

14.1 בְּנֵי אֱלֹהֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם לֹא תַתְגַּדְדוּ
וְלֹא-תִשְׂיִמוּ קַרְתָּהּ בֵּין עֵינֵיכֶם לְמֵת:
14.2 כִּי עִם קְדוֹשׁ אַתָּה לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
וּבְךָ בְּתָר יְהוָה לְהֵיוֹת לוֹ לְעַם
סְגֻלָּה מְכֹל הָעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה:
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My translation: “Children you are to YHWH your God. Do not cut yourself in worship or make a bald spot between your eyes for the dead, because you are a holy people to YHWH your God. YHWH has chosen you to be His treasured possession out of all the people who are on the face of the earth.”

The Spanish explorer Hernando Cortez anchored his 11 ships off the Yucatan Peninsula in the year 1519. Cortez had embarked on an ambitious conquest; thousands of miles of ocean separated him from home and reinforcements.

At the time, Mexico was ruled by the mighty Aztec empire, whose warriors numbered in the tens of thousands. Cortez, on the other hand, was only able to transport 608 men, 16 horses and a few cannons in his 11 small ships. Despite the overwhelming odds, Cortez was fully committed to the mission and ordered his men to go ashore.

¹John Currid, *Deuteronomy*

Not long afterwards, the Spanish encampment awoke in the middle of the night to the voices of men yelling, “Fire! Fire!” The soldiers stumbled out of their tents to see their wooden ships burning in the distant waters. Their hearts sank. The 11 vessels were their only means of retreat—their only way back to home and civilization. And now they were going up in flames.

Some of the men moved quickly to row out and fight the blaze, but to their astonishment, Cortez stopped them. He told them that he had ordered the ships burned.

Was Cortez crazy? Quite possibly. Was he ruthless? Apparently. Was he totally committed? No question. And the message to his men was clear—there would be no retreat. They would conquer this new land or die trying.²

There was no going back . . .

For the people of God . . . God has called you from a former life . . .

Three profound statements in Deut 14 . . .

1. **v. 1 – you are children of the LORD your God**
 - a. The covenant people are called the “sons of YHWH . . .”
 - b. Only place in the Torah this is used . . .
 - c. They are not strangers of aliens . . . but God has adopted them as His very children . . .
 - d. They are heirs of the living God . . .
 - e. And because they are already part of God’s family they are to act differently from the surrounding

²<http://www.alliancenet.org>

- nations . . .
- f. Those pagans nations are not children of the covenant . . .
- g. But this group of people have been called by God . . . and made members of His family . . .
- h. How much more we who know the risen and glorious Lord Jesus Christ . . .
- i. We are not trying to good works in order to get ourselves to heaven . . .
- j. Or to get ourselves forgiven . . .
- k. Or to get God to forgive us . . .
- l. No . . . we have already been made members of His family . . .
- m. According to the apostle John, all who have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior . . . But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – Joh 1:12
- n. We are the offspring of God . . . the children of God . . .
- o. We have been reborn, not by the will of man, nor by the power of man, but by God Himself . . .
- p. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them we have become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 2Pe 1:3-4

- q. We are partakers of the divine nature . . . God has made us new . . . from the inside out . . .
- r. And granted us entrance into the kingdom of His own Dear Son . . .
- s. And now, though we are still in these bodies of these deaths . . . and although we fail Him daily . . .
- t. Even then, His Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ – Rom 8:16-17
- u. And we didn't get this way because we did religious deeds . . . or are somehow better than our neighbors . . .
- v. He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:5-7
- w. See, we have been made members of His family . . .
- x. Citizens of His Kingdom . . .
- y. We who were condemned as sinners have now been translated into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ . . .
- z. We, who were dead in trespasses and sins are now sons and daughters of the Living God . . .
- aa. We, who were sold under sin and slaves to sin are now a kingdom of priests, holy before God . . .
- bb. We who were children of Satan are now children of God, co-heirs with Christ, we are washed . . .
- cc. We are sanctified . . .
- dd. We are holy . . .
- ee. We are justified . . .
- ff. We are redeemed . . .
- gg. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit . . .
- hh. Oh my friends, Jesus Christ Himself, according to Hebrews 2, is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters . . .
- ii. And God the Father is not ashamed to be called our

