

1 Peter Series

Lesson #057

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# UNDERSTANDING 1 PETER

## 1 PETER 2:4



# 1<sup>ST</sup> PETER

LIVING IN LIGHT  
OF ETERNITY

- 1. Rest your hope fully on the grace brought to you through objective thinking ...  
(1 Pet. 1:13–14)**
- 2. Set yourselves apart to the service of God in every area of your lifestyle.  
(1 Pet. 1:15–16)**
- 3. Conduct your lives in fearful respect of God ... (1 Pet. 1:17–21)**
- 4. Love one another with integrity ...  
(1 Pet. 1:22–25)**
- 5. Crave the milk of the Word (1 Pet. 2:1–3)**

## 6. Conclusion: Honorable conduct that you may glorify God at the *Bema*.

1 Pet. 2:11, “Beloved, I beg you as **sojourners and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

1 Pet. 2:12, “having your **conduct** honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

1 Pet. 2:13, “**Therefore** submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme,”

**Now this imperishable seed, the message of the gospel of grace, resulted in regeneration. This new life of a spiritual infant must be nourished for growth, hence, 1 Pet. 2:1–3.**

**1 Pet. 2:1, “Therefore, \*[first] laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,**

**1 Pet. 2:2, “[then] as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,**

**1 Pet. 2:3, “if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”**

**Primary thought:**

**Desire the pure milk of the Word!**

# THREE STAGES OF SALVATION

**PHASE  
ONE**

**Justification**

**Saved from  
Penalty of Sin**

**“you were saved”**

**PHASE  
Two**

**Spiritual  
Life**

**Saved from  
Power of Sin**

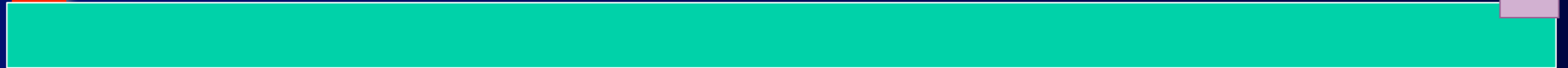
**“you are being saved”**

**PHASE  
THREE**

**Glorification**

**Saved from  
Presence of Sin**

**“you will be  
saved”**





**1 Pet. 2:3, “if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”**

**γεύομαι *geuomai*  
aor mid indic 2 plur  
to taste, experience**

**Psa. 34:8, “Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!”**

**1. Peter is writing to Gentile Christians who are scattered and being persecuted (often some attempt is made to identify this with a Roman persecution).**

**a. Application 1: The terms used for Israel in the Old Testament are now used in 1 Peter 2:9–10 for the New Testament church showing that Israel has been totally and permanently replaced in God's plan by the church. This is the Replacement theology position.**

# Replacement Theology

# Definitions

**“Replacement theology . . . declared that the Church, Abraham’s spiritual seed, had replaced national Israel in that it had transcended and fulfilled the terms of the covenant given to Israel, which covenant Israel had lost because of disobedience.”**

**~Walter Kaiser**

**“the Church completely and permanently replaced ethnic Israel in the working out of God’s plan and as recipient of Old Testament promises to Israel.”**

**~Ronald Diprose, *Israel and the Church***

**“According to this teaching [supersessionism], God chose the Jewish people after the fall of Adam in order to prepare the world for the coming of Jesus Christ, the Savior. After Christ came, however, the special role of the Jewish people came to an end and its place was taken by the church, the new Israel.”**

**~Kendall Soulen**

# Definitions

- 1. The nation Israel has somehow completed or forfeited its status as the people of God and will never again possess a unique role or function apart from the Church.**
- 2. The Church is now the true Israel that has permanently replaced or superseded national Israel as the people of God.**

**“the Church is the new and/or true Israel that has forever superseded the nation Israel as the people of God.”**

**~Michael Vlach, *Has the Church Replaced Israel***

**“For inasmuch as the former [the Jews] have rejected the Son of God, and cast Him out of the vineyard when they slew Him, God has justly rejected them, and given to the Gentiles outside the vineyard the fruits of its cultivation.”**

**~Irenaeus (130–200), *Against Heresies*, 36.2**



**“I have endeavoured to show that the Jews, according to what had before been foretold, had departed from God, and had lost God’s favour, which had been given them in past time, and had been promised them for the future; while the Christians had succeeded to their place, deserving well of the Lord by faith, and coming out of all nations and from the whole world.”**

**~Cyprian (c. 250)**

**“We Christians, when we pray, say Our Father; because He has begun to be ours, and has ceased to be the Father of the Jews, who have forsaken Him.”**

**~Cyprian**

- 1. National Israel has been permanently rejected as the people of God (Matt. 21:43).**
- 2. Application of Old Testament language to the church shows that the church is now identified as the new Israel (Gal. 6:16; Rom. 9:6; 1 Pet. 2:9–10; Gal. 3:7, 29).**
- 3. Unity of Jews and Gentiles rules out a future role or function for national Israel (Eph. 2:11–22; Rom. 11:17–24).**
- 4. The church's relationship to the New Covenant indicates that the church alone inherits the Old Testament covenants originally promised to national Israel (Heb. 8:8–13).**
- 5. New Testament silence on the restoration of Israel is proof that Israel will not be restored as a nation.**

