

You Are A Royal Priesthood; 1 Peter 2:9

- I. You Are
 - A. Jesus makes some great “I AM” statements as well as some great “you are” statements
 - B. These “you are” statements give us (the “you” in you are) purpose and meaning for our lives
 - C. Our purpose and meaning should have completely changed when we put on Christ
 - D. We cannot look like the rest of the world and tell them we are different — a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for God’s own possession
- II. Kings and Levites
 - A. Under the Mosaic Law the priests came from the tribe of Levi
 1. Levi had 3 sons, Gershon, Kohath, and Merari
 2. Kohath fathered Armram who was the father of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam
 3. The priests are descendants of Aaron
 4. The Sadducees are descendants of Kohath
 - B. The Levites had specific duties
 1. The tribe of Gershon — moving the tabernacles covers, curtains, screens and cords (Numbers 4:24-26)
 2. The tribe of Kohath — moving the ark and holy furniture (Numbers 4:4-12)
 3. The tribe of Merari — moving the tabernacle poles, boards, sockets, pillars, and bars (Numbers 3:36-37)
 - C. The Levitical priests had specific duties
 1. Numbers 18:1–3 (ESV); ¹ So the Lord said to Aaron, “You and your sons and your father’s house with you shall bear iniquity connected with the sanctuary, and you and your sons with you shall bear iniquity connected with your priesthood. ² And with you bring your brothers also, the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, that they may join you and minister to you while you and your sons with you are before the tent of the testimony. ³ They shall keep guard over you and over the whole tent, but shall not come near to the vessels of the sanctuary or to the altar lest they, and you, die.
 2. Luke 1:8–9 (ESV); ⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.
 - D. The Kings were given to the tribe of Judah
 1. Genesis 49:8–10 (ESV); ⁸ “Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah is a lion’s cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.
 2. Saul, the first king was from the tribe of Benjamin
 3. The other two major kings, David and Solomon, come from Judah
 4. After the kingdom was divided in two, Jereboam takes 10 tribes north and creates the kingdom of Israel
 5. Rehoboam takes two tribes and remains in Jerusalem becoming the kingdom of Judah (comprised of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin)
 6. All of the kings of Judah (19 of them) are in David’s lineage, the tribe of Judah
 7. In 722 BC Assyria invades the kingdom of Israel and takes them into captivity effectively ending those 10 tribes (There were many from the other tribes that ended up in Judah, including the Levites)
 - E. This history is important for us to understand the cultural significance of the phrase “royal priesthood)
 - F. In the understand of all Israelites, you were either a priest or a king, but never both
- III. Melchizedek

- A. Genesis 14:17–21 (ESV); ¹⁷ After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley). ¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. ²¹ And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.”
- B. Melchizedek is translated “king of righteousness”
- C. Melchizedek was king of Salem (Shalom — peace)
- D. Hebrews 7:4–10 (ESV); ⁴ See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! ⁵ And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. ⁶ But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. ⁸ In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. ⁹ One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, ¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.
- E. David (the king) pens Psalm 110.
- F. Psalm 110:1–4 (ESV); ¹ The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” ² The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! ³ Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. ⁴ The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”
- G. Just as Melchizedek was a king and a priest, so Jesus is a King and a Priest — so we are kings and priests! (after the order of Jesus)
1. You are not homeless, broken, sinners!
 2. That is who you used to be!
 3. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (ESV); ⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
 4. Titus 3:3–7 (ESV); ³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
 5. Ephesians 2:1–7 (ESV); ¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he

might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

H. We are a royal priesthood!

IV. Royal Priesthood

A. Put aside those old thought patterns

B. Put aside those old behaviors

C. Accept who God has made you through Jesus Christ

D. A Royal Priesthood!