

2017
The Year of Distinction

GOD MAKES DISTINCTION BETWEEN HIS PEOPLE AND THE WORLD IF HIS PEOPLE MAKE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND THE WORLD

- I. All throughout biblical history we have seen how God has made a distinction for his people that he does not make for the people of the world.
- A. The distinction was made in Egypt with the plagues of Moses

4th Flies

(NKJV) Ex 8:22 And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land.

23 I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be.

5th Livestock Exo 9:1

(NKJV) Ex 9:4 And the LORD will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.” ’ ” 5 Then the LORD appointed a set time, saying, “Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land.” 6 So the LORD did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the children of Israel, not one died.

7th Hail Exo 9:13

(NKJV) Ex 9:26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.

9th Darkness Exo 10:21

(NKJV) Ex 10:22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. 23 They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

10th Firstborn

(NKJV) Ex 11:4 Then Moses said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; 5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals. 6 Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. 7 But

against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast,

that you may know that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.’
(See NIV Distinction)

- B. I want us to consider now the promise of Christ
(NKJV) Jn 14:12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.
1. Here is the promise of exceptionalism! The fact that God will treat us differently when we have received Christ!
 2. He will treat us distinctively different when we behave differently!
- C. Notice how Christ was different. When Christ came into the world
1. We saw him as a babe in the manger announced by angels
 2. Next is a young child coming out of Egypt (Matthew 2:19-21)
 3. Next, we saw him in the temple as a child 12 years old
(NKJV) Lk 2:40 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. 41 His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. 43 When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it;
 4. Next we saw him at a wedding in Cana as a man converting water into wine
(NKJV) Jn 14:12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

The Power to be treated with Distinction by God!

(NKJV) Jn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right (*authority - power*) to become (*Something you are not*) children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

- II. Notice the process
 - A. You first believe in his name
 - B. Then, as you receive him
 - 1. He gives you the right to become a child
 - C. Then, as a child you grow
 - 1. to become a youth
 - 2. Then you become a man

IT IS MATURING IN GOD'S WORD THAT MAKES YOU FREE BECAUSE IT MAKES YOU DISTINCTIVE FROM EVERYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

- III. You too are a child of God! I want to bring you into a revelation of what this means. I want you to come to have an understanding of how God has made you distinct in all the earth. I want you to come to this revelation so that in this year you can have the expectation that as a child of God you have certain privileges that the average person does not have. You have the ability to achieve things that others cannot do. This year, I want you to recognize will be your year of distinction from all others that are around you.
 - A. God has given you the authority, the right to be considered one of his children.
 - 1. To become his child is not automatic. You must believe and then receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
 - 2. This means not everybody in the world can call themselves children of God
 - a. but only those who have believed and received Jesus as Lord.
 - b. This will come as a shock to many who think that God is the father of all mankind
 - B. But for those of us as believers, these should be comforting words. You have the power of God propelling you to be successful in life. You have more than you can possibly imagine.
 - C. You have been given the right to the use of the name Jesus. At this name, every knee will bow those on earth, and those in heaven, and those under the earth, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord.
 - 1. Angels, Mountains and demons respond to this name
 - D. Here is what Christ said
(NKJV) Mt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
 - 1. You have the power of that name given to you by Almighty God.
 - 2. God has set you apart from all the other creatures in the earth because of your acceptance of him.
 - E. Look at what God does for his children. See the words he said to Pharaoh when he was mistreating his children.
(NKJV) Ex 8:23 I will make a difference between My people and your people.

(NIV84) Ex 8:23 I will make a distinction between my people and your people.

1. God makes a difference between his people and the people of the world.
2. God will make a difference/distinction between his people and the world.
 - a. A difference between you and the people of the world around you.

F. Because you are a child of God, the King James says you are son of God,
(KJV 1900) 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:

(NKJV) Ga 4:7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

G. But we must come to notice this:

(NKJV) Ga 4:1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,

2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.

1. Though we are children of God, until we mature we will see very little distinction between us and the world. The Bible says we are no different than a slave.
2. Verse 7 says; *we are no longer a slave we are a son, but as a son we are no different than a slave until we mature.*
3. The only way there's going to be a difference between us and the rest of the world is our maturity in Christ.

IT IS IMPERATIVE UPON US THAT WE ALL MATURE IN CHRIST SO THAT WE WILL NO LONGER BE THE SAME AS THE REST OF THE WORLD.

H. This is the reason many Christians live the same life of people of the world. They are immature! And unfortunately, they remain immature all of their lives!

1. They do not grow in the knowledge of the word of God.
(NKJV) Ho 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.
2. Here we see the lack of knowledge of the word of God means God will not treat you with distinction. In fact, he says he will ignore your children.
 - a. ***My children are too important to me for me to allow God to ignore them!***
 - (1) He will ignore other people's children because they, as parents, will not mature in their knowledge of him.
 - b. I will not remain a child!
 - c. I will not allow you to remain a child!

I. Paul said: There is a time to grow up!

(NKJV) 1 Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

1. It is time we grow up. It is time we mature in the word so that God can make the distinction between us and the world.
2. Distinction between us and slaves to sin.
3. We are not slaves, we are God's children but as children as long as we are immature we are no different than slaves.

J. Remember this:

(NKJV) Ga 4:1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,

2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.

1. And seriously consider these words of Christ if we are no different than a slave in our immaturity.

(NKJV) Jn 8:35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

CHRIST DOES NOT WANT YOU TO REMAIN IMMATURE FOR YOUR LIFETIME!

- a. Christ does not want you to remain immature

(NKJV) Jn 15:2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

(NKJV) Jn 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

2. In other words, Christ does not expect you to remain immature for your lifetime!

- a. We must grow up! We must mature!

- b. 2017 shall be the year in which we will mature and God will make the distinction between us and the world.

- (1) It will be because we will become mature in his word.

K. We mature by abiding in Christ who is his word

(NKJV) Jn 8:30 As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

1. God made distinction with his people in Egypt.
 - a. What was the end result of that distinction?
 - (1) They were made free!
 - (2)

IT IS MATURING IN GOD'S WORD THAT MAKES YOU FREE BECAUSE IT MAKES YOU DISTINCTIVE FROM EVERYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

- L. This year, as we go forward if you will allow me I am willing to escort you in the study of the word of God so that you may mature and become more than just a child. We will study the word so that you may mature to become all that God created you to be and experience the fullness of being distinctively different from the rest of the world.
 1. When you behave differently than the world and honor God, then God will honor you and you will be distinctively different than the world.
 2. The power of God will make you exceptional by your maturity the word and distinctively different from the world!
- M. You must mature in the word and that maturity in the word of God will make you distinctive.
- N. You will be treated differently by the world and by God
(NKJV) Jn 17:14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth..