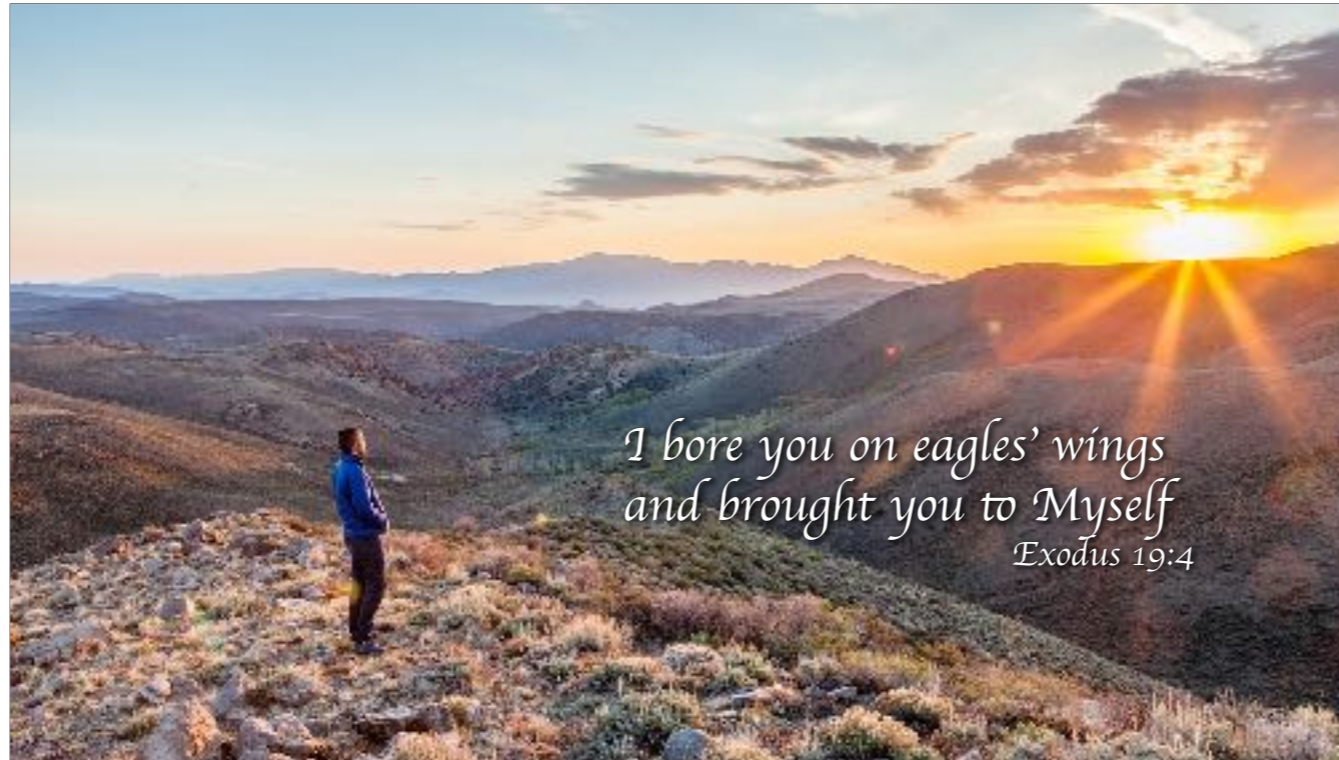


- Exodus 19:4-25



- God tells Israel when they arrive at Mt. Sinai that He “brought you to Myself” (4)



Who you are now

— Living Stones ... a Spiritual House

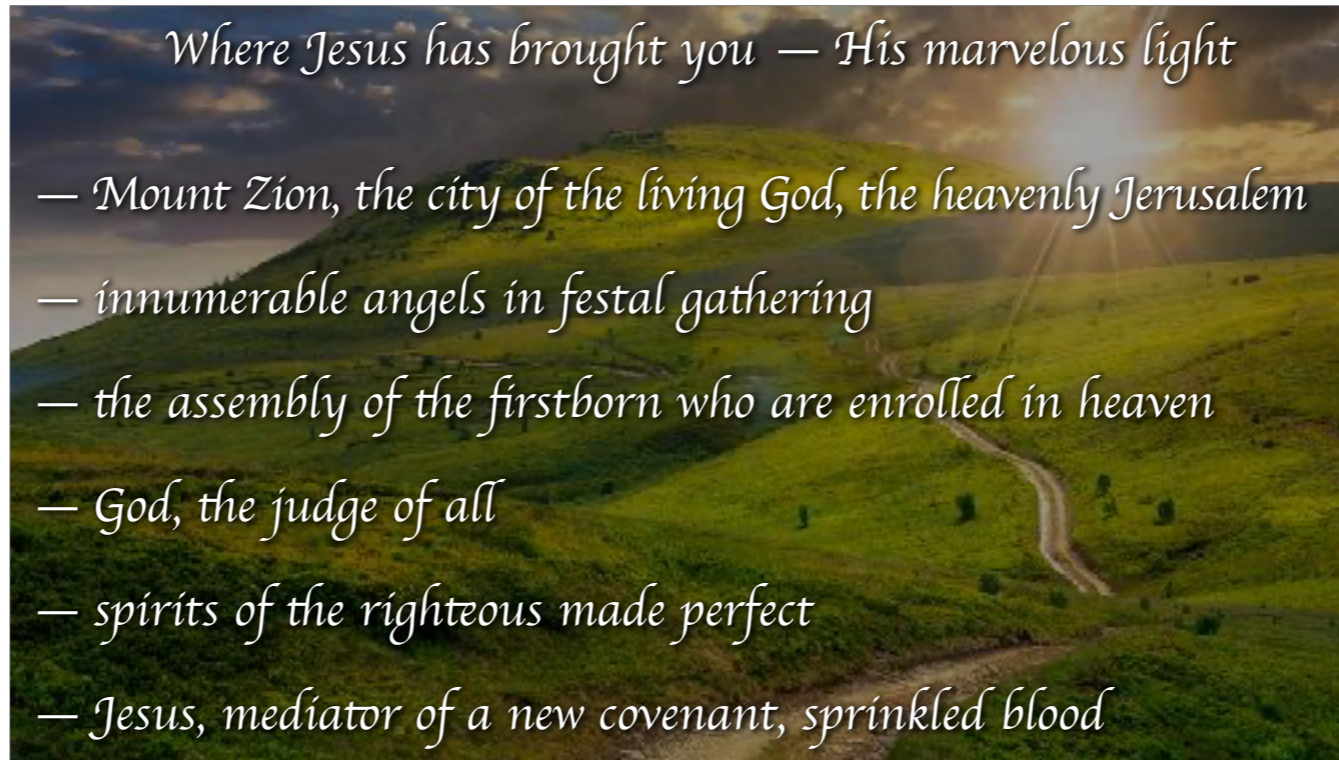
— A Holy, Royal Priesthood

— A Chosen Generation

— A Holy Nation

— A People for His own Possession

- Living Stones, a spiritual house
- A holy, royal priesthood
- A chosen generation
- A holy nation
- A people for His own possession



- Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem
- Innumerable angels in festal gathering
- the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven
- God, the judge of all
- spirits of the righteous made perfect
- Jesus: mediator of a new covenant, sprinkled blood



- In the movie Shrek, when entering the kingdom of Dulac, there's an information booth that provides a list of rules that teach what is expected of those who enter the kingdom, whether citizen or visitor.
- Since we've received such an amazing kingdom,
- What does God expect of me?



- Since God has brought us to this place ... what are we to do? How am I to live?
- 1 Peter 2:5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- Hebrews 12:25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.
- Hebrews 12:28-29 (ESV) 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.



- Accept Him

- Hebrews 12:25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.
- Exodus 20:19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."



- “don’t refuse him”
 - Hebrews refused to hear God more ... feared death (there was reason)
 - But in their fear they went too far ... not just to fail to hear him, but to reject him altogether.



