

Kings

&

Priests

INNOCENT MICHAEL

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INTRODUCTION

Our God is a God of purpose and design. He is purposeful in all that He does. His wisdom makes Him to create and establish all that is necessary for the fulfillment of His intention on any issue or in any area. He knows eternity to come from eternity past. He is never confused about whatever will come up tomorrow because in His wisdom, He has made adequate preparations for that tomorrow since yesterday. He knows about all factors that will be needed to come into play, to be able to make what He has in mind to come to pass. He makes adequate provisions to answer for whatever will be necessary.

For mankind that He created in image and likeness, He has set things in motion in them and around them that will help them live effectively and reach their destination in life. Even those yet unborn have been prepared for by God, by the positioning of even those who are dead; because God knows that a time will come that what was tomorrow will soon become yesterday. Just like King Solomon wrote:

“ what was will be again, what happened will happen again. There’s nothing new on this earth. Year after year it’s the same old thing” Ecclesiastes 1:9 (MSG)

This consistency of God is what will help you better discover what is going on in the world. It will help you know who you are and what on earth you are meant to achieve. God knows you will be needed by this generation. God has also wired you to fit into the need of this generation. It is only left for you to discover what you were packaged for and how to effectively discharge your role on earth.

Kings and Priests are the two simple classes that everyone born again into God’s kingdom is meant to fall into. God knows the world will need Christians as Kings and Priests to be able to make a positive impact on the world. All that God intends for us as Christians to be: the “light of the world” and the “salt of the earth”; is meant to be achieved either as a King or a Priest. Grasping what a King or a Priest is, knowing where you fall, and how effectively you can walk in your calling is what you will get to know as you go through this book.

It is in the self-discovery series like “ONE THING ABOUT YOU” (An already published book), ‘KINGS AND PRIESTS’ is meant to narrow your search of purpose. It is meant to bring your mind toward one of the two classes (Kings and Priests) so that your search for purpose will be easier. As you make a

discovery on this reading adventure, God will help you concentrate so as to arrive at the “ONE THING” your life is all about. It is targeted at terminating confusion, handling the frustration that many encounter in search of purpose and helping one to enter the rest God has for us as Christians; when on purpose.

Go through hopefully and expectant. Be open and study along the other scriptural references cited in the book, and the Holy Spirit will grant you the needed revelation, not just for you only, but for others; you will need to help with your discovery.

GOD BLESS YOU.

CHAPTER ONE

KINGS AND PRIESTS

‘And hath made us Kings and Priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen’ Revelation 1:6

‘And hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth’ Revelations 5:10

Our call unto Salvation is a call unto dominion. God blessed the first Adam to have dominion and he lost it to Satan due to sin. The Last Adam Jesus Christ came to restore that dominion. He accomplished that assignment after His sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection from the dead. He stripped the devil of all dominion and made it available for all who will believe on Him.

‘wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men’ Ephesians 4:8

‘And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it’ Colossians 2:15.

After Christ accomplished that work, he ascended up and is seated at the right hand of His Father. The dominion He collected from the hand of the devil is not needed in heaven, but on earth. He gave it unto men to exercise it in His name. All therefore that come to Him are to exercise this dominion on earth.

KINGS AND PRIESTS

The intention of God is that all of His children reign on earth. They are meant to reign either as kings or as priests. The reign of kings and the reign of priests are equal. God does not intend for there to be superiority or inferiority in the placement of His children as Kings or as Priests: so as a Christian, you are either in the class of the Kings or in the class of the Priests. It is meant for complementation and not competition. God intends that the placement of His children in these two classes will assist them to function effectively and fulfill the mandate of dominion over the earth.

When this understanding is fully established in the hearts of Christians, then the roles of each class will be better played, the role of the other class will be better valued and the workings of the two will result in a divine force on earth; that will cause the inhabitants of the earth to wonder. The glory of God will then be evident in the life of the Christians on earth. You are meant to reign on the earth and no matter what class you are placed, your dominion is meant to be evident.

SPREADING THE GLORY

The glory of God is meant to fill the earth as we reign on earth as Christians. Our reign is not a matter of vocal assertion but a display of the God-life in us. Whether as a king or a priest, you are meant to be an agent and a distributor of the glory of the King of kings or The Great High Priest - JESUS.

“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” Habakkuk 2:14

God’s glory is meant to be revealed in and through us. It is meant to be duplicated through us till wherever the earth extends to, we are meant to cover with God’s glory, either as kings or as priests. The calling as kings and the callings of God as priest is a glorious calling. We are meant to radiate His glory wherever God has placed us. Those called to be kings will not need to become priests before the glory is made manifest and neither will the priests need to become kings to manifest the glory in their lives.

IT’S GOD’S CHOICE

You are not the determinant of the class you are meant to be. You don’t have the right to choose to become a king or a priest. Just the way you did not choose your parents, so also you cannot choose where to belong. For Jeremiah, God told him

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou comest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee and ordained thee a prophet unto the nations” Jeremiah 1:5

The intention for your placement was before your creation. Your ordination into your class was before your formation in the womb. You have no part to play in the choice of which class to belong. Paul the apostle has this to say about himself with reference to the choice of God before his birth.

“But when He, who had chosen and set me apart (even) before I was born and had called me by His grace (His undeserved favour and blessing), saw me fit and was pleased” Galatians 1:15 (AMP.)

Your parents too have no choice on the issue of being a king or a priest. The class your parents are in is not the determinant of the class you are meant to be. A father can be in the class of the kings and God can choose that the son be in the class of the priests. It is mostly difficult for parents to accept that reality, but that is because they don't understand the doings of God. Concerning the prophet Amos in the Bible, he said

“I was no prophet , neither was I a prophet’s son; but I was an herdsman and a gatherer of sycamore fruits and the Lord took me as I followed the flock and the Lord said to me, Go prophesy unto my people Israel” Amos 7:14-15

His parents were agriculturists but he was chosen to be a prophet. Elisha the prophet too was from an agricultural background but his destiny was tied to the prophetic. Our master and savior had Joseph –a carpenter as His earthly father, but His destiny was not carpentry.

