesthood,” a body that is made up entirely of priests, no man stands between us and God, and as a body of “royal” priests no man stands over us in our relation to God.”[[3]](#footnote-4)

1. *Royal (basileios*)—royal, kingly, regal; monarch or sovereignty; can mean a palace (Cf. **Luke 7:25**)

**5**you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

* 1. The spiritual house is a royal spiritual house
  2. A spiritual house occupied by royals
  3. “A Royal house of priests”

**Revelation 20:6**—*Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

**Luke 22:29-30***—[*Jesus speaking to His disciples*] and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you****30****that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

**Revelation 3:21***—He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

1. Jesus is solely and uniquely qualified to establish this house
   1. Jesus is The King of kings

**Isaiah 9:7**—*There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.*

**Zachariah 9:9***—Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

**Matthew 2:2***—“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”*

**Luke 1:33***—The angel said to her [Mary], “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.****31****And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.****32****He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;****33****and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”*

**John 1:49***—Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.”*

**Revelation 19:16**—And on His robe and on His thigh He has a *name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”*

* 1. Jesus is The High Priest

**Hebrews 4:14-16**—*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.****15****For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.****16****Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

* + 1. His priesthood is not through Aaron

“Israel still had its Levitical priesthood with its many ceremonial sacrifices, who functioned between Israel and God and were placed over the people in their contact with God. This priesthood was, however, only temporary, provisional, represented and typified the eternal priesthood of the royal Priest, Christ. Although Israel was “a kingdom of priests,” etc., it was not yet such a complete “royal priesthood” in the fullest sense of the word; the complete “royal priesthood” in the fullest sense of this designation could not appear until our “great High Priest’s” (**Heb 4:14**) work had been done. Then the provisional Levitical priesthood came to an end.”[[4]](#footnote-5)

**Hebrews 7:14-17**—*For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.****15****And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek,****16****who has become such not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.****17****For it is attested of Him, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”*

* Who is Melchizedek? *An OT model for the royal priesthood; he did not inherit through Aaron; he predates Aaron; he foreshadowed Christ—the ultimate and perfect royal priest*

**Genesis 14:18-20**—*And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.****19****He blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;* ***20****And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.”*

* + 1. His priesthood is God appointed

**Hebrews 3:1-3**—*Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;****2****He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house.****3****For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house.*

* 1. He not only is the One offering The acceptable sacrifice to God; He is the sacrifice

**Matthew 20:28***—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

**John 1:29***—The next day he \*saw Jesus coming to him and \*said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

**Hebrews 2:17***—Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

**7:27***—who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.*

**10:12**—… but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God

1. Because believers are united to Christ, we too become royal priests
2. **Application:** (Q): how does such a privilege change our thinking and our behavior? (A): Radically in every way!

* **Remember:** God will assign His saints to have dominion over heavenly realms

**2 Timothy 2:11-13***—For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.****11****It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;* ***12****If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;* ***13****If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.*

**Revelation 22:3-*5****—There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;****4****they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.****5****And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.*

* As such, we live today in light of the reality and truth of the future—even in relatively small disputes between others

**1 Corinthians 6:1-4**—*Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?****2****Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?****3****Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?****4****So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?*

1. **You are a holy nation**

**1 Peter 2:9c**—*…a holy nation*

1. **You are a people for God’s own possession**

**1 Peter 2:9d**—*…a people for God’s own possession*

WHY?

**1 Peter 2:9e**—*…so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*

**Conclusion**

If God has so called us and chosen us to be united with Him in salvation including being royal priests before Him, how ought those privileges cause us to rightly think about Him and our role as His agents?

How about we start with…*proclaiming the excellencies [eminent qualities][[5]](#footnote-6) of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*?

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter

R.C.H. Lenski, The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude

John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter

John MacArthur, The Believer’s Privileges, Part 5: Election and Dominion, Feb 12, 1989, [www.gty.org](http://www.gty.org)

Jerome H Smith, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

1. Lenski, 100. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. MacArthur Commentary, 124. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Lenski, 100. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. DeHaan, 53. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)