

Lecture 3: A people formed for His glory

The people God formed for Himself

Throughout Scripture there runs a golden thread revealing the eternal purpose of God. His goal has never merely been to rescue men from judgment, nor simply to gather a people for heaven. His great desire has always been to form a people through whom He might reveal Himself.

The prophet Isaiah captured this glorious purpose:

“Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth. Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. The beasts of the field will glorify Me; the jackals and the ostriches. Because I have given waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people. The people who I FORMED FOR MYSELF, will declare My praise.” Is. 43:18-21, NASB.

Notice carefully that God does not merely speak of a people He has gathered, taught, or blessed. He speaks of a people He has **formed**.

Formation implies **process**.

- A sculptor forms a masterpiece.
- A potter forms a vessel.
- A father forms the character of a son.

Likewise, God forms His people.

The Lord is not merely seeking converts; He is seeking expression. He is fashioning a people through whom His life, nature, wisdom, and glory may be revealed in the earth.

This explains much of our journey.

- The pressures.
- The trials.
- The dealings.
- The pruning.
- The waiting.

None of these are accidents. God is forming Christ within His people.

“My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you.” Gal. 4:19

The Kingdom is not ultimately about what we do for God. It is about what God becomes within us.

Christ will have a Body in the earth

“Do you not know and understand that you, the church, are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells permanently in you, collectively and individually?” 1 Cor. 3:16, AMP.

From Genesis to Revelation, God consistently reveals His desire to dwell among His people.

- In Eden He walked with Adam.
- In the wilderness He dwelt in the Tabernacle.
- In Jerusalem He manifested His Presence in the Temple.
- In Jesus Christ, God dwelt bodily among men.
- Today He dwells in His people.

The progression is remarkable. God moves from visiting man to inhabiting man.

The Church is not merely an organization gathered around common beliefs. It is intended to become the living Body of Christ in the earth.

“For in Him we live and move and exist...” Acts 17:28, NASB.

“Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.” 1 Cor. 12:27, NASB.

The Father’s purpose is that Christ should have a people through whom He may continue His ministry in the earth.

- Not merely people who speak about Him.
- Not merely people who admire Him.

But people through whom He can reveal Himself. As we behold Him, our glory is replaced with His glory.

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory.” 2 Cor. 3:18

The more we see Him, the less occupied we become with ourselves. The more clearly Christ appears, the more our own glory fades into the background.

The King of Glory and His Kingdom

“The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.” Ps. 24:1, NKJV.

The earth belongs to God. Every nation. Every tribe. Every tongue and every generation. Because the earth belongs to Him, His purpose extends far beyond personal salvation. He intends to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory.

PERSONAL NOTES

God is even now shaping and preparing a people for Himself, a holy nation through whom He may reveal the beauty, wisdom, power, and fullness of His own life. His desire is not merely that we should know about Him, but that we should become vessels through which He may be seen.

Therefore, let our hearts be drawn toward Him in wonder and adoration, for He alone is worthy of our affection and worship. As we behold Him, lingering in His Presence and gazing upon His glory, a sacred exchange begins to take place: our self-centered ambitions give way to His purposes, our glory fades, and His glory increasingly shines through us.

Yielded into the hands of the Master Craftsman, we are gradually transformed into a royal priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, bearing not only His authority but also His nature, until Christ is expressed through us in both character and power.

PERSONAL NOTES

The principle of spiritual growth has always been the principle of becoming. God never intended that we should remain as we were when we first came to Christ.

The Christian life is a journey of transformation, a continual unfolding of His life within us. This is why the Book of Revelation places such emphasis upon the overcomer. We become what God has destined us to be as we overcome the limitations of the old nature, the pressures of circumstance, and the obstacles that seek to hinder Christ's formation within us.

Every victory over fear, pride, unbelief, self-will, and spiritual complacency creates room for more of Christ to be revealed. Thus overcoming is not merely conquering outward difficulties; it is the process by which the life of Christ increasingly replaces our own, until His character, wisdom, and glory are manifested through us. In the Kingdom of God, overcoming is the pathway to becoming.

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Hab. 2:14

To accomplish His eternal purpose, God is raising up a Kingdom of priests, a people through whom His life, nature, and authority may be expressed in the earth. This Kingdom is not an earthly political system established by human wisdom, nor is it confined to any geographical location, whether Jerusalem, London, Washington, or any other city. Its center is Christ Himself. Its government is spiritual, operating through the rule and reign of the Holy Spirit within yielded hearts.