It is not just what you desire to become, neither is it what your parents wished you become. It is not the societal acceptance of either the class of kings or priests, neither is it the fame and honour attached to one against the other. It is God's choice and God's choice for any life is the best that that person can be.

WIRED FOR A CLASS

God's choice for one to fall in either the class of kings or priests is not arbitrary. He did not do the choosing mindless of who you are. He ensured that He enshrined in your making, the capacity and capability necessary for your effective functioning in that class. The capacity to withstand the pressure that follows each class was added by God when He made you. He chose you to either be a king or a priest because he had made all necessary installation in you to fit you into it. What you seem to lack is not necessary for the class God ordained you for. God is ever ready to make available or strengthen the available to meet up with the expectations of the class, He designed you to be.

Jeremiah the prophet tried to doubt God's choice of him as a prophet to speak for Him; because he felt he was too young and inexperienced for the class God had placed him. God replied him by saying

“—say not I am a child, for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee..” Jeremiah 1:7

God can never make a mistake and whatever He reveals to you as the class you are meant to fall into, then that is where your fulfillment in life is tied around. As we begin to uncover these two classes, be open minded and let the Holy Spirit grant you self-discovery revelations; that will make your search for purpose easier, and spur you into becoming all that God has destined you to become. Your journey for the discovery of purpose will be shortened as you go through the following chapters.

CHAPTER TWO

WHO ARE THE KINGS?

“ And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee” Genesis 17:6

“..... I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her” Genesis 17:16

After establishing the fact that, you are either in the class of kings or the class of priest as a Christian, we want to consider who the kings are. God's speaking concerning Abraham and Sarah in our leading 'twin' verses in this chapter above establishes that the issue of being a king is not an issue of gender. It is not referring to the male folks alone, but it is the matter of the assignment and position to one by God to accomplish or take over, whether you are a male or a female.

ORDAINED FOR GOD

Kings are ordained for God in things that pertain to men. Those who are kings are called and ordained to be principal representatives of God with reference to things and people in the world. The 'kings' of God's kingdom are those who are in every sphere of life but are there principally to display the nature and wisdom of God. God ordains Christians to shine as lights in every field of human endeavour they are placed. God intends to saturate the world of men with His glory, power and wisdom. This He does by introducing His own specie of people, who are His children; to go and show those who don't know God in that area of life, how God is. Those who are kings are sent into different fields of life like academics, business, politics, military, science, technology, sports and every positive and profitable field of human life.

KINGS ARE VOICES FOR GOD

Those who are kings are those God permit to be in places where there are evil of one kind or another. Those who are not children of God can be comfortable with such practices. Kings would not cooperate with them and they will also speak against it. The noise of evil in society is the reason why God sent kings to be voices there to silence it. For such ones the scripture says ***“Take no part in and have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds and***

enterprises of darkness, but instead (let your lives be so in contrast as to) expose and reprove and convict them” Ephesians 5:11 (AMP.)

Those who are kings will by their speech and lifestyle make God known wherever they are. Kings for God don't compromise for whatever reason because they are careful of whom they are representing. They are conscious of the kingdom they are from and they live as ambassadors for the King of kings.

Not only by their speech and lifestyle do they represent God, they also represent God by their products. The wisdom of God is revealed through them in their field. They bring out innovations and inventions that can only be identified with God. What they do reveals the glory of God. The excellence that follows their work is only trace-able to the wisdom of God. They are the last resort of every organization they are found because of the solution God has embedded in their hearts for their world.

The scripture say

“ where the word of a king is, there is power...” Ecclesiastes 8:4

It can also be written as “ where the wisdom of the king is, there is power” because the word of the king also carries his wisdom. The wisdom associated with Christians who are meant to be kings in their field of endeavour is what will give them voices in that place for God.

EXAMPLES OF KINGS

God permitted some of His children in time past to be found in one aspect of life and the other to display His glory on earth and we will be looking at a few of them.

DANIEL:

Daniel was a Jew that was taken captive from Judah by Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon. He was taken to the palace and given the needed training to work in the corridors of power in Babylon. He worked with Nebuchadnezzar as well as Belshazzar his son. He also worked with Darius the Median and Cyrus the Persian. In all of these reigns, he lived the kingdom life – which can now in our own term be referred to as the Christian life – in the arena of political power. He manifested divine wisdom and provided solutions where the wise men of the world in his days were unable to provide solution. His superior wisdom was identified with God and he brought praise and glory to God by the wisdom of God he accessed. He was also unflinching in his resolve not to compromise for

any reason like his other colleagues and he was referred to as one with the excellent spirit. Look at the confession of his colleagues at work after looking for grounds of accusations against him and understand what a king for God is meant to be.

“Then the Commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him. Then these men said, we will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God” Daniel 6:4-5 (NASB)

He did not only express his life in the sanctuary but he represented God in the top most place of authority in government. His lifestyle as well as his products made him a voice for God where he worked.

JOSEPH:

Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob who is also called Israel. He just like Daniel was taken to Egypt. Daniel’s reign was in Babylon but Joseph’s reign was in Egypt. Both Babylon and Egypt are typical of the world system we are in today. Joseph was elevated both in Potiphar’s house, in the Prison where he was thrown into for no wrong of his and he was also elevated to the post of the Prime Minister in Egypt. Daniel reigned as king in the political sphere, but Joseph reigned in the economic sphere. He accessed divine revelation that made him relevant to Egypt beyond the wise men of Egypt. He represented God there as a king in that field and what he had to offer was connected to God and that brought glory to God. Pharaoh King of Egypt confessed thus

“can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the spirit of God is?... Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled.” Genesis 41:38, 40

Joseph lived in the fear of God and therefore manifested the wisdom of God because;

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” Proverbs 9:10.
He reigned as king for God by his lifestyle as well as the products of his wisdom and God was glorified in and through him.

