

Theme: God's chosen people live as exiles in this world, but are sustained by the covenant grace and peace of the Father, Son, and Spirit.

I. Intro – Much More Than Hello!

- A. Our informal communications - text, email
- B. Letters used to be literary
- C. We can read like that - Peter to churches
- D. 1 Peter 1:1-2 - a lot more than hello!
- E. Packed with theology, lays out themes

II. Elect Exiles of the Dispersion (v1)

- A. v1; 3 descriptions - key to our place (Achte-meier)
- B. Believers - God's resident aliens (v1) - sojourners
 - 1. Strangers; sojourners; aliens (v1)
 - 2. Strangers - 1 Pet 2:11; Gen 23:4; Heb 11:13
 - 3. Often used with other words for alien/stranger
 - 4. Sojourners - not in our home country
 - 5. Sojourners - often not welcome/mistreated
 - 6. Key in early Christianity - Diognetus
- C. Believers - the Diaspora - scattered (v1)
 - 1. Scattered - diaspora (v1)
 - 2. Note the regions; show map
 - 3. Believers scattered - not gathered in one land

D. Believers - God's elect/chosen people (v1-2)

- 1. Elect/chosen - God's special people
- 2. Title of Israel in OT (Dt 7:6; Is 41:8-9)
- 3. Recipients Gentile, not Jews (1:18; 2:10; 4:3)
- 4. True Chosen One - Jesus! (Is 42:1; 1Pe 2:4,6)
- 5. Through Jesus - believers - 1 Pet 2:9-10
- 6. Believers are God's chosen, loved people!!

III. Our Security - God's Covenant

- A. Background v1 - God's chosen people (v2 NIV)
- B. A Trinitarian call & outworking (v2)
- C. Foreknowledge - Fatherly love (v2)
 - 1. More than prescience - Amos 3:2; Jer 1:4
 - 2. God has loved and called us from eternity
- D. Sanctification - set apart/called by the Spirit (v2)
 - 1. Not talking about struggle with sin
 - 2. Set apart/called by Spirit - 2 The 2:13
 - 3. Note 'and belief in the truth' - obedience in 1Pe 1:2
- E. For obedience - believing the Gospel (v2)
 - 1. Obedience - not growing in obedience - conversion
 - 2. Rom 1:5 (ESV); 16:26 (ESV); Acts 6:7

3. Obeying call to repent and believe Gospel

F. For sprinkling with blood of Jesus - covenant

1. Like Exodus 24 - sprinkled blood seals covenant

2. Chosen, set apart, called - believe & sealed!

G. Grace and peace multiplied (v2)

1. Unmerited favor, all right with God - grace & peace

2. Grace and peace - as we sojourn in life

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do we see that we are dispersed sojourners?

1. This is who God's people are in this age

2. We have no promised land here

3. This can make us unwelcome - in our own land!

4. Do we view ourselves as aliens & strangers?

5. Am I willing to be unwelcome - in my own land?

6. We are dispersed - by God's plan

7. Am I willing to be dispersed - or do I want Christian ghetto?

8. Is my trust in God - or my rights, resources?

B. Do we see that we are God's chosen people?

1. We are always at home with Him!

2. We are not strangers in the kingdom!

3. He has loved, chosen us from eternity

4. Spirit called, wooed, set us apart

5. We have believed the Gospel

6. Christ blood has sealed covenant!

7. This is our security in this age!

C. Communion - strength for our sojourn

God's Chosen Exile People

1 Peter 1:1-2

Hebrews 11:8-16

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Communion

2 Corinthians 13:14

The interrelationship of the three words describing the readers in v1 (“elect, exile, diaspora”) reveals the authors underlying convictions about the nature of the Christian community and its relationship to its surrounding world. Peter J. Achtemeier

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 1 Peter 2:11

I am an alien and a stranger among you. Sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead. Genesis 23:4

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. Hebrews 11:13

For Christians are not distinguished from the rest of mankind either in locality or in speech or in customs. For they dwell not somewhere in cities of their own, neither do they use some different language, nor practice an extraordinary kind of life.... They dwell in their own countries, but only as sojourners; they bear their share in all things as citizens, and they endure all hardships as strangers. Every foreign country is a fatherland to them, and every fatherland is foreign. - Epistle to Diognetus, Chapter 5

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. Deuteronomy 7:6

"But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend, 9 I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. Isaiah 41:8-9

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 1 Peter 1:18

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. 1 Peter 2:10

For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do--living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. 1 Peter 4:3

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. Isaiah 42:1

As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him.. For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 1 Peter 2:4, 6

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. 1 Peter 2:9-10

You only have I known of all the families of the earth... Amos 3:2 ESV

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah 1:5

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. 2 Th 2:13

through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, Rom 1:5 ESV

but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- Romans 16:26 ESV

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. Acts 6:7