- What does it mean to accept Jesus?
 - Not just the easy stuff: I'm saved, pray, read bible, etc.
- Why some struggle with really accepting Jesus
 - I don't agree with this part of the faith
 - I don't think I have to do that to be saved
 - Why can't I do this?
 - Our desire is to be "mostly" obedient ... as long as it's not too inconvenient or too stringent.



How am I to live?

— Accept Him

- Accepting Jesus means that we change how we think about what it means to follow him.
 - Choosing to be like him: strive to know his law, obey, understand
 - When we read the Word, we need to think about it more deeply, let it convict us, let it change us
 - Trust him to lead you through the difficulties of life



- Spiritual sacrifices (not physical, bloody)
 - 1 Peter 2:5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a **holy priesthood**, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- Offer acceptable worship
 - Heb. 12:28-29: and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.



How am I to live?

— Spiritual Sacrifices

— Offer Acceptable Worship

- A kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6)
 - “consecrate them today and tomorrow wash garments, be ready for third day” (10-11)
 - 22: priests who come near consecrate themselves
 - Those who approach Jehovah need to prepare themselves: holiness
 - Do you prepare for worship? service? sacrifices?



How am I to live?

— Spiritual Sacrifices

— Offer Acceptable Worship

- Too often we still think in terms of giving up physical things
 - has a place still (giving to help brethren, e.g.), but there's much more to these sacrifices



How am I to live?

— Spiritual Sacrifices

— Offer Acceptable Worship

- Romans 12:1 (ESV) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual worship**.
 - 1 Corinthians 9:27 But I **discipline my body and keep it under control**, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
 -



How am I to live?

— Spiritual Sacrifices

— Offer Acceptable Worship

- Romans 6:12-13 (ESV) 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but **present yourselves to God** as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as **instruments for righteousness.**



How am I to live?

— Spiritual Sacrifices

— Offer Acceptable Worship

- Hebrews 13:15-16 (ESV) 15 Through him then let us
 - continually
 - offer up a sacrifice of praise to God,
 - that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.
- 16 Do not neglect to do good and
- to share what you have,
 - for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.



- Proclaim His Excellencies
 - 1 Peter 2:9: that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- Over and over in the gospels we are reminded that those who were healed by Jesus, whether physically or spiritually would tell others what He had done for them.
 - Sometimes even though they were told not to.



How am I to live?

— Proclaim His Excellencies

- This is why we must be amazed at what God has brought us to... such joy.
- When we are talking to others ... let's begin with how excellent Jesus is!
- This is how God has chosen to spread the message of Jesus: people talking to people
 - If you're not regularly talking to others about Jesus ... why?
 - Are you not amazed enough by Jesus anymore?



- Be grateful
 - Hebrews 12:28-29 (ESV) 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken
- We're pretty good with this one.
 - What we have in Christ is so much better than what the Israelites had
 - We can only be grateful when we understand clearly the glory of the new covenant and Jesus' sacrifice: no changes



- Or are we?
- How do we act when we are thankful?
 - Warm feelings, positive, sharing
- We value the kingdom ... not abstractly, personally.
 - Mt. 13:44-45: treasure, pearl of great value: JOY



- We participate in the kingdom ...
 - Ephesians 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
- We talk about the kingdom ...
 - Psalm 23 Jehovah is my shepherd



- Our father is bringing us to be with him ...
- Just as the wilderness is difficult for Israel
 - With all this said, God is not saying that our journey will always be easy nor without struggle and difficulty
 - The opposite is true
 - Still some sadness, struggles



- The key is not just where we are going, but who is with us always
 - Hebrews 13:5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
- He won't forsake us because we are his treasured people.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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A Holy Nation: How Am I To Live?

Exodus 19:4-25

Synopsis: Through the wilderness, Jehovah brought his people to him at Mt. Sinai with amazing plans for them. Through Jesus, our Father brings us to himself so that we can be his people and proclaim him.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”