Its power does not arise from military strength, human influence, or religious structures, but from the indwelling Presence of God. Its citizens are mature sons who have learned to live under the Lordship of Christ, and its ministry is one of reconciliation, bringing God to humanity and humanity back to God through the living expression of Jesus Christ.

The Ministry of Kings and Priests

Many people misunderstand the nature of authority in the Kingdom of God because they view it through the lens of earthly power. The kingship of God's sons is not expressed through domination, control, or the exercise of authority over others, but through humble service flowing from the nature of Christ.

Likewise, the priesthood of God's sons is far more than religious activity or ceremonial duty. Its purpose is reconciliation. The priest stands between God and humanity, bringing the reality of God to people and leading people back into fellowship with God. This was the ministry perfectly demonstrated by Jesus Christ, our great High Priest and King, and it remains the sacred calling entrusted to His Body. As Christ lives and reigns through His people, they become living bridges of grace, mercy, and restoration, through whom heaven touches earth and wounded hearts are brought back into union with the Father.

"God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Cor. 5:19

The Kingdom advances wherever reconciliation takes place.

- Every restored life.
- Every healed relationship.
- Every transformed heart.
- Every person brought into union with God.

This is Kingdom ministry.

The true meaning of Rule

One of the most misunderstood concepts in Scripture is the idea of ruling and reigning.

Many immediately imagine control, dominance, power structures, and external authority. Yet Scripture presents something far more beautiful.

In Revelation 2:27, the Greek word translated **RULE** is “*Poimaino*.”

Word study:

“*Poimaino*”

- To shepherd
- To tend a flock
- To feed
- To guide
- To nurture

The true ruler in God’s Kingdom is a shepherd.

Jesus Himself demonstrated this.

“I am the Good Shepherd.” John 10:11

The Shepherd does not use the sheep for His own advantage, nor does He govern them through fear, force, or manipulation. His authority is expressed through love. He feeds them when they are hungry, protects them when they are vulnerable, guides them when they have lost their way, and willingly lays down His life for their well-being.

This is the true nature of Kingdom authority. It is not the power to control people, but the willingness to serve them. It is not domination from above, but sacrificial love flowing from within. Such was the ministry of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, and such is the nature He desires to reproduce in those who reign with Him.

In God’s Kingdom, greatness is measured not by how many serve you, but by how faithfully you serve others in love.

Love is the nature of the Throne

The Kingdom of God operates upon a foundation unlike any kingdom of men. Earthly kingdoms often govern through fear. God’s Kingdom governs through love.

“The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1 John 4:8, NASB.

The Throne Room of God is, in truth, a Love Room. At the very heart of His government stands the Mercy Seat, revealing that God’s authority is never separated from His compassion. His justice is not cold or harsh, but tempered by mercy; His power is not expressed through intimidation, but through self-giving love.

PERSONAL NOTES

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Our authority and power as kings and priests are not given so that we may rule over people, but so that we may minister Christ to them and bring them into reconciliation with God. The Father's purpose has never been for His children to remain spiritually immature, powerless, and preoccupied with escaping the earth while the world groans under the weight of darkness, corruption, and separation from God.

The spiritual realm is not a retirement village for passive saints, but the arena of God's eternal purpose. His intention is to raise up a people who so embody His nature and character that they become living instruments of restoration, through whom the Kingdom of God advances, and the glory of the Lord fills the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Everything that proceeds from His Throne carries the fragrance of His nature. Therefore, those who are called to share His Throne must also share His character. The sons of God are not formed to rule as earthly kings rule, but to manifest the heart of their Father. As His love fills and transforms them, they become living expressions of His mercy, righteousness, and grace, demonstrating that the highest authority in the Kingdom of God is the authority of sacrificial love.

"The love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit." Romans 5:5

This does not mean that love compromises with darkness or turns a blind eye to sin. Love and tolerance are not the same thing. True love seeks restoration, and because it seeks restoration, it confronts whatever destroys the one who is loved. A skilled surgeon removes the disease not because he hates the patient, but because he values the patient too highly to leave the disease untouched.

In the same way, God's love wars against sin because sin enslaves, wounds, and separates humanity from the life for which it was created. Christ did not come into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:17). Likewise, His mature sons become instruments of reconciliation and restoration, carrying both the mercy and truth of God, so that captives may be set free and hearts restored to fellowship with the Father.