JOB:

Job was a business man and the scripture said he was the greatest of all men in the east (Job 1:3). He was rich and yet righteous. He was physically wealthy and spiritually healthy. He was business minded and God minded. He was connected to God and he accessed wisdom to reign as king in the business world. He made those in the world know that it was possible to be in business and not be corrupt. He walked in financial authority and personal integrity. That is how kings for God ought to be in any area of life they find themselves. By his character and wisdom he was a voice for God in his days. Look at the confession among his contemporaries and you will see what a king for God looks like.

“Men listened to me expectantly, waiting in silence for my counsel. After I had spoken, they spoke no more; my words fell gently on their ears I chose the way for them and sat as their chief; I dwelt as a king among his troops; I was like one who comforts mourners.” Job 29:21-22, 25 (NIV).

That was the place of Job in the business world – a king. He was a voice by his lifestyle and by the wisdom of God that was associated with his products. That is God’s ideal for Christians who are meant to be kings in their different fields of life.

Great scientists and inventors of our world are mostly Christians who by the wisdom of God at their disposal were able to make impact with their discoveries. A person like Michael Faraday is a king for God in the world of Science. Someone like John D. Rockefeller is a king for God in the business world. The medical world has one like Ben Carson as one king in that field that is a Christian. This is just to mention but a few of the many kings in their fields who stood out in their fields and are children of God.

KINGS SUPPLY PHYSICAL PROVISION

The wisdom of God at the disposal of kings makes them have access to material resources. The wisdom of God that their lives display commands resources in their direction. Their access to these resources is meant also for the kingdom they represent.

Christians who are called to be kings are ‘wired’ by God to notice physical and material needs. They have the capacity to spot where physical needs and the physical ‘seeds’ too to meet those needs. God makes resources

available for them so that they can make it available for the expansion of God's kingdom on earth. As long as the earth remains, there will be need for material things in the kingdom which God will use those in the class of kings to meet.

Joseph – a king in the economic sector, had access to resources which he made available for God's kingdom, when there was famine. He did not collect any money from the house of Israel that came to Egypt to get food, all the times they came to get food and the eventual time they moved their entire households to Egypt. This he did because the resources available to the kings are meant to meet the needs available in the kingdom. While others were paying for food in Egypt, it was said that, the land of the priests had a portion from the king without payment (Genesis 47:22). The resources with the kings are God's resources for the kingdom.

The kings do not only see needs, they foresee needs too and prepare the people for it. They are in possession of revelation of how to secure the future of those in the kingdom by preparing ahead for a foreseen need.

The Shunamite woman also reigned in the class of kings and she noticed and responded with her material resources to the need of the Prophet Elisha. There were also women like Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna who released their resources to the Ministry of Jesus and those are also in the class of kings for God (Luke 8:2-3).

KINGS ACCESS TREASURES

Kings are Kingdom Treasurers. They are the ones God gives access to the riches for His Kingdom. This He does by giving them easy access to where the treasures are. Kings for God have 'revelation' of where resources are located. They have easy access to opportunities that will release material resources in their direction. They see wealth where others can't see. They are in possession of wisdom to venture into areas that are treasure filled, which others can't see. It is also to kings for God that this scriptural promise was released:

"And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places." Isaiah 45:3

That scripture was God's word concerning Cyrus whom God chose to empower as a king for the sake of rebuilding Jerusalem. It came to pass after Judah's years of exile were completed. God gave him access to treasures in darkness; simply because of His Kingdom. That is the lot of those who are kings in God's kingdom.

Kings are in possession of the wisdom to access, manage and multiply resources and they enjoy open doors to great riches. God's promise for them is,

".... I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut (Isaiah 45:1)

They are meant to be in possession of those treasures as treasurers of God for His Kingdom.

KINGS ARE KINGDOM LINKS

Christians who are kings for God are the links for others in the kingdom whose influence is needed in either the same field or other fields of life. Their access to positions of influence makes them have opportunities for the elevation of others in the kingdom so that they too can go to cover other aspects of the world and spread God's glory there.

Daniel a king in government affairs requested that his colleagues who are also in the class of kings be posted to other provinces. His colleagues Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego went and reigned as kings also in the provinces and brought glory to God (Daniel 2:49). Pharaoh was looking for kings in the area of animal husbandry and Joseph was the link for Pharaoh to his brothers, who reigned as kings in that level (Genesis 47:6). Esther the queen of Persia was also a 'king' for the kingdom and she was used as the link for Mordecai ascending to the place of authority in the Persian Kingdom (Esther 8:1-2).

Being a kingdom link is not the issue of partiality but the issue of being a referee for someone trusted, that can deliver what is expected and also shine as light for God in such a place.

KINGS AND THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY - MINISTERS IN THEIR PROFESSION

"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men..... And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers" Ephesians 4:8, 11

The above scripture is seen as applicable to those called into the priestly class. The phrase "gave gifts unto men" implies that it is for all. So there are professions of kings that falls into the fivefold ministry.

1. Kingly Apostles: inventors, producers, authors
2. Kingly Prophets: repairers, restorers, reformers

3. Kingly Evangelists: marketers, publishers
4. Kingly Pastors: care givers, protectors, farmers
5. Kingly Teachers: instructors, coaches, teachers

CHAPTER THREE

WHO ARE THE PRIESTS?

“ For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins” Hebrews 5:1

We have considered who the kings are and how one can identify himself or herself in the class of kings. If you have not yet identified yourself, then get ready because you will surely fall in this next class of Christians in the kingdom of God.

ORDAINED FOR MEN

Kings, like was said in the last chapter are ordained for God in things that pertain to men. Priests on the other hand are ordained for men in things that pertains to God as can be seen in the scripture above. The Priests are Christians whose lives are meant to be donated to the service of men with things that relate to God. Those in the class of the priests are those who represent the people before God. They live among men but they relate to God more, with reference to the issues of men. Those who are priests in the kingdom relate with men the things that concern their basic relationship with God and how it should overflow to other men. Those who are called to be priests don't entangle their lives with the secular world but are separated so that they can help the kings before God and relate to them the mind of God.

