

Series: Aliens & Sojourners—1 Peter

Text: 1 Pet. 2:4–10

Title: Our Holy Priesthood

Date: June 1, 2025

Lesson: 8

*1 Pet. 2:2 – like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may **grow in respect to salvation**,*

I. We're being built into a holy _____.

1 Pet. 2:4–5 – And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵you 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.

- The contrast between how the world sees Christ versus how the Father sees Him means two things for us:
 1. Because we are in Christ, we too will be rejected by the world (cf. John 15:18–20) but are infinitely valuable to the Father.
 2. Because the world doesn't see the value of Christ, it's our job to _____ that to them.
- Since we're living stones like Christ, we are building _____ with Him.

*Eph. 2:19–22 – So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰having been **built** on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the **corner stone**, ²¹in whom the whole **building**, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being **built** together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. (cf. 1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:15–16)*

- What are the main functions of priests?
 1. _____ before God
 2. _____ Him to those outside the priesthood

What are the sacrifices we offer to God?

*Rom. 12:1 – Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a **living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

*Phil. 4:18 – But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an **acceptable sacrifice**, well-pleasing to God.*

*Heb. 13:15–16 – Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. ¹⁶And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with **such sacrifices** God is pleased.*

Our sacrifice to God as His holy priesthood is
_____ in our lives!

- These sacrifices aren't earning any favor or merit before God, but Christ's righteousness ("through Jesus Christ") has *made* them pleasing to the Father.

**II. Christ is our Rock of salvation, but to the rest of the world,
He is a rock of _____.**

1 Pet. 2:6–8 – 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.”*

*⁷This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who
disbelieve,*

*“The stone which the builders rejected,
This became the very corner stone,”*

⁸and,

“A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”;

*for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to
this doom they were also appointed.*

- Peter uses Is. 28:16 to show that those who are built on the foundation of the Cornerstone (Christ) *will be* vindicated when judgment comes even though they are surrounded by wicked people.
- He quotes Ps. 118:22 to show how God subverts the expectations and perceptions of the world (e.g., 1 Cor. 1:26–29).

Matt. 21:42–45 – Jesus **said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures,*

*‘The stone which the builders rejected,
This became the chief corner stone;
This came about from the Lord,
And it is marvelous in our eyes’?*

⁴³Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it. ⁴⁴And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them. (cf. Acts 4:10–11)

- Quoting Is. 8:14 with the previous quote says that even though unbelievers reject Christ, it will come back to bite them.

What does it mean that they were ‘appointed’?

- If God is truly sovereign, then *everything* that happens is according to His plan, and all of it is working together for His glory and the good of those who love Him.
- The human side of the equation: they stumble *because* they are disobedient to the Word.
- They are disobedient, yet they are *also* appointed.

III. God saved us so we would _____ His excellencies.

1 Pet. 2:9–10 – 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; ¹⁰for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

*Is. 43:20–21 – The beasts of the field will glorify Me,
The jackals and the ostriches,
Because I have given waters in the wilderness
And rivers in the desert,
To give drink to **My chosen people**.
²¹The **people** whom I formed **for Myself**
Will declare My praise.*

- We're not just chosen to be blessed; we're chosen to _____ God.
- Referring to what God said to Israel at Sinai (cf. Ex. 19:5–6) shows that we share the same mission as Israel to represent God to the world.
 - This includes representing His character *and* actively proclaiming Him to the world.

- This is rooted in our salvation: we're proclaiming something we know firsthand.
- The Hos. 2:23 allusion illustrates how even though our sin _____ us from God, His love redeemed us anyway—what we proclaim!

Even though the Church shares many of the blessings and responsibilities of Israel, we *don't* replace them (cf. Rom. 11).

What do we do with this text?

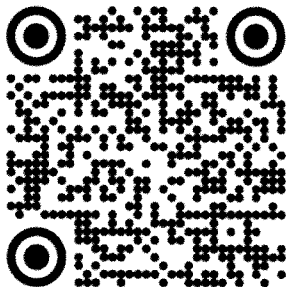
1. Fulfill your holy _____!

Why proclaim His excellencies to those who are disobedient?

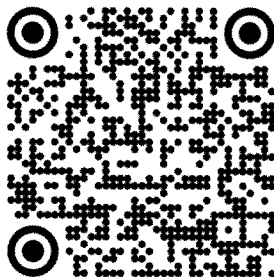
- We don't know which is which, and we don't have a right to withhold the proclamation of the King.
- So those who reject Him will be without excuse.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it helpful to know what we're growing *into* (instead of just that we're supposed to grow)?
2. Why should churches be led by pastors instead of priests?
3. How does thinking of yourself as a priest (in the broad sense) affect how you see yourself living out your faith?
4. How does this text's description of unbelievers help you better understand the way they respond to Christianity? How does that affect your witness?
5. Could you explain what is the same and what is different between Israel and the Church? Why is this so important?



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Blanks: priesthood, proclaim, the Church, Serve, Mediate, EVERYTHING, stumbling, proclaim, praise, alienated, priesthood