

# God's Plan for our Partnership

## *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>*

Last week we discussed that God's plan for delivering the world from the bondage of the false gods that enslaved them involved God: Exposing their impotence (Ex. 12:12); and Enlisting His people to partner with him in reaching/redeeming the world. (Ex. 19:5) After delivering Israel from the bondage of Egypt (and her gods) Ex. 4-18, He led them to Mt. Sinai Where he invited them to join him in a Priestly Partnership

### 1. It was a Personal Partnership. Ex 19:4 *"ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, And how I bear you on eagles wings, and brought you unto myself."*

A. God is both relevant and relational! Jn 14:21; 1 Jn 4:8

### 2. It was a Precious (Valuable) Partnership Ex 19:5 *"if ye will obey ... and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me..."* (Segulla: Purchased, Protected & Precious treasure) *...above all people: for all the earth is mine:"*

Ps139:17 *"How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!"*

A. Because of the Price to establish it. Ex 6:6-7

*"I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God"*

B. Because of the Purpose behind it. *The Redemption of the World!*

Ps 49:8 *"the redemption of their soul is precious"* (Yāqar: valuable and rare)

Ps 126:6 *"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him."*

C. Because of the Process involved to prepare them. Is 43:1-4; Mal. 3:17, 18

### 3. It was a Practical Partnership Ex. 19:5 *"if ye will obey ... and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me... And ... a kingdom of priests..."*

(Mamlākâ (dominion, rule) kōhēn (priests)

A. God had a job for them to do! (1 Cor 3:9)

1) They were to represent Him to the world.

2) He wanted to use them to reflect himself, in order to reach, teach, and redeem the world.

Zech 8:22-23

### 4. It Was to be a Pure (exclusive) Partnership Ex 19:5 *"ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and an holy (qādôsh': sacred, sanctuary) nation."*

From qādash: clean, dedicated, sanctified.

A. They had to be holy to reflect/represent a Holy God Lev 11:44-45 *"I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, (qādash) and ye shall be holy; for I am holy:"* (qādôsh')

While God's Priestly Partnership was:

Personal (Relational), Precious (Valuable) Practical (Essential), and Pure;

## 5. It was also a Conditional Partnership Ex 19:5

A. *“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep (shamar: guard, hedge) my covenant,”* (berît: league, confederacy, {partnership}) From bara: to select, care for, nourish

God uses berît to describe marriage! (Mal. 2:14)

B. *“then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me”*

Moses experienced this partnership in Ex. 33 and described it in Ps 91

### Conclusion: God’s Still looking for Priestly Partners today that are:

1) Personal: Jn 14:21 *“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”*

Jn 1:12 *“but as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”*

2) Precious: 2 Pt 1:1-2 *“Peter, ... to them that have obtained like precious (Tim’ios: valuable, honorable) faith (pistis: persuasion, conviction) through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.*

a) Because of the Price He paid for us. 1 Peter 1:18,19

b) Because of the Purpose He’s called us to. 1 Pt 2:8,9

c) Because of the Process required. 1 Pt 1:4-7

3) Practical: God has a job for us to do! Mt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor 3:9; Acts 26:18

*“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith ...”*

4) Pure 2 Cor 6:14-18 2 Cor 6:17-18 *“come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”* (See also 1 Jn 1:5-10; 3:1-3

5) This partnership is both Relational *“if any man will come after me”*

and Conditional: *“let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Mt 16:24-26)

Israel failed to fulfil God’s conditional requirements for His Priestly Partnership, resulting in terrible consequences and conditions. Ez. 22:26-30 *“Her priests have ... profaned mine holy things: ... Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves... 28 And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, ... The people of the land have used oppression, ... 30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”*

God’s Still looking for Partners Who will honor and represent him.

Is. 6:8 *“I heard the voice of the Lord saying ‘Who shall I send, and who will go for us?’*

**Will He find such a partner in you?**

*“Then said I, Here am I; send me!”*