

Redemption: A Call To Service

Immediately after God promised the Israelites He would liberate them from bondage, He continued, "I will take you as My people, and I will be your God" (Exodus 6:7). If Israel's "redemption" consisted only of liberation from Egyptian slavery, then the Book of Exodus would have ended in chapter 15 with Israel on the eastern side of the Red Sea, safe from Pharaoh and his army.

But the story of Exodus continued after the Red Sea crossing with Israel's journey to Sinai, where they entered into a solemn covenant to be God's "special treasure," "kingdom of priests," and "holy nation" (Exodus 19:5-6). At Sinai, the nation of Israel became the mediator of the revelation of the one, true, living God to all nations of the earth. By their proclamation of Yahweh's deeds and their faithful service and worship, they were destined to be the showcase of the promise God made to Abraham to bless "all the families [nations] of the earth" (Genesis 12:3).

A biblical understanding of redemption shows us that we have simultaneously been saved from a sinful past to a missional future (spreading our faith and social work). Just as Israel in the Old Testament, so the church in the New Testament is God's "royal priesthood," "holy nation," and "peculiar (unique) people" for the express purpose of "proclaim[ing] the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

"But you are a chosen generation (a people called out for service), a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him called out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Peter 1:9).

the *word*

visit our website

churchoflifeandpraise.com



join us

321 State Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605

contact us

207.667.4308

pastor@churchoflifeandpraise.com



James Heard

senior pastor



Ray Stephens

assistant to the pastor

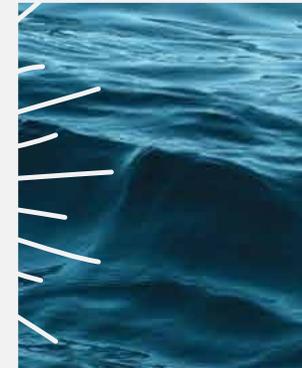


Jim Tracy

youth pastor



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