

Kings and Priests - A Time to Train

Feast of Tabernacles

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In overcoming our trials, sometimes we doubt how we could ever become kings and priests in the Kingdom of God. However, God put much thought into our training. Today, we're going to be looking into lessons on kings and priests from scripture, but also what is tied to our Christian calling now in the Church of God. This includes areas to hone and sharpen our minds for those future roles. Also, I'm going to discuss why we really are going to be great kings and priests and I'm going to give some suggestions on what we do in this life. What else do we need to do?

We'll start in Revelation 5:10. This is a familiar scripture. I'm setting the stage for a boundary as to what our discussion is. In verse 9, the Lamb was worthy to open the book and open the seals.

Revelation 5:10. *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. (KJV)*

"Kings" is Strong's 934. It means *leader, sovereign*. "Priest" is Strong's 2409, and it's *one who offers sacrifices*. That root word means *sacred and consecrated to God* and is also mentioned in Revelation 1:6, kings and priests.

For this split sermon, we're going to stick with the overall knowledge of the two roles. There's a lot in common between them in terms of characteristics. We're looking at how our current training relates to being kings and priests in the future. I'm not going to get into all the individual duties. That's another topic for another time for another person. I will try to cover in terms of contemporary church, training to become kings and priests.

Let's look at Deuteronomy 17. Here is where God is instructing what kings are supposed to do in Israel. These are some very interesting instructions.

Deuteronomy 17:18. *And it shall be, when he sits upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: (KJV)*

The physical king of a physical nation is learning the physical laws. What's happening to us in the future is that the laws will be written on our heart.

There's another interesting side note to this and that is we're going to have the unique training of learning the physical law and learning its spiritual application. We're doing that, the two levels of the law, the physical commandments which are just and good, and then the spiritual intent that Christ added to the law and magnified the law. We're talking physical and spiritual and we're getting that written.

19) And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life ... (KJV)

Church members have to read the Bible every day too.

1b) ... that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: (KJV)

Now we get to another characteristic of training.

20) That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turns not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: (KJV)

So, humility is another characteristic of a great king, and also a characteristic of church members. That's what we're all growing in this life. The parallel is there.

Now we will talk about Saul briefly. There are times to learn from a bad example. God gave commands to Saul to wipe out Amalek because of what he did to Israel. What's interesting was that when Saul did not do that, Samuel confronted him. He asked him why he spared the oxen, and such, God said in verse 11.

1 Samuel 15:11. It repents me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. (KJV)

It's interesting that Saul just blurted out the truth when he was confronted.

14) And Samuel said, What means then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

15) And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

...

24) And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. (KJV)

This was one of the few times Saul was really honest.

A great king, like any great leader, makes a right decision and sometimes they take heat for it. There are things that our current president has done that the liberal media and the left wing have been blasting and mocking and insulting him every chance they get. One of the commentators made an interesting point. He said, "The mark of a leader is one that makes a correct decision, but more than that, they take the heat for it and keep going."

Let's look at us as church members. Hundreds of years from now, when the Kingdom of God is on the earth, it's going to be a lot easier to keep the Sabbath and holy days. People aren't going to lose their jobs. Businesses will shut down on the Sabbath. People will not lose their jobs for keeping the feast hundreds of years from now. But when we make choices now, sometimes there are prices to be paid. We're showing God right now, every time we take a hit from the world, whether it's persecution or losing a job or family, whatever the cost is, we are showing God, "No, I'm not going to be Saul. I'm not going to fear the people and put that ahead of what is right."

We're going to be a great king and priest someday. There's a time to take some heat. We'll talk about that a little later.

There are parallels between what the good kings of Judah had to do to restore, fix, bring back, that ties into what we are going to be.

Now a little more about priests.

Hebrews 4:14. *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (KJV)

Christ is our high priest. He was tempted as we are. Christ is the role model for all of us. He is the perfect role model. We're learning now to resist temptation. This world is very good at throwing that at us. The priest has to stand for what's right and church members have to stand up and take heat for what is right. Let's look at Revelation 3.

Revelation 3:21. *To him that overcomes ... (KJV)*

Each one of the seven churches are told exactly the same thing, *to him that overcomes*. Each church is given a different reward, but it comes from the same God to the seven eras of the church. Each one has to learn overcoming. Just as the kings and priests of the future are going to have to do.

There's another interesting side to the priesthood. The physical high priest, back in Ancient Israel, as it says in Hebrews 5:2, would have compassion on those that are ignorant because they were encompassed with infirmity.

