

A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

The Church Prefigured in the OT

Introduction

- **1 Peter 2:9** But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal **PRIESTHOOD**, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Introduction

- **Revelation 1:5-6** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood-- ⁶ **and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father--** to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Adam and Eve as King-Priests

- ▣ Genesis 1 and 2 present Adam and Eve as having both a kingly role and a priestly role. They are king-priests.

Adam and Eve as King-Priests

- ***Adam and Eve's Kingly Role (Gen 1:26-28)***
 - ▣ **Gen 1:26-28** describes Adam and Eve as God's royal representatives on the earth. They are God's kingly agents commissioned with the task of ruling the earth.
 - ▣ The blessing consists in the right to rule over creation by being fruitful and multiplying, filling, and subduing the earth. God's purpose for mankind was that they would rule collectively as kings, or vicegerents, over all creation.

Adam and Eve as King-Priests

- **Ps. 8:3-8** When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? ⁵ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, ⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. ⁹ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Adam and Eve as King-Priests

- ***Adam and Eve's Priestly Role***
 - ▣ If the language of Genesis 1 suggests a kingly role, the language of Genesis 2 suggests a priestly role.

Adam and Eve as King-Priests

□ *Adam and Eve's Priestly Role*

- If the Garden of Eden was the first sanctuary, the first temple, where God dwelt among men, then Adam and Eve were the first priests serving in this temple.
- Ezekiel 28:11-15 compares the king of Tyre with someone who was in the Garden of Eden. Though this is a difficult passage, the being spoken of as being in the garden is most likely referring to Adam (K&D, JFB). What is particularly significant about this passage is the high priestly description of Adam as being clothed with precious stones.

Adam and Eve as King-Priests

□ *Adam and Eve's Priestly Role*

- In Genesis 2:15, we read that man was placed in the garden to cultivate it and keep it. These two words are important.
 - “Cultivate” is the Hebrew word “abad” meaning to work or serve.
 - “Keep” is the Hebrew word “shamar” meaning to watch or guard.
 - The very next time you see these two verbs together is when Moses explains the duties of the Levitical priests (Numbers 3:6-8; 3:31, 36; 4:28; 8:25-26; 18:1-7).

Adam and Eve as King-Priests

- **Numbers 3:6-8** "Bring the tribe of Levi near, and set them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister to him. ⁷ They shall keep guard (**shamar**) over him and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they minister (**abad**) at the tabernacle. ⁸ They shall guard (**shamar**) all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, and keep guard (**shamar**) over the people of Israel as they minister (**abad**) at the tabernacle.

