

Bible Passage**Exodus 19:5-6**

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all 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 people of Israel."

1 Peter 2:9

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.

Outline

- 1) Israel's Call to be Priests
 - a) The Chosen Nation
 - i) Israel's unique calling and the covenant with God.**
 - ii) Responsibilities and obligations of being God's chosen people.**
 - b) The Role of Israel as a Priestly Kingdom
 - i) Israel as God's treasured possession and a holy nation.**
 - ii) The mission to mediate between God and other nations.**
 - c) Israel's Struggles and Failures
 - i) Historical context of Israel's disobedience and consequences.**
 - ii) The cyclical pattern of Israel's relationship with God.**
- 2) Understanding Our Identity in Christ
 - a) Transition to the New Covenant
 - i) The shift from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant through Jesus.**
 - ii) Implications for Christian identity and purpose.**
 - b) Christians as a Chosen Race and Royal Priesthood
 - i) The church inheriting Israel's mission and identity.**
 - ii) Emphasizing the Christian identity as it relates to Israel's calling.**

- c) Living Out Our Identity in Christ
 - i) **Practical aspects of embracing our identity in Christ.**
 - ii) **The connection between personal faith and collective responsibility.**
- 3) The Church's Mandate
 - a) Continuation of Israel's Mission
 - i) **The church's role as the spiritual successor of Israel.**
 - ii) **The broader scope of the church's mission in the world.**
 - b) Proclaiming the Excellencies of Christ
 - i) **The responsibility of the church to evangelize and witness.**
 - ii) **Encouragement for personal and communal evangelism.**
 - c) Being a Light to the World
 - i) **Practical applications for living out the church's mandate.**
 - ii) **The call for the church to actively engage in society and culture.**

Notes

In the rich tapestry of biblical history, the concept of a divine calling has always been central. It's a story that begins with Israel, a nation chosen by God, and extends to the role of Christians in the church today. This narrative offers profound insights into our spiritual identity and purpose.

The story of Israel is remarkable. Chosen by God, this wasn't merely an honor; it came with a heavy load of responsibilities and a covenant with the divine. Israel's role was unique — they were to act as mediators, a bridge between God and the rest of humanity. Their mission was to bring reconciliation, to share God's message with the world. Yet, their journey was far from smooth. It was a cycle of disobedience and redemption, a constant struggle to uphold their part of the divine covenant. Their failures, as much as their triumphs, are a crucial part of this narrative.

With the coming of Christ, there was a significant shift — from the Old Covenant to the New. This transition brought about a redefinition of what it means to be chosen by God. Christians, under this new covenant, were now seen as a royal priesthood, a holy nation — concepts that were once exclusive to Israel. This new identity was not just a title; it came with its set of responsibilities and a mission. It meant living out an identity rooted in Jesus, balancing personal faith with the collective responsibility of the church.

The church, in many ways, is seen as the spiritual successor of Israel. It's tasked with a mission that's both daunting and exhilarating — to continue the work that Israel began. This involves proclaiming the excellencies of Christ, being a light to the

nations, and engaging in evangelism and witness. But it's more than just spreading the word; it's about being actively involved in societal and cultural spheres, embodying the values and teachings of Christ in everyday life.

Understanding our spiritual heritage, from Israel's calling to the church's mission, is essential. It offers a lens through which we can view our own faith journey. As we embrace our identity in Christ and live out the church's mandate, we become part of this ongoing narrative, a story of divine calling and human response that spans millennia.

Israel's Divine Role

- **Chosen Nation:** Israel was uniquely chosen by God, a selection entailing not just honor, but significant duties under a divine covenant.
- **Priestly Kingdom:** Tasked with the mission of acting as mediators, Israel was meant to bridge the gap between God and other nations, upholding a role of spiritual reconciliation.
- **Cyclical Struggles:** The journey of Israel was marked by recurring periods of disobedience and correction, highlighting the challenges inherent in their divine role.

Christian Identity in Christ

- **New Covenant Transition:** With the advent of Christ, the focus shifts from the Old to the New Covenant, redefining the Christian identity.
- **Royal Priesthood:** This new identity mirrors Israel's calling, positioning Christians as a chosen race and a royal priesthood, inheriting Israel's mission.

- **Living Our Identity:** The sermon emphasizes the importance of embracing this identity in Christ, which involves both personal faith and collective responsibility.

The Church's Mandate

- **Mission Continuation:** The church is seen as the spiritual successor of Israel, entrusted with a broadened mission in the world.
- **Evangelism and Witness:** The responsibility of proclaiming Christ's excellencies falls on the church, urging personal and communal evangelism.
- **Societal Engagement:** The sermon encourages the church to be a light in the world, actively engaging in societal and cultural matters.

In summary, this exploration of biblical themes underscores the importance of understanding and fulfilling our spiritual roles, whether it's the ancient calling of Israel or the modern mandate of the Christian church. This understanding is crucial for living out our faith in a way that honors our divine purpose.