

PASTOR RAY'S BIBLE SCHOOL 301

KINGDOM NATION

Session Two

“Let’s Pause For Nation Identification”

I. Introduction

A. Chosen

1. Everyone, at some time or another, experiences that very special feeling of being “chosen”.

**“chosen”=elect; selected for or marked for favor or special privilege
Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition**

2. In spiritual things, the theological term for being “chosen” is the doctrine of election. A second dictionary definition confirms this:

**“chosen”=one who is the object of choice or of Divine favor
Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition**

3. In the Bible, the term has an individual as well as a corporate application.

4. Israel, throughout history, has been called, quite rightly, “God’s chosen people”.

5. However, a truly prophetic view of scripture reveals that ALL people who are “saved” by God, in all ages, are “chosen”.

6. One of the tragic errors of Dispensational Theology is the reduction of the concept of election, the awesome revelation that out of all the peoples of the earth, all of God’s redeemed people are “God’s Chosen People”, His “Kingdom Nation”. In this class, we’ll take a look at the identity of this special group.

B. Old And New Testament Continuity Regarding The “Kingdom Nation”

1. We have learned that God's unchanging vision for His redeemed people is a "Kingdom-Nation" unique among the nations of the world...chosen and exalted by God to express a living testimony to His saving power and Truth.

2. In the Old Testament, this redeemed company was called Israel; in the New Testament, it is called the "church".

a. The great principles of predestination, election, calling, justification by faith are true and consistent for ALL the redeemed people of all ages!

3. This "Kingdom Nation" of God is not composed of the "visible" Israel or the "visible" church because in both cases there is a "mixture" within the visible (or corporate) entities.

a. Not all Jews were true-believers in God!

No, for not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God's people!
Romans 9:6 New Living Translation

"...for not all the people of Israel **are the people of God.**"
TEV

b. And certainly not all church-members are truly born again!

I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following.
Acts 20:29-30 NLT

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
Matthew 7:15 KJV

But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered.
2 Peter 2:1-3 NLT

3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.
Jude 3-5 NKJV

These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

Jude 12-13 NKJV

c. An honest reading of scripture reveals, sadly, that there will be “wheat” as well as “tares” in the Church, right up until the final judgment! (Matthew 13:24-30)

Nation Identification

While the redemptive purpose of God centered around national Israel in the Old Testament and the “Church” in the New Testament, there was a “mixed multitude” in both! Just as there were believers and non-believers in national Israel, so there are believers and non-believers in the (visible) church. There is a “church within the church”. We will use the term “Kingdom Nation” to describe the “true-born” children of God, and focus our attention in this course on the implications of the designation.

II. Nation Identification

A. Axioms And Corollaries (4)

1. After the Fall of Adam, there were 3 possible options regarding the future of his race:

- *None* would be saved (or redeemed)-This would be justice
- *All* would be saved-This is called universalism
- *Some* would be saved-This is called Christianity

a. In spite of the fact that the Bible consistently teaches the 3rd option is true, the doctrine of universalism has reappeared throughout church history, propagated by false teachers such as the Reverend Carlton Pearson, in recent years.

b. It is patently evident that “some” are saved-we call this “some” the “Kingdom Nation” of God.

2. This great company of the redeemed is *identifiable* and *specific*.

a. Read again the introduction to the church at Ephesus, noticing how Paul could never be speaking to everyone in the visible church...because the “visible” church is always full of mixture, i.e. “seekers”, skeptics, hypocrites, false prophets, etc. Think about this because it’s

important. He must be speaking to the “true-born” children of God, the truly “saved”, otherwise the language makes no sense at all!

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, **to the saints** which are at Ephesus, and **to the faithful in Christ Jesus**: 2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed **US** with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 **According as he hath chosen US in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having **predestinated US** unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein **he hath made US accepted in the beloved.**

Eph 1:1-6 KJV (Emphasis added)

- We emphasized the term “US” in the passage to call attention to the fact that Paul is referring to a specific group of people
- The term “chosen by God” is sometimes called “election”*
- Here we also see the term “predestinated”, referring to God’s sovereign predetermining of the final location of the people being described.

b. Another supporting passage gives the clearest “big picture” of the “Kingdom Nation” people of God in Paul’s epistle to the Romans. Read it again, noticing our highlights of the pronouns that refer to a distinct, identifiable (spiritual) company of people:

“And we know that all things work together for good to **them** that love God, to **them** who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For **whom** he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover **whom** he did predestinate, **them** he also called: and **whom** he called, **them** he also justified: and **whom** he justified, **them** he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for **us**, who can be against **us**?

Rom 8:28-31 KJV

- The reference here is to the same group of people described in Ephesians 1...not every Jew in the Old Testament, or every church member in the New Testament, but a specific people, chosen by God, foreknown of Him and (thusly) predestinated by Him for eternity. This is the “full-company” of the redeemed of all the ages, Old and New Testament, Jew and Gentile, His “Kingdom Nation”!

