

Message Four
The Two Orders of the Priesthood
(2)
The Royal Priesthood

Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 5:10; Exo. 29:1, 4; Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 13:15; 2:12

- I. The two orders of the priesthood are the holy priesthood and the royal priesthood—Rev. 5:10; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9.**
- II. The royal priesthood is typified by the order of Melchizedek; the order of Melchizedek is the royal, the kingly, order—v. 9; Gen. 14:18; Heb. 5:10:**
 - A. The second order of the priesthood—the aspect of the priesthood typified by Melchizedek, the royal priesthood—is for ministering the processed God into us as our enjoyment for our supply—v. 10; 7:1-2.
 - B. Christ's sitting down on the right hand of the Majesty on high is according to the order of Melchizedek—Psa. 110:1, 4; Heb. 1:3; 8:1.
 - C. As the kingly High Priest, Christ ministers to us whatever we need, dispensing the processed and consummated Triune God into us as our life supply to fulfill God's eternal purpose.
 - D. In our experience today, the kingly priests are those who come from God to care for God's people, just as Melchizedek came from God to meet Abraham to minister bread and wine to him—Gen. 14:18-19.
 - E. As we serve in the practical church life, the real priesthood comes into being when we minister God to others so that eventually they will be God's expression—1 Pet. 4:10; 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - F. The Aaronic priesthood solves the problem of sin, and the kingly priesthood fulfills God's eternal purpose; the Aaronic priesthood took away sin, and the kingly priesthood brought in God as our grace—Heb. 1:3; 4:16.
 - G. On the one hand, in the Lord's recovery today we are holy priests, going to God to represent God's people and bring their needs to Him; on the other hand, we are royal priests, coming from God to the people to represent God and minister God to them—1 Pet. 2:5, 9:
 1. The holy priests offer something to God for the sake of the people, and the royal priests declare the things of God to people.
 2. We are the holy priests and the kingly priests, going and coming in two directions.
- III. The kingly priesthood tells out the virtues of God who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light—1 Pet. 2:9:**
 - A. Virtue (2 Pet. 1:3) is the energy and strength of the divine life that enables us to reach God's glory as the goal; virtues (1 Pet. 2:9) are the excellencies of God, referring to what God is and has.
 - B. To tell out is to proclaim abroad; this is to benefit others by proclaiming abroad as the gospel the virtues of the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light—v. 9:
 1. Darkness is the expression and sphere of Satan in death; light is the expression and sphere of God in life—1 John 1:5.

2. God has called us, delivered us, out of Satan's death-realm of darkness into His life-realm of light—Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13.