

A People for His Own Possession; 1 Peter 2:9

1. Living Stone.
 - a. Built up.
 - i. [1 Peter 2:4-5](#) “As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”
 - ii. Jesus is the living stone.
 1. Psalm 118:22 “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”
 2. [Isaiah 28:16](#) “therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’”
 3. [Isaiah 8:14-15](#) “And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken.””
 4. [Daniel 2:35](#) “Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”
 5. [Daniel 2:45](#) “just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.””
 - iii. Peter quotes [Isaiah 28:16](#) in verse 6, [Psalm 118:22](#) in verse 7, and [Isaiah 8:14](#) in verse 8.
 - iv. We are now the temple of God built upon the Living Cornerstone of Jesus.
 1. We are holy, not the temple.
 2. We are the sacrifice, not some animal in the temple.
 3. We are the priesthood, not the Levites.
 4. [Romans 9:6-8](#) “But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.”
 - b. Spiritual Sacrifices.
 - i. We are the spiritual sacrifices.
 - ii. [Romans 12:1](#) “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”
 1. Everything we do is for the Kingdom; God says, “Present your bodies as a living sacrifice.”
 2. This sacrifice is our spiritual worship.

3. Worship in Greek is *payment* or *service* to God.¹
 4. Paul says to be transformed (into the likeness of Christ) instead of being conformed to this world ([Romans 12:2](#))
 - iii. We don't offer a sacrifice; we are the sacrifice.
2. Chosen.
- a. Names.
 - i. [1 Peter 2:9](#) "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."
 - ii. Peter, again, goes back to the Old Testament and uses the same names YHWH uses for Israel but for us.
 - iii. [Deuteronomy 7:6](#) "'For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.'"
 - iv. [Exodus 19:6](#) "'and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.'"
 1. "As Israel was chosen to bring the knowledge of YHWH to the world, now the church is called to inform and bring needy, sinful people to YHWH."²
 2. [Isa 61:6](#) "but you shall be called the priests of the Lord; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast."
 - v. Deuteronomy 26:19 "and that he will set you in praise and in fame and in honor high above all nations that he has made, and that you shall be a people holy to the Lord your God, as he promised.'"
 1. Israel was called to be holy (because of the Messiah), and we are called to be holy.
 2. [1 Peter 1:16](#) "since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"
 - vi. Deuteronomy 26:18 "And the Lord has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments,"
 - b. We are YHWH's treasured possession. He is very jealous.
 - i. [Exodus 20:5-6](#) "You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."
 - ii. [James 4:5](#) "Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, 'He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us'?"
 - iii. Sometimes, it is hard to think of ourselves that way, as God's treasured possession.
 - iv. The entire Bible is about God's love for us.
 1. Every story.

¹ Arndt, William, Frederick W. Danker, Walter Bauer, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

² Robert James Dr. Utley, *The Gospel according to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter*, vol. Volume 2, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2000), 229. Called through the Gospel.

2. God tells us of His love for Eve and Cain (it is easy to think of people like Abraham and David).
 3. God loves us despite ourselves and our actions.
 4. Yes, He wants our actions to change, and He wants us to love Him.
 5. Everyone can reach out to God and feel His love.
- c. Our task is to tell others about God.
3. Proclaim
- a. Excellencies.
 - i. Manifestation of divine power or miracle.³
 - ii. To talk about the mighty works of God.
 - iii. [Acts 2:11](#) “both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.””
 - iv. That is our task to speak about the mighty works of God.
 1. [Matthew 12:9-10](#) “He went on from there and entered their synagogue. And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him.”
 2. We can talk about the wine at Cana, the Samaritan woman at the well, the healing of the official’s son, the feeding of the 5000 and 4000, and many other miracles of Christ.
 3. All four Gospels give us the story (miracle) of the resurrection of Jesus.
 - a. The resurrection is the culmination of God’s love story for us.
 - b. We change from sinners to saved.
 - c. We change from rivals to the redeemed.
 - b. We are saved so that we can proclaim Christ.
4. Speak
- a. Are you chosen, holy, a royal priest?
 - b. Are you a person for God’s own possession?
 - c. Will you proclaim God to others?

³ Arndt, William, Frederick W. Danker, Walter Bauer, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.