**Terms like “election”, “predestination” and “foreknowledge” are important Bible words that we rarely hear today. Considered too intimidating for modern churchgoers, or too “politically incorrect” for “inclusive” for some “church-growth at all cost” philosophies. The result? God’s people have been robbed of the power of sound doctrine and enfeebled by pop-psychology that leaves them defenseless against the onslaught of the enemy in*

spiritual warfare. While these doctrines are definitely difficult, God has chosen to put them into the scriptures, and it's up to us to "search out the matter"! If you patiently and prayerfully persist with us in this series, you will become quite comfortable with these doctrines and find them to be an enormous blessing and comfort to your soul!

Review

God has chosen to save *some*

This group of the "elect", (chosen by God), is His "Kingdom Nation", consisting of the truly saved people of history, the "true" Jews of the Old Testament, and the genuinely regenerated Church of the New Testament*

**It's important to see the Elect as ONE PEOPLE. One of the tragic errors of Dispensational Theology is the teaching that God has TWO groups of the saved....Jew and Gentile. This false (and harmful) teaching will be totally annihilated in this course.*

3. Those who are redeemed are the *chosen* of God, *foreknown* of Him, and *predestinated* as to their glorious end before the foundation of the world!

This "choosing" function of God is known as the Biblical doctrine of "election". (In the previous point, we focused on the identifiable GROUP of the redeemed in Ephesians 1:2-6. Now let's re-examine the passage to focus on the doctrine of election).

2 *Grace* be to you, and *peace*, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *who hath blessed us* with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,* that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having *predestinated* us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, *according to the good pleasure of HIS will,* 6 To the praise of the glory of *his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

Ephesians 1:2-6 KJV

a. The fact that God did not choose to save all, but to save *some*, begs the question of "why did God choose whom He chose?" This is a most interesting and important question.

b. Since "Foreknowledge" seems to precede "Election" in Romans 8, it's logical to ask, what did God "foreknow"? This is one of the fundamental questions that determines whether one is a Calvinist or an Arminian. The Arminian position is that God "looks ahead" into history and decides who, out of their own free-will, will "choose" Him, and then, based on the choice He foresees man will make, "chooses" (or "elects") that individual to be saved. On the other hand, the Calvinist holds forth that God's "choosing" is based in His sovereign grace alone, not on any "merit" or worthiness God (fore)sees in man.

Difficulties For The Arminian Position

- The Arminian must answer the questions: "If God foresees merit in man's moral choice of God, independent of God's choice, how can one maintain that salvation is totally of

grace?” If God’s choice is based on man’s choice, how can God be sovereign? How can this view of foreknowledge square with these passages:

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you,
John 15:16 KJV

18 I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.
John 13:18 KJV

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:
Acts 9:15 KJV

10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;
11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.
Rom 9:10-13 KJV

- If man, operating in his own free will can cause himself to be “born again”, how can we explain this scripture?

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:10-13 KJV

- **If man’s salvation is in his own hands, if he has the ability to be saved by an exercise of his free-will, how can we explain the many scriptures that tell us man does not possess that ability?**

2 The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. 3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.
Psalm 14:2-3; 53:2-3 KJV

9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16

Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Rom 3:9-18 KJV

43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.

44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:43-44 KJV

65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

John 6:65 KJV

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Rom 8:8 KJV

Difficulties For The Reformed (Calvinistic) Position

“If God chooses those who will be saved, He logically chooses those who will NOT be saved? What chance is there, then, for the “non-elect?”

If God chooses those who will be saved, then doesn't He (by logical extension) choose who will be lost? Isn't this “double-predestination”?

“If God's sovereign decree to save His elect apart from any merit or good works on their part, how can man be said to have ‘free-will’?

All of these great questions will require more time than we can give them here and will be addressed elsewhere in a different course. We commend them to you for personal study, because they are important. However, to stay focused on our theme for this course, we simply note that ALL those who will be saved, Old and New Testament combined, are “chosen by God”. The Bible is clear on that. Who chose who “first” is what makes one a Calvinist or an Arminian. We should understand BOTH positions and RESPECT those who see the issue differently than we do. A peaceful resolution in the soul over which of these 2 views is the right view, (they are mutually exclusive of each other when properly understood), can be a work of considerable study...but it's worth the effort!

Bottom Line

There is an identifiable, specific group of people that are saved, and they are the chosen (elect) of God.

4. The *grounds* of redemption of the Elect in Old and New Testament is *substitutionary atonement*, whereby God accepts the punishment of the innocent on behalf of the guilty. This is the basis upon which God can grant mercy to the sinner without compromising His justice.

- a. By now it's clear that there is ONE group of people who will be saved.
- b. This is the COMBINED number of true-believers from the Old Testament and the New Testament. There is NO DIFFERENCE in the end result of history for the elect.*

(1) On judgment day, God will separate all of mankind into two groups.

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world..."

Matt 25:31-34 KJV

c. This great company will be composed of ALL the OLD TESTAMENT saints who were justified by faith, (as modeled in Abraham), PLUS all those who are justified by faith after the resurrection.

d. The Bible is consistent. ALL who will EVER be saved are saved by grace through faith in the substitutionary atonement provided by God in Christ!

- Israel looked FORWARD to the Cross by faith; the Church looks BACKWARD to the Cross by faith...in either case, ALL the elect, (the Kingdom Nation of God) are saved the same way!

