

1ST PETER

Peter expounds yet more upon the identity of his readers and the responsibility that accompanies it. Give careful attention to the emphasis upon their transitory nature.



CHAPTER 2:9-12

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, 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 aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which 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."

This is not the first time Peter has used the word, "chosen" to describe his readers. How should it make one feel to know that God has "chosen" them?

What does it mean for someone to be a member of "a royal priesthood?" What does Peter say we are to declare?

Why would Peter call them "aliens and strangers" in the world?

According to Peter, how will living godly lives make a difference in the world?

When is this "visit from God" Peter refers to going to happen?

CHAPTER 2:13-17

Now, Peter begins to address the need for God's people to live lives of submission.

¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by Him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. ¹⁶ Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

How would you define "submission" – and what makes it such a hard thing for us to do?

Who are we actually doing all of this for?

Points to Ponder

How might the stubbornness of believers taint their testimony?

Compare Peter's words to those of Paul in Romans 13:1-7. How are they similar?

