

# A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS

“THY KINGDOM COME – THY WILL BE DONE”

RIVER OF LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

JANUARY 22, 2023

THE LORD'S PRAYER – PART 12

# 1 Peter 2

**4** As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**6** For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

**7** Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

**8** and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

# 1 Peter 2

**9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**11** Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. - NIV

# Not the first group God spoke this to – Look at Israel in Exodus

- Before God spoke to Followers of Jesus in 1 Peter – He spoke the same words to Israel
  - **Exodus 19:5** Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, **6** you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.” - NIV
  - God’s design for Israel is that they would be a holy people, literally a kingdom of priests that would be a witness to the nations!
  - God’s desire to have a company of people set apart to Him for fellowship and to accomplish His purposes in the earth has been consistent from the beginning of time

# Five Dimensions of our Identity as people of the Kingdom of God

1. We are Presence of God Bearers – Literally we carry His glory in jars of clay
2. Agents of reconciliation
  - Priests bridge the space between God and mankind
  - A universal priesthood – The only priesthood endorsed by Scripture
  - A life of devotion to God and dedication to the people God loves
3. Guardians of the Word
4. Representatives of the King
5. Bringers of Light in the midst of darkness



# 1 Peter 2:9-12 is a declaration of the People of the Kingdom of God

## 1. ONE - We are Presence-Bearers

- Wherever we go – we bring praise to God!
- When Praise and worship are happening – God's Kingdom is there
- We are literally Presence-Bearers

### ➤ This is something lost on many evangelicals

- A good portion of western evangelicalism is evangelical rationalism
- It is about the Word of God only
- What the early Church saw in Acts – “The place was shaken”, gifts and manifestations – God's Presence in our midst
- It has to be WORD and Holy Spirit!

# We are Presence Bearers!

## ➤ Whether we are alone

- Or we are gathered for worship – God's Presence is with us
- Once we begin to worship and praise Him – We bring His Kingdom to that moment and place
- It changes the atmosphere
- We align ourselves with Heaven in that moment

## ➤ It releases God's purpose and power

- The proclamation is noted in Heaven and on earth
- There is a connection made between the Heavenly and earthly realms
- We bring the power and witness of our Heavenly Kingdom to our earthly environs
- We are agents, priests chosen to steward this Presence, the Glory of God

# As Kingdom People we have an assignment!

Ephesians 5:11 Have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that is illuminated becomes a light itself. 14 So it is said:

“Wake up, O sleeper,

rise up from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

15 Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to reckless indiscretion. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



# Learning to grow in Praising God

## ➤ God tells us how He wants us to come to Him – Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs - Ephesians 5:19 & in Colossians

- Psalms – All attitudes of Praise
- Hymns – Same format as in Jesus' day – Structured statements of proclamation
- Spiritual Songs – Singing in the Holy Spirit/ Spontaneous

## ➤ Attitudes of Praise - SEVEN most common Hebrew words for praise

### 1. Barak: To bless, to kneel, to salute

- *to kneel; by implication to bless God (as an act of adoration, bless, congratulate, kneel (down), praise, salute, \* still, thank.*
- *In this sense blessing does not mean we are greater than God.*
- *Genesis 24:27, Psalm 28:6, Psalm 96:2*

# Learning to grow in Praising God

## 2. Yadah: To revere or worship, to give thanks or praise (with extended hands), to lift the hands

- *It means to revere or worship (with extended hands); intens. to bemoan (by wringing the hands): - cast (out), (make) confess (- ion), praise, shoot, (give) thank (-ful, -s, -sgiving).*
- *This attitude of praise signifies a surrender to God or an attitude of openness by confessing our heart to Him*
- *Daniel and Nehemiah both use this word when they talk about confessing the sins of the people before God.*
- *As we worship the Lord and see His goodness - His light reveals the sin in our hearts and we are humbled before God*

## 3. Towdah: Confession, praise, thanksgiving

- *"thanksgiving, an offering of thanks, thanksgiving in songs of liturgical worship or a hymn of praise, confession"*
- *Leviticus 7:12, II Chronicles 33:16, Psalm 100:4*
- *Psalm 100 includes many of the various words for praise as a model of praise.*

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## 4. Zamar: **To make music, to sing praise, to play a musical instrument, to pluck and twang**

- "to touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument, i. e. play upon it; to make music, accompanied by the voice; hence to celebrate in song and music: - give praise, sing forth praises, psalms. "
- Psalm 57:7, 9, Psalm 147

# Learning to grow in Praising God

## 5. Hallal: To shine, to rave, to praise, to boast, to be clamorously foolish, to act madly

- "to shine; hence to make a show, to boast; and thus to be (clamorously) foolish; to rave; to celebrate; also to stultify: - boast, celebrate, commend, (deal, make), fool (- ish, -ly), glory, give [light], be mad, give in marriage, [sing, be worthy of] praise, rage, renowned, shine."
- This means to be outwardly crazy in love with God!
- To boast about our God
- Root word in Hallelujah - Praise to Yahweh!
- 2 Chronicles 20:21 praise as warfare

# Learning to grow in Praising God

## 6. T'hillah: **A song or hymn of praise, a spontaneous expression of spiritual song**

- To laud - especially a hymn of praise
- Nehemiah 12:6, Psalm 40:3
- This is derived from Halal

## 7. Shabach: **To exclaim, to shout, to laud, praise or commend**

- to address in a loud tone, commend, glory, keep in, praise, still, triumph.
- This word for praise is often connected with the triumph of God's people over their enemies.
- There is a time to shout to the Lord
- 1Chronicles 16:35, Psalm 106:47, Psalm 145:4



# Learning to grow in Praising God

- Worship can have many attitudes
  - Warfare
  - Adoration
  - Quiet Meditation
  - Shouting, etc.
  - Rejoicing – “Taking joy again”
- Worship, Praise Obedience leads to God’s Manifest Presence in our lives!

# House Church Reflection

## ➤ Take a moment to have a time of spontaneous Worship, Thanksgiving and Praise

- A shout of victory
- Reading of Scripture
- Giving thanks for something He has done
- Waiting quietly in awe of His Presence
- A song, hymn or spiritual song

## ➤ Discussion

- Have you ever had an experience as a “Presence of God bearer” when praising Him changed the atmosphere or conditions around you? Briefly share.
- What is the greatest thing that challenges you about this message? Pray for each other.