

KINGDOM OF PRIESTS

I like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you.

It seems that in these days, the modern Christian religious experience could be summed up as praying the sinner's prayer, joining a church, attending as many church services and bible studies as possible and modifying your behavior to be more loving, more kind, and more patient etc. That's pretty much what the world expects from Christians today, God's people.

Let's go to the scriptures and see what God expects from his people.

Exodus 19. 4

You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagle's wings, and brought you to myself. 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.

God wanted people who hear his voice, keep his Covenant, and to be in intimate fellowship with him.

Isaiah 55. 11

So shall my word be which goes forth from my mouth, it shall not return to me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Isaiah 46.9

Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other, I am God and there is no one like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, my purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all my good pleasure. Truly I have spoken, truly I will bring it to pass I have planned it, surely, I will do it.

In my reading of the entire Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi, I've not seen one place in those scriptures that there is a kingdom of priests unto the Lord.

It almost seems that it got down to one guy who would hear his voice and keep the Covenant of the Lord at times. Guys like David, Samuel or Elijah.

If we look at it with our natural senses, it seems like God spoke it, but He didn't get what he wanted. It begs the question why?

This Covenant was conditional. God said IF you will hear my voice and obey my Covenant, I will make you to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

When God makes a covenant, he intends to keep it. When he speaks something he intends to do it. God is relentless and unwavering when it comes to accomplishing his purposes.

He called the Israelites stubborn and stiff-necked people, but he always rescued them from the bondage and distress caused by their continually breaking His Covenant.

Malachi 3.6

For I, the Lord, do not change, there for you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

I'd like to focus a little more on this Kingdom of priests.

Let's look at some scriptures out of the old Covenant that relate to the priests of God.

Numbers 8.14

You shall separate the Levites from among the sons of Israel and the Levites shall be mine. For they are wholly given to me from among the sons of Israel. I have taken them for myself instead of the first issue of the womb, the firstborn of all the sons of Israel.

Deuteronomy 10.8

At that time the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to serve him and to bless in his name until this day. Therefore, Levi does not have a portion or inheritance with his brothers, the Lord is his inheritance, just as the Lord your God spoke to him.

After the conquest of the Promised Land, all of the tribes got a portion of land as their inheritance. You can see from these scriptures that the Levites got no land as an inheritance. The Lord is their inheritance and their sustenance and their life.

Let's look for a minute at the clothing of the priests.

They were to wear finely woven linen clothes. They were to wear nothing that would make them sweat.
Ezekiel 44.18

God was not looking for their human effort, he was looking for their obedience to His word and His covenant.

They wore a turban on their head with a gold hammered plate inscribed "holy to the Lord", which hung down over their forehead. It was to always be upon them when they went into the presence of the Lord.

They were the only ones of the entire tribe of Israel who could enter the presence of the Lord, hear His voice, and then come out and speak to the people on God's behalf.

According to Exodus 19:4 God wanted an entire Kingdom of people just like this. People who were entirely His, who would hear His voice, minister to the Lord, and Minister from the Lord to his people. A people totally given to the Lord, and who had God as their inheritance, their life, and their entire reason for being on this planet.

I mentioned in the first video, that in my reading of the Old Testament I saw no Kingdom of priests there. Our natural thinking might conclude that God didn't get what he wanted.

But as Isaiah 46 stated,
God declares the end from the beginning.

Let's look in the New Testament at 1 Peter 2.5

You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Verse 9

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's Own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light, for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God.

Revelation 5.9

And they sang a new song, saying, worthy are you to take the book, and to break it seals, for you were slain, and did purchase for God with your blood, men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. And you have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the Earth

Just as it was with the law of the old Covenant, Jesus fulfilled the law in the New Testament. Jesus said I did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it.

His perfect sacrifice on our behalf, and our death and Resurrection with Christ, made it possible for us to also fulfill the law in our lives.

Romans 8.1-3

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did, sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

Although after the fall, we became spiritually dead, living souls, separated from God, God's perfect plan to redeem us in Christ, made God's incredible promise available to us.

1st Corinthians 15:45

So, also it is written, the first man, Adam, became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However the spiritual is not first, but the natural, then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy, the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy, as is the Heavenly, so also are those who are Heavenly. And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

2 Peter 1.4

He has granted to us his precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

God's intention from the beginning, was to infuse man with His own spiritual nature, so that man would fulfill his original calling to be the supreme creation of God to manifest his life to this entire world.

God not only wanted to take ownership of the Israelites, to be their leader, protector, and provider, He wanted to possess their hearts.

Let's look at His expectations for His people.

Deuteronomy 6.4

Hear O Israel. The Lord Is Our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And these words which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart, and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead, and you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

God wanted an eternal, and all-encompassing relationship with his people. Unfortunately, the priests lost sight of that relationship and turned every one of God's requests into ritual that they did only for appearance sake.

Jesus said about the Pharisees in Matthew 23.5,

They do all their deeds to be noticed by men, for they broaden their phylacteries, and lengthen the tassels of their garments.

As it was stated in Isaiah 46, God declares the end from the beginning. He establishes and fulfills His own covenant.

Let's look at Hebrews 8.8.

It reads,

Behold days are coming, says the Lord, when I will effect a New Covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Not like the Covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, for they did not continue in my covenant, and I did not care for them says the Lord.

For this is the Covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will put my laws into their minds, I will write them up on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they will be my people, and they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen and everyone is brother saying, know the Lord, for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest of them.

God wasn't interested in establishing religious rituals. He wasn't looking to get His word written on the doorposts of their houses, or have little boxes of scriptures on their foreheads. He wanted them written on their hearts.

Like Jesus told the woman at the well, God was looking for worshippers, who would worship in spirit and in truth.

And like it said in 1 Corinthians 15.46,

God's plan was first the natural, then the spiritual.

In Colossians 3.1-3 amp. Paul shows the Colossian believers how to make this happen in their lives.

If then you have been raised with Christ, to a new life, thus sharing his resurrection from the dead, aim at and seek the rich eternal treasures that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

And set your minds and keep them set on what is above, the higher things, not on the things that are on the Earth for as far as this world is concerned you have died, and your new, real life is hidden with Christ in God, when Christ, who is your life, appears then you will also appear with him in the splendor of His glory.

God's intention from the beginning, was to completely infuse, fill, and overflow his people with His eternal life.

Paul had a revelation of God's original intention for His people. He prayed in Ephesians 3 amp,

May He grant you out of the rich treasury of his glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the Holy Spirit, Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality.

May Christ through your faith, actually dwell, settle down, abide and make His permanent home in your hearts.

May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love, that you may have the power and be strong to apprehend and grasp with all the saints, God's devoted people, the experience of that love, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of it, that you may really come to know practically, through experience for yourselves, the love of Christ which far surpasses mere knowledge without experience,

that you may be filled through your all your being, unto all the fullness of God, that you may have the richest measure of the divine presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself.

Christ came to establish the kingdom of God on the Earth, and become the Way for us to enter that Kingdom.

The Father put us in Christ and translated us out of the kingdom of this world into His kingdom, so that we can be his own possessions, His kingdom of priests on this Earth.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller