



The People Of God—The Church
RCIA St. Thomas More – November 17, 2011

People Of God—The Church

*“You shall be My people
and I shall be your God” (Ex 19:5-6)*

- The story of the Old Testament is the story of God's people.
- This story is sometimes called “Salvation History.”
- The story looks ahead to Christ.
- We can often see ourselves in the story in situations and in persons.
- The people in this story aren't perfect. They're an awful lot like us.

People Of God—The Church

Three key points in God's calling of his chosen people:

1. God called them out of their circumstances to be a community of faith
2. The community is on a journey of faith. They are walking with God, just like we are.
3. He made a covenant with them. We'll say more about covenants later.

A vertical strip of stained glass is visible on the left side of the page, featuring various colors and patterns. The main background is a light beige, textured surface.

The People Of God

*The Story of God's
Family*

Beginnings with Abraham

- Abraham was called to a new land.
- God made a covenant with Abraham.
- Covenants are how God interacts with his people. They are kind of like a contract and kind of like a marriage.
- In a covenant, God acts first and we respond
- A covenant is always a promise and always a gift of God himself to us.
- The covenant to Abraham was the promise of land and descendants.

The Sons of Abraham

- When Abraham was 100 years old, he and his wife Sarah had a son named Isaac.
- Isaac marries Rebekah and they have twin sons, Esau and Jacob.
- Jacob steals Esau's birthright and flees his angry brother.
- Jacob wrestles with 'a man' from God and was renamed “Israel”, one who struggles with God.

Into Egypt

- Israel (the man) has 12 sons.
- The second-youngest of these is Joseph.
- Joseph angers his brothers and is sold into slavery in Egypt.
- God is with Joseph and Joseph becomes a great leader in Egypt, second to Pharaoh.
- Famine brings Joseph's brothers to Egypt, where he reconciles with him.
- All of Israel's family moves to Egypt.

Slavery and Moses

- The Israelites grew and prospered in Egypt but were made slaves and oppressed.
- Moses, an adopted Egyptian prince, fled Egypt to become a shepherd.
- God called to Moses in a burning bush and sent him to free his people and shepherd them into the promised land.
- God brought 10 plagues to Egypt
- They crossed the Red Sea and were free.

Wanders in the Wilderness

- God established another covenant through Moses and reaffirmed Israel as his chosen people at Mount Sinai.
- God gave the 10 commandments and the law.
- Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness, walking with God and eating `bread from heaven` called manna.
- Moses lead the people for the 40 years and died just as the people were about to enter.

The Promised Land

- The Israelites reach the promised land and God gives them conquest of their new home.
- In the promised land, just like in the wilderness, Israel (the nation) continues to struggle with God and keeping his commands.
- God gives the Israelites Judges from time to time to save them from trouble and lead them toward God.
- In time, Israel asks God for a king like the other nations have.

King David (c.1000 BCE)

- God anoints Saul as king, but Saul is rejected for his sin. God next chooses David, a man after his own heart.
- David sometimes sins but is always quick to repent.
- David wants to build a temple for God but is told to wait. His son will build the temple.
- God makes another covenant in David. David wanted to build a house for God, so God gives him a house, a royal line.
- David`s descendant would be the Messiah.

The Kingdom Divided

- After David, his son Solomon is king of the Israelites.
- After Solomon, a civil war starts between 10 tribes in the North, called `Israel` and Judah in the South. (930 BCE)
- The North descends into sin. The kings of Judah continue Davids line. Some are good, some are bad.
- The North is destroyed in 722 BCE. The South (Judah) is sent into exile in 586 BCE.

Return from Exile

- The Babylonians are conquered by the Persians, who let the Jews return to the Promised land. (537 BCE)
- They rebuild Jerusalem and the temple.
- They are eventually conquered by Alexander the Great. When he dies, Judea is controlled by his successors. (332 BCE)
- Maccabean revolt in 167 BCE. Judea is a free nation for another 100 years before Romans arrive.
- Roman conquest. Herod installed as king.