

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

Volume 7, Issue 8

August 2009

Kings and Priests

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Introduction

The New Testament says a lot about the people of God as Kings and Priests. We, however, don't seem to really have a clue as to the meaning of "kings and priests". I, personally, believe that the next major move of the Holy Spirit will be in this area and will enlighten our understanding and application of this truth.

Jesus now functions in the Heavens as King of the Kingdom of God and as High Priest of the Priesthood of God. We see from this that "kingship" relates to the Kingdom and government; whereas, "priesthood" relates to the Body, the Church and to ministry. This we should understand before we can function within these areas properly.

There is a difference between having the *potential* to be a king and actually functioning as a king. One can be born into the royal family and still never sit upon the throne. Likewise, there is a difference between having the *potential* to be a priest of God and actually functioning as a priest. This is the difference between the *legal* and the *experiential*. We are all legally kings and priests; however, we must experientially come into these roles in order to function properly.

And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:10 NKJV)

The Lord *makes* us "kings and priests". This is the end result of coming to maturity. [*"If we endure, We shall also reign with Him.... (2 Timothy 2:12 NKJV)*] To be a "king" in the Kingdom of God, we must learn to rule or reign just like Jesus. To be a functional "priest" in the priesthood of God we must learn to function in a priestly manner just like Jesus. In the Old Testament Levitical priesthood those who were born into the tribe of Levi were priests; but, they had to grow up, become adults and be trained or apprenticed in the particular area of the priesthood in which they were to function as priests.

Types and Shadows

When Moses received the instructions on how to build the tabernacle, he was told that he was making a copy of the true tabernacle in the Heavens.

According to all that I show you, *that is*, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make *it*. (Exodus 25:9 NKJV)

"Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Moses to make it according to the pattern that he had seen, (Acts 7:44 NKJV)

who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "SEE THAT YOU MAKE ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN." (Hebrews 8:5 NKJV)

Everything about the tabernacle in the wilderness was a type and shadow of something in the Heavens. The earthly copy speaks or reveals spiritual truth of the true tabernacle. We come to understand this spiritual truth as the Holy Spirit enlightens us to the reality of the types and shadows of the copies.

Jesus Appointed High Priest

Jesus had to qualify to become our High Priest. After that God designated Him as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 5:9-10 NASB)

This appointment by God was a change of priesthood from the earthly Levitical or Aaronic priesthood to the priesthood of Melchizedek. The change was required because the Levitical priesthood on the basis of the Law could not bring anyone to perfection, that is, maturity.

Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need *was there* for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron? For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also. (Hebrews 7:11-12 NASB)

For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. (Hebrews 7:18-19 NASB)

so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. (Hebrews 7:22 NASB)

So, we have in these Scriptures 1) the changing of the priesthood, 2) the changing of the Law, and 3) the changing of the covenant. The old order and structure have been invalidated. There is a change from the old priesthood to the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek. There is a change from the old Law to the "law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus". There has been a

change from the old animal sacrifice to the New Covenant in the blood of Jesus.

[By the way, this should make it clear that God will not validate a re-built Jewish Temple operating under the Law of the Old Covenant with a Levitical priesthood. He has once and forever changed that. The old is no longer valid nor will it ever be valid again. Why do so many Christians think that this re-built temple is ordained of God when it would be an affront to Jesus?]

Our Priesthood

The Lord has made us a “kingdom of priests”. Peter referred to us as “a royal priesthood” that makes up a holy nation or kingdom.

But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (1 Peter 2:9 NKJV)

Our High Priest is part of the Melchizedek Priesthood, which existed prior to the earthly Levitical priesthood. We are of the same family or household as our High Priest; therefore, our priesthood is also after the Order of Melchizedek. What does that mean for us?

In Ezekiel 44 we have a categorization of priests into two groups based on their commitment to the Lord and their behavior. The first group of priests are allowed by God to minister to the “house” and to the people. The second group of priests are allowed to minister to the Lord in His Sanctuary. Both groups function as priests but have different roles.

I think this idea carries over to the New Covenant priesthood functions. Our priestly functions include ministering to the “house” and to the people and we are to minister to the Lord. The problem is that we don't really know how to do this. Because we are clueless, we have developed “programs” for the people and “services” for the Lord, neither of which have any priestly function nor any real spiritual value.

We need to learn some things from the Holy Spirit. We need to learn the requirements that we must meet in order to function as a New Testament priest. We need to be willing to pay the price to come to maturity, to perfection. We need to learn how to enter into the Holiest of Holies and minister to the Lord. We need to learn how to be a priest of God.

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