

God's Treasured Possessions

Bible Study | The Church of God International | June 3, 2017



Introduction



God's treasured possession – what a title!



Apparently, this description does not apply
to everyone.



This must be a special, elite and select group of people whom God considers His personal treasure.



How wonderful it would be to belong to this
special group of people!



The good news is you can be part of this
special group of people.



The questions before us today are:

1. What did God really mean by “His treasured possession”?
2. How are we special?
3. What makes us special?



This afternoon, we will consider these three
(3) questions and hope that upon careful
consideration, you will choose to belong to
this group of God's special people.



Peculiar People



Now, we will go through a few scriptural translations to get the exact meaning of “treasured possession.”



Each translation of the Bible renders it
slightly different but they all mean the
same thing.



We will consider the three (3) most popular Bible translations: the NIV, KJV and NKJV.



1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

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.



1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, **a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **His own special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.



Deuteronomy 7:6 (NIV)

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 (KJV)

For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a **special people unto himself**, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.



Deuteronomy 7:6 (NKJV)

For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a **special treasure** above all the peoples on the face of the earth.



Exodus 19:5

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my **treasured possession**. Although the whole earth is mine,



Deuteronomy 14:2

for you are a people holy to the Lord your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the Lord has chosen you to be **his treasured possession.**



Deuteronomy 26:18

And the Lord has declared this day that you are his people, **his treasured possession** as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands.



Psalm 135:4

For the Lord has chosen Jacob to be his own, Israel to be his **treasured possession**.



Malachi 3:17

On the day when I act,” says the Lord Almighty, “they will be my **treasured possession**. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him.



Ephesians 1:14

who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are **God's possession**—to the praise of his glory.



Now, let us go back to the NIV translation as our reference. 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.” (NIV)



“A chosen people” is rendered in other translations as an “elect race.” Elect also means designated or selected. This refers to a group of people whom God has elected and set aside for a very special and privileged purpose.



Mark 13:20

If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the **elect, whom he has chosen**, he has shortened them.



Mark 13:27

And he will send his angels and **gather his elect** from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.



Titus 1:1

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of **God's elect** and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—.



2 Peter 1:10

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your **calling and election**. For if you do these things, you will never stumble.



Therefore, there is indeed this special group
of people whom God personally chose to
belong to Him.



John 6:44

No one can come to me unless the Father
who sent me **draws them**, and I will raise
them up at the last day.



It is a blessing and a favor to belong to
God's elect group.



This group of specially chosen “elect” people comprises the royal priesthood. This means they are the noble and righteous teachers of God’s way of life and His laws.



They are the ones designated to educate and to bring people to the truth and to Christ. They comprise the holy nation of God. They are God's people – they belong to God. Collectively, they are citizens of heaven.



Philippians 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.



They are God's special possession. KJV translates that as "peculiar people." This is a very telling, significant, and accurate translation.



The word “peculiar” is translated from the
Greek word “peripoiesis.”



“Peripoiesis” is not simply translated as “flock” but has the idea and notion of possession, or personal ownership.



“Peripoiesis” comes from two (2) words –
the preposition “peri”, which means
“around” and the noun “poiesis”, which
refers to something that is made, or done.



The Greek word “Peripoises” literally means
“to make around,” that is, to make
something and then to surround it with a
circle, thus indicating ownership.



Thus, the NKJ version translates this phrase as “peculiar possession.” The NIV says, “God’s special possession” and the NKJV says “His own special people.”



This is a strong statement of personal ownership — the people belong to God.



The word “peripoiesis” is certainly a special word to describe this peculiar, unique, special, treasured, exceptional, personal possession of God.



We have been called out of the darkness of
this present world into His marvelous
glorious light. Now, we belong to Him.



Special People



The Bible says we, as God's chosen people,
are a peculiar people, a holy group of
people that belong to Him.



