

We are Kings and Priests

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➤ Intro:

- Who are we in the world? What good is my life producing?
- Jesus is both King and Priest (high priest)
 - hence, He makes us (His brethren) both kings and priests, as Christians
 - analogy of who we are and what we do in the world, and in the kingdom
- lesson: explore the significance of reigning with Christ, made kings and priests unto God

➤ Kings and priests / kingdom and priests – two ways of expressing what we are talking about – Greek words slightly different, translated “kingdom” (NASB) or “kings” (NKJV) – analogy

- NKJV - Rev. 1:6a kings and priests
 - word translated “king” (*basileus*) denotes a king
 - as Christians we are kings, royalty – by power of God, in Christ
- NASB - Rev. 1:6a kingdom and priests
 - word translated “kingdom” (*basileia*) denotes *sovereignty, royal power, dominion*

➤ - 1 Pet. 2:9a we are a royal priesthood – kingly priest

- word translated “royal” is an adjective of the noun *basileus* which is translated “king”
- we are a kingly priesthood, a royal priesthood
- we are royalty as priests of God – kings and priests / royal (kingly) priests

➤ - 2 Tim. 2:12 we reign with Jesus – because of our fellowship with Him

- kings reign, thus we are kings – Greek word also denotes honor bestowed upon us as upon Jesus
 - Rom. 8:17 fellow heirs with Christ – share with Christ – king, priest
 - Eph. 2:6; Col. 2:12-13 God raised us up and seated us with Christ in the heavenly places, when we were baptized into Christ
 - When are we made kings and priests? – baptized into Christ (Eph. 2:6; Col. 2:12-13)
 - Jesus is king and priest – we are raised by and seated with Him when baptized – made kings and priests

➤ - NKJV - Rev. 5:10; 11:15 we reign on earth as kings with Jesus – individuals united together as one

- NASB - Rev. 5:10 reign as a kingdom
- our reign is given to us by the authority of Christ, therefore all that we do is in harmony with His law

➤ - Rev. 20:6 reign in heaven with Jesus during the millennium (1k years) prior to the judgment

➤ - Rev. 22:5 reign with God and Christ at the throne of God for eternity, after judgment

- kings (kingdom) for eternity
- “they will reign” relates to the saints, see context “they” / “them” (vs. 4-5)

- either way we look at it, we are royalty as God’s children, reigning and serving as priests in His

- **Significance of being a priest** - analogy of who we are and what we do in the world, and in the kingdom
 - **1 Pet. 2:4-10** our priesthood. . . .
 - vs. 4-5 living stones, built up as a **spiritual house for a holy priesthood**, offer **spiritual sacrifices**
 - vs. 7 precious value
 - vs. 9 chosen race, royal priesthood (kingly priesthood), **holy nation, God's own possession**
 - vs. 9 so we can proclaim the excellencies of God – **work in the kingdom**
 - vs. 10 people of God, receive mercy

- - **Rom. 12:1; Heb. 13:15-16** as priests, we offer spiritual service, sacrifices, to God (1 Pet. 2:5)
 - illus.: **Rom. 15:15-16** Paul's work was like a priest, ministering as a priest of the gospel of God

- - **Rev. 7:13-14, 15, 16, 17** eternity, serve before the throne of God, blessed, Lamb our shepherd, eternal life – paint picture
 - **different analogy**: Jesus our shepherd, we are His sheep

- **review: importance of being a priest**

kings and priests / kingdom and priests

significance of being priest:

- chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, God's own possession
- proclaim the excellencies of God
- people of God, receive mercy
- offer spiritual service, sacrifices, to God
- eternity, serve before the throne of God

➤ **Significance of being a king** - analogy of who we are and what we do in the world, and in the kingdom

- **it denotes the honor God has bestowed upon us as His children**

- **illus.: kings are the most honored among mortal man**, even God commands us to give honor to them as is due (**1 Pet. 2:17**)

- **illus.: Jesus' kingdom is a spiritual kingdom**, where **He is king**, and all who are **members of the kingdom reign with Him as kings**

- **this is not possible in the physical kingdoms of men**, where there is only one king at a time, it is only possible in the kingdom of Christ

- **Rev. 5:10; 20:6; 22:5 honor on earth and in heaven for eternity** – before judgment in the millennium, after judgment for eternity at the throne of God – paint picture

➤ - **kings make proclamations which must be adhered to**

- **illus.: kings make laws, and citizens must obey**

- some kings made laws in accordance with God's commands

- some made laws in accordance with their own opinions

- **we are kings, united together in a kingdom and united in Christ as one**

- **we proclaim that which is right**, by the authority of Almighty God, revealed in His word

- **illus.: we are The World's Bible (#460)** – paint picture

- **we proclaim Christ's death every time we observe of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:26)**

➤ - **kings pass judgment**

- **1 Cor. 6:2-3 judge world and angels** – paint picture

- **1 Cor. 6:1, 4-7 thus we should not take brethren to courts of law**, but rather let **brethren** (church) **decide** matter for us when we can't come to an agreement with brethren

- **this is only possible when both parties are willing to be faithful** to God and accept the judgment of brethren (church)

- **if the other party is not willing**, we may have to resort to civil court because the other brother is unfaithful

➤ - **kings sit on a throne**

- **Rev. 3:21 we sit with Jesus on the throne of God** – **Eph. 2:6** we sit with Jesus in the heavenly places – paint picture

- **Rev. 2:10b Jesus give us a crown** – crowns worn by kings – **Rev. 14:14** Jesus wearing crown in heaven

- **review: the importance of being kings**

kings and priests / kingdom and priests

significance of being priest:

- chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, God's own possession
- proclaim the excellencies of God
- people of God, receive mercy
- offer spiritual service, sacrifices, to God
- eternity, serve before the throne of God

significance of being a king:

- honor, for eternity
- make proclamation while on the earth
- pass judgment with Christ at the final judgment
- sit at the throne of God

Summary / Inv. – review above

- **illus.:** sometimes we talk about having a good self image

- **if we realize who we are, and what we are (kings, priests),** we will not have a problem with a good self image

- **God has done so much for us we'll be humble,** though we've been **elevated** above all others who aren't Christians, even above the angels (we will judge the angels)

- **inv.:** **Christ Arose** (#174), read vs. 3 and chorus, **Jesus "lives forever with His saints to reign"**

- **Rev. 2:10** Jesus wore a crown of thorns, so we could wear a crown in heaven for eternity with Him

- **Rev. 14:14** Jesus is crowned in heaven right now, and we will be crowned in heaven also