



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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ROYAL COMMISSIONS

Included in the fabulous package of blessing brought by spiritual royalty are the two royal divine commissions granted to every Church Age believer. Each Christian is a royal priest and a royal ambassador.

A priest is person who represents him-self or other before God. During the dispensation of the Gentiles, the head of the household represented the family in the matters of worship. The family priest's duties included presenting revealed doctrine and officiating in rituals and animal sacrifices (Genesis 4:3-5, 8:20, 14:18, 22:13).

In the dispensation of Israel, God ordained the Levitical priesthood to serve on behalf of the nation (Number 3:5-10, Leviticus 8:1-20). OT Israel's specialized priesthood taught Bible doctrine verbally and ceremonially through the rituals authorized in the Mosaic Law. The Levitical priesthood included only unblemished adult males from the family of Aaron in the tribe of Levi (Leviticus 21:17-21).

Before the Church Age, membership in the priesthood was severely restricted to small minority among believers. In the Church Age, the priesthood has been extended to include every person in union with Christ (1 Peter 2:5-9, Revelation 1:6, 5:10). Because of the spiritual union with Christ, the Church Age believer belongs to the highest and most exalted of all priestly order under the high priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As a royal priest, each Church Age believer represents himself before God, which is the basis for believer's spiritual privacy, in which he lives his own life before the Lord (Romans 14:4 & 10, 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12). The believer's priesthood is also the basis for offering effective prayer.

The primary function of the royal priest is the faithful intake of Bible doctrine, which is the basis for spiritual growth and the attainment of spiritual priesthood. Spiritual growth is a result of the believer-priest's divine protocol function before God.

The setting for the royal priest's duties is inside the divine sphere, in contrast to the service of earlier priesthood at physical altars or material temple. The believer is fully ordained priest at the moment of salvation, his priesthood becomes more effective as he attains successive stages of spiritual growth.

The royal priesthood of believers does not imply independence from another believer. The priesthood and spiritual gifts create a balance. The priesthood emphasizes the individual; spiritual gifts emphasize the group. Spiritual gifts are related to royal ambassador's function, they divinely given abilities that support the many necessary functions within the local congregation and in propagating the Gospel outside the local church.

The spiritual priesthood emphasizes the believers' responsibilities before God while the spiritual gifts emphasize the believers' responsibilities before men. The believers are autonomous before God, but living in isolation from one another is not the will of God.

Every believer Church Age believer is a priest, but not every priest has the same spiritual gifts. The Christian labor or service of individual believer-priests creates contact with others. The privacy of priesthood treats each individual with respect precludes sins; this permits human relationships to develop on a solid foundation of personal virtues. Here, privacy supplies the vital factor for rewarding relationship with others. Priesthood is privacy in personal relationship with God, and personal in the Christian way of life.