A Royal Priesthood

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Part 1

A Royal Priesthood





The Sure Mercies of David



"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters... Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an *everlasting covenant* with you—The sure mercies of David" (Isaiah 55:1-3).

A Royal Priesthood



- "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6).
- "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).
- In contrast to Exodus, Peter's message to the church implies that in Christ we have both a *kingly* and *priestly* inheritance—a royal priesthood.

Part 2 The Covenants





King and High Priest



- We hear often about God's covenant with King David—the sure mercies of David—and how Christ is the rightful heir of his throne.
- But there is little mention of God's eternal covenant with Levi or his descendants through Aaron, the first High Priest of Israel after Moses.
- *We will discover how Christ fulfills all the covenants and is both the rightful *King* and *high priest* of Israel and the nations.

The Covenant with Levi



"Then you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you, That My covenant with Levi may continue, Says the Lord of hosts. My covenant was with him, one of life and peace, And I gave them to him that he might fear Me; So he feared Me And was reverent before My name. The law of truth was in his mouth, And injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, And turned many away from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 2:4-7).

The Covenant with the Sons of Aaron



"Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 'Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. Therefore say, Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel" (Numbers 25:10-13).

One Priesthood or Two?



- These covenant promises in Malachi and Numbers raise a question:
- ❖If Christ is the eternal High Priest of Israel, how can God establish another eternal priesthood through Levi and Aaron?
- To answer this, we will compare Levi's covenants with that of King David.

The Covenant with David



"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever... And your house and your kingdom shall be established *forever* before you. Your throne shall be established *forever*" (1 Samuel 7:12-16).

Natural Heirs to the Kingdom



- Notice how God established the house—kingdom—and throne of David forever through his seed.
- The Lord did not say that David was the Messiah.
- He merely affirmed that David's sons would be the natural heirs to the Kingdom of God.

Connecting Christ to Adam



- This Kingdom would be established in Christ (who is the king—and the throne) with His chosen people, Israel, and the Gentiles called by His name (His royal subjects—and the kingdom).
- Therefore, David was more than just a shadow of Christ.
- *Through Abraham, David was the patriarch thought whom God would establish a natural lineage connecting Christ to Abraham and Adam—Adam being the *first* man, and Christ the *second* Adam.

Genealogies of Matthew & Mark



- Studying the genealogy of Jesus, we find different accounts in Matthew and Mark.
- Matthew emphasizes Christ's title and lineage through His adopted father, Joseph.

Christ's Lineage through Joseph



- In Matthew, Christ is the anointed Messiah of Israel, calling Jesus the "son of Abraham" and "the son David."
- He reveals that Jesus was an Israelite and the son (descendant) of both Abraham and King David, affirming His royal succession as the King of Israel.

Christ's Lineage through Mary



- Luke, on the other hand, emphasizes Christ's lineage through His natural mother, Mary.
- Luke does not refer to Jesus as the "son of David," but rather as the "son of Joseph."
- While it follows the Davidic line through Nathan, it ultimately links Jesus's lineage to Heli, who was a descendant of Levi and the father of the Aaronic priesthood given to Israel.

Jesus was a Levite



- Luke reveals that Jesus was a Levite and a descendant of Aaron, affirming His priestly succession as the rightful High Priest of Israel.
- Therefore, Aaron was also more than just a shadow of Jesus.
- *Aaron was the patriarch through whom God would similarly establish a natural lineage of the Levitical priesthood similarly connecting Christ to Abraham and Adam—Again, Adam being the *first* man, and Christ the *second* Adam.

Natural Heirs to the Kingdom



- Neither King David, Levi, or Aaron are the redeemers of Israel.
- That title belongs to Christ alone.
- The sons of David and Aaron are natural heirs to the Kingdom of God, and heirs to the kingship and priesthood of Christ.
- Christ's priesthood reveals an order and authority that was not created with Aaron but has eternally existed with God—one that is called the "order of Melchizedek."

Part3
Melchizedele-King-Priest





Melchizedek Is Not a Man



- The book of Hebrews affirms that this king and priest, Melchizedek, is not a man.
- *He is eternal, and His priesthood is everlasting.
- ❖ Who is this person, Melchizedek? □

Melchizedek-King of Salem



α "For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated 'king of righteousness,' and then also king of Salem, meaning 'king of peace,' without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually" (Hebrews 7:1-3).

The Precise Translation



- Let us read and properly translate Psalm 110, word-by-word from the Hebrew.
- In the following table, we have the New King James English underlined by the Hebrew and its transliteration.
- *At the bottom, we have the precise translation.





Has sworn (NKJV)	The LORD	and will not	relent	You are a priest	Forever	according to the order of	Melchizedek
נִימְבַע	יְהנָה	וְלאׁ	יָנְחֵם	אַמָּה־כֹהֵן	לְעוֹלָם	(צֿבּׂלעֿי) תַּלְ<u>ַלַל</u>לְרָעֹי	מַלְכִּי־צֶדֶק
Nsh'bah	Yehovah	Ve-lo	Yi'nachem	attah-cohen	le'olam	al-deev'ratee (di'bartee)	Malchi-t'se'dek
Swears	YHVH	with no	relenting	you are a priest	to the world forever	on or upon My spoken words (spoke)	Melchizedek

Psalm 110:4

His Name is Melchizedek



- From the Hebrew, it is evident the Lord is not talking about an *order* of priesthood or a *title*.
- We are reading about a *person* who has been given the authority of God as king and priest forever, whose name is Melchizedek—which means "King of Righteousness."

Melchizedek is Jesus



- This person is none other than Jesus, the Messiah of Israel and the nations.
- This verse is a conversation, like many others we find in scripture, between the Godhead of the Father and the Son.

King of Righteousness



- The Father YHVH is speaking to His son, Jesus (Yeshua), who has been given another name amongst many.
- This name is "King of Righteousness."

All Authority in Heaven & Earth



- And upon the Father's spoken word, which was written in the Old Testament, His word has now become an eternal covenant promise, that He, the Father will establish, in the complete authoritative order of the Godhead, His Son's eternal priesthood, forever.
- "The Father loves the Son, and has given all things [all authority] into His hand" (John 3:35).

Fulfillment of the law





The Word Made Flesh



- Jesus is the Word of God that has been made flesh.
- Therefore, He is not only the fulfillment of the Law.
- *He is the embodiment of the Law itself.
- Because Jesus is both King and High Priest, the Father is calling Him by His appropriate name—Melchizedek—King of Righteousness.

No Beginning or End



- Melchizedek's priesthood has no beginning or end and, therefore, it predates that of Aaron.
- Since Christ's priesthood existed before Aaron was conceived, God did not create another priesthood through Aaron.
- *God gave him the limited and temporary authority of Christ's priesthood, the seat of Melchizedek, to cover the sins of Israel, for a season, until Jesus would come and assume His rightful place as the true High Priest of Israel.

The Law Cannot Annul the Covenant



- Paul used this same analogy:
- "The law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect" (Galatians 3:17).
- Christ is the "Lamb [of God] slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

Parts
Restoration of All Things





The Restoration of All Things



- Now that Christ has come, and is soon to return, we await the day when He will restore everything.
- All includes the Levitical priesthood because the Lord has made an everlasting covenant with the house of Levi and that house of Aaron.
- However, they will be restored in Christ, not to replace, but to be eternally joined to Israel's rightful High Priest.

Restoration of the Kingdom



- And what of remaining sons of Israel and the Gentiles who are in Christ?
- The prophet Isaiah gave us a beautiful picture of this restoration, of how Israel becomes a kingdom of priests, and how the Lord brings the Gentiles into His eternal priesthood:

I Will Gather All Nations



"For I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory. I will set a sign among them; and those among them [the children of Israel] who escape I will send to the nations... to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they [Israel, as a kingdom of priests] shall declare My glory among the Gentiles" (Isaiah 66:18-19).

I Will Take The Gentiles for Priests



"Then they [the children of Israel] shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the Lord out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem,' says the Lord, 'as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the Lord. And I will also take some of them [of the Gentiles] for priests and Levites,' says the Lord" (Isaiah 66:20-21).

All Flesh Shall Come to Worship



"For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me,' says the Lord, So shall your descendants and your name remain. 'And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me, says the Lord" (Isaiah 66:22-23).

A Global Kingdom of Priests



- Christ and the church are a fulfillment of the promises made to Israel, including that she would be to the Lord and Kingdom of Priests.
- The completion of the Messianic promise is for Israel to become a Kingdom of Priests.
- And the nations to be grafted into her to become a global Kingdom of Priests.

In Christ—The Lineages are United



- This is the church and ecclesia, also called the greater commonwealth of Israel—a royal priesthood of Jewish and Gentile believers fulfilled in Christ.
- Jesus is both the king and the great High Priest of Israel and all the nations.
- ❖In Him, the royal and priestly lineages are united.
- Therefore, we who are in Christ also become kings and priests.

Made Us Kings & Priests



"And they sang a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:9-10).

*Amen!

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