

From the Pastor:

The next passage describes the awesomeness of our calling. 1 Peter 2:9-10 reads, “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; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

The word “chosen” in the phrase “chosen generation” is “eklektos” in the Greek. It is the word translated as the “elect” in Matthew 24:22 “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved, but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.” Matthew 24:31 also uses “eklektos” for “elect,” “And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

The elect are not just those whom God calls; but, those who answered His call by repenting, being baptized, and receiving His Holy Spirit. Remember Matthew 22:14, “For many are called, but few are chosen [eklektos].”

The elect will be those (if they remain faithful unto the end) who will join with Jesus at His return and rule (be a “royal priesthood”) with Him in the Millennium. Revelation 17:14 says, “These will make war with the Lamb [the Beast and his army], and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen [eklektos], and faithful.” Therefore, even those who are among the chosen by real repentance must remain faithful to the end as Matthew 24:13 records, “But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”

A “Holy nation” refers to a people separated by God for His purpose. God’s purpose is for us to become members of His own family to teach His ways to humanity in the future. Thus, Peter says, “His own special people.” Or, as Peter wrote in verse 10 we are now the “people of God.”

We were once “not a people,” but are now “God’s own people” as the Revised Standard Version (RSV) translates that phrase.

We have obtained the mercy of God. God has a deep love for those who have responded to His call (His offer to have the opportunity to become His children). We are special to Him. If we learn to love and have the character of His firstborn Son and remain faithful to this path until the end, we will become His children and that royal priesthood He wants us to be.

We will become what God wanted Israel to be. However, they failed because of their unbelief. Exodus 19:5-6 records, “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. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation...”

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	6:27pm	6:29pm	6:31pm
Sunset Friday 3-6	6:31pm	6:32pm	6:35pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



February 29, 2020

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Gabe Dempsey
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Sermonette: Michael Watts
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; though they join forces [go hand in hand], none will go unpunished.”

Proverbs 16:5

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 2-29	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 3-7	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in San Antonio. Mr. Jack Hendren will be in Victoria. There will be a DVD in Corpus Christi. Mr. Watts will present the sermon in Harlingen.

FI to Sponsor Spanish and English Educational Tour of Israel in 2021

Foundation Institute is currently planning our next travel education tour to Israel, tentatively scheduled from June 1-8, 2021. We are excited to announce that, for the first time in our history, we are offering a bilingual tour of Israel in both Spanish and English.

Our plan is to have one 48-passenger coach for Spanish-speaking brethren (which will be led by a Spanish-speaking Israeli guide and include Spanish-speaking ministers) and a second 48-passenger coach operating in English. Both coaches will visit the same sites. We will all stay in the same hotels; we will share meals together; and we will hold Sabbath services together in Spanish with English translation for those who need it. As one young man put it, we will have one English-language coach and one fiesta coach.

All are welcome to apply, but because of the unique nature of this bilingual tour, we must give priority to certain applicants. First priority will be given to those from Latin America who speak only Spanish. If we have additional room on that coach, we will next give priority to those from other areas who speak both Spanish and English. Finally, we will fill out the English-language coach with those who speak only English. In all cases we will give priority to those who are participating for the first time.

We will offer multiple travel options for our brethren traveling from Latin America. We are too far out from the travel date to announce a firm cost, but we estimate that we will be able to offer prices similar to our past Israel trips (see estimated pricing in the attached fact sheet).

The trip will follow an itinerary similar to our past education tours, starting in the northern part of Israel and ending in the city of Jerusalem. The trip will include visits to:

- Caesarea, Megiddo and Mount Carmel.
- The Sea of Galilee and northern Israel—Mount of the Beatitudes, Nazareth and Tel Dan.
- The Jordan Valley—Beth Shean, Qumran, Masada.
- Jerusalem—Temple Mount, City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel, Western Wall, Golgotha and the Garden Tomb, Yad Vashem, etc.

We will tour on air-conditioned coaches with professionally trained Israeli guides. There will also be on-site lectures from FI instructors and ministers, as well as Sabbath services in Jerusalem. For those interested in this trip, please consider that by early June, it becomes very hot and dry in Israel, and there is a great deal of walking over uneven ground in these trips. If the heat or walking would be a problem for you, this trip would probably be too physically demanding.

Please refer to the attached fact sheet for more information and instructions on how to register for this trip.

We hope you will consider this exciting opportunity!

David Johnson and Erik Jones

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be on March 7.

Harlingen: There will be a Bible Study followed by a covered dish social on the Sabbath of March 14th.

Corpus Christi: There will be a Bible Study followed by a brown bag social on the Sabbath of March 21st.