Hebrews 5:2. *Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. (KJV)*

All of us in the church are called out of all of different backgrounds with all of our weaknesses and problems. We're going to be compassionate and patient. Many of us were not raised in the church. Whether we were or were not, all of us were encompassed with infirmity. We are all leaning. Christ is the ultimate and perfect role model, but we are going through a lot of the same things. We will have compassion on the ignorant because we're learning compassion now. We're learning compassion with overcoming our own weaknesses. I'll throw out an example from my own past. I can't believe I was so stupid that I was smoking for years. I ask myself: How in the world could I have been so dumb to believe a poison was good for me? Well, in the world to come, there will be a number of people that will have to give up smoking and other bad drugs and we will be able to help them. There are all kinds of personal weaknesses we are all overcoming. We will be compassionate priests.

Another thing to consider is that priests intercede with God. Ponder that. How many times with the prayer list are we interceding with God for healing and protection for our fellow members?

Priests hold onto the truth. There are several verses regarding this. Reference Malachi 2:7, it states that the priest's lips should keep knowledge. What are we spending our whole lives in church doing? We are learning that too.

Also mentioned during the Feast was to teach my people the difference between the holy and profane. We're learning the difference now.

Leviticus 10:10. *And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; (KJV)*

Ezekiel 44:23. *And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. (KJV)*

Think of the world that will survive through the last plagues, the judgment of God and, as what was well put in a previous sermon years ago titled Only the Loving Need Apply, mankind is going to be traumatized, beaten down, gone through starvation, plagues, destruction, and fire. Yet, mankind will have been carrying all these wrong ideas.

Remember they've been part of a system that worships the dragon. In Revelation it says that it's full of witchcraft and wicked spirits. That's pretty corrupt. People have a lot of things to unlearn, and they have to learn what is truth and what is falsehood. That's what kings and priests are learning. We're learning it now. We're going to be helping them later. God the Father and Jesus Christ are doing the heavy lifting, but throughout all the villages, towns and cities on earth where the survivors are, we are going to help as civilization starts to be rebuilt. We've got to counsel people and set the example. No, you don't put up a tree on December 25th. No, you don't dress in costumes in October and all the other false ideas that were put in people's heads. It's very important in the church to hold onto the truth.

A priest named Zadok had officiated at the coronation of Solomon. His lineage carried through the early days under Solomon. But after the Kingdom of Israel fell away and split, only a few priests held on.

This is what God thinks of the priesthood, and the church too, that holds onto the truth.

Ezekiel 44:15. *But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, says the Lord GOD:*

16) They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge. (KJV)

God will restore the Levitical Priesthood, but he has the special reward for the sons of Zadok. God has a special admiration for those that hold on to what is right, even when the rest of the crowd goes away.

I think we can think of a few parallels. One would be obviously what happened decades ago when we were taught all this wrong stuff. A lot of people thought, "I can go back and keep Christmas. Who has to go to church on Saturday when Sundays is just as good. It doesn't matter." We held on. It's important. God sees that. As difficult as it is sometimes, and as tired as we can get, God sees it all. If He's going to reward the sons of Zadok, and we're talking by the time the new temple is here, between the days of Solomon, how much time in between - 2,500 to 3,000 years? God notices that, when people hold onto the truth.

I'm going to go a bit further now. I'm going to take a look in general at scriptures that point out things that help us in our Christian life to become better kings and priests in the future. Turn to Proverbs 16.

Proverbs 16:32. *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than he that taketh a city. (KJV)*

We in church all hope we're all there and that we all go the distance. Those of us that do these things are better than conquering generals. God is already arranging the training for this. We already know that not many mighty are called. But there's actually a good side to that. Yes, God doesn't call many mighty. He doesn't call many super geniuses and billionaires.

Ephesians 1:12. *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. (KJV)*

What's interesting about the church, throughout the ages, each generation, is that when the world pretty much wanted nothing to do with God, when the world wanted its own pagan days, its own religions or no religions or all the other false ideas, we listened to God. That's the good thing. The world didn't listen to God and we did.

Christ blasted the Pharisees who would not listen, but He said the regular humble people are called and they listened and it will be to their credit.

Let's turn to Matthew 25, The Parable of the Talents. I invite you to read them all, but we will look at verse 20.

Matthew 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. (KJV)*

The whole idea of the talents and the pounds in that chapter is that we were given things from God. It didn't have to be a lot of big things but we grew what we had. So in a way, we are indirectly working on our own training.