Adam and Eve as King-Priests

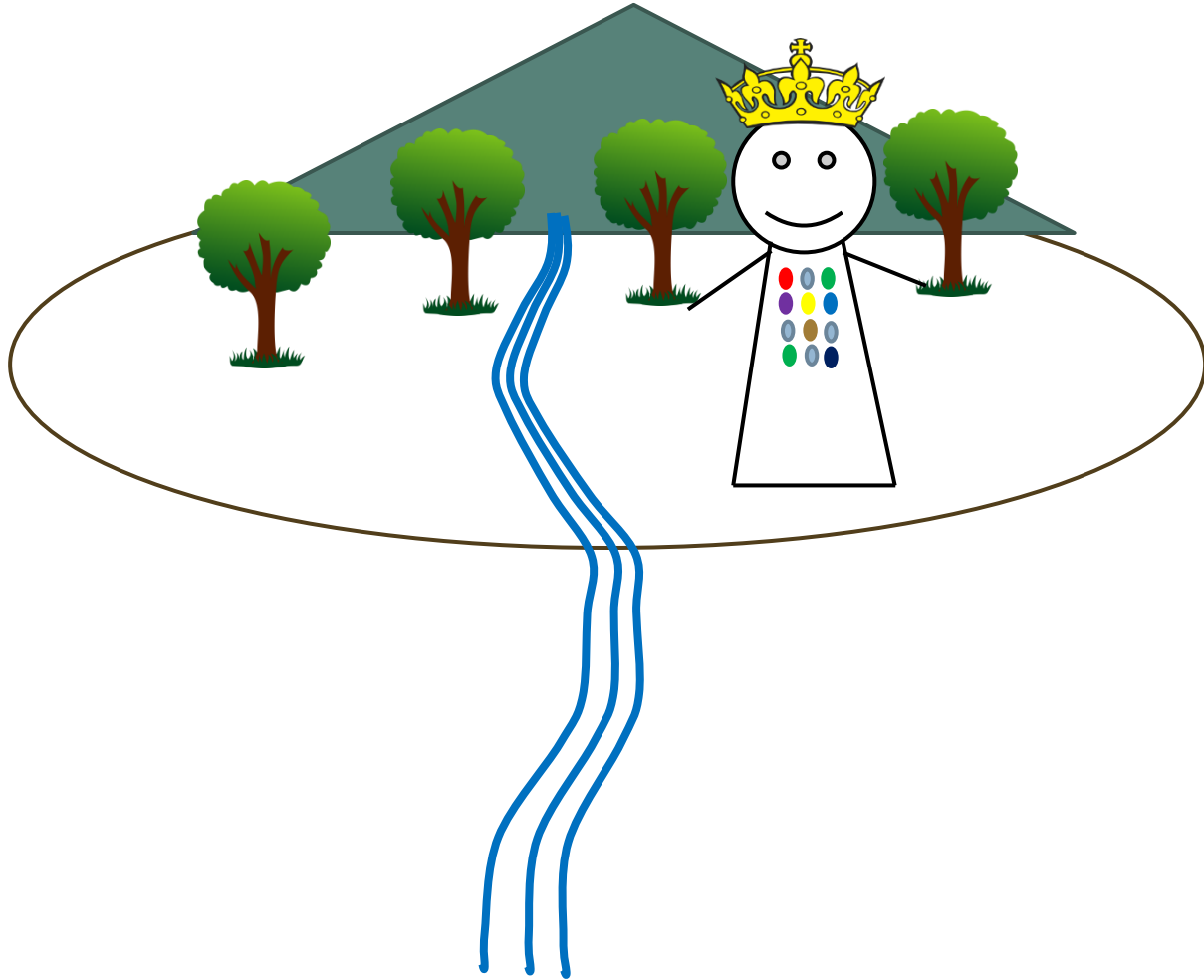
- **Numbers 18:7** And you and your sons with you shall guard (**shamar**) your priesthood for all that concerns the altar and that is within the veil; and you shall serve (**abad**). I give your priesthood as a gift, and any outsider who comes near shall be put to death."

Adam and Eve as King-Priests

- ***Adam and Eve's Priestly Role***
 - **GK Beale:** “Genesis 2 was portraying Adam against the later portrait of Israel’s priests, and that he was the archetypical priest who served in and guarded (or ‘took care of’) God’s first temple.”

Adam and Eve as King-Priests

- ***Relationship between Man's Kingly and Priestly Role***
 - Adam and Eve will fulfill their kingly role of expanding the garden and ruling it **BY** fulfilling their priestly role of serving and guarding the garden in obedience to God's word.
 - Perhaps it would be best to think of this royal priesthood, not as two entirely separated offices, but as two roles that are deeply related. Adam is called to a kingly/priestly role and task. It involves multiplying, subduing, ruling but it is to be accomplished by serving and guarding.



Adam and Eve as King-Priests

□ ***Objective of Man's Kingly-Priestly Role***

- "...if people were going to fill the earth [according to Genesis 1], we must conclude that they were not intended to stay in the garden in a static situation. Yet moving out of the garden would appear a hardship since the land outside the garden was not as hospitable as that inside the garden (otherwise the garden would not be distinguishable). Perhaps, then, we should surmise that people were gradually supposed to extend the garden as they went about subduing and ruling. Extending the garden would extend the food supply as well as extend sacred space (since that is what the garden represented)" (Walton, *Genesis*, 186).

Adam and Eve as King-Priests

- ***Objective of Man's Kingly-Priestly Role***
 - **GK Beale:** “The intention seems to be that Adam was to widen the boundaries of the Garden in ever increasing circles by extending the border of the garden sanctuary into the inhospitable outer spaces. The outward expansion would include the goal of spreading the glorious presence of God.”



