

The Victorious and Glorious Church, Part 5
The Church → The ROYAL PRIESTHOOD of CHRIST
1 Peter 2:9 – 01/24/2016
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
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Review

Each Picture or Snapshot of the Church – that Picture or Image should bring to mind at least 3 Aspects ...

1. Relationship (what Relationship is “Pictured”)
2. Roles within that Relationship
3. Responsibilities within those Roles that we play within that Relationship

1st week → We are **Royal** Warriors for Christ ... Keys of the Kingdom, Tearing off the Gates of Hell, setting the captives free (a Holy Mission of Rescue)

2nd week → Pillar & Support/Foundation of the TRUTH → Supporting, Defending, Proclaim God’s Word

3rd week → The Bride of Christ → Wife, submission to, loving, obeying, intimate with her Husband, Christ. Eventually Ruling with her Husband, Christ (Rev. 22:5)

4th week → The Holy, Spiritual, Living Temple of Christ → Worshippers, Worship of God, Building each other up, being used of God to be the Living Stones to Build His Living Temple.

Today’s TEXT: The Church as a Royal Priesthood.

1 Peter 2:9 : ... YOU ARE a chosen race, a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may PROCLAIM the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

First Mention / First Picture – is that of the Kingly Priesthood of the Messiah (see Psalm 110:4 / Hebrews 7)
MELCHIZEDEK – Genesis 14:18-20 → first instance of a Royal Priesthood, Royal Priest – a King who is also the Priest of God over and for the people, etc. Melchizedek is a **Title**, such as Pharaoh or Abimelech – titles The book of Hebrews actually explains the meaning of the Title → Melchizedek → King of Righteousness. We know that he was the King over Salem (or Jerusalem). So, he is also, by Kingly Rule → the King of Peace. Since “Salem” means Peace. Jerusalem means “Heritage of Peace”. We know in Romans 5 – because Christ’s crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection, By Faith, we can Have Peace with God because of what Christ did for us. Christ is the King of Righteousness and He is the King of Peace (or Prince of Peace). Melchizedek – the Priest of God, God Most High or EL ELYON.

“Blessed by Abram of God Most High (“EL ELYON”), Possessor of Heaven and Earth ...” (Gen. 14:18) Abraham, is the Worshipper of Yahweh, God, God Most High (see Genesis 14:18-22) – in verse 22, Abram said to the king of Sodom → “I have raise my hand to Yahweh, God Most High, Possessor of Heaven and Earth...” in this case Abram acknowledges that he and Melchizedek worship the same God, YHVH EL ELYON. This exchange between Abram and Melchizedek and between Abram and the king of Sodom are instructive to us in view of their Contrast. Melchizedek represents “God’s People” who worship the Only, Living and True God ... Melchizedek is the Priest of EL ELYON, and He is the King of Righteousness and the King of Salem (or the King of Peace) ... contrasted with the king of Sodom who represents False religion, Immorality (unrighteousness), greed, and rebellion against God.

MELCHIZEDEK (“the ORDER of Melchizedek”) represents **Royalty** and **Godly Priesthood** (contrast that with Nimrod of Babel/Babylon or with the “king of Sodom”, etc. – representing rebellion towards God, Worldliness, and all Unrighteousness)

Melchizedek is a picture of the Messiah who would be both **High Priest** of God and **King** – two distinct Roles that no one person in Israel could be. No one in Israel was allowed to be both King and Priest. The Tribe of Judah was the tribe through which David’s Descendant could be King. Aaron’s descendants of the Tribe of Levi could be High Priests. It was divided and that is the way God wanted it.

Psalm 110:4 - The LORD has sworn and will not relent, “You are a Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

Jesus Christ would be Both KING & High Priest → He Builds the HOLY, LIVING TEMPLE

Zechariah 6:12-13 – The Messiah → The BRANCH → King / Priest

¹²Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying:

“Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the **TEMPLE** of the LORD; ¹³Yes, He shall build the **TEMPLE** of the LORD.

He shall bear the **GLORY**, and shall sit and **RULE** on His throne; so He shall be a **PRIEST** on His throne, and the counsel of **PEACE** shall be between them both.”

Hebrews 3:1 says → Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the **Apostle and High Priest** of our confession, **Christ Jesus** → So Jesus is the **SENT ONE** (the Apostle) and our **HIGH PRIEST** of our Confession ... we look to Jesus as our **EXAMPLE** of our Role and Responsibility as being a **ROYAL PRIESTHOOD**.

1 Peter 2:9 : ... **YOU ARE** a chosen race, a **ROYAL PRIESTHOOD**, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may **PROCLAIM** the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood — ⁶and He has made us to be a **KINGDOM, PRIESTS** to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:5-6)

And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ and have made us to be a **KINGDOM OF PRIESTS** to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.” (Revelation 5:9-10 - NKJV)

Compare with **Exodus 19:4-6**: ‘You have seen what I (Yahweh) did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now therefore, **IF** you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, **THEN** you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a **kingdom of priests** and a **holy nation**.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

Do you see the similarities between 1 Peter 2:9 and Exodus 19:4-6?
(Notice, also Rev. 1:5-6 & Rev. 5:9-10)

How can a whole nation of people be “a kingdom of priests”?

What is a Godly High Priest, according to God’s Way of Thinking?

He Stands before God (in a humble, worshipful posture/attitude) to:

1. Represents “the People” to God” (Prayer & INTERCESSION)
2. Bring God’s Word to the People (instruction from God)

How can a whole nation or People Group or PEOPLE be a Priest unto God?

When that whole nation or People Relates to God like a High Priest does as defined above.

Consider this fact: There are 70 Elders in Israel ... and there are 70 “root” Nations described in Genesis 10.

What is the Relationship pictured here? What are the church’s Roles and Responsibilities as a Royal Priesthood unto God? Is it ONLY for our Pleasure, Safety and Comfort?

→ **OR** is it ALL about the **MISSION to Reach the LOST?**