WHAT PRIESTS ARE ORDAINED FOR?

The New Living Translation renders our leading text in this chapter more clearly.

“ Now a high priest is a man chosen to represent other human beings in their dealings with God. He presents their gifts to God and offers their sacrifices for sins” Hebrews 5:1 (NLT)

As a representative of other human beings in their dealings with God, the priest is first of all a burden bearer for the people before God. He is both an intercessor and a mediator before God for the people. Just as Aaron did for the Israelites, so are those in the class of priests.

“Then Aaron took it as Moses had spoken and ran into the midst of the assembly for behold the plague had begun among the people. So he

put on the incense and made atonement for the people. He took his stand between the dead and the living, so that the plague was checked”
Numbers 16:47-48 (NASB)

SUPPLIES SPIRITUAL PROVISIONS

The Kings supplies physical (material) provisions for the kingdom. The Priests on the other hand supplies spiritual provision. King Darius of the Persian Kingdom understood this king – priest role, and he made a decree with respect to the Priests in his kingdom:

“ Give the Priests in Jerusalem whatever is needed in the way of young bulls, rams and lambs for the burnt offerings presented to the God of heaven. And without fail, provide them with the wheat, salt, wine and olive oil that they need each day. Then they will be able to offer acceptable sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray for me and my sons”
Ezra 6:9-10 (NLT)

He knew his role was to supply material provisions and that the Priests are meant to be in charge of spiritual issues. As he gave orders for the release of the materials, he gave the reason which is, to make the Priests discharge their roles effectively and handle some spiritual issues for him. The Priests are the revealers of the secrets of God as well as the instructors of God’s divine oracles. They make known to the people the mind of God on issues of their lives and show them how God intends for them to conduct the affairs of their lives on their pilgrim journey on earth. They help to discern between holy and unholy things and instruct the people how to represent God wherever they are found. The scriptures say concerning the priests in the Old Testament which is a shadow and a type of what the New Testament priests are supposed to be.

“You must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean and you must teach the Israelites all the decrees the Lord has given them through Moses” Leviticus 10:10-11 (NIV).

Conflicting or confusing issues in the kingdom are meant to be settled by the priest. God gives them access to strong discernment on spiritual matters and they are in possession of solutions and answers to the questions and riddles of men through the word of God. Whatever is necessary for the well-being of God’s children with reference to God’s principles are made available for the kingdom through the priests.

‘According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee and according to the judgement which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do And the man that will do presumptuously and will not hearken unto the priest that standest to minister there before the Lord thy God or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel’ Deuteronomy 17:11-12.

All these are the spiritual provisions that those in the class of the priests are meant to supply in the kingdom.

PRIESTS SEES VIRTUES

Like we saw that kings sees treasures; priests on the other hand, sees virtues. Kings sees the physical treasures while Priests sees the spiritual treasures. Kings have access to the treasures in the physical earth, while the priests see the treasures of the spiritual ‘earth’ (our body).

Those who are called into the class of priests spot out potentials, talents and gifts. They have the capacity to discern callings and giftings. They can perceive the possibilities of the hidden abilities in people. They possess spiritual ‘antenna’ to detect where divine deposits are in lives. By divine revelation or by close observation, God helps them to notice the presence of a spiritual gift.

Priests are more concerned about the inner composition of people than their charisma. Those called to the class of priests are more interested in the ‘makings’ of people rather than the ‘havings’.

Samuel the priest spotted by divine revelation, the prophetic composition of Saul and helped him to release it. (I Samuel 10) Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is both a King and a Priest, but He functioned more on His priestly calling on earth because of His assignment of reconciling man to God (A Mediator). He was able to see the gifts and abilities of Peter and the other disciples that He called and helped them to become everything God intended for them to become.

PRIESTS FIGHT SPIRITUAL BATTLES

Those called to be priests foresee enemies. Priests are the spiritual watchmen of the kingdom. They discern enemies’ plan as revealed to them by God. The war down such satanic forces spiritually and counsels men on what to do in the physical about such enemies. They take their stand in the spirit

realm in warfare for those in the kingdom and by their supplication the enemies of the Church are defeated.

Moses acted in the capacity of a priest when he took his stand on the top of the hill with the staff in his hand. His stand was a positioning for the spiritual warfare while Joshua led the armies of Israel for the physical side of the battle. (Exodus 17:8-13) Elisha acted this priestly role also when he discerned the enemies plan to attack the king of Israel and how he warned the king towards his deliverance. (I Kings 6:8-10). As the kings advance the glory of God on earth, the priests take their place in defence against the enemy. It is this synergy that will cause God's kingdom to expand and maintain dominion on the earth. Jesus also entered this priestly office when He told Peter and said.

" Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not:..."
Luke 22:31-32

Spiritual warfare is one other strong reason for the calling of priests.

PRIESTS PRONOUNCE THE BLESSING

The blessing is God's empowerment for the multiplication, amplification and dominion of the gifts and graces of man. Those who are the priests are God's representatives that pronounce the blessing on people.

When Abraham was the only kingdom person on the earth, God had to ensure that this principle is not omitted. He had to send Melchizedek – a priest to come and confer the blessing on Abraham. He came and blessed Abraham on this wise;

"And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, possessor of heaven and earth" Genesis 14:19.

When the priest-hood of the Old Testament was later established in the wilderness, God commanded Moses on the issue of priestly blessing saying,

"Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, The Lord bless thee and keep thee; The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace. And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them" Numbers 6:23-27. God establishes spiritual blessings on people by the pronouncements of those called to be priests.

PRIESTS AND CONSECRATION

The demand of God on those called to be priests is not like those called to be kings. The kings are meant to live a life pleasing to God in holiness and righteousness to God; but the level of consecration for those called to be priests are higher. There are certain things that might not be out rightly wrong but God will not permit those who are called to be priests to do it. . There are certain activities that God will not permit them to engage in. There are places that they are forbidden to be found. It is not because of superiority but it is because of the peculiarity of their call. It is meant to assist in sharpening their sensitivity to spiritual things.

