

A Kingdom of Priests

1 Chr 23-30 — “And they are to stand every morning to thank and praise the Sovereign, and like-wise at evening.” From this we can see the priests stand every day. Ex 19:5 — “Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine, and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation.” The priests stood in the place of the whole nation. These priests came from one tribe. Our Father wanted a whole nation of priests, but this never happened.

Did our Father ever get a kingdom of priests? No! Why did this not happen?

One tribe became priests. One tribe was chosen to be choice priests who would stand before Him and represent the whole nation.

Israel as a whole was unsatisfactory to our Father. The priests became defiled and corrupt, and nothing was going up to heaven, so He never had a holy nation. Maybe in the first century it happened, but it fell away quickly.

1 Pet 2:7-10 — What is our Father trying to say here? How do we become a kingdom of Priests? How do we get to become this nation, this royal priesthood, this kingdom of priests, this chosen race, this holy nation for His own possession? We will get to be that way the same way as Levi.

The tribe of Levi was willing to give up everything, cut off everything. Not only were truly willing, but they *did* this. The eleven other tribes were unworthy. They should have followed their example in this.

Ex 32:25 — They had to become separate from family and friends. The nation of Israel was not willing to pay the price. The tribe of Levi was, and from this we can know what the requirement is to be a Priest.

You had to cut off your relatives. We still have to bring a sword, only it is not made of steel (Mt 10:34).

Mt 10:37 — No one is worthy who is not willing. The Levite priest had no possessions; he would live in a priestly city or community. He was set apart. He was able to stand before Him and offer incense and sacrifices. He was chosen by lot every morning by our Father. He was chosen because he had a good conscience. He was pure in heart and able to stand before our Father and the people.

Rom 12:1; 1 Tim 2:8 — Here we are told how to be, how we can be the anti-type, which is the fulfillment.

Exodus 24 — You can see where the whole nation promised to keep a covenant, but only Levi was sincere. What He desired was Ex 19:5-6.

In Ex 24 - 32 it tells all that happened. You can see in Ex 32:26 how they ordained themselves and promised to be His Priests. Ex 24:6 is what the whole nation broke — the tribe of Levi came forth and stood in place of what He wanted in Ex 19:5-6.

Exodus 31:17 — This is the sign of those who have received the covenant in their heart.

2 Cor 3:3; Rom 8:4 — Who is our God? He is the Creator, the God who created the world. He is the God who wants us to keep the Sabbath, the God who writes His laws in our hearts (Dt 4:13; 34:28; Jer 31:31-34; Heb 8:8-12). This binds the twelve tribes together (Ex 19:5-6).

Type (externally written) Anti-type (internally written)

Should we now, in this day, select the priests by lot and have only one person come before our Father to make offerings and sacrifices for all of us? Or should we all come? Should we all be able to come into His presence, without wrath and dissension and lift up Holy hands?

Our Father knows who is and isn't with Him. Do we wonder if someone has a bad attitude, or is not in fellowship with Him? Should we draw lots or just trust that everyone is in fellowship, having communion with Him? Their sins are confessed; they are without guilt and nothing bothers their conscience. We should all arrive having communion with the Son of God.

Everything is important. It takes many hours of understanding. If we don't understand what our Father is saying we won't endure to the end.

Should our Father trust each and every one of us? We are to be blameless, having a character without stain. Blameless means we are without stain. It doesn't mean you never sin. It means you confess it before it turns into a stain — you renounce and forsake it.

We must be those who walk in the light. Rev 3:4 — In the first church only a few were blameless. The rest didn't confess, renounce, and forsake their sins; they had stained garments, they were cut off, yet they went right on in pretense.

Col 1:22 — It begins with just one person, just like each animal had to be inspected, because one spot, blemish, or growth can make it unworthy. One person's attitude, one person not confessing, renouncing, and forsaking his sin, can ruin our sacrifice. Can you spot that one person? What do you do if you notice someone who is not walking in the light? Remember that each animal had to be inspected. We have responsibilities as priests.

Rev 3:4 — When our garments are soiled, we can go to our Master for cleansing. Sin is something that makes you dirty; stain is something you don't confess. If you walk in the light His blood cleanses you. Remember, we must *confess, renounce,* and (most important) *forsake* — we must be done with the things that hurt us. Our Father wants a nation of priests. One person can hold us back.

Ps 15:1-5; 24:3-4 — We can know who is in fellowship. They have an affection for our Master — fondness, love, devotion to Him. Is it hard to detect who's not drawing near the throne of grace?

Blameless means without stain.

Can you imagine the worth of a person if he does Rom 12:1? Can you imagine a person's worth if he is given over to our Father, if he can offer all his members, be holy and set apart, entirely devoted? Can you imagine what kind of person he would be? He would not be cut off from the land of the living.

Verse 2 — No longer conformed to the world. If you look at this you can see that the world conforms us. Our minds need to be renewed, that we may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect, knowing His purpose! We need to be able to look

at our lives and see what we are becoming. By His grace we are changing. We are confessing, renouncing, forsaking, and abandoning our sins in sincerity and truth.

We have been set free from slavery, from the God of this world. Rom 6:18 — We are bondslaves, slaves of righteousness. It is wonderful to be a slave to our Master. His name is wonderful. Nothing is more wonderful than a good Master. It used to be that people who had good masters would not leave them. Even when slavery was abolished, your master was good, cared for you, loved you and your family, and you were devoted to him. It was a pleasure to serve him, a good thing. You would not leave him! Melchizedek was a good king. He was like a master. A slave under a master would give the totality of his being to his master.

Lk 14:32 — You can see here our sovereignty, our personal rights, our ambitions, our possessions, our children — everything we have and are we hand over to the King who is coming. We surrender all personal rights and property. We give in to the King. We make a right decision to be in a permanent relation of servitude to Him. No one can be His disciple without doing this.

If you hold onto your possessions, it must be that you thought you could somehow muster up a great army and one day overthrow and destroy that King. So the King is wise and powerful, and He would know by your actions what you were thinking. And He would annihilate you because you're stupid and He would not be able to trust you. I say *stupid* because His might is so obviously awesome and you hang onto some notion you can overthrow Him. Christianity did not understand this or else they thought they could overthrow Him. Too late you realize how wrong you are, but the King has found you untrustworthy.

Rev 19 — An army is coming that will destroy all the kings of the earth. We are with Him because we are His property (Rev 17:14). Lk 14:33 — Therefore no one can be His disciple without giving up his possessions. We are the called, chosen, and faithful who surrendered and gave everything to that King. That's what we are doing this morning. It means if someone has a need and we have it, we supply that need. We love to give; giving is pleasure.

1 Jn 3:16,22 — Are we ready for this?

1 Jn 3:18-22 — Look at verse 22 for a while. Can we do this?

He hears us if we do what is well pleasing in His eyes, the things that are well pleasing in His eyes. Remember Rom 12:2? Doing this is self-judgment, walking blameless without stain, spot, or wrinkle.

We progress in our blameless walk (Col 1:23) if we remain in Him.

Col 1:22-23 — What makes us worthy is keeping our mind on the Spirit, because we affectionately love Him. Without affection we won't have a will. You won't obey anyone you don't love. Even in very, very difficult times we will love and obey Him if we have affection for Him. Those who have affection have no complaint. If we love Him it will overflow to our wives, husband, children, everyone.

It is a privilege to be in the Royal Priesthood, to be a part of the Holy Nation. Our greatest treasure is love!