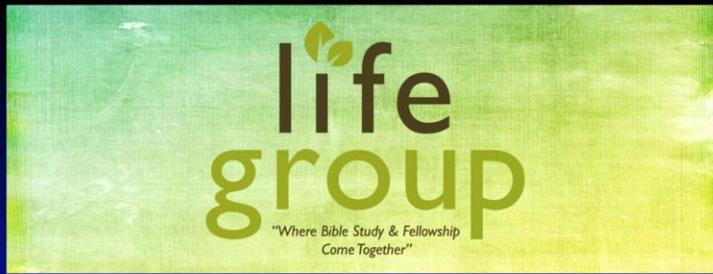


Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



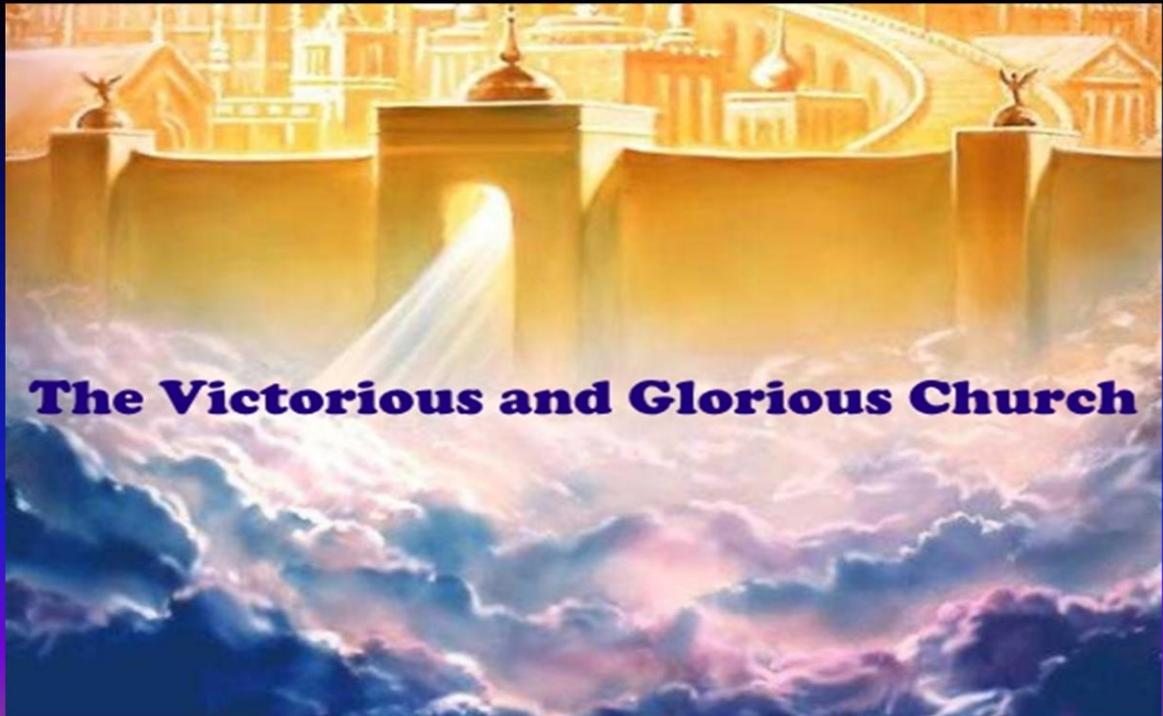
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LIFE Group ...

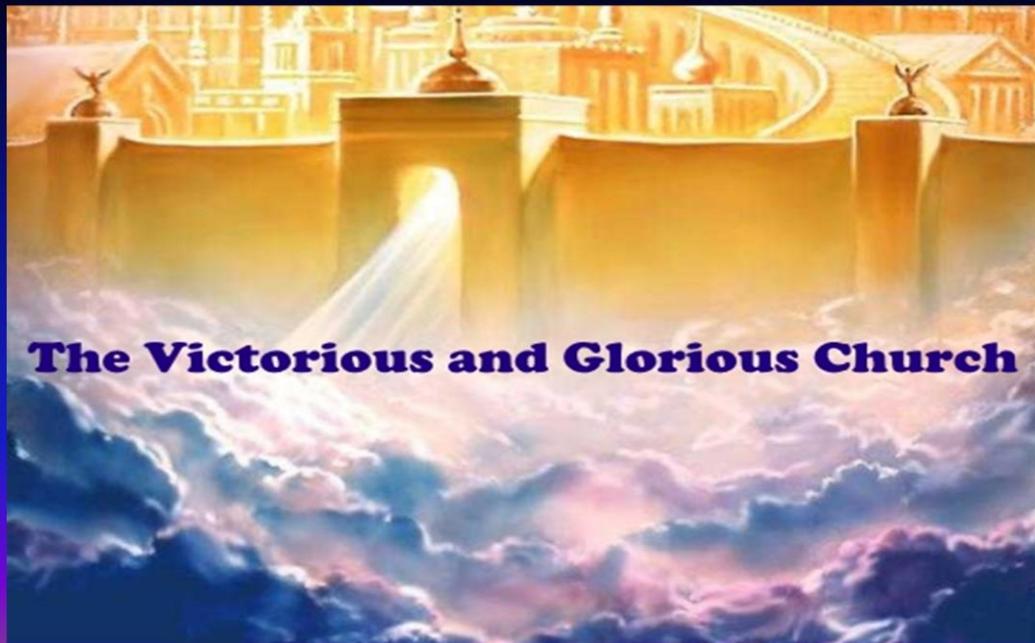
**6:30 pm at the Thomas' home on Wed. evenings
Bring your Bibles, your Notebook, an
Expectant heart and a prayerful-thankful attitude
to Experience the Presence, the Power and the
Purpose of Jesus Christ, together**





The Victorious and Glorious Church

Review – Part 1 – Matt. 16:16-19



The Victorious and Glorious Church

Review – Part 1 – Matt. 16:16-19
The Victorious, Triumphant Mission of the Church – “I will build My church, and the Gates of Hades will not prevail against it” - vs 18.

