

# **Nation of Kings & Priests**



When God gave Moses the law for Israel, He told Moses if Israel obeyed His law, they would be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation

Exodus 19:5-8

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. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

It's surprising, then, that instead of making the entire nation into priests, God chose one tribe, Levi, to be His priests forever. He had each of the 12 tribes, including Levi, mark and put the rod of their fathers in the tabernacle of the congregation.

### Numbers 17:1-2, 6-7

<sup>1</sup>And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>Speak unto the children of Israel, and **take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod.**

<sup>6</sup>And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. <sup>7</sup>And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness.

The next day, the Aaron's rod budded and blossomed and grew almonds!

### Numbers 17:8

And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, **the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.**

God told Moses that the priests from the tribe of Levi were to be anointed, consecrated and sanctified, set apart, before they could minister unto God.

Leviticus 8:4-6, 10-12

And Moses did as the LORD commanded him; and the assembly was gathered together unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Moses said unto the congregation, This is the thing which the LORD commanded to be done. **And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water.**

**<sup>10</sup>And Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was therein, and sanctified them. And he sprinkled thereof upon the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all his vessels, both the laver and his foot, to sanctify them. And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him.**

The anointing was with anointing oil and with ram's blood.

Exodus 29:20-21

Then shalt thou **kill the ram, and take of his blood, and put it upon the tip of the right ear of Aaron, and upon the tip of the right ear of his sons, and upon the thumb of their right hand, and upon the great toe of their right foot,** and sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about. And thou shalt **take of the blood that is upon the altar, and of the anointing oil, and sprinkle it upon Aaron, and upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon the garments of his sons with him: and he shall be hallowed, and his garments, and his sons, and his sons' garments with him.**

The anointing oil used to anoint the priests was not to be duplicated or used anywhere, or on anyone else.

Exodus 30:30-33

And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office. And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, **This shall be an holy anointing oil unto me throughout your generations. Upon man's flesh shall it not be**

**poured, neither shall ye make any other like it, after the composition of it: it is holy, and it shall be holy unto you. Whosoever compoundeth any like it, or whosoever putteth any of it upon a stranger, shall even be cut off from his people.**

Washing was extremely important for the priests, a matter of life and death! The Lord told Moses to place the laver of brass and the foot of brass between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar—between God and the people. The priests, Aaron and his sons, were to wash their hands and feet in them before approaching the altar and then, again, before they went back into the tabernacle, or they would die.

Exodus 30:21

**When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not:** and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.

Priests were required to wash constantly while they were performing their duties. You can imagine why—they were always sprinkling blood from sacrifices and they may have looked like modern day butchers with their clothing covered in blood.

The law God gave to Moses was filled with requirements for washing—for all the people, not just the priests. Frequently washing with water would not have been unusual for anyone following the Mosaic Law. Here is a sampling:

Leviticus 22:6

The soul which hath touched any such shall be unclean until even, and shall not eat of the holy things, **unless he wash his flesh with water.**

Leviticus 15:7

And he that toucheth the flesh of him that hath the issue **shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water**, and be unclean until the even.



Leviticus 11:28

And he that beareth the carcase of them **shall wash his clothes**, and be unclean until the even: they are unclean unto you.

Numbers 19:8

And he that burneth her **shall wash his clothes in water, and bathe his flesh in water**, and shall be unclean until the even.

There is never a time when water washes away sin, but when washing with water is required by law, failing to do so is sinful. So, washing with water, as prescribed by law, washes away the iniquity or uncleanness of the person, according to the law. See the following passage:

Leviticus 17:15-16

And every soul that eateth that which died of itself, or that which was torn with beasts, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger, **he shall both wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water**, and be unclean until the even: then shall he be clean. **But if he wash them not, nor bathe his flesh; then he shall bear his iniquity.**

There are some Bible teachers who believe that the baptism of the people by John the Baptist, was to prepare the people to become the nation of priests that God had prophesied to Moses. There are several things to consider that will show that this is not the case.

John the Baptist preached in the wilderness, the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. That was the water baptism by John.

### Matthew 3:1-6

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.** And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, **And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.**

But John was constantly reminding them that they were waiting for the one who was to come after John, who would baptize them with the Holy Ghost. This fact was so important that it is recorded in all 4 gospels. It is first in Matthew.