## **God's own possession (Exod. 19:5; Titus 2:14)**

**Ex. 19:5, “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.”**

**Titus 2:14, “who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”**

## My people

**2 Chr. 7:14, “if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”**

**Acts 15:14, “Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people [*laos*–people, not *ethnos*] for His name.”**

**2 Cor. 6:16, “And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. *As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people [*laos*–people, not *ethnos*].’*”**

# Circumcision

**Jer. 9:25, “ ‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘that I will punish all who are circumcised with the uncircumcised—’ ”**

**Deut. 10:16, “Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.”**

**Deut. 30:6, “And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”**

# Circumcision

**Phil. 3:3, “For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,”**

**“There is no passage in the New Testament that more explicitly associates the Old Testament terms for Israel with the New Testament church than this one.”**

**~Scot McKnight**



**Isa. 43:20, “The beast of the field will honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My people [*'am*], My chosen [*bachar*].”**

**Ex. 19:5, “ ‘Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.**

**Ex. 19:6, “ ‘And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”**

**“So in verses 4 to 10 Peter says that God has bestowed on the church almost all the blessings promised to Israel in the Old Testament. The dwelling place of God is no longer the Jerusalem temple, for Christians are the new “temple” of God (see notes on v. 5). The priesthood able to offer acceptable sacrifices to God is no longer descended from Aaron, for Christians are now the true ‘royal priesthood’ with access before God’s throne (vv. 4–5, 9).”**

**~Wayne Grudem, *1 Peter***

**“God’s chosen people are no longer said to be those physically descended from Abraham, for Christians are now the true ‘chosen race’ (v. 9). The nation blessed by God is no longer the nation of Israel, for Christians are now God’s true ‘holy nation’ (v. 9). The people of Israel are no longer said to be the people of God, for Christians—both Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians—are now ‘God’s people’ (v. 10a) and those who have ‘received mercy’ (v. 10b).”**

**~Wayne Grudem, *1 Peter***

**“Moreover, Peter takes these quotations from contexts which repeatedly warn that God will reject his people who persist in rebellion against him, who reject the precious ‘cornerstone’ which he has established. What more could be needed in order to say with assurance that the church has now become the true Israel of God?”**

**~Wayne Grudem, *1 Peter***

**“It is only where the Church persists in refusing to learn this message, where it secretly—perhaps quite unconsciously!—believes that its own existence is based on human achievement, and so fails to understand God’s mercy to itself, that it is unable to believe in God’s mercy for still unbelieving Israel, and so entertains the ugly and unscriptural notion that God has cast off His people Israel and simply replaced it by the Christian Church. These three chapters [Romans 9–11] emphatically forbid us to speak of the Church as having once and for all taken the place of the Jewish people.”**

**~C E B Cranfield, *Romans, vol 2***

**1. Peter is writing to Gentile Christians who are scattered and being persecuted (often some attempt is made to identify this with a Roman persecution).**

**b. Application 2: The terms used for Israel are *generally applied* to Church Age believers, but without identifying them as the replacement for Israel.**

**“All the figures of the church that Peter chose here originally referred to Israel. However with Israel’s rejection of Jesus Christ (v. 7), God created a new body of people through whom He now seeks to accomplish the same purposes He sought to achieve through Israel but by different means. This verse that at first might seem to equate the church and Israel on careful examination shows as many differences between these groups as similarities.”**

**~Dr. Tom Constable**

**“Christians are a special people because God has preserved them for Himself. While these descriptions of the church are similar to those used of Israel in the Old Testament, this in no way indicates that the church supplants Israel and assumes the national blessings promised to Israel (and to be fulfilled in the Millennium). Peter just used similar terms to point up similar truths. As Israel was ‘a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God,’ so too believers today are chosen, are priests, are holy, and belong to God. Similarity does not mean identity.”**

**~Roger Raymer “1 Peter,” in *Bible Knowledge Commentary***



**“This is a favorite passage for those who teach Replacement Theology. They teach that what the Old Testament stated to be true of Israel, Peter now applies and states to be true of the Church. Thus, they conclude that the Church has replaced Israel. However, there is no hint in the epistle that Peter is addressing the Church as a whole. On the contrary, in the epistle’s introduction (1:1–2), he stated that he was addressing Jewish believers who specifically comprised what was the then Remnant of Israel—the Israel of God.”**

**~Fruchtenbaum, *The Jewish Epistles***

**“It is important to recognize that the contrast Peter makes here is not between the Church and Israel, or between believers and non-believers, or between unbelieving Jews and believing Gentiles. Rather, the contrast here is between the Remnant and the Non-Remnant of Israel. Peter’s point is that while Israel the whole failed to fulfill its calling, the Remnant of Israel has not failed to fulfill its calling.”**

**~Fruchtenbaum, *The Jewish Epistles***

- 1. Numerous works which are justifiably critiquing and refuting Replacement theology, run the danger of imposing a sound systematic theology on the text.**
- 2. A second danger is to view passages only in terms of how they have been misinterpreted and, in turn, to “oversteer” to correct the problem.**
- 3. On the one hand we must accept that the large number of early church fathers accepted a Jewish audience, as well many others in church history.**