- God . . . “Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. – Heb 11:16
- jj. It makes no difference our ethnic birth . . . or where our parents came from . . . or even if we know who our earthly parents are . . .
 - kk. What if your earthly parents were not around . . . not involved in your life . . . what if your earthly family left you destitute and alone?
 - ll. Does that make you a second-class citizen in God’s family?
 - mm. My dear friends, there are not second-class any things in God’s family . . .
 - nn. What if financially you are not well off?
 - oo. What if you often have too much month at the end of the money?
 - pp. What if you grew up in a family that was far from well-off . . .
 - qq. My dear friends, you are a son or a daughter of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords . . .
 - rr. The Great I AM is your Father . . .
 - ss. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God – Eph 2:19
 - tt. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ --Php 3:20
 - uu. And as members of His family . . . as brothers and sisters with Jesus Christ, we say with Peter . . . Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. – 1Pe 1:3-5
 - vv. My dear friends, bill Gates and Warren Buffett

- combined have got nothing compared with our God . . .
- ww. And our Father . . .
 - xx. The God who said “Let there be light . . . and there was light . . . is our Father . . .
 - yy. The God who said, “I am the LORD, beside Me there is no god . . . is our Father . . .
 - zz. That God who said, “I AM THAT I AM” is our Father . . .
 - aaa. The God who said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Is our brother . . . Joh 5:24
 - bbb. Jesus, our brother said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” – Mat 11:28-30
 - ccc. He, who knew no sin, became sin for, that we might be reborn . . . remade . . .
 - ddd. Redeemed and justified by the blood of Jesus Christ . . .
 - eee. We are not working to become part of God’s family . . .
 - fff. We are already part of God’s family . . .
 - ggg. And God is not ashamed to be known for all eternity as our God . . . and as our Father . . .
 - hhh. That is a profound statement . . .
 - iii. But it is only one of three that God makes here . . .
2. **v. 2 – we are His treasure – Ex. 19:5; Deut. 7:6; 26:18; Psa. 135:4, Mal. 3:17**
- a. God has chosen us by His own free will to make us His . . .
 - b. To be His particular treasure . . .
 - c. in which the LORD chooses the people of Israel and

- d. sets them apart from all people .
this election is due to divine choice and initiation . . .
- e. the Hebrew word for “chosen” never carries any suggestion of any characteristics on the part of the elected person that were a factor in his/her election . . .
- f. thus, the LORD’s choice of Israelis not based on her greatness, size, beauty, or anything else about the nation . . .
- g. Just as God’s election of His saints has nothing to do with them . . .
- h. it is the unmerited election by God, through His sovereign grace . . .
- i. There are many Christian who are afraid of the doctrine of election . . .
- j. That is truly a shame . . . b/c we ought to be embarrassed at what God boldly proclaims . . .
- k. God boldly proclaims that He has chosen us before the foundation of the world to be His . . .
- l. Peter tells us that we are the “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father . . .” 1Pe 1:2
- m. Paul boldly proclaims, “According as he hath ***chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,*** that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, Eph 1:4-5
- n. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. – Rom 8:29
- o. this is the doctrine of election . . .

- p. But look what God says about this election . . .
- q. Why He chose His people . . .
- r. REREAD v. 2 . . .
- s. Earthly kings gather to themselves financial wealth and treasure . . .
- t. Gold . . . silver . . . stocks and bonds . . .
- u. How pathetic . . . how unimportant . . .
- v. God gathers to Himself a different kind of treasure . . .
- w. A treasure of not of gold nor silver . . .
- x. But of flesh and bone . . .
- y. A treasure not of stocks and bonds . . .
- z. But of the hearts and souls of men and women, boys and girls . . .
- aa. A treasure that will last for all eternity . . . the lives of humans, redeemed from their sin, made children of God . . . who will live with Him forever . . .
- bb. And says to all creation . . . these are mine . . .
- cc. I have chosen you, you have not chosen Me, Jesus said . . .
- dd. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.” – Joh 10:27-30
- ee. Earthly kings, the rich and powerful, the high and mighty . . . accumulate silver and gold as their treasure . . .
- ff. In heaven, my dear friends, God paves the roads with gold . . .
- gg. It is not as important as we would like to believe . . .
- hh. John tells us in Revelation 21 that the street of the heaven is “of pure gold . . .”
- ii. What kings and slaves work to own and hoard and collect and count, God uses to pave streets . . .