Black Sea

Caucasus

Caspian Sea

Kara-Kum Desert

Anatolia

Armenian Highland

Taurus Mts

Euphrates

Tigris

Elburz Mts

Kop-peh Dagh

Mediterranean Sea

Hindu Kush

Syrian Desert

Zagros Mts

Iranian Plateau

Sinai Peninsula

Arabian Peninsula

Persian Gulf

Sahara

Nubian Desert

Rub Al Khali

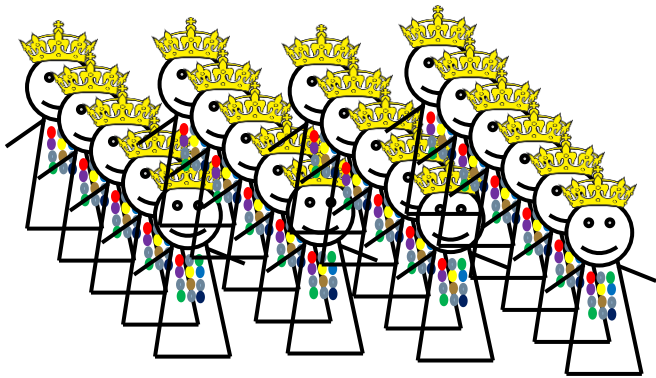
Nile

Red Sea

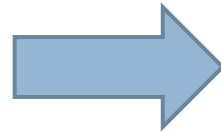
Arabian Sea

Transition

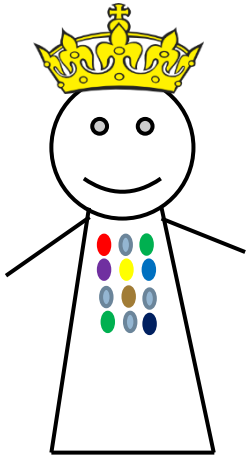
- “I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly” and “I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you” (Gen. 17:2, 6).



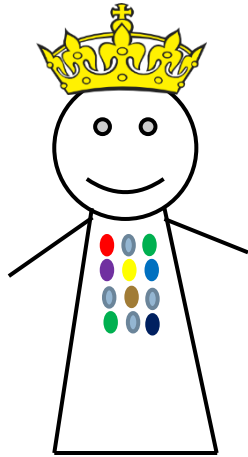
Israel



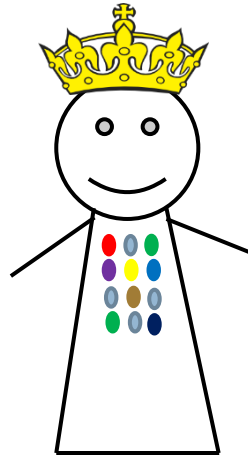
The Church



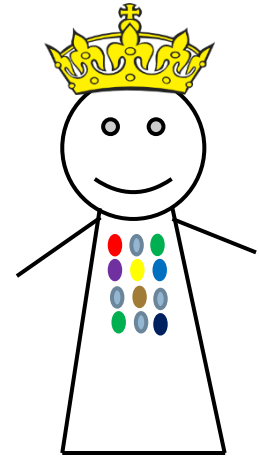
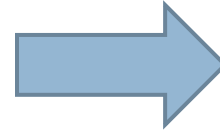
Melchizedek



Solomon



Joshua



Jesus

The Church as King-Priests

□ *Parallels between Adam and Believers*

- God plants a garden.
- Adam is created.
- Adam is placed in the garden.
- Adam is given a kingly-priestly role.
- God builds a new temple through the death and resurrection of Christ.
- Believers are re-created.
- Believers are placed in the temple and even become part of the temple.
- Believers are given a kingly-priestly role.

The Church as King-Priests

- ***As king-priests, believers' are God's royal representatives commissioned with expanding the borders of God's sanctuary to the ends of the earth.***
- **2 Corinthians 5:20** “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”
- What does it mean that we are ambassadors for Christ?
 - We have been commissioned by Christ.
 - We represent Christ.
 - We exercise Christ's authority.

