

Becoming a People of Promise

Coronavirus, storms, bushfires etc

Living in a world that is controlled by fear.

Satan is having a field day

2 Timothy 1:7

The Spirit we carry is one of power, love and of a sound mind.

In the midst of the chaos we need to be aware who our God is.

Time for us to shine and stop doing church as usual.

We have the answers

God has called us to be a shining light.

We are the hope of the world. Isaiah 60 Arise and Shine

Exodus tells the story of The Israelites.

The Israelites were in captivity in Egypt but God raised up Moses to rescue them from slavery and to enter a promised land.

Their story mirrors our salvation story. We were slaves to sin but God had a plan to rescue us. He took us through the Red Sea (our baptism) and set us on a journey to our promised land. He has saved us not just FROM something, but TO something. We were not born for desert life. The desert is the training ground for the land of promise.

What is no more than a 10-day journey actually took 40 years. It is often said that God spent a few months getting the people out of Egypt and another 40 years getting Egypt out of the people. There was a culture of complaining, unbelief, dishonouring & idolatry, all stemming from a slave mind-set.

From the people who left Egypt there were just 2 people who actually made it to the promised land – Joshua and Caleb.

Today very few people really step into all that God has for them for a number of reasons.

- Content with life in the desert – belief that this is it. That the goal was a place in heaven.
- Unbelief – lack of faith. Don't believe their God is big enough.
- They are stuck in their old mind-set of insignificance and slavery
- Bound by shame, guilt or fear
- Idolatry – the things of the old life keep enticing them

1. People of Covenant Covenant means to cut - it is an agreement or a contract between two parties. The nearest we have to this kind of a covenant is a marriage God loves to make covenant. He made

covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham and the Israelites. We are a part of a new covenant with Jesus as the sacrifice.

Aspects Of The Exchange

- A. Jesus was punished that we might be forgiven (Is. 53:4–5)
 - B. Jesus was wounded that we might be healed (Matt. 8:16–17)
 - C. Jesus was made sin with our sinfulness that we might be made righteous with His righteousness (Is. 53:10; 2 Cor. 5:21)
 - D. Jesus tasted death for us that we might share His life (Heb. 2:9)
 - E. Jesus was made a curse that we might receive the blessing (Gal. 3:13–14).
 - F. Jesus endured our poverty that we might share His abundance (2 Cor. 8:9 [2 Cor. 9:8; Deut. 28:47–48])
 - G. Jesus endured our shame that we might share His glory (Matt. 27:35–36 [Heb. 2:10])
 - H. Jesus endured our rejection that we might have His acceptance (Matt. 27:45–51 [Eph. 1:3–6])
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In exchange he wants us to lay down our lives, he wants our everything.

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship

It is because of this covenant that we are a part of his family, the church. The Israelites were organised into different tribes. Tribes eat together, sleep together, work together, build together and fight together.

Honouring each other, Loyalty and Commitment to one another.

Psalm 92:13 Those who are planted in the **house of the LORD** shall flourish in the courts of our **God**. They will still bear fruit in old age; They will be fresh and flourishing, To declare that the **LORD** is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Church is not a place we visit every week on a Sunday, or this activity. We are a family; we gather together because we have the same father, because we are called together

2. **People of Thankfulness** Passover, the laying of stones, in the psalms all about remembering the testimonies of God. It is hard to not see the

goodness of God, and be thankful when we share what God has done. Thanksgiving leads to praise.

Revelation 19:10 For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Testimonies set a precedent – if God has done it once he will surely do it again.

The next few are really close to my heart. I believe my role, what God has called me to is about preparing the seed-bed,

- 3. People of Presence** We need the presence of God, it is what marks out, what makes us different. The presence of God is what transforms us and those around us. The presence of God will convict people of their sin. An encounter with the presence of God will lead to repentance – a change of mind. We need to cultivate an atmosphere where people can encounter the life-changing presence of God in our services. We should never leave here the same way we came in. We should be carriers of the Holy Spirit wherever we go.

Corinthians 3:16-18 (MSG) ¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Whenever, though, they turn to face God as Moses did, God removes the veil and there they are—face-to-face! They suddenly recognize that God is a living, personal presence, not a piece of chiselled stone. And when God is personally present, a living Spirit, that old, constricting legislation is recognized as obsolete. We're free of it! All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.

- 4. People of Intimacy** Joshua spent more time than anyone else in the tabernacle and it was he that led the people into the promised land. God wants worshippers rather than worship, people who spend time with him in prayer and in studying. Not list-prayer and not because we have an agenda.

Everything else flows when we pay attention and give space to the presence of God and intimacy with Him

- 5. People of Faith & Power** able to see beyond the giants in the land. Joshua and Caleb were the only two who gave good reports. They were also the only two to take possession of the land. We need to be able to see every storm as an opportunity for God to use us to change the situation.
- 6. A Prophetic People** able to recognise, speak out and obey the word of God. Creating a prophetic culture is not about having lots of prophetic words but how we steward the word. With personal words, weigh them up – does it resonate with me. If they don't immediately, keep them in

your heart. The prophetic will give us direction, something to hang on to.

1 Peter 2:9 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."

7. A Chosen People not forgotten. God has a role for each and every one of us.

8. A Royal People a son or daughter of the king, carrying the authority of the king of kings. We have an inheritance. Difference between the way royalty carry themselves and the way slaves do. We are the head not the tail. We should be setting the culture, not being defined and reflecting the world's

9. A Holy People – set apart, a cut above. Called to holiness, commanded to be holy, living from our identity as chosen sons and daughters. Living from our heavenly mind-set. Called out but not weird.

What we believe about ourselves is as important as what we believe about God. You were sinners saved by grace. But your sinful nature is dead and buried, no longer slaves to it. You are a new creation.

10. A Sent People

Matthew 10:7-8 ⁷As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy,^[a] drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 16:15 ¹⁵He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

Declaration

I am chosen. I am a royal priest. I am holy, set apart for His purposes. I am called to be a person of promise, in covenant with God and his church. I am God's special possession who he called out of darkness into his wonderful light. I am highly favoured. I am called to live a life worthy of his call. Once I was a sinner, but now I am a child of God, thanks to his mercy. I have been crucified with Christ. I am a new creation; it is no longer I who lives. I am no longer condemned. I choose to divorce myself from the evil desires that were once my nature. I am being transformed from glory to glory as I renew my mind of wrong thinking and old mind-sets. I believe that God is always good and I choose to remain thankful in all things. I am his workmanship, his masterpiece. I am set apart for good works. I am one of a kind, fearfully and wonderfully made. I am anointed. I am called to preach the gospel. I am called to bind up the broken-hearted and proclaim liberty to the captives. I am called to proclaim his favour and comfort those who mourn. I am called to make disciples. I am called to disciple nations, to heal the sick, raise the dead and cast out demons. I am called to bring heaven to earth and transform the world around me.