

Friday 4th June 2021

Ex.19,6: *"You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."*

Eph.1,4: *"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."*

God never loses sight of this, even when the world and his people do. It unalterably fixes the direction and goal of God's redemptive purpose for the world through his people. It was recognisable in the messages of the prophets he sent to his people and it was recognisable in the judgments on his people of which they were warned. It is, however, most easily recognisable in the focus of Jesus' ministry which was clearly on living the kind of life that is obedient to the will of God. Indeed, so much is this the case that Jesus must be seen as the way in which God fulfils his intention to have for himself a people that constitute a *kingdom of priests and a holy nation*. For Jesus did not come to lay down a new law but to lay down his life on the cross and rise from the dead, so that sin before God should be forgiven and new life in him by the Spirit should come to be.

Titus 2, 11ff.: *"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."*