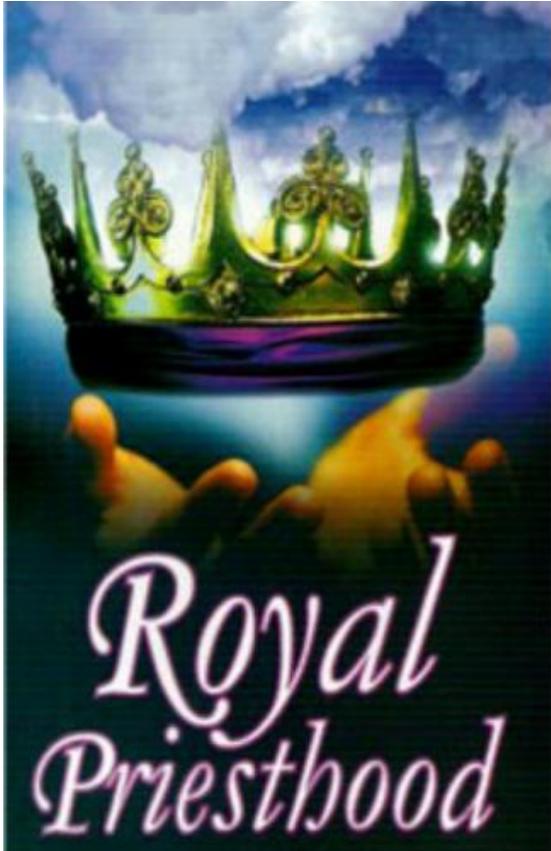


# A Royal Priesthood

By Pastor Mike Taylor



**Peter 2:5, 9** "You also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ ... **2:6** Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

**2:7** Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

**2:8** And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

**2:9** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

I had a dear sister ask me what will we be (the saints borne of God) during the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ ? She understood that we will be given duties by our Lord and Savior, but her question was "will we rule over the people still living

after the tribulation? Besides what will we be? Will there be mortals able to sin during this time?" Good set of questions and those that I feel need further exploration by looking at scripture to get an idea of just what we will be and our task during this 1000 year reign after the rebellion during the great tribulation is put down by our King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ. Let's start in Romans on our journey to identify our future destination and responsibilities that our Lord will impart to all that are found in Him at His coming. Paul speaking by the power of the Holy Spirit reveals what we will be: Roman ch. 8,

**8:17** "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

**8:18** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

**8:19** For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the **sons of God.**"

Can you fathom what these verses means? It is almost too glorious to ponder and beyond our immediate comprehension of its full implications. Verse 17 says we will be "joint heirs" of our Savior Jesus Christ. Heirs of what? Simple answer is that all that He is in a spiritual body, in Spiritual matters, in the ability of our mind to comprehend, and in the inheritance that He, our Savior Jesus Christ has, we will be given the same inheritance. We will be just like our Savior. I'm reminded of what the apostle John wrote in:

1st John 3:2, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." Oh, how glorious will that be!

We have been adopted into the Family of God Almighty, our Father in Heaven. Our God and our Savior will be the source of all of our glory and power upon this earth during a time when the earth is restored to its former glory as during the Garden of Eden. It will be a perfect environment with no war, no inclement weather, no disease, and no tempter of the nations. Satan will be given his forced Sabbath rest of 1000 years from being the source of all temptation and lies and chained in a bottomless pit. It will be a near perfect world, but sin will still be around. We, the Saints of God, will be sinless, immortal and of the same new body that our Lord was resurrected with when He came out of the tomb and appeared to the living. He was able to walk through walls, but be handled and able to eat, but disappear at will. He had a new glorious body, and we will have the same body as He does. Jesus explained this to Nicodemus when he came to Him in the night: John chapter 3,

*3:3 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

This totally confused Nicodemus as the following verses after this show that he did not understand what Jesus meant. Jesus went on to explain of being borne of the Spirit and of water (baptism that shows that a man or woman understands that they are buried with Jesus Christ and are dead to the world, but raised a new creature in Him, by obediently following His footsteps in our life) a man cannot inherit the Kingdom of God or enter therein unless he is born again. He then said something that many overlook what we will be when He changes us into His likeness:

*3:7 "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."*

*3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."*

Did you catch that? We will be as the wind. We see the effects of the wind through the trees, but we cannot see the wind, but its effects on the material world. Spiritual bodies will come and go much as the wind, but appear at will to whomever we decide to let see us. It's the ultimate description (to illustrate something we can comprehend) of our bodies when Captain Kirk on Star Trek says "beam me up, Scotty." Our bodies will move at lightning speed without aid of some transporter as on some popular outer space program.

