

WHO ARE YOU? (1 PETER 2)

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- I. There is great confusion in the world today—Satan has so blinded people that they “cannot discern their right hand from their left” (2 Cor. 4:4; Jonah 4:11). Many people struggle with identity issues: “Who am I?” The Bible gives us the answers!

► **1 Pet. 2:1-12:** *¹Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ²Like **newborn babies**, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴As you come to Him, the Living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him—⁵you also, like **living stones**, are being built into a **spiritual house** to be a **holy priesthood**, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.” ⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,” ⁸and, “A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. ⁹But you are a **chosen people**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, a **people belonging to God**, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the **people of God**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as **aliens and strangers** in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.*

A. 6 Answers to “Who am I?”

1. Newborn babies
2. Living stones/Spiritual house
3. Chosen people belonging to God
4. Holy/Royal priesthood
5. Holy nation
6. Aliens & strangers

B. Newborn babies

1. They had been **born** again (John 3:3, 7)

- a) **Through faith in Christ (1 Pet. 1:3-9):** *³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us **new birth** into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... ⁸Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*
- b) **Through the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23-25):** *²³For you have been **born again**, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, **through the living and enduring word of God**... ²⁵...And this is the word that was preached to you.*

2. Born of God, new creations, **crave milk and grow!**

C. Living stones/Spiritual house

1. They had come to the Living Stone [Gk. *lithos*] – Peter had a revelation about rocks & stones (Mat. 16:18 – Gk. *petros* & *petra*)!
2. Peter mentions rocks/stones 9 times in this passage (vv.4,5,6,7,8)
3. God makes us *living* stones (some look like *dead* stones!)
4. STONES not mush! – we are firm, steadfast, burden-bearing, and strong – built into a SPIRITUAL house with foundations (1 Cor. 3:11)!

D. Chosen people (generation)

1. Gk. *genos* = “offspring” (same root as “born again”); “linaje escogido” (Span.)
2. We must also *choose* Him—others reject Him (see vv.4-8)!
3. We belong to Him (1 Cor. 6:19-20)—we are not our own!

E. Holy/Royal priesthood

1. Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10
2. Priests represent God to people & people to God
3. Intercede, offer spiritual sacrifices, teach others

F. Holy nation

1. One nationality, citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20)
2. Holy = separate, called **out of darkness into light**

G. Aliens & strangers

1. Peter's whole epistle is addressed to "strangers" (1 Pet. 1:1)
2. We are not of or like this world!
3. KJV says we are a "peculiar people"—not *weird*, just different or special—we have been set apart for God

II. CONCLUSION

Let us focus on who God says we are, not how we or others define us!