Our Position On Theology

Throughout history, the Church has disagreed about soteriology, which is that field of theology that addresses *how* God saves His people. There are really only two systematic theological positions on this subject, falling under the general heads of "Calvinism", (or the "Reformed" faith of Luther and Calvin), and "Arminianism", as outlined in the teachings of Jacobus Arminius. It is *not* the goal of this course to persuade the student as to one side or the other, since the issue does not determine who is saved and who is not. In other words, true-born children of God will live forever, whichever side of the fence they come down on. And although your instructor holds to the Reformed faith, our goal, throughout the course, will be to accurately present both sides of the coin in matters where the two systems conflict. It is important to know what you believe. But it's also important to understand, and respect, those who see it differently, since good people have always disagreed on the issue. The student will benefit most from this course by keeping these things in mind.

III. Nation Identification:

A. Four Proofs Of Identity

1. After the Fall of Adam, there were 3 possible options regarding the future of his race:

- *None* would be saved (or redeemed)-This would be justice

- *All* would be saved-This is called universalism
- *Some* would be saved-This is called Christianity

2. This great company of the redeemed is *identifiable* and *specific*.

3. Those who are redeemed are the *chosen* of God, *foreknown* of Him, and *predestinated* as to their glorious end before the foundation of the world! This “choosing” function of God is known as the Biblical doctrine of “election”. (In the previous point, we focused on the identifiable GROUP of the redeemed in Exodus 19:3-6 and Ephesians 1:2-6.)

4. The *grounds* of redemption of the Elect in Old and New Testament is *substitutionary atonement*, whereby God accepts the punishment of the innocent on behalf of the guilty. This is the basis upon which God can grant mercy to the sinner without compromising His justice.

B. Connecting The Dots

1. Unless we have a “prophetic view” of scripture, we will fail to see the awesome continuity and consistency of God’s eternal plan of redemption.

2. God is consistent, and decretive will is immutable, as shown here:

For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.
Malachi 3: 6 KJV

"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall *My word* be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.
Isaiah 55:10-11 NKJV

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.
Hebrews 13:8 KJV

C. Ten Verifications Of The Continuity Of Old And New Testament

If indeed, God has ONE “chosen” people, one “Kingdom Nation”, made up of all the redeemed of history, chosen before the foundation of the world, we ought to be able to consistently VERIFY the continuity of the Old and New Testaments...Here are 7 such verifications....

1. We find Paul comparing the experience of redeemed Israel to the redeemed Christians in Corinth!

“Moreover, brethren, (the Gentile Christians at Corinth), I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers (Israel) were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea (Israel redeemed out of Egyptian bondage); And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud (a type of Holy Spirit baptism) and in the sea (a type of water baptism); And did all eat the same spiritual meat, And did all drink the same spiritual drink (a type of communion)...”

1 Corinthians 10:1-4a (Comments added) KJV

(and warning the “visible church” at Corinth that failure to truly believe would result in disaster...)

2. We can find Christ present in the Old Testament, accompanying His people through the wilderness...

“...for they (Old Testament Israel) drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them (in the wilderness): and that Rock was Christ.”

1 Corinthians 10:4b Parenthesis added

3. We can find the Gospel preached to Israel. In the NT Book of Hebrews, we the writer tells us most plainly that Israel heard the Gospel!

“For unto us (the Church) was the gospel preached, as well as unto them (Israel): *but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*

Hebrews 4:2 KJV Parenthesis added

4. We can find Israel in the Old Testament being referred to as “the church” in the New Testament...

“This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet (referring to Christ) shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. This is he that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spoke to him in the mount Sinai, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us...”

Acts 7:37-38 KJV

5. We can find a New Testament reference confirming that the Old Testament prophet Isaiah had preached the Gospel to Israel...

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of *them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!* But they (unbelieving Israelites) have not all obeyed the gospel. *For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?* So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:14-17 KJV

6. We can find the Law in the Gospel of Jesus....

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loves me not keeps not my sayings: and the word which you hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

John 14:23-24 KJV

7. We can find the Gospel in the Law of Moses, in the Pentateuch...

“Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”

Galatians 3:7-9 KJV

8. We can find that Abraham was saved in looking ahead by faith and seeing Christ as His Savior. Speaking to the Jews, Jesus said...

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

John 8:56 KJV

9. We can find the Apostle Paul identifying all believers as ONE PEOPLE, the “true” Jew, Old and New Testament believers, as the “Israel of God”!

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision avails anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the

Israel of God.

Galatians 6:14-16 KJV

For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Romans 2:28-29 KJV

10. The “true Jew” is nothing less than all believers, of all times, who have been justified by faith through the grace of God...the “chosen people”...the “Kingdom Nation”!

Eph 2:8-22

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. 11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:
13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Rom 2:28-29

28 For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. 29 No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by God's Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.

Holy Bible, New Living Translation ©, copyright © 1996, 2004 by Tyndale Charitable Trust. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers. All rights reserved.

Rom 2:28-29 (New American Standard Bible)

28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

NASB

In our next class, we'll trace the Kingdom Nation back to its source...Abraham!