

SERIES: PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND KINGS

Godly leadership in the house of God and the heart of the believer

TITLE: The Christian: Priest, Prophet, and King

Key Passage: 1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 1:6; Exodus 19:6

We have spent the year looking at the kings of Israel, the priests of Israel and the prophets of Israel.

The Kings

- The half-hearted Saul.
- The whole-hearted David.
- The wise and foolish Solomon.
- The kings of the North who all did evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- The kings of the south who followed in the ways of God and others who sinned against God.

Priests

- We saw the negligence of Eli the priest.
- The sins of Hophne and Phineas in the tabernacle.
- The priests who were not from the family of Aaron or Levi assigned by the kings of the North and thus abandoning God's law.

Prophets

- Samuel who served as judge, prophet and priest.
- Elijah and Elisha who heard and spoke the Word of the Lord.
- Nathan and Gad who gave godly instruction to kings.
- Men and women and schools of prophets who stood for the Lord and spoke for the Lord.
- We saw the distinction of Written prophets and oral prophets.
- We have looked at the role of the prophet in the New Testament and how that gift serves the church in modern times as the Spirit directs.

Today we bring a close to the series and I would like to look at the Christian as a Prophet and as a Priest and as a king.

The Christian: the Prophet **To hear and speak the Words of God**

- Some have been called to the office of Prophet within the church.
- Some have been gifted with the motivational gift of prophecy with its strengths and also its missteps.
- All are called to pursue the manifestation gift of prophecy as it edifies, exhorts, and consoles the body of Christ.

We are called to Weigh and Test the Prophet and Prophecy.

One of the most difficult problems which believers face as they learn to minister in prophecy is to discern what is accurate or inspired by the Holy Spirit or what is inaccurate or fleshly. The scripture exhorts us to learn to weigh or test prophecy. (1 Cor. 14:29-32; 1 Thess. 5:19-21).

SIX WAYS TO TEST PROPHECY

Test the content of the prophecy.

- a. What is being said? Keep what is good; strain out or ignore the parts that are not beneficial. (1 Thess. 5:19-22)
- b. Is the prophecy confirming something that God is already doing in the fellowship?
- c. Does it flow with what is being taught from the Scriptures?
- d. Is God speaking the same thing to many individuals in the fellowship?

Test the prophecy against Scripture.

- e. Prophecy adds focus and perspective to Scripture.
- f. However, it doesn't add Scripture or conflict with Scripture. John warns us of this in Revelation 22:18-19.
- g. Be careful in immediately throwing out something in prophecy because it does not seem to agree with your interpretation of Scripture, theology, or doctrinal stance.

Test the prophecy by discerning its benefits.

- h. With the passage of time, has the prophecy or prophet been beneficial to the group?
- i. What has been the result or effect to prophecies?
- j. In order to mature the prophets in our midst, we need to be gentle and careful.

Test the spirit of prophecy.

- k. Does the prophecy bring conviction or condemnation? John 10:2-5.
- l. 1 Cor. 14:3 teaches us that prophecy will strengthen or edify us. It will encourage or exhort us. It will comfort us.

Test the prophet.

- m. Jesus teaching on the topic.
 - i. Matt. 7:15-23 – Wolves in sheep's clothing.
 - ii. Luke 6:43-45 – Good trees do not bear bad fruit
- n. Prophets should live exemplary lives.
- o. Do they live pure life?
- p. Do they have a heart for god?
- q. Are they growing in maturity or are they falling back?
- r. How do they respond to correction?

Test the accuracy of the prophecy.

- s. Does what they prophesy happen? Does what they say happen?
- t. If a prophet is inaccurate, it doesn't mean that they are false prophets. It is possible for a gifted prophet to interpret from the flesh or the excitement of the moment.

- u. Those gifted by the Spirit for prophecy, and who are being used by God, will generally prophecy accurately. (consider Agabus: mostly right)

Important Attitudes when testing prophecies:

- v. Test prophecy with sincerity.
- w. Test prophecy with love.
- x. Test prophecy with a gracious heart.

The goal is to grow up into maturity in our prophesying and in order to do what we need to correct one another in sincerity, love, and with the goal of encouraging or edifying one another.

The Christian: The Priest

To offer their lives as living sacrifices and declare the praises of God's glorious light

The preacher looked out over the large congregation.

He said *"Are there any priests here today?"*

The people were surprised and fidgeted in their seats. Many looked around to see if there were any men with the telltale clerical collar.

The pastor continued *"Will all the priests present this morning please raise your hands."*

Again the people wondered if the pastor thought a busload of Catholic priests had mingled in with the congregation.

Then some of the men and women cautiously raised their hands. The pastor chuckled and said *"Every hand should be raised. If you are a born-again Christian you are a priest! The Bible says in First Peter 2:9 we are a royal priesthood!"*

The above illustration shows how uncomfortable we are with the term **"priest."** We associate it with Catholicism or high church Protestantism. All born-again Christians are priests. A priest is someone who approaches God on behalf of others. A priest is an intercessor. Whenever you pray for others you are fulfilling a priestly function.

- 1 Peter 2 ESV - ⁹ *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* ¹⁰ *Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

- Exodus 19:6 (MT): *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.*
 - mam·le·chet -kingdom, sovereignty, dominion, reign

The Christian: The Royals (Kings and Queens) To Have Dominion and To Reign

1 Peter 2 ESV - ⁹ *But you are a chosen people, a **royal** priesthood...*

Basileian- kingdom, sovereignty, royal power

Revelation 1:6 - *To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.*

Literal Standard Version

[He] has also made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him—the glory and the power through the ages of the ages! Amen.

- made us to be a kingdom and priests
- made us Kings and Priests

Royals Reign in Life.

Romans 5:17 ESV ¹⁷ *For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.*

- We are to reign over sin, the flesh, circumstances and situations, over all the power of the enemy. {God has given to us everything we need to do so.}

Royals Reign Over Sin

Romans 6:14 *For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

Royals Reign over the Enemy

Luke 10:19 *Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.*

Isaiah 32:1 *Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.*

With Jesus Christ ruling as King over all the earth, we, as co-heirs with Him (Romans 8:17), will be regarded as princes ruling under Him. He will give His true followers positions of rulership in His Kingdom, where, it is specifically stated, "we shall reign *on the earth*."

Royals Reign Over Kingdoms

Daniel 7:27 ESV

"And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."

Daniel 7:27 promises rulership to the saints in God's government, which is why an essential decision in our lives revolves around government. Government is the overriding issue in the Bible. Who will rule in our lives, God or Satan? It is that simple.

Challenge:

Prophet – heard and Speak the Words of God

Priest – Offer yourselves as sacrifices and offer up praises to God

Royals – Take dominion over the areas of your life that want to bind you and engage in the care of the needs of people