

*Our heavenly calling on earth*

## I. LOVING JESUS AS OUR HIGH PRIEST

A. Jesus' *eternal role* is a priest bringing the kingdoms of earth together under heaven in order to give them back to God (Psalm 110:1, 4; Heb. 7:17, 24; Rev. 5:6; 7:17; 22:3; Zech. 6:12-13; Isa. 9:7; Psalm 2:6; Jer. 3:17; Eph. 1:9-11; Rev. 11:11-15; 1 Cor. 15:24, 28). The description God the Father gives us of Jesus in Revelation 1 prepares and empowers the Church to enter into the priestly ministry with confidence (Rev. 1:13-16). We need a revelation of Jesus to partner with Him as He desires.

*The Lord [Father] has sworn and will not relent, "You [Jesus] are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." (Psalm 110:4)*

*... One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Rev. 1:13-16)*

B. Jesus continues to rule as a priest through intercession and will do so when He returns to rule as King in Jerusalem. Through His prayers and His life, Jesus does the Father's desires until they are realized and the whole earth is filled with the glory of God. (Psalm 2:7-8; Psalm 110:1-2; Zech. 6:12-13)

*...Ask of Me, and I [Father] will give You [Jesus] the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. (Psalm 2:7-8)*

*"Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH!...So He [Jesus] shall be a priest on His throne..." (Zech. 6:12-13)*

C. Through Jesus we have been called *sons* and a *Bride*. Sons receive and rule the Kingdom (Dan. 7:27; Rev. 3:21; Rom. 8:14; Gal. 3:26). The Bride knows His heart and feels His delight (Isa. 62:4-5; Mat. 25:1-13; Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 9:17; 22:17). *We function in these identities through the ministry of the priesthood.* (1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Heb. 7:15; 8:1; Rev. 1:6; 5:10). The priesthood of believers is God's *gift to Himself* and His *mercy strategy* to the earth!

*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 Pet. 2:9)*

*He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to [serve, NIV] His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Rev. 1:6 NASB)*

D. Presently our identity (son and bride) and function (priest) is hidden (not fully actualized or understood) in heavenly places while we live on earth (Eph. 2:7; Col 3:1-3; 1 John 3:2-3).

***1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col. 3:1-3)***

- E. Satan wants to distract, dishearten, divorce us from embracing the priestly ministry. He accuses us in two ways: *before God* about our weakness, sins and shortcoming and *before us* about the character of God. (Zech 3:1-5; Job 1-2; Rev. 12:10)

***Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. (Zech. 3:1)***

***...“Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. (Rev. 12:10)***

- F. There are four general aspects to the priestly ministry: 1) Ministry to the Lord; 2) Intercession; 3) Blessing the people; 4) Waiting for the Lord’s return.

## II. EMBRACING THE PRIESTLY MINISTRY

### A. Ministry to God.

1. As priests we draw near God and stand before Him. We are the ones He has called out from the earth for Himself. (2 Chron. 29:11; Rev. 7:9; Rev. 1:6; 1 Pet. 2:9)

***My sons, do not be negligent now, for the Lord has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and that you should minister to Him and burn incense.” (2 Chron. 29:11)***

2. We get to know His heart and mind as we spend time with Him. (John 17:24; Mark 3:17) We meditate, consider, gaze upon Him with the eyes of our heart (2 Cor. 3:18; Psalm 27:4; cf. Zech. 9:17; SS 5:10-16; Rev. 1:13-16) and are transformed by His Spirit who reveals the deep things of God to us freely. (1 Cor. 2:8-10; John 14:6)

***Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him. (Mark. 3:17)***

***But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Cor. 3:17)***

***One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek... to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. (Psalm 27:4)***

3. We experience and know God and from that place, *fall down, worship, cast our crowns* (honor, achievements God empowered us to win!) (Rev. 4:4, 10; 5:8, 14; 7:11; 11:16; 19:4).

*Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. (Rev. 4:4)*

B. Intercession

1. *Mystery* and *majesty* of intercession

- a. The *mystery* is that we say God's words back to Him and He answers us. It seems mundane, weak, simplistic, but effective in developing our dependence and friendship with Him (Ex. 4:19; Jer. 1:9; John 1:1). But it's not the words only, it's the lifestyle and the heart behind the prayers. (Psalm 15; 24:3-6; Rom 12:1-2). God hears all our prayers, but prayers of faith move His heart (James 5:13-18). Faith means we live what we pray.

*Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart... (Psalm 15:3-4)*

- b. The *majesty* is that God runs His government through intercession. His power is released in our agreement. (Rev. 4:5; 1 Kings 18:38-39; Psalm 97:4; Job. 38:35; 36:32; 2 Sam. 22:15). He has given His authority to the Church on earth (Psalm 115:16; Mat. 16:18-19).

*And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices.... (Rev. 4:5)*

*And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Mat. 16:18-19)*

2. The *restraining* and *releasing* of judgment

- a. Intercession prevents judgment on righteous and releases mercy on wicked (Joel 2:12-32).

*Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room. 17 Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, "Spare Your people, O Lord... Then the Lord will be zealous for His land, And pity His people... 20 But I will remove far from you the northern army...23... And He will cause the rain to come down for you... 25 So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten... 28 And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh...*

- b. After God gives time for the the wicked to repent, intercession will releases judgment on those that pollute the earth by continuing to rebel against God and persecute His saints. (Luke 18:7-8; Isa. 24:4-6; 19-20; Isa. 42:10-16; Rev. 8:3-5; 9:20-21; 11:17-19; 16:9-11)
- c. Moses, Samuel, Noah, Daniel and Job accomplished great things through intercession, so much that the Lord personally mentioned them in Scripture and even Daniel when he was still alive! (Ezek. 4:14, 20; Jer. 15:1)

***Even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live,” says the Lord God, “they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness. (Ezek. 4:14)***

## C. Blessing the People

1. The priests in the OT blessed the people by giving them the Aaronic Blessing (Nu. 6:22-27). They also taught the people right from wrong, holy from unholy (Lev. 10:3, 10-11) and were to lead the people in the knowledge of God (Mal. 2:7-8). They spent time serving in the temple (ministry to God) but also out among the people of Israel (ministry to people).

***23 “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: 24 “The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; 26 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” 27 “So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.” (Nu. 6:22-27)***

2. Did this by their lifestyle as well as words. We “bless the people” by releasing the Kingdom of God and completing the Great Commission which entails: *going, making disciples, baptizing, and teaching*, (discipling) the nations (Mat. 28:16-20) while *demonstrating* the Kingdom in signs and wonders (Mk. 16:14-18).

## D. Waiting for Messiah’s Return

1. Must do first three to do the last one. Many are not in intimacy or intercession so they don’t understand “waiting” for His return.
2. The importance of waiting-to *renew our strength to overcome* in this corrupt age and in the time of trouble the earth will encounter. (Isa. 40:27-32; Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1; Mat. 24:21). Waiting *purifies* and *prepares* us (1 John 3:3; Mat. 25:4)
3. Waiting involves actively praying and apprehending in the spirit what God has prepared for us as the apostles did upon Jesus ascension. (Acts 1:4, 14; 2:1-4)
4. The Bible tells us of watchmen who “wait” for the redemption of Israel (Isa. 62:6-7) and the righteous who wait for justice on the earth with Christ’s 2nd coming and establishment of His Kingdom (Luke 18:7-8; Rev. 6:10; 11:15-18)
5. Examples of waiting in NT - Simeon (Luke 2:25-35) and Anna (Luke 2:36-38)
6. Jesus will return again to earth in response to the saints who are waiting for Him *on earth* (Lk. 18:7-8; Isa. 42:10-16; 62:6-7; Mal. 1:11; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; 22:17), *in heaven* (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; Rev. 4:4, 9-11; 5:8-10, 14; 6:9-11; 7:9-17; 11:15-19; 15:2-8; 19:1-8) and also *the remnant of Israel* (Zech. 12:10; Isa. 64:1-12; 30:18-33; Ps. 94:1-23; 98:1-9; 99:1-9).