

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2018-19
Session #2: God's Chosen People and "Spiritual House"
are Called To Holy Living**

*CSB – Ignatius Catholic Study Bible – Daniel
CCSS – Cath Commentary on Sacred Scriptures on
1&2 Peter, Jude
NJBC – New Jerome Biblical Commentary
SN = Special Notes / NAB = New American Bible
SK = Chinese Bible / CCC = Catholic Catechism*

<p>A</p>	<p><u>Overview of Scripture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the understanding of who we are (those who are born anew through Christ's resurrection to become God's people), we should learn how to live: holy, loving, as royal priesthood. The Passover of Israel forms the background for all these teachings. • Since we have received such grace, we must "gird up [our] minds, ... set [our] hope fully upon the grace that is to come" (1:13). We should "not be conformed to the passions of [our] former passions"; rather we should live in holiness and "conduct [ourselves] with fear throughout the time of [our] exile" (1:14, 17). We have been ransomed "with the precious blood of Christ" (1:19). He will come again to reconcile humanity to God. • After our souls have been purified by our obedience to the truth, we should love one another "earnestly from the heart" (1:22). We "have been born anew, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God" (1:23). • "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk " who "have tasted the kindness of the Lord", we are able to come close to God. He is the "living stone", "in God's sight chosen and precious", who is rejected by humanity. "Like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Christ" (2:5). He is glory for believers but stumbling block for those who do not believe. "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" have now received mercy. 	<p>1:13-2:10</p> <p>CCSS 39</p> <p>1:13-21</p> <p>1:22-25</p> <p>2:1-10</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><u>A Call to Holy Living</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Gird up your minds, be sober" to receive the grace "that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ". Just as God has instructed the Israelites about the Passover Meal, as "obedient children", we must lay down our "former ignorance", as we await the final Passover. We shall be living examples for others and let holiness be our mission. • Even our merciful Father "judges each one impartially according to his deeds". Whether the one who is judged is willing to repent, one should live according to God's will and word "throughout the time of [our] exile". • "You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers" – According to the Gospel, many customs and cultural practices of the Gentiles are considered "futile" or superstitious. Yet, we have been "ransomed not with perishable things such as silver or gold" (bargaining in the market place), "but with the precious blood of Christ" (sacrifice in 	<p>1:13-21</p> <p>1:13-16, CCSS 41-2 Ex 12:11 Lv 19:2, Mt 5:48 CCC 1546-7</p> <p>1:17, CCSS 42 CSB, Rm 2:4-11, Mt 12:50</p> <p>1:18-21, CCSS 43 CSB, SN1</p>

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2018-19
Session #2: God’s Chosen People and “Spiritual House”
are Called To Holy Living**

	the Temple). Our “faith and hope” are in the resurrected Christ who “was destined before the foundation of the world but was made manifest at the end of times”.	
C	<p><u>Love Earnestly and Sincerely</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth” – In Baptism, not only have we received obedience to the Good News through repentance and faith, but we have also been purified so that our love for our brothers and sisters, rooted in Christ, is “sincere”. Therefore, we must “love one another earnestly from the heart”. • Do we comprehend that our baptism is an awesome and life-changing experience in our lives? It allows us to be born anew “through the living and abiding word of God”, “not of perishable seed but of imperishable”. “The word of the Lord abides for ever”, comes from Is 40:8, is applicable to Christ as the Word has been fulfilled in Christ. Peter alters “the word of God to “the word of the Lord”; the interchangeable usage God and Lord (Kyrios) bears witness to Christ’s divinity. 	<p>1:22-25</p> <p>1:22, CSB, CCSS 47, Jn 13:34-35</p> <p>1:23-25, CCSS 47-49 Gen 27, Is 55:10, Lk 8:11</p>
D	<p><u>The Call to be God’s Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood, and Holy Nation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk” – the image of the Word has evolved from the “imperishable” seed into “pure spiritual milk” and the Eucharist that can be “tasted”, “by it you may grow up to salvation”. • Just as Christ is the “living stone”, “like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house”. In this “spiritual house”, God’s dwelling place, we become “a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”. • Conclusion: We are called to be “a chosen race, a holy nation, God’s own people”. This call is foretold in Is 42:20-21 and Ex 19:6: foreshadowed by slavery in Egypt and the Babylonian Exile; Christ will bring true freedom. • Why are we called? “That you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”. To bring us out from darkness and enter into the light of Christ. As God’s “servants”, we are called to be light of the world, to bring sight to the blind, to release the captives => Evangelization. 	<p>2:1-10</p> <p>2:1-3, CCSS 51 CSB, Ps 34:8</p> <p>2:4-8, CSB, CCSS 52-53 Ps 118:22, Ep 2:19-22, Ex 19:6, CCC 1546-7, Rm 12:1</p> <p>2:9-10, CCSS 55-56 CSB, Hos 2:23</p> <p>CCSS 55, Is 42:6-7</p>

Special Notes: See Chinese handouts.