GOD DESIGNS US TO BE A DISTINCT PEOPLE. 317

come up to the standard that God has
given unto us—that is, fulfill the require-
ments which He has made of us.

Now, there are many points upon
which we need correction. We are guilty
of many things that are not in accor-
dance with the mind and will of God.
There is a certain policy—if I may use
that phrase; I use it to convey the idea to
your minds—connected with the build-
ing up of Zion, a policy which God has
sought to enforce upon us from the be-
ginning until the present time. It is to
a great extent the same policy that He
urged upon and endeavored to enforce
in the midst of Israel, when He led Is-
rael out of Egypt. When He inspired
Moses to take the steps that He did to-
wards the emancipation of the children
of Israel from the thralldom of the Egyp-
tians, He had a definite purpose in view,
and that was to make them a nation of
His own, a people who should acknowl-
dge Him as their God, and He wished to
make a distinct race of them. For forty
years He led them through the wilder-
ness teaching them, counseling them,
pleading with them, training them, in
order to relieve them as far as possible
from the old traditions with which they
were burdened. There was no other ob-
ject in view than this—that is, I may say
this was the principle object. He wished
to separate them entirely from all the
nations of the earth by whom they had
been surrounded, and to make them a
peculiar people, a people who would look
upon Him as their lawgiver, and who
should look to Him for all the instruc-
tions and counsels and directions that
they needed; but because of their rebel-
lious, and their unwillingness to be thus
submissive, He caused every man over
20 years of age who left Egypt, to die in
the wilderness except two. You remem-
ber, doubtless, the circumstances which
brought about the preservation of the
lives of these two. The rest over 20
years of age all perished in the wilder-
ness, they not having faith sufficient to
receive the promises and to gain the end
that they started out for when they left
Egypt. A new generation grew up during
the 40 years of travel in the wilderness—
a generation that had to a great extent
forgotten the traditions of Egypt, that
had forgotten the idolatry of Egypt and
the evil practices of Egypt, and then
when this was brought about, God led
them unto the promised land, and He
made of them a nation, a peculiar people.
They became His people. He placed His
name upon them, although they failed as
a generation to come up to the fullness
of power that He designed they should
have. In other words, they failed to come
up to the possession and exercise of the
Melchizedek Priesthood.

Now, God in like manner has de-
signed in these days in laying the foun-
dation of Zion to establish a new order
of things on the earth; to gather us out
from the nations of the earth; to make us
a peculiar people; to make us a holy and
a pure people upon whom He could place
His name and through whom He can ac-
complish His great designs and purposes
on the earth; to make us a distinct peo-
ple from every other people that lives
upon the face of the earth, and through
us to establish and perpetuate a new or-
der of things on the earth which shall be
preparatory to the ushering in of the full
reign of righteousness through our Lord
Jesus Christ. It is for this that the heav-
ens have been opened. It is for this that
God the Father and Jesus the Son have