Deuteronomy 26:16-19

Moses was inspired to write in Deut
26:16-19:

16 The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.



Deuteronomy 26:16-19

17 You have declared this day that the LORD is your God and that you will walk in his ways, that you will keep his decrees, commands and laws, and that you will obey him.



Deuteronomy 26:16-19

18 And the LORD has declared this day that you are his (PECULIAR) people, as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands.



Deuteronomy 26:16-19

19 He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honor high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised.



Titus 2:11-14

And again Paul in Titus 2:11-14 wrote:

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation
has appeared to all men.



Titus 2:11-14

12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,



Titus 2:11-14

13 while we wait for the blessed hope-the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a (PECULIAR) people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.



How are We Special?



How are we to become special to God?



2 Corinthians 6:14-18

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?



2 Corinthians 6:14-18

16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”



2 Corinthians 6:14-18

17 Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”

18 And, “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”



We are special because we are different in God's sight. There are certain things that true followers of Christ are not supposed to do and there are certain things that we are supposed to do.



1 Peter 1:13-16

13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.



1 Peter 1:13-16

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so
be holy in all you do;

16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am
holy.”



Christians must be holy as God is holy. The word “holy” is often interpreted to mean “righteous, pure, clean or morally upright.”



But, the Hebrew word “qadosh” (kedushah)
translated ‘Holy’ carries a different
meaning.



The basic Hebraic concept of the word
“Holy” has the connotation of sanctification
suggesting “separation, apartness and
distinction.”



Being 'holy' means to be separated by God
and for God. Since God is Holy His
people and children are also holy having
been set-aside for Him.



God's people should be separated and set apart from the filth of the world and the influence of Satan.



The concept of setting apart as 'holy' is not a New Testament concept. The concept of sanctification goes way back to the time of Ancient Israel, God chosen people.



Leviticus 19:2

Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.'



Leviticus 20:7

Consecrate yourselves and **be holy,**
because I am the Lord your God.



God's people are to be separated for God
and by God.



Signs of Holiness



We are indeed God's treasured possession.
To be separated and peculiar means that
there are visible attributes that set God's
people apart from the rest of the world.



Some have asked: “What are the signs of
God’s true church and what are the signs
of God’s true people?”



Is it right to look for a sign of God's people?
Can you single out God's people in a
crowd?



The key is to look for signs of separateness,
of sanctification and signs of holiness.



These attributions must be easily identifiable. When you look at a person, you should be able to immediately identify him as a man of God.



What are these signs? These signs are contained in Deuteronomy 14-16.



Some will say that this is Old Testament writings. They are absolutely right.



The question is, when Peter wrote “be holy as God is holy” what did he mean? We all know that Jesus and all the apostles taught from the Old Testament.



2 Timothy 3

When Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:

15 “how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.



2 Timothy 3

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”



The scripture referred here is the 39 books
of the Old Testament for the New
Testament had not yet been written; more
so canonized.



Here are the dates of the New Testament writings:

James - 50 A.D.

First Thessalonians - 52-53.

Second Thessalonians -
52-53.

Galatians - 55.

First Corinthians - 57.

Second Corinthians - 57.

Romans - 57-58.

Philippians - 62-63.

Colossians - 62-63.

Philemon - 62-63.

Ephesians - 62-63.

Luke - 63.

Acts - 64.

First Timothy - 65.

Titus - 65.

Second Timothy - 66.

Mark - 66.

Matthew - 67.

Hebrews - 67.

First Peter - 67-68.

Second Peter - 68.

Jude - 68.

Revelation - 68.

John - 85.

Epistles of John - 90-95.



Therefore, when Peter and all the other apostles referred to scripture or the law or with respect to holiness, they were all referring to the Old Testament writings.



Laws of Holiness



There are lists of commands concerning separation and distinction from the common or pagans. Now, we will read the entirety of Deuteronomy 14 and 16.



