

**THE SPECIALLY CHOSEN NATION**  
**Fourth of July Sunday –July 1, 2018 –Communion –I Peter 2: 1-5 & 9-10**  
**The Church of the Covenant**

I have been thinking a lot lately about how in Calvinism, the underlying theological principle in Presbyterianism, how the doctrine of special calling and election is so central. God calls whom God chooses and invests them with many blessings in order that they may use those blessings in accord with His purposes. God has mercy upon whom God has mercy. God calls whom God chooses to call. Israel was called by God as a holy nation. The Church of Jesus Christ is called to be a holy people. I believe the United States has been called by God for special purposes according to God's will and with tasks He alone has appointed us to accomplish. We are a **specialty chosen nation** given responsibilities and tasks to fulfill through the many blessings God has showered so abundantly upon us.

This is the essence of our scripture passage from I Peter today. It is written: *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people..." (I Peter 2: 9)* You know the story. We were brought to the shores of this nation often in search of religious liberty. People came here in search of freedom. Generations of people have sought to become Americans because of the abundant blessings we have been given by the hand of Almighty God. We don't try to flee to Socialist Venezuela; their citizens seek to flee here. We are a fluke in many ways. A new nation unshackled from the things which bound Europe. A new nation conceived in liberty, but a liberty that came from our faith and a desire to honor the Lord first. Our freedom was never freedom *from* God. Our blessings came from our faithfulness and our Maker. Our gratitude to God for our chosen-ness was the mark of what made America who America is. The Great Awakenings, the spiritual fervor of revival, set the stage for America to be born and come into being. From the beginning we were a people who loved God and sought to serve Him in gratitude for all we have and are. Faith and Freedom were born hand-in-hand in America. It is who we are; it is why we are here; it is why we are still the hope of the world...

But *"Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required."* (Luke 12: 48) Our chosen-ness is not because we are perfect or are somehow worthy of it. So I say there are three things for which we are chosen...

- 1) We are chosen to spread freedom throughout the face of the earth. In Christ we shall be free indeed. Jesus sets us free. The Lord plants the seeds of the hope of freedom in the human heart. And it is not just for us. It is for the entire world, through us. We have fought wars and battles and sacrificed our best and the brightest over our history that mankind might be free. Today we are so jaded and so cynical that we have forgotten that mighty purpose. America received her freedom that the entire world might be free through her. When we won WWII we gave back all the lands we conquered and we rebuilt our enemies through the Marshal Plan. This is a mark of our chosen-ness. We need to set aside our jaded cynicism and believe again.
- 2) We are chosen to be the protector of Israel in the face of many enemies who threaten its extinction. We are the protector of the chosen people of God. Israel has never been

un-chosen. We have been raised up in might to be its protector. I do not say that Israel today is perfect nor that everything it does is necessarily right. But I do say that our role is to make sure it is not wiped off the face of the earth by forces who oppose the purposes of the Lord God Almighty. There are many in today's world who might disagree with me. But my wisdom comes from the Bible where God says: *"I will bless those who bless you (Israel) and I will curse those who curse you."* (Genesis 27: 29) I want America to remain an especially blessed nation, not cursed by God.

- 3) We are chosen to assure the spread of the Gospel through the world. We are to be a Judeo-Christian nation, our laws based upon God's laws. Our churches began the worldwide mission movement in the 1800's that spread Christianity to the parts of the earth—Africa, Asia, India, China and South America—where today the church is explosive in its growth and power. We are to bolster and support that developing church with our mission and our mission monies. We are to never give up on the fact that it is the Lord God Almighty who has given us our faith which has historically bound our nation together and especially in times of disagreement it has been what we have believed that has bound us together as a nation. Spreading the Gospel, preaching the Good News here at home and abroad is the rekindling of the American spirit that has spread faith and freedom across the earth and must always continue to do so. Never let a purely secular world, that hates God and hates Jesus, tell us otherwise.

So I believe that the spreading of freedom, the defense of Israel, and the continuing proclamation of the Gospel throughout the earth is the Specially Chosen Nation's specially chosen job description by a God who has raised us up for His mighty and divine purposes.

But if we ever lose our way, if we ever forget the reasons we have been raised up in abundance and freedom and religious liberty, if we ever should forget the source of our every blessing, the Lord God Almighty, if we should ever turn our back on the high and mighty purposes for which we have been raised up in the first place...then the Lord God Almighty has the right and indeed the duty to strip us of our blessed-ness and our chosen-ness and give these blessings and tasks to others who will hearken to His voice and be obedient to His will. I think of John the Baptist saying: *"God is able from these stones to raise up children of Abraham."* (Luke 3: 8) If that day comes when we refuse to do what we have been called by God to do then God in His Sovereign Will can find others who He can choose to accomplish His purposes on the face of the earth...

May our task be noble. May we believe in the goodness of America again. May the Lord God Almighty's purposes be our purposes. May we come together around what we believe and in whom we believe who is the source of our unity and strength. May we be that chosen race, that royal priesthood, that holy nation, God's own people, whom we were raised up by God to be. On this Fourth of July Sunday may our prayer always be to be and become that Specially Chosen Nation. Praise God we are still and may we always remain—the last best hope of this world!!! Amen and Amen.

*By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA  
IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!*

