

A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS

A. What Yahweh Says About His Priests In Malachi 2:7:

1. The lips of a priest should preserve knowledge.
2. Men should seek the law (instruction) from his mouth.
3. He is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.

B. Priests (Separated Ones) Are Associated With The Sanctuary /Tabernacle:

1. “Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary”; Ps. 77:13; Hebrews 9
 - a. The “way of salvation” WAS seen in the O.T. tabernacle; Ex. 25:40; Exodus 40
 - b. The “way of salvation” IS seen in the N.T. tabernacle; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5,9
2. The nature of their assignment necessitates a character of compassion and mercy:
 - a. COMPASSION for the “ignorant” and “them that are out of the way”; Heb. 5:2
 - b. Jesus is a MERCIFUL and faithful High Priest; Heb. 2:17-18; 3:1; Matt. 5:7

C. The Priesthood Has Qualifications Under Both Old And New Covenants:

1. Correct “birth” lineage; Exodus 29:9; Ezra 2:62; Matthew 1:1-16; John 3:3-8
2. Must be free from blemishes; Leviticus 21:17-23; Ephesians 5:27; 2 Peter 2:13
3. Maturity; Num. 4:3; 1 Corin. 13:10-11; Heb. 5:8-10; Eph. 4:13-15; Rev. 2 & 3
4. Priests are anointed under both Old and New Covenants; Ex. 30:30; 1 John 2:20

Jesus Christ Reveals The Pattern For Every Priest:

1. Jesus is our FORERUNNER, Whose ministry flows out of the Most Holy Place into the lowest valley of earth to reach the lost. There is no such thing as an “armchair priesthood” or “country-club” priests or “honorary” priests. We cannot deliver God’s creation at a distance. Every priest must follow the Pattern Son’s example; Hebrews 6:20.
2. Jesus reminds us that His work was/is a “hands on” experience, which involves dirty, smelly, bloody messes from sheep and cattle, who fill the air with clouds of dust and stinking, burning flesh. (Are you willing to get mud and blood on your garments?)
3. His priests are willing to be numbered with the transgressors; they identify with fallen humanity, and are touched with the feelings of peoples’ infirmities; Mark 15:28.
4. Jesus was called “the friend of sinners”; He is not ashamed to call us His brethren. His priesthood must be willing to “become one” with the people that they are sent to deliver, and to take the lowest place as servants among humanity; Matthew 11:19; Heb. 2:11.
5. His High Priestly ministry is without condemnation, without prejudice, without walls, flowing with forgiveness, mercy and blessing!

The Royal Priesthood:

1. It is an eternal HIGH, HEAVENLY and HOLY order; Hebrews 5:10; 6:20; Phil. 3:14
2. It “sums up” the ministry of Jesus Christ, and priestly responsibility; 1 Peter 2:9-10:
 - a. The first priestly responsibility is to God, in WORSHIP as a lifestyle
 - b. The second priestly responsibility is to people, in INTERCESSION as a lifestyle
3. It points to the Zadok priesthood; Ezekiel 44:15-31; 1 Peter 2
4. It reveals the “More Excellent Ministry”, and a “great salvation”; Heb. 2:3; 8:1-6
5. It reveals the Priesthood of Melchizedek; Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 5-7
6. It is the King-Priest ministry; Rev. 1:6; 5:10
7. This ministry flows from the Most Holy Place; it points to the Feast of Tabernacles: the realm of perfection, maturity, the place which our Forerunner has entered; Heb. 6:1.

Aaron's Priesthood:

1. Aaron and his sons worked together with the Levites; Numbers 3:6; 8:19; 18:2
2. The primary function of the priests was to minister unto the Lord within the veil in the Holy Place; 1 Chron. 6:49. Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place once a year; Exodus 30:10; Leviticus 16; Hebrews 9:7,25; 10:1
3. Only the house of Aaron (priests) were anointed for their office; Ex. 30:25,30; Heb.1:9
4. Upon Aaron and his sons, Moses applied blood to "sanctify" the right ear (his hearing), right thumb (his service) and the large toe of the right foot (his walk); Lev. 8:23-24
5. Priests are "mediators", who reach out with one hand to take hold of God, and reach out with the other hand to take hold of humanity, bringing the two together.

The Levites:

1. The tribe of Levi ("union; joined") was the Lord's inheritance, and it illustrates the ministry of the whole household of faith, the church; 1 Chron. 6:32; Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:19
2. All Levites were not priests, but all priests (Aaron's sons) were Levites; Numbers 3:12
3. The Levites all possess spiritual ministry in some capacity; they point to all believers, the redeemed, who are justified by faith in Jesus Christ; Num. 8:14; Eph. 2:13
4. "Levites" is the term used to describe those who were not priests, but servants of the priests, who also attended to other duties of the tabernacle; Numbers 3:5-10; 18:3

The Royal Priesthood Is Revealed Through Aaron's Old Testament Priesthood:

1. There were required SPIRITUAL QUALITIES and specific instructions given to the priests who would minister in his office. These point to that which would come to fulfillment under the New Covenant; Col. 2:17; Heb. 8:5; 1 Peter 2:5,9.
2. The Royal Priesthood presses through the "VEIL of DEATH TO SELF", through faith, patience and obedience before they can enter the ministry "within the veil" (Most Holy Place), where the full expression of the Melchizedek Priesthood awaits them at the manifestation of the sons of God; Romans 8:18-19
3. HOLINESS, the condition of purity, is required of the priests in both Old and New Testaments. It is the result of God working in our lives through:
 - a. Grace – Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11
 - b. Obedience to the Word of God – John 17:17; 1 Peter 1:22
 - c. The Discipline of God – Hebrews 12:5-11
4. Those who minister as priests in God's behalf must reflect the CHARACTER of the One they represent. Just as the Bride of Christ will be perfect (mature and complete) without spot, blemish or wrinkle, so was Yahweh speaking these same principles to His people then; Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 5:10

"IF ye will OBEY MY VOICE indeed, and KEEP MY COVENANT, THEN ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is Mine: and YE SHALL BE UNTO ME A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS; Exodus 19:5-6. "Thou...hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast MADE US UNTO OUR GOD KINGS AND PRIESTS: and we shall reign on the earth"; Revelation 5:9-10