After God gave Aaron the priest, the consecrational demands of his calling, He made him to know that it is necessary because of his assignment, ***“and so as to make a distinction between the Holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean”*** Leviticus 10:12.

The maintenance of the consecration demands is tied to their communion with God. Their communion with God is expected to be very rich, out of which they can maintain their consecration and fulfill their priestly assignment effectively. When Samson- a judge, played with his communion, he could not maintain his Nazarite consecration. It interfered with the fulfillment of his assignment.

THE PRIESTS AND THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY

In the Old Testaments, the Temple priests, the Levites, the Prophets, the Seers and the Judges are those in the class of the New Testament priests. The roles that the Temple priests, the Levites, the Prophets, the Seers and Judges played in the Old Testament are what the New Testament priests are supposed to play.

In the new testaments, those called to be priests fall into the five-fold ministry in the Church. They are the Apostles, the Prophets, the Evangelists, the Pastors and the Teachers (Ephesians 4:11). All that have been spoken about the priests in this chapter is operational in this five-fold ministry. In the class of the priests of the kingdom, individuals fall into one of these five ministries. Whether they minister in words, songs and writings, they fall into one of these five. The priestly call places them as ministers of God who serve men on spiritual issues.

The ministrations as Priests differ in dimension, but they fall within one general class of priests. How they operate follows the specific assignment God has given them as priests.

EXAMPLES OF PRIESTS

We will be looking at scriptural examples of those whose lives exemplify for us the class of priests.

AARON:

Aaron was the elder brother to Moses. He was appointed first by God as Moses' spokesman before Pharaoh, before the exodus. He was later chosen to be the priest of the people by God to represent the people before God and to offer sacrifices on behalf of the people. Concerning him, the writer of the book of Hebrews says,

“And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron” Hebrews 5:4.

He carried on that role and when he died, his son Eleazar continued in the priestly office after him.

SAMUEL:

Samuel is the son of Elkanah and Hannah, whose birth was an answer to the vow of Hannah his mother. He was brought to Eli the Priest, while still a child and he grew up to be a priest of God. He took over from Eli, whose sons were disqualified because of their evil lifestyle. He was the one who anointed Saul to be king as well as David. He lived a life worthy of his calling and completed his course dutifully before he died. The roles of the priest he played effectively and as a Nazarite by consecration, he lived faithfully and could not be charged with any fault with reference to his office. Look the people's confession about his days in the priestly office,

“You have not cheated or oppressed us” they replied. You have not taken anything from anyone's hand” I Samuel 12:4 (NIV)

He was both a temple priest and Judge and he fulfilled his priestly calling.

CHAPTER FOUR

A PRIESTLY KING

“And David inquired of the Lord saying, shall I go up to the Philistines? Wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the Lord said unto David, Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand” 2 Samuel 5:19

A king is ordained for God with reference to human issues. The scripture above is the action of David – a king. The act of inquiring from God which was supposed to be the duty of the priest is what King David did. He was a king but lived a priestly life. That is what a priestly king is all about.

GOD’S IDEAL KING

A priestly king is God’s ideal king. A priestly king is a king who is not far from God. A Priestly King is a king who lives like a priest even though he/she does not carry out priestly roles. A priestly king is sent by God into any field of life he/she is ordained for; but lives his life and conducts the affairs of his life like the priest.

God wants all those who are called to be kings, to carry out their kingly roles where they are placed but live their lives like priests. A priestly king is not a priest but flows in lifestyle as commanded by God as though he is a priest. A priestly king is conscious of holiness as would the priest. A kingly priest is disciplined with prayer altars like a priest. He/she lives in the consciousness of his/her communion life with God. Priestly kings do not contaminate their lives with the evil of the world around them. They will not compromise their Christian standard no matter what. They don’t see their kingly official roles as separate from their spiritual lives. They are Christians at work as well as in Church. What they know is not good is avoided whether at home, in Church or in their fields of work. A priestly king will access some dimensions of revelations as would a priest; which is a function of their closeness to God. They keep in close touch with God in prayers, worship, study of the word and fasting, and so they connect with God’s glory and power as though they are priests.

THEIR PRIESTLY CAPACITY

A priestly king can be apostolic but he/she is not an Apostle. He/she can be prophetic and can almost operate like a prophet but they are not Prophets. A priestly king is evangelistic but not called to be an Evangelist. They can

possess some qualities of a pastor or shepherd but they are not called to pastor any congregation. They can even teach based on their knowledge of God but that does not make them teachers.

Their closeness to God can make them display some gifts as though they are in the priestly class but they are not. One can be a king and due to their heart for God can access some dimensions of spiritual provisions even more than some in the class of priests. A priestly king has a stronger pull God-ward even though he/she is called to be king among men. They have access to both physical treasures as well as spiritual treasures; due to the richness of their communion with God.

BOUNDARIES FOR PRIESTLY KINGS

Those who are in the class of the kings can flow on spiritual issues and access spiritual revelations as though they are priests. Their effectiveness is tied to how much of their boundaries they know.

The king's boundaries have to do with the person and official roles of those called to be priests. A priestly king does not despise the person of a priest. Their kingly influence and affluence in the world can tempt them to despise the personality of those who are priests. The wealth and honour that follows kings is not meant to be seen as superior to the Priests. A priestly king respects and values the person of a priest. He/she values their counsel and in no way present the selves better than the priest. A priestly king sees the priests from the eyes of God and esteems them for their priestly call.

A priestly king also does not step into the roles designed for the priests to carry out. Priestly kings are sensitive enough to know what area they should not step into. For a priestly king to step into the ministry of the word and healing full-time is to be stepping into the wrong field. For a priestly king to be going out for evangelical outreaches, organizing crusades and planting Churches, is to be limited in his/her own area of kingly call. There won't be reward for such actions because they are allowing their area of call to suffer and they won't do the priestly call well; because they were not 'wired' for that.