There is a forerunner to this that goes all the way back to Ancient Israel. When Moses realized he needed to expand the leaders that were working under him, the criteria were very interesting for selecting those additional leaders. This applies to church members today.

Exodus 18:21. *Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: (KJV)*

The whole concept, again, is a parallel to the church. We, too, have to fear God, love truth, hate covetousness, all of those things. Just like Moses established leadership in Ancient Israel, do we not grow that little by little in all of our lives in the church?

We have an interesting story – there are many in scripture – but there is one I want to turn to where God brings a solution to a king that had a problem that was way over his head. The story is in 2 Chronicles 20. Earlier in the chapter, Jehoshaphat realizes that they are outnumbered and they are in big trouble because the invading armies are coming.

2 Chronicles 20:14. *Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;
15) And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.
(KJV)*

There is an additional thing that kings and priests are learning and that is there are things that are over our heads and cannot be solved by anything or any power that we have and those things will be done by God. So here is an invading army coming and in verse 21:

21) And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth forever. (KJV)

They were not sharpening their axes and swords.

22) And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. (KJV)

The enemies killed each other. And all they were doing is singing and praising God. God has some surprises for us. He surprises kings and we have some surprises for us in the church too. How many of us has had this in our lives already?

Now we are going to look at some subtle reasons. There are a lot of instances in scripture but now let's look at some subtle reasons of why we are going to be good kings and priests. Why us? What will make us good kings and priests?

The first one is that we have seen Satan's system fail and it's failing right now. There are places in this country where it is not safe for children to play in the street. Our grandmothers can be conned by a rotten, crooked person and cheated out of her savings or cheated out of a mortgage. Between the corruption and the decline of our civilization, we are seeing Satan's system fail but the world thinks that they are doing better. They are not.

I will give you some examples. There were tens of thousands of people that worked for an energy company. They worked very hard. They invented a new kind of energy trading within natural gas and unfortunately less than a dozen people at the top of that company got just plain greedy. They started playing accounting tricks, blew up the value of the stock, and hid it from the public. Eventually, tens of thousands of people were broke, busted and ruined. Anyone who had their life savings in the company stock were ruined. The company is Enron. There was also MCI WorldCom. Actually, some cynics called it WorldCon.

This is the kind of thing that sin does. Sin doesn't build up a civilization. Sin destroys civilization. In fact, we are learning the lessons now as kings and priests because we are a witness to all of this, that sin doesn't just take down individuals, it takes civilizations.

Another example is the breakdown of the family. You'll hear a lot of howls and screams by liberals saying we need more daycare, etc. There was a time in this country when this system didn't push all mothers to go out to work. There was a time when you had a choice. You have almost no choice these days. The system beats you down, especially in the high-cost areas where parents have to work almost all of the time and it is affecting the children. The liberal side of this country don't want to hear that but you have latch-key children, when you have children that are joining gangs, when you have single mothers where already the families are disintegrated and parts of Atlanta already have that, and parts of New Jersey and other inner cities already have that, you now have the breakdown of the family which is the breakdown of civilization.

Another point is that we know God's way works. Here we are in the middle of this world, being called out. Some of us don't live in safe neighborhoods. Things are bad in certain parts of our country, let alone the third world. We know that God's way works. How many of you can relate stories of somehow you got protected, or a family member got healed and it can't be explained, or your job was protected and somehow you can't explain it? The parallel is that Ancient Israel was carried through a hostile environment. Is there not a parallel in the church being carried through a hostile environment, to the Promised Land? I know that some of this is review. These are some things to ponder.

We can see the long view. People in the world, as adults are going to be putting up Christmas trees, keeping Halloween and all the other things they do. What do they have to show for it? Nothing. All their lives of false religion. We have learned the truth. We have seen it work. We see other people missing out.

Another point is intelligence versus wisdom. There is a difference between intelligence and wisdom. Man can invent DNA splicing and send a mission to the moon and Mars but our families are cheated by crooked officials, women are not safe on the streets.

Decade ago the church used to tell us that the problems are not physical, they are spiritual. The church has been right all along in that. There are brilliant people that cannot understand what evil is. They do not understand that evil brings down a society; it does not build it up.

I'll tell you a quick story about my former manager. The man had telematics background, electronics background, was coming up with new ideas to test a company system called OnStar that was going to be able to signal between vehicles and call centers and do tremendous things and yet, this same man who was a senior manager, started to drift off, had an affair with a woman that was reporting to him and on top of it, he lied and covered it up and he was fired. There was a potential of a brilliant career which was destroyed and he would have made director or vice president in that company. That's how brilliant he was and yet he made horrible decisions that were unwise.