Deuteronomy 14

1 You are the children of the LORD your God. Do not cut yourselves or shave the front of your heads for the dead,



This is a direct command to be separated from pagan customs and rituals. The whole concept is captured in the declaration that: You are the children of the LORD your God. You are special. You are God's children.



John 17:14-17

You are not of the world as I am not of the world Jesus said in John 17:

14 “I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for **they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.**



John 17:14-17

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.”



What we have here are the true words of God. We are not of this world, hence there is a distinction between God's very own treasured people and the rest of the world. The reason for such sanctification or separation is that you belong to God while the rest belongs to the world.



Deuteronomy 14

2 for you are a **people holy to the LORD**
your God. Out of all the peoples on the
face of the earth, the LORD has chosen
you to be his **treasured possession**.

3 Do not eat any detestable thing.



Deuteronomy 14

4 These are the animals you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat,

5 the deer, the gazelle, the roe deer, the wild goat, the ibex, the antelope and the mountain sheep.



Deuteronomy 14

6 You may eat any animal that has a divided hoof and that chews the cud.

7 However, of those that chew the cud or that have a divided hoof you may not eat the camel, the rabbit or the hyrax.

Although they chew the cud, they do not have a divided hoof; they are ceremonially unclean for you.



Deuteronomy 14

- 8 The pig is also unclean; although it has a divided hoof, it does not chew the cud. You are not to eat their meat or touch their carcasses.
- 9 Of all the creatures living in the water, you may eat any that has fins and scales.



Deuteronomy 14

10 But anything that does not have fins and scales you may not eat; for you it is unclean.

11 You may eat any clean bird.



Deuteronomy 14

12 But these you may not eat: the eagle, the vulture, the black vulture,

13 the red kite, the black kite, any kind of falcon,

14 any kind of raven,

15 the horned owl, the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk,



Deuteronomy 14

16 the little owl, the great owl, the white owl,

17 the desert owl, the osprey, the cormorant,

18 the stork, any kind of heron, the hoopoe
and the bat.

19 All flying insects are unclean to you; do
not eat them.



Deuteronomy 14

20 But any winged creature that is clean you may eat.

21 Do not eat anything you find already dead. You may give it to the foreigner residing in any of your towns, and they may eat it, or you may sell it to any other foreigner. But you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk.



1st Statute of Holiness: The Command of the Food Law.



These animals fall into one of three categories: **predators** (unclean because they ate both the flesh and the blood of animals), **scavengers** (unclean because they were carriers of disease, and they regularly contacted dead bodies), or **potentially poisonous or dangerous foods** such as shellfish and the like.



Eliminating these from the diet of Israel no doubt had a healthy effect, and one of the reasons for the dietary laws of Israel was to keep Israel healthy!



We know that these animal meats are not clean and are therefore not fit for human consumption.



To eat the meat of unclean animals is to share in the food chain. When the animal is unclean, it also makes the partakers unclean. This uncleanness is both physical and spiritual.



Deuteronomy 14

22 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.

23 Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.



Deuteronomy 14

24 But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away),

25 then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose.



Deuteronomy 14

26 Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice.

27 And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own.



Deuteronomy 14

28 At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns,

29 so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.



2nd Statute of Holiness: Honor God with your Tithe.



The modern preacher will tell you that nowhere does the New Testament command tithing. The other way is true as well. Nowhere does the New Testament specifically abolish tithing.



In fact, Jesus upholds the giving of tithe.
Jesus did not abolish the tithing law as
many erroneously believed.



Mark 12:17

Jesus said: “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”



That's right, we pay taxes to the governing
authority and tithe to God.



Deuteronomy 16

Passover

- 1 **Observe** the month of Aviv and celebrate the Passover of the LORD your God, because in the month of Aviv he brought you out of Egypt by night.
- 2 Sacrifice as the Passover to the LORD your God an animal from your flock or herd at the place the LORD will choose as a dwelling for his Name.



Deuteronomy 16

3 Do not eat it with bread made with yeast, but for seven days eat unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, because you left Egypt in haste—so that all the days of your life you may remember the time of your departure from Egypt.