- jj. You may have heard about the rich fellow who died and took a suitcase with him to heaven . . .
- kk. And when he gets there, an angel asked him, “What’s in the suitcase?”
- ll. The fellow opens it up, and shows the angel . . . gold bricks . . .
- mm. A whole suitcase of them . . .
- nn. The angel looks at the gold, and then with a puzzled expression, looks at the man and says, “You brought asphalt to heaven?”
- oo. Oh my friends, do you know the truth of these statements?
- pp. God, in eternity past chose you for Himself . . .
- qq. God chose you . . . chose us . . .
- rr. Because what God calls true treasure is not dug out of a hill somewhere and traded on Wall Street . . .
- ss. Why, God already owns the cattle on a thousand hills . . .
- tt. The whole earth is the LORD’s Psalm 24 tells us . . . and the fulness thereof . . .
- uu. God calls His people, the one’s whom He has chosen . . .
- vv. You are more important to God than gold . . .
- ww. You are His treasured possession . . .
- xx. You belong to Him . . . and He accounts us as more valuable than wealth . . .
- yy. To the world, maybe you are unimportant . . . to God, you are His treasure . . .
- zz. To your family, maybe you are the black sheep, the religious fanatic . . . the unimportant . . . to God you are His treasure . . .
- aaa. To the govenor, you are a nameless number on an address . . . to God, you are a chosen treasure . . . personally chosen by God, picked by Him, and His

- treasured possession . . .
- bbb. To your boss, you are just an empolyee hired to get things done . . . to God you are a treasured possession . . . chosen by Him . . . belonging to Him . . .
- ccc. What humans call unimportant . . . God calls His family . . . His chosen holy people . . . His prized possession . . .
- ddd. What humans call a waste of time, God calls His treasure . . .
- eee. Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. – 1Pe 1:2
- fff. We are God’s treasured possession . . .
- ggg. You ever go to someone’s house and they show you their trophies that they won . . . or their prized collection of what-nots?
- hhh. The things they value the most . . . and they are proud of them . . .
- iii. They worked hard and earned those trophies . . . and care for them . . .
- jjj. You want to know what God says are His most treasured possessions?
- kkk. You want to know what God displays in His home of heaven?
- lll. What does God protect? Care for?
- mmm. You . . .His people . . .

- nnn. Created by Him . . .
- ooo. Chosen by Him . . .
- ppp. Redeemed by Him . . .
- qqq. Saved by Him . . .
- rrr. Justified by Him . . .
- sss. Sanctified by Him . . .
- ttt. Reborn by Him . . .
- uuu. Sealed by Him . . .
- vvv. Cleansed by Him . . .
- www. Purchased by Him . . .
- xxx. Citizens of His Kingdom . . .
- yyy. Brothers and sisters in His family . . .
- zzz. Joint heirs with Jesus Christ . . .
- aaaa. We belong to Him . . . and Him alone . . .

3. v. 2 – We Are a Holy People . . .

- a. This means they were set aside . . . they were not common . . .
- b. holy = set apart, to be made uncommon . . . unique . . . district . . .
- c. Set apart by the LORD to be different from other people of the earth . . .
- d. And this was true in the lives of Israel here in Deuteronomy . . .
- e. It is also true in our lives . . . as NT believers in

- Jesus Christ . . .
- f. But **you** are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, ***an holy nation***, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. – 1Pe 2:9-10
- g. The idea is like the good china . . . that isn't used for just everyday occasions . . . but is unique . . . it is special . . . it is different . . .
- h. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. Php 2:14-16
- i. We are a people holy, special, devoted to God . . .
- j. We are His family . . .
- k. We are His holy people . . .

We are now members of God's family . . .

We are His holy people . . . set apart . . .

And that brings us to the rest of the chapter, because, frankly, it sounds a bit different to our ears . . .

He says in v. 1 that His people can't cut themselves, or make a baldness between their eyes . . . and then He goes through a whole list of things they can, and can't do . . .

The cutting yourselves was a pagan practice of worship, trying to convince the false gods just how serious the worshiper is . . .

they cut themselves in an attempt to provoke their god to action . . .

Then God mentions not cutting the hair . . . on their foreheads . . .

They are not to make a baldness between their eyes . . .

another pagan practice . . .

a sign of mourning . . .

it was meant as a sign to the dead that mourners cared for them . . .

they believed that the dead were watching from the shadows, from the shade, and wanted to make sure that the living were making strenuous lamentation for them as the dead . . .

such practices are strictly forbidden to the worship of the LORD . . .

and they are not worthy of those who are the children of the LORD

Like Cortez burning his ships . . . we can never turn back to how we used to live . . .

Then Moses begins in v. 3 to hammer once again the list of animals they could eat . . . the clean animals . . .