We are learning wisdom now. We know the difference.

Now let's focus on current events and what we need to learn from them, again as future kings and priests.

If we were the Church of God in the middle ages, our trials and lessons would be totally different than what they are now. The church in the middle ages was running for its life from a certain great mother church but the Church of God then understood the importance of solid families and laws, even though there were other problems. Their trials were very, very different. Their lives would be simpler, they would be more hazardous, but they also would not have the same trials as the 21st century church member.

With that in mind, I'd like to read something. In 1963, the Honorable A.S. Herlong, representative of Florida in the House of Representatives, read a document into the Congressional record. On January 10, 1963 read the goals of the Communist party into the Congressional record to warn this country what was coming. I'll read just some of them.

- Goal 26: Present anything but monogamous marriage is healthy and normal.
- Goal 27: Discredit the Bible and emphasize the need for intellectual maturity.
- Goal 28: Eliminate prayer or any phase of religious expression in schools.
- Goal 31: Belittle all forms of American culture and discourage the teaching of American History.
- Goal 40: Discredit the family as an institution.

In the past couple of weeks, we had a situation where Columbus Day was being denounced and refused by about 5 American cities including Los Angeles, Seattle and

Denver. What happened is President Trump read off what Columbus Day should be but you see, again think of the goals of the Communist party in 1963.

Notice in Europe the change there of integration combined with an invasion of a hostile force from Africa that hates their culture and hates Christianity – it's Islam. What is very uncomfortable is that whether it's the USA or Europe, there seems to be the same force, the same anti-Christian, anti-national force that is moving the whole world toward something.

In July, 2017, Pope Francis said, "World government must rule the United States for its own good."

We are in the last stages of a decline of civilization. Right now we have a new U.S. President that is fighting the New World Order but we have to learn the lessons while we can. How much time we have is something only God knows.

Here are some suggestions:

Learn from the world's bad examples. We already know about the obvious trends about the family and crime. Did you know that witchcraft is now cool? Two generations ago witchcraft was viewed with horror and disgust. We didn't want any part of it. Scripture said to not have witchcraft. And yet the Harry Potter series, there are seven books in that series, sold 500 million books. They are the biggest selling book series in history. Now witchcraft and wizards are cool. How many more years from now before the next generation starts learning casting spells and things like that? I don't know, but this would not have happened two generations ago.

Kings and priests have to know now in this 21st century how we are being set up for deception. Here is a book that may be helpful. David Kupelian wrote a book titled [The Marketing of Evil](#). It's about how our society, the liberal media and others are teaching us wrong ideals, teaching us to favor the murder of unborn children, to favor the tolerance of Sodom which is now considered normal.

Another book [How to Identify and Expose Liberal Media Bias](#) by Brent Baker. One more book that would help us in our understanding to see the world and how it really is trying to get at our brains: It is written by Bernard Goldberg who is an award winning journalist, a former liberal, and the title is [Bias](#). He wrote about how the media used to teach both sides of an argument but now they only want to teach the left side, the liberal side and not the conservative side. Bernard Goldberg was ostracized by some of his fellow journalists. They looked upon him as a traitor. How dare he expose that.

Finally, let's turn to 2 Kings 23. There are so many examples of what good kings do and we don't have time to cover a lot, but there is one that really sticks out. This is the

example of Josiah. There are multiple good kings in Israel's history and there are many lessons we can learn from them. But as kings and priests, think of some of the things he did because those are some of the things we are going to have to learn to do.

2 Kings 23:4. *And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.*

...
7) *And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove. (KJV)*

By the time Josiah was king, Israel had slid downhill very, very far and there was a lot of work that needed to be done and I think we can see the parallel to what today is and what the future is going to be and how kings and priests are going to have a lot of cleaning up to do.

10) *And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech. (KJV)*

That's pretty far gone, when you have the fire worship to Molech. Over and over, he cleaned out and broke down the idols and finally the last verse I leave you with as something to ponder for this life, for the 21st century America and western civilization.

24) *Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD. (KJV)*

Look at all the cleanup work. Clean up of idolatry, false religion, Sodom and finally, he had to put away the witches and witchcraft. Fifty and sixty years ago in this country you hardly heard of it. What will witchcraft become in the next ten or twenty years? That's another story altogether.

Think of the lessons of the good kings of Israel. In fact, I recommend that you go back and read what the good kings did because it's going to give us ideas of what we will have to do.