

**Greetings, dear reader, in the **Altogether Anointed** Name of **JESUS!****

Here we look at the picture of the church as a Royal Priesthood.

On this topic, the key verse is well known:

*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; I Peter 2:9*

Here "a peculiar people" means a special people for God's own possession, and the verse itself is based on the writings of Moses, where God told Moses to say to the children of Israel, after they had been freed from Egypt:

*Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:*

*And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. (Exodus 19:5-6)*

The Levites (from the tribe of Levi, one of the 12 tribes of Israel) were specially called to be priests, but this Exodus 19 passage clearly shows that God's desire from the beginning was to have a whole kingdom and nation of priests that would minister to Him.

Check also Isaiah 61:6, Isaiah 66:21, and Jer 33:22, verses which I believe prophetically refer to the priesthood of us believers also:

That God's goal of a Kingdom of Priests will be achieved in eternity is made plain in Revelation 5 - where with Christ seen as the Lamb of God we read:

*And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and **priests**: and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev 5:8-10)*

So, going back to the days of Moses, why were the Levites chosen as priests, and what did this mean, and why is this relevant to us believers?

Well, Exodus 32:26 possibly has the answer as to why the Levites were singled out specially to be priests. The Levites rallied around Moses at a time of crisis when Moses asked "who is on the Lord's side"? - after Moses had come down from meeting with God on Mount Sinai to find the people had already strayed (after only 40 days) from worshipping God... to worshipping their own man-made golden calf. As to what does being a priest mean and why the office of Priest is relevant to us, here are, briefly, some thoughts:

*The Priest had to be holy, with daily washings; we too are called likewise to live holy lives, washed daily by prayer and the Word.*

*The Priest was called to daily offer sacrifices and to minister to God; we too are called to daily offer sacrifices of praise and to minister to God in worship.*

*The Priest was invested with the authority to be able to intercede for others and to bless others while sprinkled with blood before the mercy seat; we are likewise invested with authority in prayer before the mercy seat of God's Throne, while sprinkled with the blood of Christ.*

May God open our eyes to see and realise the awesome royal priesthood privilege and status we have in Christ, Who is Our High Priest (Heb 2:17) and the "High Priest" of our Profession (Heb 3:1), for He is not only Our High Priest, but He calls us to be priests under Him in service to God and our fellow man.

*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the <sup>1</sup>feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points <sup>2</sup>tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16).*

Well I know I have not done this subject justice, but I trust something shared here will have been a blessing to you.

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