A PRIESTLY KING

David is one classic example of a priestly king. He was a lover of God and one who is willing to do anything to please God. David had a rich communion with God out of which most of the Book of Psalms were written. He wrote songs, he invented musical instruments and he was a Choir/music director.

He operated in the realm of the prophetic and released prophetic psalms about the messiah. He was priestly in many dimensions but he never stepped into the priestly office. He never stepped into the office of a prophet. Though he was priestly, he had regard for those called to be priests. He had a priest and a prophet over his life – Abiathar and Nathan, after Samuel died. He respected their offices and gave them their place. His communion with God was richer than most priests and prophets of his time, but he remained in the kingly office he was called into. He went one time to carry the Ark of the Covenant box without due consultation with the priests and Uzzah died in the process. He had to recognize the priestly office properly before the movement was successful. He thereafter lived as a priestly king, who gave the priests, Levites and prophets their rightful place. He played his kingly role well by releasing resources for those in the kingdom when necessary and prepared resources abundantly for the building of the temple for God.

Another king who was priestly in scriptures is Joseph, the king in the economic realm, who lived in the fear of God and carried out his kingly role as a king. Job, a king in the business realm was also a righteous man, who played priestly roles of sanctifying his children periodically. Daniel, a king in Politics (government) maintained his purity and communion altars with God, all the while in government; that he had prophetic revelations of the end –time and prayed to see the end of Jews exile in Babylon. This and many others carried out their kingly roles effectively for the kingdom of God as priestly kings. If you are called to be a king for God in your area of assignment, ensure you are priestly; for that is God's ideal for you. Represent God well in your field, make available for the kingdom of God, the resources God has for the kingdom through you. Value the person and office of a priest and you are actually a priestly king that God will be pleased with for reward here on earth and in the world after.

CHAPTER FIVE

A KINGLY PRIEST

“ Burnt offering were sacrificed continually during the lifetime of Jehoiada the priest. He lived to a very old age, finally dying at 130. He was buried in the city of David among the kings because he had done so much good for Israel, for God and for the temple” 2 Chronicles 24:14-16 (TLB)

What is it that will make a priest to be buried with the kings? It is because there is a kingly aspect of his priestly calling that he performed well. He was buried among the kings because apart from his priestly roles, he lived a kingly life and did much good to the entirety of Israel, for God as well as the temple of God. He helped in preserving the child of a king when all the children of the king were being killed by a wicked queen (Athaliah). He raised the royal ‘seed’ up and ensured that he was enthroned as promised by God to David that his descendants will sit on the throne of David. He guided the king and helped in restoring the true worship of God in the land all the while he was alive. He had enough resources to command the attention and honour of the entire land of Israel. His family life was quality as he was able to raise a son – Zechariah who carried on after him and manifested godliness and prophetic gifts. He is a good example of who a kingly priest is and he was rewarded by both God and man as a priest who stood out. His full life’s account is found in the second Book of Chronicles chapters twenty three and twenty four.

GOD’S IDEAL PRIEST

A kingly priest is God’s ideal priest. A kingly priest is one whose life and calling can never be despised by the king. Though the priest has no inheritance like the king, a kingly priest commands resources, influence and honour like the kings. A kingly priest is one called to the priestly office for men in things that pertain to God; but his lifestyle is like that of a king. He/she is called to minister spiritual things to men but also has access to resources as the king that he/she also minister material things as well. A kingly priest walks and lives his/her life in line with the revelation he/she has for the kings. It is their priestly role that will make you know they are called into the priestly class. A kingly priest has a healthy family life, that their office cannot be discredited because of their family life. A kingly priest is one whose person and office is relevant both to men and God in all areas of life.

THEIR KINGLY CAPACITY

A kingly priest has management skills of resources, but he/she is not called into the business world. They are leaders with strong leadership qualities, but they are clearly not meant to be found in politics. They can teach some academic courses due to the wisdom gotten from God, but they are not meant to be in the academic field. They are actually priestly but passively kingly. They possess the wisdom that can help them function in other fields of life, but they are principally called to be priests.

Their study of scriptures and other relevant information materials make them to be in possession of wisdom for those in the kingly class, but they are not kings. Their interaction with men makes them to be in possession of wisdom for those in the kingly class, but they are not kings. Their interaction with men make them to be in possession of knowledge about issues, that they need to require God's wisdom to be able to help men in that area, but that doesn't mean they are called into that field as kings.

BOUNDARIES FOR KINGLY PRIESTS

A kingly priest can be tempted by the wisdom in one area of life to venture into that area. That is disaster about to happen. A kingly priest does not entangle his life with the affairs of the kingly regions. Business is not an area to venture into if called to the class of priests. Any level of influence and affluence that the kings can reach, a kingly priest can reach; but that does not mean a call to abandon the priestly role to be known as the kings. Venturing into the fields of kings is to break focus and stagnate one in his/her assignment as a priest. That is why kingly priests don't take their assignment part-time. It is when one takes his/her assignment as part-time that boundaries are usually crossed into what is not their area of call. Ministry is not a part-time thing for a kingly priest. He 'buries' his all into the call of priests. A kingly priest knows that if God has called, then His demand is all. The scripture says,

" and as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in worldly affairs, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you into his army" 2 Timothy 2:4 (TLB).

The amplified version puts it this way, ***"No soldier when in service gets entangled in the enterprises of civilian life; his aim is to satisfy and please the one who enlisted him"*** 2 Timothy 2:4 (AMP.).

A kingly priest busy himself in the discharge of his duties as assigned by God and does not move by emotion or by men's opinion to step into the area assigned for kings. Even if God grants a revelation of a need in one area of life meant for the kings, He is simply telling one that is a priest to look for a king in that field and sow the needed wisdom and resources where necessary for them to carry out. The kingly priest can play a supervisory role but he/she is not involved in the running of that area.