When Jesus comes for His saints, there will be an awards banquet in heaven. We call it the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Here Jesus will impart to each of His saints a measure of ruler-ship by the deeds they have done for Him in this life. Paul speaks of the revealing of what we have done in the body in this life, and what we have done for Jesus Christ and its eternal rewards: 1st *Corinthians*:

*3:9 "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."*

*3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*

*3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

*3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;*

*3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

*3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, **he shall receive a reward.***

*3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."*

What we have done in this life for Jesus Christ will stand and for that we will receive a reward, much like the following parable given by Jesus.

Note the parable of the talents: Matthew,

*25:14 "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods"*

Jesus is this man, who has gone to heaven and is sitting beside God the Father in Heaven and delivered unto us the servants, His goods. What goods? Let's read on.

*25:15 "And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey."*

In ancient times, a talent was a measure of gold. It was the most precious of all possessions. I ask you, what is the most precious possession our God has given us, besides His only Begotten Son? I tell you plainly, it's HIS WORD! It is His instructions for living, for His reaching us and teaching us by His Holy Spirit unto repentance and using that same Word to reach others.

*25:16 "Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.*

*25:17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.*

(Each of these servants added to what he was given, by sharing that Word with the world around him. What did each gain? They gained souls of men by sharing the Word with other men. How much of an impact does that Word have on the world? We may never know fully till it be revealed to us at this Marriage Supper, but we are commanded to share it with all who will listen.)

*25:18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.*

*25:19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.*

*25:20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.*

*25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee **ruler over many things**: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

*25:22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.*

*25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, **I will make thee ruler over many things**: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

*25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:*

*25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.*

*25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:*

*25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.*

*25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.*

(This unfaithful and unprofitable servant hid His Masters goods, His Word, away and shared it not with those around him. Woe to those who fail to follow the command of our Lord Jesus.)

*25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.*

*25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

Did this man believe or just mouthed the words? Only God knows, but to hide away what we have been given determines our reward or our lack thereof. Each of these faithful servants were given a reward. They were made rulers over many things! Listen to what Jesus reveals to John the Beloved in Revelation:

*Revelation 2:7, 26; 3:21: "To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. . . . I will give power over the nations. . . . I will grant to sit with Me on My throne."*

» *Revelation 5:9-10: . . . "You . . . have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."*

» *Revelation 21:7: "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."*

Note that verse 9 of Revelation chapter 5 says we will be kings and priest before God. We have established that we will rule on this earth in the coming Kingdom of God according to our deeds done in this life for our Lord and Savior, but what about priest? What will be our duties as priest? Jesus Christ embodies all that is royal for a King, but is also our High Priest. He calls us kings and priests. If priest, then who will be minister to?

In ancient Israel, the priest were the ministers of God. They provided direction to the people and point them to God. They did the sacrifices given by the people for the atonement of their sins daily. Although the nation of Israel became blinded by the ceremonies of sacrifices in the Temple being a forerunner of the Supreme Sacrifice in the body of our Lord and Savior, they were the keepers of the oracles of God and were to be a priestly nation to shine before the Gentile world and lead them to God. We know that they failed miserably in their departure from following after God in spirit and in truth. They knew scripture inside and out, but failed to glean the central message when their Messiah was standing right before them.

## **PRIEST BEFORE GOD**

There are four things that we can learn here about a priest, and actually three of them are spin-offs of the first one, which is this:

1. A priest has access to God in Ancient Israel that other people did not have. Now because he had access to God, we therefore understand that the priest served God personally. Think of this in relation of the life that's coming, but do not detach it from today. Remember, you are a royal priesthood.
2. The priest ministers to others.

3. The priest was actually ministering to the average Israelite who came to him whenever he represented him before God. in the Old Testament and we will minister to the mortals who need still a Savior.

4. He therefore had to have something to give. He had to have something to give to the Israelite, and he also had to have something to give to God. So it will be in the Millennium. We will be our Lord Jesus ambassadors, priest of the Most High God and preach the everlasting Gospel to those who still need a Savior. Each will know our Lord in their minds, but need it in their hearts. The price Jesus paid for sinful mankind will extend to those born during this time. You ask, "are mortals in the Millennium"? That was one of the questions needing to be answered.