Deuteronomy 16

4 Let no yeast be found in your possession in all your land for seven days. Do not let any of the meat you sacrifice on the evening of the first day remain until morning.



Deuteronomy 16

5 You must not sacrifice the Passover in any town the LORD your God gives you

6 except in the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name. There you must sacrifice the Passover in the evening, when the sun goes down, on the anniversary of your departure from Egypt.



Deuteronomy 16

7 Roast it and eat it at the place the LORD your God will choose. Then in the morning return to your tents.

8 For six days eat unleavened bread and on the seventh day hold an assembly to the LORD your God and do no work.



Deuteronomy 16

Feast of Weeks

9 Count off seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain.

10 Then celebrate the Festival of Weeks to the LORD your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the LORD your God has given you.



Deuteronomy 16

11 And rejoice before the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites in your towns, and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows living among you.

12 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and follow carefully these decrees.



Deuteronomy 16

The Festival of Tabernacles

13 Celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress.

14 Be joyful at your festival—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns.



Deuteronomy 16

15 For seven days celebrate the festival to the LORD your God at the place the LORD will choose. For the LORD your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.



Deuteronomy 16

16 Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the LORD empty-handed:

17 Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.



3rd Statute of Holiness:
The Keeping of the Sabbath Day
and Celebration of God's Holy
Festivals



God has designed certain days as Holy for His people. As God's chosen, we are to worship God on the designated days.



We are not allowed to worship just any day
or any festivals particularly those identified
with pagan Gods.



The 4th commandment says that to remember the Sabbath day and to keep it holy is a sign of holiness.



Exodus 31:13

God said in Exodus 31:13 “Say to the Israelites, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be **a sign** between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the Lord, **who makes you holy.**”



Ezekiel 20:12

Again in Ezekiel 20:12 “I gave them my Sabbaths as a sign between us, so **they would know that I the Lord made them holy.**”



What Makes Us Special?



How does one make it to this group of
special, elect, peculiar, treasured
possession of God? What sets us apart?
What makes us holy? What makes us a
peculiar people to God?



It is keeping God's laws that set us apart.



Exodus 19:5

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,



John 14:23

Jesus said, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”



Therefore, what makes us truly special, truly peculiar is the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit.



I want you to consider these verses very
carefully.



Ephesians 1

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose (according to plan) of his will,

12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.(talking about the elect – the peculiar, special people of God)



Ephesians 1

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, **you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit**

14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are **God's possession**—to the praise of his glory.



Paul declares that the Holy Spirit is the mark
of ownership and a deposit that
guarantees our inheritance as children of
God!



The in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit makes us
special and peculiar to God. Rightly so,
because we are His children – His
treasured possession!



Summation



There you have it. The final question we ask is: are you God's treasured possession? Do you belong to God? Are you separated and sanctified for God's purpose? If you are not yet, make every effort to be part of God's elect.



1 Peter 1

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 1

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living hope** (the hope of God's elect) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,



1 Peter 1

5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.



1 Peter 1

13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

14 As obedient children, **do not conform to the evil desires** you had when you lived in ignorance.



1 Peter 1

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so
be holy in all you do;

16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am
holy.”



1 Peter 2

- 1 Therefore, **rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit**, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.
- 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,
- 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.



1 Peter 2

4 As you come to him (referring to Jesus), the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—

5 **you also**, like living stones, are being **built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood**, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.



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.

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.



It's not difficult to belong to God's elect – His treasured possession. The requirements are simple:



1. Love God and keep His commandments.



2. Be holy as God is holy. God's people are separated for a purpose. The sign of holiness are keeping the food laws, the tithing law and keeping holy the Sabbath day.



3. Be baptized to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the seal of ownership. It sanctifies the recipient as God's very own children – His treasured possession.



To God's elect, peculiar people and
treasured possession, may God's grace
be with you all!



END