And the animals they could not eat . . . the unclean animals . . .

How at every meal, they were to remember that they belonged to God . . .

Like Cortez burning his ships, we can never turn back to how we used to live . . .

In v. 22 he begins a long section about how they must tithe their harvest . . .

how at every harvest they are to remember their God . . . and tithe

back to Him . . . and continuing into chapter 15 how they are to use their finances . . .

And how the firstborn animals of their flocks were to be dedicated to the Lord . . . and slaughtered in a sacrifice to Him . . .

Then in chapter 16 Moses tells them how that, three times every year, they are to celebrate and worship God . . . three times a year . . . every year . . .

He tells them in chapter 16 that every Jewish family had to celebrate the Passover . . . to remember by their actions how they have been brought out of Egypt . . .

He tells them in 16:9 that they are to celebrate a feast of Weeks . . .

How they are to celebrate as a people the harvest that God gave them . . .

And the Feast of Tabernacles . . . where the whole nation was to gather together and remember and celebrate their God . . .

Why do these things? What is the point . . .

They are already His people . . . they are already brought out of Egypt . . .

Here is why . . . God is restructuring much of their lives . . . they are NEVER going to be able to live like the unsaved around them . . . and every single day is going to be a reminder that they belong to God . . .

He begins with their food . . . what they can and cannot eat . . . and you need to know that yes, the pagans worshiped some if not all of these animals . . . but God's label of them as unclean is not because

of health issues . . . or sanitation issues . . .

No, He just says . . . these are clean . . . these others are unclean . . .
and you can't eat the unclean . . .

Every day, three times a day, they would be forced to remember by
the food they were eating that they were God's chosen people . . .

The food was not some holy food . . . or even some healthy food . . .

It was just a reminder that they belong to God . . . that they
couldn't act like the unsaved . . .

That they were bought with a price . . .

Like Cortez burning his ships, we can never turn back to how we
used to live . . .

Every payday they were to remember that they belonged to God . . .
. so three times a day, and every payday, they are reminded that
they belong to God . . .

Like Cortez burning his ships, we can never turn back to how we
used to live . . .

3 times a year they are to worship together . . . to be forced by the
calendar to remember their God . . . who He is . . . and who they
are . . .

They would be reminded every day that they are God's people . . .
they did not belong to themselves anymore . . .

Like Cortez burning his ships, we can never turn back to how we
used to live . . .

God is making their lives a reminder that there is a God . . . and
they are not Him . . .

He is simply saying . . . you are my people . . . and you now must
live a different way . . .

We are God's family . . .
We are God's holy people . . .
We are God's treasure . . .

And we cannot live the old way anymore . . .

Like Cortez burning his ships, we can never turn back to how we
used to live . . .

And for the children here, this means that you cannot watch much
on TV that your unsaved friends watch . . .

B/c shows that demean parents, that use vulgar and rude humor,
that find human on the weaknesses of others, must be rejected by
God's people . . . b/c we are God's family, we are His holy people,
we are His treasure . . .

That means, teens, that you are to conduct yourself in a manner of
godliness, in both how you dress, and how you interact with your
peers, your teachers, your grandparents, your pastors, and your
elders . . .

That means that, you are not allowed to flirt like the unsaved . . . or
live like them . . .

B/c you belong to God . . . and you are chosen by God to be
different in this world . . . to shine forth the praise of Him who has
bought you and cleansed you with the blood of His own dear Lamb
. . .

And if that means, you lose friends, well then, so be it . . .you will be like Moses, who” Chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.
Heb 11:25-26

that means, parents, that you cannot raise your children as if you, or they, are unsaved . . . or as if God doesn't speak to you as a parent . . .

You are to have them in church . . . and you are to be teaching them His Word . . .

When we pray over our meals each day, it is a reminder that the food we have is a gift from God . . . Who has promised and pledged Himself to care for us . . . and to feed us . . .

Coming to church each and every Sunday is an act of worship . . . and also an act of remembrance . . . that we do not belong to ourselves . . . And our God has the full right to mess with our schedules . . .

So we remember Him . . .

Like Cortez burning his ships, we can never turn back to how we used to live . . .

When we tithe our income, it is a reminder that the money we have is a gift from God . . . who has promised and pledged Himself to care for us . . . and to provide for us . . .

When we gather each week on Sunday, a day to be dedicated to the LORD, we are reminding ourselves that we are not our own . . . that we are bought with a price, and that we are God's family, God's holy people, and God's treasure . . .