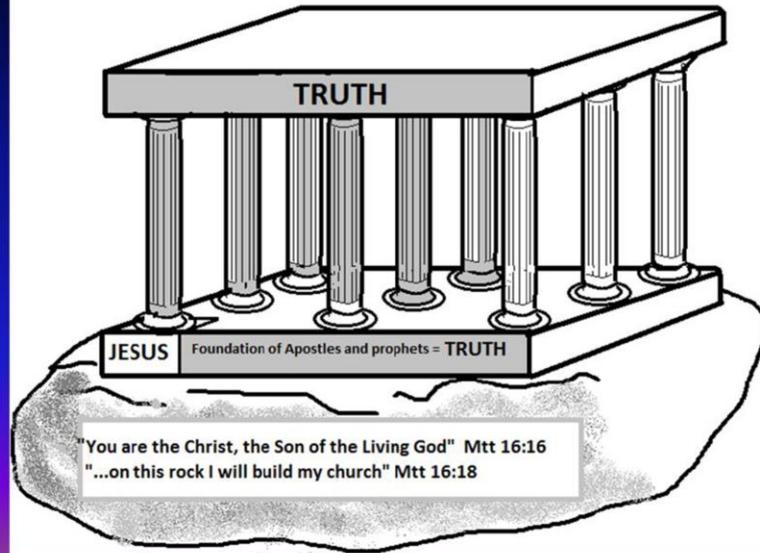
GATES & KEYS



Review – Part 2 – 1 Timothy 3:15

The Victorious and Glorious Church, Part 2

The church of Christ is built on the Truth and supports the truth (Matt. 16:18, 1 Timothy 3:15, Ephesians 2:20-22).

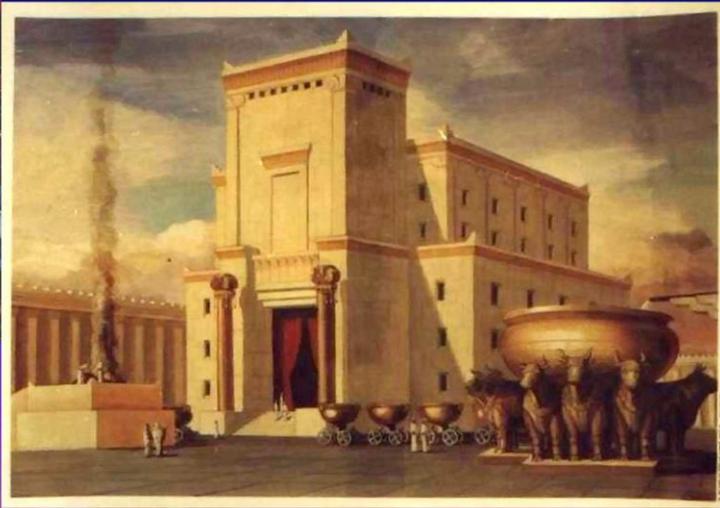


Review – Part 3 – Ephesians 5:25-27
The Glorious BRIDE of CHRIST



Review Part 4 – Ephesians 2:14-22

The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST



The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5



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, ¹⁰and 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. ⁵Now 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.⁶And 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.”

The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5

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The Church – The Royal Priesthood of CHRIST

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The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5



Main Text for Today (01/17/2016)

Ephesians 2:14-22 - For He Himself (i.e. Jesus Christ) is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, **GROWS** into a **HOLY TEMPLE** in the LORD, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5



Genesis 14:18-22

We are **FIRST** introduced to a Person, Melchizedek, who Represents a **KING** who is also a **Priest of God**.

He is King over Salem (or Jerusalem)

His Title (Melchizedek) means - King of Righteousness
As King of Salem → King of Peace or Prince of Peace

He worships the same **GOD** that Abram/Abraham does

Contrast between Babel/Nimrod/Sodom & Jerusalem

See Psalm 110:4 / Hebrews 7 → **KING & PRIEST**

“Type” of CHRIST – and Example for US

First Mention / First Picture – is that of the Kingly Priesthood of the Messiah (see Psalm 110 / 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)

(this 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 with David’s Descendant could be King. The Aaron’s descendants of the Tribe of Levi could be High Priests. It was divided and that is the way God wanted it.)

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

The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5



Zechariah 6:12-13 – Messianic Prophecy

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.””

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

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

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The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5



Hebrews 3:1 →

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 **ALSO** look to Jesus as our **EXAMPLE** of our Role and Responsibility as being a **ROYAL PRIESTHOOD**.

FIRST → CHRIST is OUR Personal HIGH PRIEST before GOD ... This is NUMBER ONE ...

SECOND → we look to Jesus Christ on how WE should be for others around us...

The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5



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.

The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5



Revelation 1:5-6 :

To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood — ⁶ and 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.

The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5



Revelation 5:9-10 :

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The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5



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”?

The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5



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The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5



**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?

A High Priest Stands before God 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?

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

Do you see the similarities between 1 Peter 2:9 and Exodus 19:4-6?

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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:

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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?

The Victorious and Glorious Church – part 5



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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**?

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**See y'all Next Time we Gather...
@ LIFE Group and/or Here Next Week**



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