

EXILES: A HOLY NATION (Week 1)

October 19TH, 2025

REVIEW:

- Both Daniel and Paul spoke about the spiritual battle we face—we wrestle not against flesh and blood.
- The big three traps that the devil uses are:
 - Deception
 - Distraction
 - Discouragement
- **Ephesians 6:10-13 (NIV)**

CONTEXT:

- What was happening in the world when this was written.
- Nero—Herod—the corrupted Sanhedrin, etc.
- There was persecution from the Jews and the Romans. There were corrupt local officials with taxation, etc.
- Society had degraded: abortion and killing of children, and rampant sexual abuse were common and accepted.

John 17:15-17 (NIV) – ¹⁵*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.* ¹⁶*They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.* ¹⁷*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*

Colossians 1:13 (NIV) – ¹³*For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves...*

1 Peter 1:1–2 (NIV) – ¹*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God’s elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,* ²*who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with His blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.*

1 Peter 2:9–12 (NIV) – ⁹*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.* ¹⁰*Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* ¹¹*Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.* ¹²*Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.*

A HOLY NATION—It’s who we are.

- The Jews were expecting a physical King who would come down the King’s Highway to physically overthrow the Romans.
- God’s plan—a physical nation that sets the stage for the spiritual nation.
- The Kingdom of Heaven was meant to be dispersed together into the physical kingdoms.
- The Holy nation is the Kingdom of believers—its citizens.
- Holy—set apart for His purpose—that we may declare the Glory of God.
- **Philippians 3:17-21 (NIV)**
 - “*Called out*” ones.

- Based on His foreknowledge.

- **John 18:36; Ephesians 2:10-11,19, 3:10; Galatians 6:16; Romans 8:29-30 (NIV)**

1. We are aliens/strangers here. We seek FIRST things first—to seek the Kingdom of Heaven.

- The Kingdom of Heaven is where Jesus rules and reigns in our lives.
- Seek (absorbed with): a strenuous and persevering search for His Kingdom and His goal.
- Identity—Allegiance—Purpose.
- **Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Colossians 3:1 (NIV)**

Dr. Larry Crabb: *You have first and second things in your life. Nothing's wrong with second things, but when second things become first things then it's a problem.*

2. And His righteousness—we live such good lives.

- The Belt of Truth and the breastplate of righteousness (**Ephesians 6 (NIV)**).
- We want a safe society for our kids.
- We are Kingdom people in the area we are responsible for.
- We train our kids in the Word, prayer, etc.

Matthew 5:13-16; Galatians 5:21-26 (NIV)

- At a time when people are distracted from the real issues and things that matter most—we must be focused.
- At a time when the devil cloaks himself in an angel's clothing, we need to see things clearly.
- Connecting prayer and spiritual armor to the holy nation discussion.
- **Standing:** putting on the armor via prayer helping us to fight the right fight in the right way.
- The Kingdom of God is doing just fine. We don't focus on FOX News or CNN or MSNBC News but the **Good News!**

For Small Group Discussion:

Ice Breaker: Have you ever been picked first (or last) for a team? Do you feel like that was the right call?

Main Point: We are chosen by God, not to exclude the world, but for the sake of the world.

Read/Tell the Story: **Genesis 12:1-9 (NIV)**

1. What did God call Abram to do?
2. What did God promise to Abram? Were all of the promises from God meant for Abram alone?
3. How did Abram respond to God's command?
4. How did Abram's calling and obedience impact the world?
5. How did God call you to Himself? How did you respond?
6. Do you believe that your obedience is having an impact on the world around you? How?
7. Thinking about the people in your group, what positive impact do you see that they have on the world around them? Tell them!

Supporting Scripture: **1 Peter 2:9-10, Deuteronomy 7:6-7, Psalms 33:12 (NIV)**

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[emphasis added]