Swimming Upstream

A question quietly yet powerfully confronts every believer: are we merely drifting with the current of religious tradition, or are we being actively led by the Spirit of God? Scripture declares, *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God"* (Rom. 8:14). The river of religion often carries people effortlessly downstream. It asks little of us beyond routine, familiarity, and outward observance. It requires little sacrifice, little transformation, and little growth.

But sonship is another matter entirely. It calls us to move against the current, yielding ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit through surrender, obedience, faith, and continual transformation. Those whom God is forming can never remain content with religious activity alone. Deep within them burns a holy dissatisfaction with anything less than reality. They hunger for the living Christ Himself. Their desire is not simply to know about Him through doctrines and teachings, but to know Him personally, intimately, and experientially, until His life becomes the very source and substance of their own.

Of the increase of His government

The story of God's Kingdom is one of continual increase.

“Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end.” Isaiah 9:7

What a remarkable truth this is. Every kingdom established by man eventually fades into history. Empires rise in splendor only to crumble into ruins. Nations emerge, flourish for a season, and then pass from the stage of history. Yet the Kingdom of God stands in glorious contrast. It is not subject to decline, decay, or replacement. Its increase never ends, its peace never diminishes, and its glory never fades. Age after age, realm after realm, and dimension after dimension, the reign of Christ continues to advance according to the eternal purpose of God.

Today His Kingdom is established within the hearts of His people; tomorrow its influence will extend even further. Throughout the endless ages to come, His government will continue to expand. The Kingdom does not contract, it grows. The river becomes deeper, the stone becomes a mountain, the seed becomes a mighty tree, and the sons of God become the living expression of His ever-increasing Kingdom in the earth.

Summary

God’s eternal purpose is to form a people for Himself through whom He can reveal His nature, glory, and life. The Christian journey is not merely about receiving blessings, but about being shaped into the image of Christ. Through every season of growth, God is forming His Son within His people. Christ will have a Body in the earth, a people living in union with Him, expressing His character and carrying His Presence into the world. As we behold His glory, our own glory fades, and His life increasingly becomes visible through us.

The Kingdom of God is not a political system or earthly empire. It is the reign of Christ within mature sons who minister reconciliation, healing, restoration, and life. Their authority does not flow from domination, but from the indwelling Presence of God. The true ruler in God’s Kingdom is a shepherd. Kingdom authority is expressed through service, sacrifice, and love. The Throne of God rests upon mercy, and those who share His nature become channels of that same mercy to others.

The Kingdom continues to increase. The stone is becoming a mountain. The seed is becoming a tree. God is forming a royal priesthood through whom His glory shall fill the earth, and of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end. The Father’s purpose has never changed. He is not merely gathering a people for a future destiny; He is forming a people who can reveal His Son. Every circumstance, every season of growth, every victory and every trial are part of His divine workmanship. As Christ is formed within us, we become living testimonies of His grace, wisdom, and power. The Kingdom advances wherever His nature is revealed, and through a people yielded to His Lordship, the earth will increasingly witness the beauty of the King and the glory of His ever-expanding reign.

PERSONAL NOTES

Questions

1. What does Isaiah 43:21 reveal about God's purpose?

2. What does it mean that God is forming His people?

3. What is the primary purpose of the Church?

4. What is the ministry of kings and priests?

5. What does the Greek word "*Poimaino*" mean?

6. How does God's Kingdom differ from earthly kingdoms?

7. Why are mature sons compared to shepherds?

8. What does Romans 8:14 teach about sonship?

9. What is the foundation of God's government?

10. What does Isaiah 9:7 teach about God's Kingdom?

Study Answers

1. God formed a people for Himself so that they might declare His praise and reveal His glory.
2. It means He is shaping Christ's nature within them through a process of growth and transformation.
3. To become the living Body of Christ through whom He reveals Himself in the earth.
4. To bring reconciliation between God and humanity through the life and ministry of Christ.
5. It means to shepherd, feed, guide, nurture, and care for a flock.
6. God's Kingdom rules through love, mercy, and transformation rather than force and domination.
7. Because true Kingdom authority serves, protects, feeds, and restores rather than controls.
8. Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.
9. Love, mercy, righteousness, and the indwelling life of Christ.
10. That the increase of His government and peace will never end.