**4. But in recognizing the Jewishness of the recipients, we must not overcorrect in way that creates a conflict with passages which teach an equality in the body of Christ.**

**Gal. 3:27, “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

**Gal. 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”**

**Eph. 2:16, “and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.”**

**Eph. 2:19, “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,**

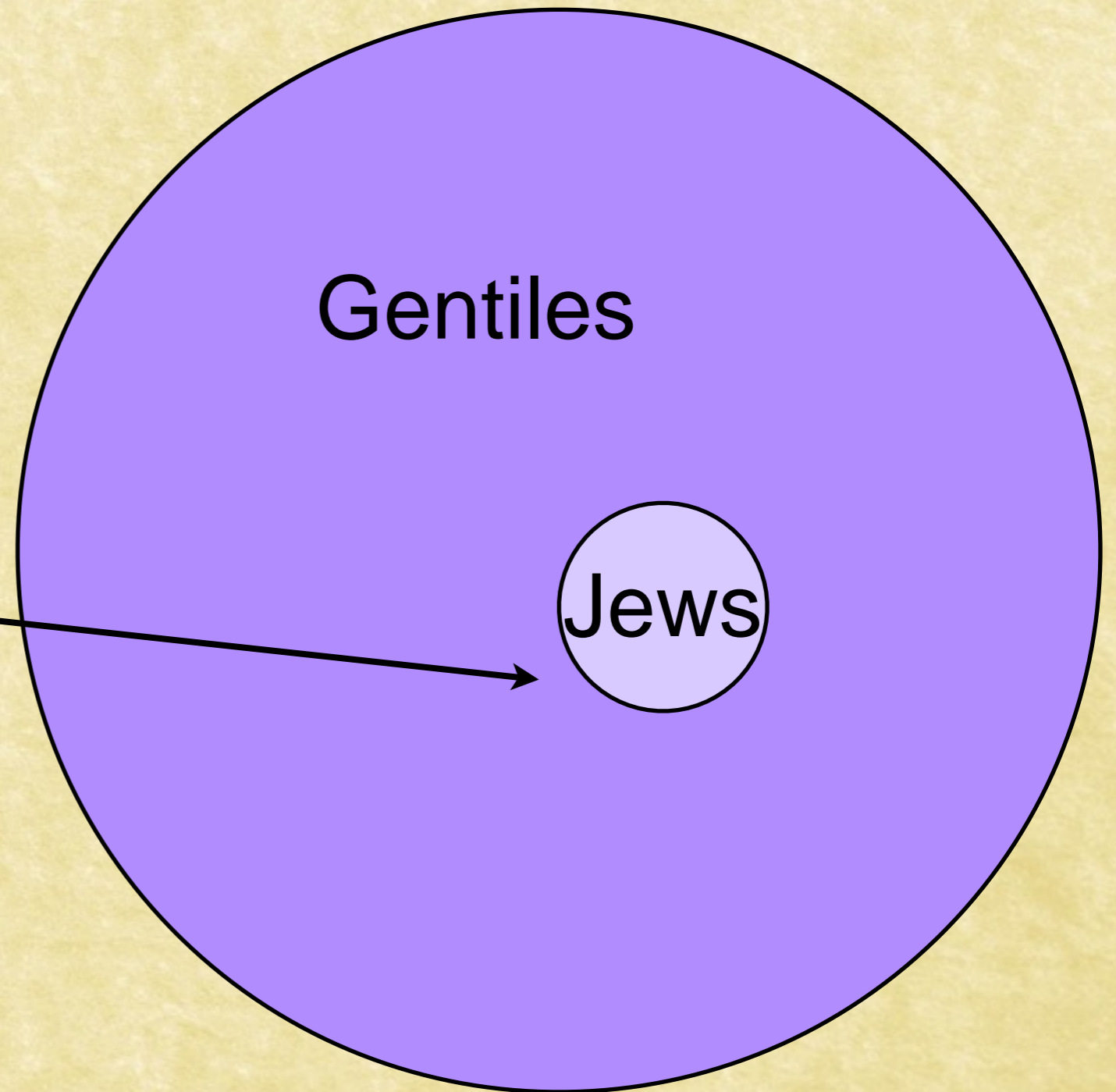
**Eph. 2:20, “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,”**

**ἀκρογωνιαίος *akrogōniaios* gen masc sing  
cornerstone**

**1 Pet. 2:9, “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;**

**1 Pet. 2:10, “who once were not a people but  
are now the people of God, who had not  
obtained mercy but now have obtained  
mercy.”**

- All in the circle are Church Age believers, equal members of the body of Christ.
- A subset of the body of Christ is composed of the Jewish remnant who now fulfill.
- What applies to the remnant also applies to the entire body of Christ. Peter is talking to the remnant, but what he says to them, applies to the whole.



**Rom. 11:5, “Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”**

**1 Pet. 2:4, “Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,**

**1 Pet. 2:5, “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”**