The Church as King-Priests

- ▣ **Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

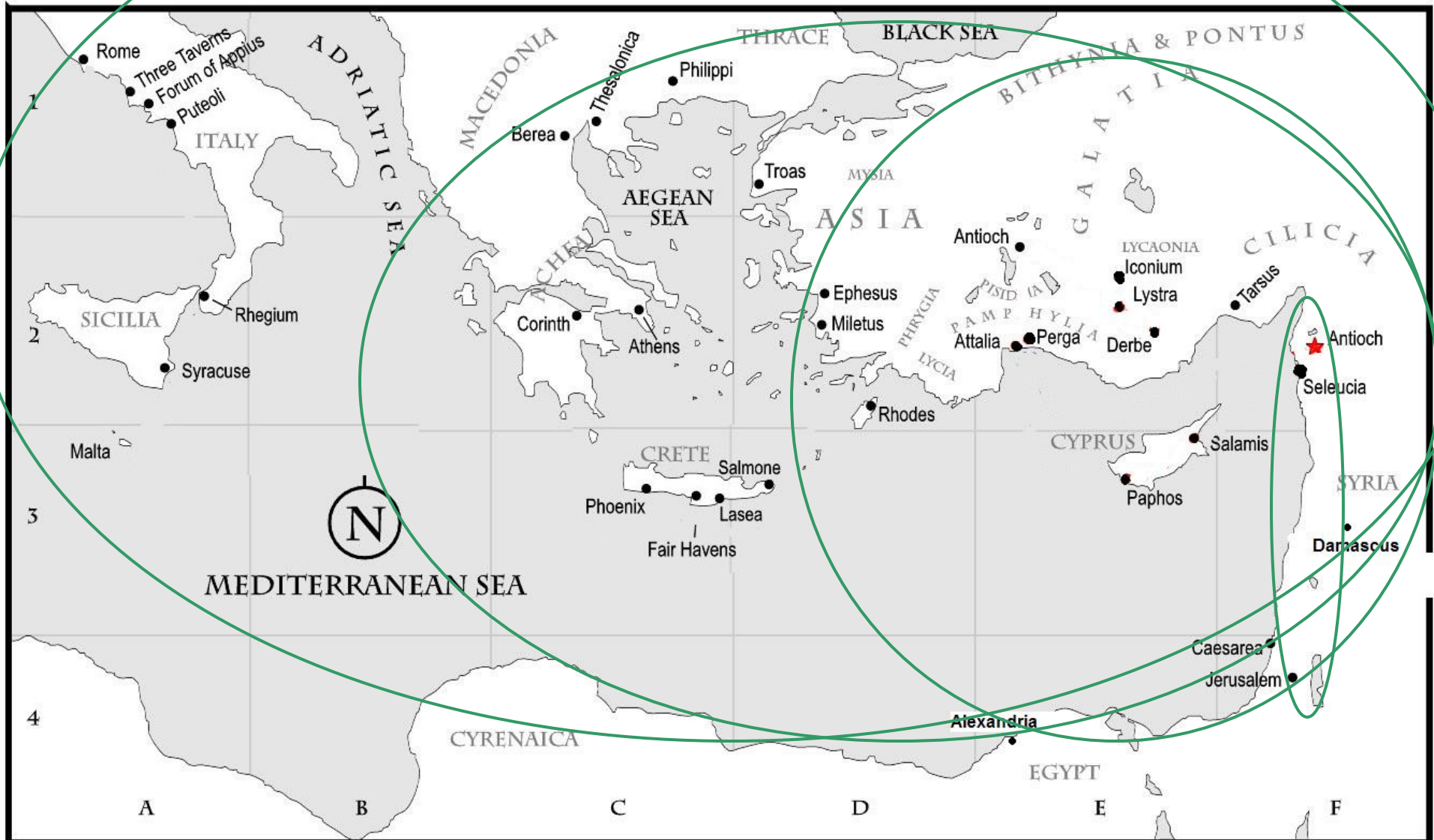
The Church as King-Priests

- Believers' expand God's sanctuary, not by cultivating land, as Adam and Eve, but by cultivating people's hearts, by communicating an authoritative message of forgiveness to those who will turn from their sin and place their trust in Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20).
- The goal is still the same. God's purpose for his people is still that they extend the borders of his sanctuary until his presence fills the earth. Every time a person repents and places their faith in Jesus, God's temple is built a little higher, God's presence extends a little farther.

The Church as King-Priests

- **Acts 6:7** And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.
- **Acts 12:24** But the word of God increased and multiplied.
- **Acts 19:20** So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

Roman World



The Church as King-Priests

- ***As king-priests, believers' join in Christ's rule and exercise Christ's authority on the earth by serving and guarding in God's new temple.***

The Church as King-Priests

- ▣ How did Jesus fulfill the kingly-priestly role initially given to Adam?
 - **Jesus Served:**
 - **He served God:** He obeyed and did his Father's will.
 - **He served people:** He laid down his life for the sake of others.
 - **Jesus Guarded:**
 - **Himself:** He resisted temptation.
 - **Others:** He prayed for his disciples.

The Church as King-Priests

- How do believers fulfill the kingly-priestly role initially given to Adam?
 - **By Serving:**
 - **We serve God:** We live to know and do the will of God.
 - **We serve People:** We lay our lives down for the sake of others.
 - **By Guarding:**
 - **Ourselves:** We exercise our authority by saying no to sin and resisting Satan. We guard over our lives, our thoughts, our words, our actions, and our relationships.
 - **Others:** We see to it that no one comes short of the grace of God (Heb. 12:15). We pray for each other, encourage each other, and even confront each other.

The Church as King-Priests

- ▣ **Summary:** The church is a mighty army of royal priests who are called to advance God's kingdom in this world, to bring light to dark places, to set captives free, by laying their lives down in service to God and others, and by guarding themselves and others from sin and Satan's attacks.