Peter and the other apostles defined their boundary as those called into the priestly aspect of the kingdom and this was their response when a need arose among those around then,

“ So the twelve called a meeting of all the believers, “we should spend our time preaching, not administering a feeding programme” they said. “Now look around among yourselves dear brothers, and select seven men, wise and full of the Holy Spirit, who are well thought of by everyone; and we will put them in charge of this business. Then we can spend our time in prayer, preaching and teaching” Acts 6:2-4 (TLB).

They stayed around their zone of allowance for efficiency and effectiveness. They stayed within their own jurisdiction, so that they can carry it out well. That is what a kingly priest does.

The Priest is not less than the king and playing your role as a priest does not make you less in God's eyes or in men's eyes. That is the mindset of kingly priests. Be completely donated to your priestly call, full time and ensure that you carry out your assignment with all dignity and excellence. Let your products as a priest portray royalty. Discharge your duty towards the kings with no sense of inferiority and give the kings their own place. You will by this display your kingly qualities as a priest; for a kingly priest is God's ideal priest. Are you called to be a Priest? Be kingly, but remain the Priest you are called.

CHAPTER SIX

WISDOM FOR EFFECTIVENESS

“Do you see a man diligent and skillful in his business? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men” Proverbs 22:29 (Amp)

For the fulfillment of your call as a king or as a priest, there are wisdom keys that will guarantee that for one to rise up in his/her class, there are certain factors that will assist such a person. It is due to the lack of this wisdom key that make those called to be either kings or priests to mess up their lives either at the beginning, at the middle, or towards the end of their lives.

Some in the class of kings began well but because a vital ingredient of their calling was missing, they made wreck of their lives and destinies. Some priests lost their place due to their inability to prioritize their lives properly. It is these vital ingredients that we will be considering below.

ABIDE IN YOUR CALLING

When the glamour and honour that follows either a king or a priest reaches a highpoint, many deviate from the course of their call. The praise of men as well as the suggestions of men can push one out of their place of assignment. Listen to this truth: The push of men is mostly the pull of God. When men begin to sing your praise and begin to make some comments about you; that make you look like, it is you and not God at work in you; understand that the devil is setting such a one up for a fall. Ensure you define your boundary long before any of such level of honor and dignity comes, and be disciplined about it all the way up; so that you can stick to what God has called you into. Place such a reminding notice around you and ensure it becomes part of you and ‘sing’ it like a song to those around you so that they don’t assist in pushing you into the grave. The truth is that people are Satan’s tool towards the fall of great men and women. Beware of their words and praise and stay humble no matter the level of exploit in your calling.

King Saul began well but due to the praise and pressure of people, he stepped into the priestly office of Samuel by offering a sacrifice meant for the priests. The consequence is that he lost the throne (I Samuel 13). King Uzziah also did wondrously as a king. He built towers, invented engines and did great exploits till his name spread far abroad. But because he could not handle fame,

he left the kingly exploits and stepped into the priestly office to burn incense. He ended up a leper and was replaced while still alive (2 Chronicles 26). Jonah was called a prophet but as he entered the ship of businessmen, there were losses and his life and ministry ended with a question mark. There are many others in our world too called to be kings who deviated into ministry because of title and the financial gains they think is associated with the priestly call. Others that are called to be priests reached a place of notoriety; that they jumped into politics or into one field not meant for them, and their promising ministry came to an abrupt close. But that shall not be your portion.

Abide in your calling; for every calling is a high calling either as a king or as a priest. The scripture says:

“Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called”. I Corinthians 7:20. The apostle Paul says

“I press the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” Philippians 3:14

Don't be intimidated by the calling of another. Don't wish that God called you into the other class. You are not the determinant and whatever class you fall into, will take you up like those of the other class. Don't appoint yourself into an area God did not appoint you. That is why the bible says

“And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God as was Aaron” Hebrews 5:4

Abide in your calling and you will be delivered from falling.

THE PLACE OF MENTORSHIP

Mentoring is necessary for high flying. If you don't undergo mentoring, you can't escape torturing of one kind or another. It is mentorship that determines your “lordship” in your area. The place of mentoring can never be over-emphasized. You need to be mentored if you will function effectively in your class. Go for mentoring so that you will be taught the ethics of your calling. Trust God to connect you to a mentor that will help you up. Mentoring helps you both in training and in the meeting of quality relationship on your journey upward. Mentors stuff you with the needed knowledge expose you to relevant experience and guide your steps into the fulfillment of your calling.

Those in the class of kings need to be mentored by those in that class. Those called to be priests need priests also to mentor them. God had to arrange

for David to enter into the royal corridor of Saul – a king, for mentorship. Samuel was mentored by Eli the priest. Moses was also mentored by Jethro the Priest. It is littered all through the scriptures.

The issue of mentorship has little or nothing to do with biological parentage. Your parents can mentor you, if God called you into the same class as them. But that is not always the case. The calling into kings or priests is not a transfer thing but the issue of mentoring. It is not that a parent is in the class of the kings that establishes all his children in that class. In the Old Testament, it looked like the children of priests or kings take after them. But if noted well it is not only their children but the word ‘sons’ is emphasized in the parent-children transfer of call. The word ‘son’ talks about mentorship. A child not mentored by the father can’t be a son qualified to take after him. That was why Moses was not mentored by his biological father; neither was Samuel or David in scriptures. When Eli’s children taught it was their right as children of the priest to carry on the priestly call without being mentored into it, they lost out and Samuel that was not from the priest’s home was mentored to replace them. So what the ‘sons’ in the Old Testament are, is what a protégé is in the New Testament. Connect for mentoring as God will help you find and learn what is necessary for your field of call. Let biological parents release their children for mentoring, if their child is not called in the same line of life like them either as kings or as priests. A priest can’t mentor a king well neither can a king mentor a priest well. Even though Samuel anointed David, he did not mentor him but God had to send him for mentoring under a king.