Matthew 3:11-12

**I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance:** but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:** Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

It is recorded in Mark.

Mark 1:4-8

**John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.** And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, **confessing their sins.** And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins;

and he did eat locusts and wild honey; **And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.**

Here it is in Luke:

Luke 3:15-17

And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; John answered, saying unto them all, **I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:** Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

And John.

### John 1:30-31

This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, **therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.**

Then, at Pentecost, the people who had been baptized with water by John the Baptist, were baptized by the Holy Ghost in the name of Jesus Christ.

### Acts 2:38-41

Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,** and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our

God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. **Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.**

Water has never taken away sins. Washing was required to follow God's law. Water baptism was never about getting clean, as in the law, but always in preparation for baptism by the Holy Ghost.

Peter explained that water washing when following in the law was putting away the filth of the flesh. Water baptism by John does not save a person in the same way. It is not about the flesh.

Water baptism is what you do to show you believe God, "good conscience toward God." Water baptism was always to prepare a person for baptism in the name of Jesus Christ who baptizes with the Holy Ghost (and with fire for the unbelievers.)

### 1 Peter 3:21-22

The like figure whereunto **even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:** Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Hebrews tells us that it is the shedding of blood, not water washing, that takes away sins.

### Hebrews 9:21-26

Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. **And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.**

The blood of animals could only cover sins. Those sacrifices had to be made every year. It took Jesus Christ's blood, shed on the cross to forgive our sins, not just to cover them up, but completely eliminate them.

### Hebrews 10:1-4

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, **can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.** For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. **For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.**

After Jesus shed His holy blood to take away sins and then rose again, there is remission of sins, so no more offering for sin is needed. Israel can now go straight into the holiest of holies through the veil of Jesus' flesh.

### Hebrews 10:16-20

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. **Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.**



**Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;**

The writer does refer back to the anointing (hearts sprinkled) and washing (bodies washed with pure water) of the Levitical priests.

### Hebrews 10:21-22

And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.**

Prior to Jesus' blood taking about sins, it was forbidden for anyone but the high priest to go into the holy place behind the veil where God's throne, the mercy seat is.

### Hebrews 9:5-7

And over it the cherubims of glory **shadowing the mercyseat;** of which we cannot now speak particularly. Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first

tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.  
**But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:**

Even the high priest could enter only once each year or he would die.

Leviticus 16:2

And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto **Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not:** for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

That's why, when Christ died on the cross, the veil of the temple was torn, not from the bottom up as man would do, but from the top down, as God would do. The veil was no longer needed. Everyone, not just the high priest and not just once per year, had access to God through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

### Mark 15:37-38

And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And **the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.**

Levitical priests were priests under the law. But the law changed and so the priesthood had to change. Everyone now had access to God. The priesthood was conferred to the tribe of Judah, something the Moses did not speak of, and one specific priest. This priest, Christ, was a priest, not under law like the Levitical priests, but one with an endless life, like Melchisedec.

### Hebrews 7:11-16

**If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.** For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe **Moses spake nothing**

**concerning priesthood.** And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

Abram met Melchisedec after Abram had a great victory over the kings who had captured Lot, his brother's son.

Genesis 14:14-17

And when **Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.** And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. **And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.** And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with

him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.

There is very little written about the encounter Abram had with Melchizedek. But Melchizedek is a very important example of the heavenly priests that serve God, and probably have done so forever. God has no beginning and, it seems, Melchizedek has always served Him.

Genesis 14:18-20

**And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.** And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Most of what we know about Melchisedec is found in Hebrews. He was a both a king and a priest. He is a “type” of Christ. He served Abram bread and wine (like Christ at His last supper.) Melchisedec, first, was King of righteousness (Jesus judges and makes war in righteousness,)

Melchisedec was king of Salem (and Jesus will rule the world from Jerusalem,) he was a priest of God (Christ is Israel's high priest,) he was the King of Peace (Jesus is called the Prince of Peace,) and like Christ, he had no beginning and will have no end. Melchisedec has no father nor mother, unlike the Lord Jesus Christ, whose father is God Almighty and whose mother is Mary.

### Hebrews 7:1-3

For this **Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God**, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation **King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.**

So when will the nation Israel become the nation of priests prophesied by God to Moses? The Lord Jesus said that the nation Israel will become a nation of priests, but not until after He sets up

His kingdom of heaven on the earth. Here is when He told them. He read from the book of Isaiah in the synagogue on the Sabbath day.

### Luke 4:16-19

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, *To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

When He finished, He told the people who heard Him that the prophecy he had read had just been fulfilled in their presence.

### Luke 4:20-21

And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all

them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, **This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**

But Jesus didn't read the entire prophecy from Isaiah. Jesus stopped at the point that the prophecy was fulfilled. The rest of it would not be fulfilled until some later date. The red print in the following passage is the point in Isaiah where Jesus stopped.

### Isaiah 61:1-2

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD*, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

Jesus stopped in the middle of verse 2, and did not read "and the day of vengeance of our God:" It was not yet time (and is not) for God to begin the day of vengeance, the Tribulation, which He had warned Israel was coming if they did not



obey His law. Remember, God told Moses they would be a nation of priests if they had followed His law, and they had not done that.

Jesus did not read the rest of the passage that day because it had not yet been fulfilled. It is prophetic of the kingdom which Jesus will set up after the Tribulation. Then, Israel will be named “the Priests of the Lord” and “Ministers of our God.” The Gentiles will serve Israel.

### Isaiah 61:3-6

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. **And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of**

the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

God told Moses that the rulers of Israel will come from the line of Judah.

1 Chronicles 5:2

For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's:)

God also told Moses Israel would observe the commandments, they would reign over many nations. Other nations would not reign over them.

The people of Israel will become the rulers of other nations and priests to bring other nations to God when they obey God.

Deuteronomy 15:5-6

**Only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all these commandments which I command thee this day.** For the LORD thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many

nations, but thou shalt not borrow; **and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee.**

But Israel did not obey the commandments and they won't until they have them written in their hearts in the kingdom of heaven on the earth.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Behold, the days come, **saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; **After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.** And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: **for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of**

**them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**

In the book of Revelation, a book written about events that are still in the future, Jesus told John to write to the 7 churches in Asia. John told the churches that Jesus, by shedding His blood on the cross to forgive their sins had made Israel kings and priests unto God and His Father.

Revelation 1:4-6

John to the seven churches which are in Asia:  
Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;  
And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and **washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

John told the church at Ephesus that people who were faithful to the end of the Tribulation would rule nations.

### Revelation 2:26-27

And **he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron;** as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

The beasts and elders around the throne in the book of Revelation sang a new song about Jesus Christ redeeming the entire world and making Israel to be kings and priests unto God. Israel will reign on the earth.

### Revelation 5:8-10

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.**

The people who were beheaded for remaining faithful to Jesus throughout the Tribulation, not just Israel, will be resurrected and live and reign with Jesus in his 1,000 year kingdom of heaven on the earth.

Revelation 20:4-6

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of **them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.** But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, **but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

All of the people of Israel will be priests during the 1,000 year kingdom. All men will know that

the God of Israel is the true God and they will go to the Jews to worship Him.

### Zechariah 8:20-23

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; **In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.**

The people of Israel, in their role as priests, will not perform animal sacrifices, like the Levitical priests, but spiritual sacrifices. They will praise God for calling them out of darkness and into His marvelous light!

## 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10

To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, **are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.**

**<sup>9</sup>But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation,** that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

The spiritual sacrifice is of praise to God continually, and the fruit of giving thanks to His name.

## Hebrews 13:15

By him therefore let us offer **the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.**

Conclusion:

The prophecy that Israel will become a nation of kings and priests will not be fulfilled until Jesus Christ sets up His earthly kingdom. God told



Moses that the people would have to obey His law, God's commandments for that to happen.

John the Baptist was preparing people for the coming of their King and Messiah, Jesus Christ. The water baptism was not followed by an anointing as required for Levitical priests. John was preparing them to be baptized by Jesus Christ with the Holy Ghost.

Israel was required to obey God's law before they were to be a nation of priests and a holy nation. The only time we know Israel will obey God's law is when it is written in their hearts during the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ for 1,000 years on the earth.

Israel will not be Levitical priests. They will offer spiritual sacrifices, not animal sacrifices, to God. Jesus will be the high priest, after the pattern of Malchisedec.

We know that Israel will be kings and rule over other nations. They will not be like kings from the tribe of Judah, who rule over Israel. The Gentiles will serve Israel during Christ's rule.