During this time of blessed peace and security that comes upon the earth, there will be people that will enter into the Millennium as mortal men and women. The Bible speaks of them in Isaiah,

*65:20 "There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*

*65:21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.*

*65:22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

*65:23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.*

*65:24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*

*65:25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD."*

Verse 20 speaks of the sinner? Yes, men will still have a mortal sin nature, but not to the extent as in our world now, as the tempter has been locked away for a 1000 years. We will be the teachers of the ways of God as spoken in Isaiah:

*30:21 "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. "*

We, as priest, will teach them the Way of the Lord and point them to the cross.

Understand, Jesus will be known to all, as the sea covers the earth. Hebrews chapter 8:

*8:11 "And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."*

All people on earth will be subject to the righteous rule of Jesus Christ as He sits on the Throne of David and all the earth will know Him.....in their mind they will know, but in their heart they still possess a sin nature. How many people will enter a 1000 year reign of righteous rule by our Lord Jesus Christ? The number is unknown, but remember that out of 8 souls that were saved out of the flood during the life of Noah, the whole earth has been populated. How many souls can be borne in a thousand years, coupled with the fact that men will live extremely long lives, as it was in the days of Methusaleh who lived almost a thousand years, pre-flood. So the population will grow exponentially. Millions can be born in that amount of time. That's where we come into our

responsibility. As priests and kings of the King of Kings, our job, our commission is to be rulers, yes...priests to the people to point them to the Savior, most definitely. We are being instructed in righteousness right now, on this earth, in this time we have left. True Christians are being instructed by God from their Bibles and the work of the Holy Spirit in all who have been called unto repentance. It is a mortal attempt to being conformed to His likeness in this life, but we take on His likeness when Jesus comes and we will be perfected, as we have been changed into His glorious likeness.

### ***I Corinthians 6:9 – 11***

*"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind. Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you: but ye are washed (you are changed), but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."***

### *I Corinthians 1:26 – 31*

*"For you see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:"*

God has chosen the humble, not the proud. He has chosen the poor, not the rich. He has chosen the weak, not the noble or strong. He has chosen a select group of people of this earth that you would not consider leaders in this life, but by the Holy Spirit, as 1st Corinthians 6:11 states, we are being changed into His likeness, one day at a time. We are being sanctified, as He also justified by His blood. Romans,

*8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

*8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."*

We have an appointment with the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, very soon. One of these days in the near future, Jesus will break out of eternity into our time and say "come up here." And we will be changed in an instant in the twinkling of an eye. 1st Corinthians:

*15:49 "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*

*15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*

*15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

*15:52 **In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye**, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

*15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

*15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."*

You ask, "how do I become one of these kings and priest?" It's so simple, that a child can do it. Want to know the secret to obtaining such a high honor of a king and a priest in God's Kingdom? John 6,

6:28 *"Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?"*

6:29 *Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."*

**Believe with your heart and ask Jesus to come into your heart and life, and by example, live as He lived, as humanly possible.**

And so my reader, thus will begin your eternal destination of being a king and a priest before our God, to lead other men who enter the Millennium to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. We will rule righteously and give the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ unto the living mortals who still have their free moral will to accept or reject the message. We will not coerce anyone to believe and accept, but as Jesus does by His Holy Spirit now, we will point them to the same cross that we came to know, and the same perfect sacrifice that we accepted upon our own lives for the remission of sins, our Lord, Savior and soon coming King, Jesus Christ. So come Lord Jesus, yes, Amen. Come my Lord. We await our reward of being kings and priest before You. That is our glorious future of all who believe on His name, by faith and obedience to His call. Will you be counted as being changed into the likeness of Almighty God? Or will your future be different, because you have rejected His call, rejected His payment for your sins in His own blood. Today, not tomorrow, is the time to make your future sure and set in stone. In comes down to the object of the whole writing of Holy Writ, your bible, in this one passage in your bible, the point of the whole Bible:

**John 3:16-18 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life.**

**God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him, might be saved.**

**He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."**

It is that simple...believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, crucified for your sins and mine, raised from the dead, and lives forevermore, and waiting to return for His Bride, and so we shall ever be with the Lord. Accept Him by faith into your heart and soul, with a simple prayer of repentance for being a sinner and needing a Savior for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. That Savior, is Jesus my Lord. Oh, won't you join us, those who have already accepted Jesus as personal Savior? It will be most glorious, and unimaginable to contemplate what God has in store for us who believe on Him by faith. 1st Corinthians:

2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

This is Pastor Mike Taylor praying for your salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

If there be any need for prayer, counseling, or just a listening ear, email me at

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***God bless you all till we meet at Jesus feet.***