Mentorship is necessary for effective functioning. Walk with this wisdom key too. It is never too late to go for mentoring. Put aside and connect with one who is ahead of you in that class and let God help you. Put your gift aside too and let another mentor you, so you can do better.

A SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Every king needs a priest over him and every priest needs a high priest. It is a spiritual law that can never be changed forever. To function effectively you need a spiritual authority. Satan did not want any authority over him and he was thrown down. If you don’t want to go down, you better bring yourself under a spiritual authority. You might think you don’t need it now but you are limited, if you are under no spiritual covering. Satanic arrows catch those who are not under any spiritual authority. Foolish steps can’t be avoided being taken when one is not under a spiritual ‘cloud’. When you are the ‘chief

executive officer' of your life and no one has a spiritual place over you, then you are headed for destruction.

Saul refused by presumptuous actions to be under Samuel- the spiritual authority over his life; and he was not spared from the arrows of the enemy that took his life (1 Samuel 31:3). Despite all the battles against David, he could not be defeated because he was under a spiritual authority all his life. When he was about to start a project God did not approve for him, God sent the spiritual authority over him – Nathan the prophet to deliver him (2Samuel 7:4-7). When he messed up in the matter of Bathsheba the wife of Uriah, he was called to order by the spiritual authority over him. Even Moses with all this anointing, still continued in error of duty until Jethro – His authority was used to help him (Exodus 18).

No one knows it all. That's why you need a spiritual authority. No one is out of Satan's list for attack. So you need a spiritual authority. If you want God to use and keep using you for His glory, either as a king or a priest, you need a spiritual authority over your life. The truth is that no one is qualified to be used by God who is not under a spiritual authority. God will not manage such a one. Once you cease to be under, you cease to be usable. This is because; it is God's pattern which cannot change. See what this scripture says and know that God's stand on the matter of spiritual authority is a serious matter.

“And every open vessel, which hath no covering bound upon it is unclean” Numbers 19:15

It means that no one is usable when he/she has no covering over their lives. Another word of emphasis in that scripture is the word “bound”. A covering that is not bound is not a covering at all. A loose covering is like there is no covering at all. A spiritual covering that is only by word and not by deed is a loose covering. A spiritual covering under any one that is not maintained closely is a loose covering. When major decisions are taken without consultation is a sign of a loose covering. A spiritual covering you can't cover or defend is a loose covering. A spiritual covering whose instruction is seen as an opinion is a loose covering. A spiritual covering you can castigate for any reason is not a covering at all. A spiritual authority (covering) you disregard due to their weakness is not a covering that will benefit your life. Know that every 'father' has his own 'nakedness'. So 'close' your eyes to their 'nakedness' (weakness) like the two sons of Noah – who refused to look upon their naked father but rather covered him; and you will enjoy the covering of a spiritual

authority. Don't take the matter lightly if you want to function effectively either as a king or a priest.

THE RIGHT PARTNER

It is purpose that determines partner. It takes the right partner to have a fulfilled life in your area of calling. A man called to be a king is not supposed to be married to a woman called to be priest. That is unequal yoking. You need to identify the class the other belongs before entering into any form of partnership. In the choice of life partner, the issue of the class of the other should be considered. A king should marry another in the class of the kings and a priest should go for or accept another in the class of priests.

The scripture says: ***“And there went a man of the house of Levi and took to wife a daughter of Levi”*** Exodus 2:1

The above scripture implies partnership among those of the same class. No wonder they were able to raise a prophet (Moses), a prophetess (Miriam) and a high priest (Aaron). Moses married a priest's daughter Zipporah for both of them are of the priestly class. David married Michal (King's daughter) because they are also of the kingly class. It is not that anyone called to be a pastor or an evangelist must look for a pastor or an evangelist daughter to marry. The above examples are physical unions that contain spiritual lessons for us. The call is simple to connect with one in partnership and or marriage one whose speeches, lifestyle and vision tilts towards your own class either as a priest or as a king.

There is a spiritual 'language' that people of each class understand which might sound strange to those not in that class. So what God will be saying to the wife or husband concerning vision should not be strange to the other because they too have been wired to decode such a language. Frustration abounds where couples don't understand what God is saying to the other. That is why in the Old Testament; marriage was encouraged between people of the same tribe in Israel for inheritance sake (Numbers 36:6-9). We in the new covenant need to pattern ourselves to that rule but now in the spiritual form. Connect with those of the same spiritual 'tribe' as you if you will carry out your function effectively either as a king or as a priest. One spiritual tribe equals one spiritual inheritance. When there is no agreement in this spiritual 'joining' there will neither be fulfillment in the marriage or in the assignment of God for the individuals in that union.

Having a right partner is having a partner of the same kingdom class as you.
Trust God to connect you and your fulfillment will be guaranteed in life.

UNLESS YOU DO THIS

The issue of Kings and Priests is not yet relevant to those who have not made the crucial decision of life. Unless you do this important thing, you are not qualified to become either a King or a Priest. That important thing to do is to make Jesus the Lord of your life, if you have not yet done that. Jesus Himself is a King and a Priest, and only those who receive Him as Lord and Saviour are permitted to step into any of these classes.

You can step into it today, without anything much to do but simply accepting you are a sinner that needs a Saviour, believing in your heart that Jesus died and rose again for your salvation and confessing with your mouth that He is Lord over your life. You can do it now, for now is the accepted time. Pray this prayer passionately and mean every word of it so that you make Jesus your Lord and Saviour!

“Lord Jesus, I am sorry for living without you in my life, I repent of my sins and I come to you today, believing that only you can save me. Come into my life and become my Saviour and Lord. Help me also to live the rest of my life for you in Jesus name. Amen.”

Congratulations! Congratulations!! Congratulations!!!

I say a big congratulation to you. You are now a child of God. Get committed to God, by praying and reading the Bible daily. Get planted in a Church where the truth of God’s word is taught so that you can flourish with your new found faith. We will also like to hear from you, if you prayed the above prayer. You can contact us with the address below. God bless you.

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