

Meeting I – Old Testament Age

“And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation...” (Exodus 19:6)

God’s eternal purpose is to establish His kingdom on the earth for Him to rule and reign. This eternal and supreme purpose of God is clearly revealed in the entire Bible.

1. Kingdom and God’s Will

- A. God’s Creation – God created man in order for him to have dominion over all the earth. (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:4-8)
- B. God’s Selection and Calling – God chose and called Abraham for him to become a great nation. (Genesis 12:2)
- C. God’s Salvation – God saved the Israelites so they can become a kingdom of priests. (Exodus 19:6)
- D. God’s Redemption – God redeemed the New Testament saints in order for them to be a royal priesthood and a holy nation. (1Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:5-6; 5:9-10)
- E. Millennial Kingdom – The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of Christ; overcomers will reign with Christ as kings. (Revelation 11:15; 20:6)
- F. New Heaven and New Earth – There is the throne of God and of the Lamb in the new city, in which everyone reigns as kings forever and ever. (Revelation 22:3,5)

2. The significance of the Kingdom

God’s kingdom is the realm where God rules and reigns and the place where God’s purpose is fulfilled. (Revelation 11:17; 19:6). As well, God’s kingdom will deal with Satan’s power to judge and destroy God’s enemy. (Matthew 12:28; Luke 10:18-19; John 16:11; Romans 16:20; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25; Hebrews 1:13; Revelation 12:9-10; 20:1-3)

3. The ministry of priests

Priests are sanctified for God to serve God; priests are entrusted to deal with divine matters for men; (Hebrews 5:1) to offer gifts and sacrifices (Hebrews 8:3, 1Peter 2:5) and bring blessings to men. (Genesis 14:18-19)

4. The priesthood

God’s original purpose for all of His people was to be priests and serve Him as kingdom of priests. (Exodus 19:3-6). However, the Israelites offended God by worshipping idols (Exodus 32:1-10; Deuteronomy 9:12), consequently the priesthood was changed. As a result, not all of God’s people can be priests. The ministry of priesthood was given to the house of Aaron in the tribe of Levi and therefore was not a kingdom of priests anymore, but a family of priests. (Exodus 28:1-4; Leviticus 3:1-3) In addition, Israelites continued to disobey God, (Psalm 107:11; Jeremiah 22:5-9) ultimately the nation was destroyed and God cast them aside. (Matthew 21:43)

5. The Honor and Glory of a Priest

“God’s concept for His people is to desire them to be a royal (prestigious) priesthood, ... The essence of royalty is the virtues of Christ, including: 1. Spiritual integrity 2. Spiritual stature 3. Spiritual riches.” T. Austin Sparks

“It is a man’s glory that he can be a priest for God! From God’s point of view, serving Him is the greatest gain, and the greatest glory.” Watchman Nee

Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:26–28 (NKJV) - ²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Psalms 8:4–8 (NKJV) - ⁴ What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? ⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, ⁷ All sheep and oxen— Even the beasts of the field, ⁸ The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.

Genesis 12:2 (NKJV) - I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

Exodus 19:6 (NKJV) - And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) - 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;

Revelation 1:5–6 (NKJV) - ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:9–10 (NKJV) - ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV) - Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

Revelation 20:6 (NKJV) - Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Revelation 22:3,5 (NKJV) - ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Revelation 11:17 (NKJV) - saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

Revelation 19:6 (NKJV) - And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

Matthew 12:28 (NKJV) - But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 10:18–19 (NKJV) - ¹⁸ And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

John 16:11 (NKJV) - of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Romans 16:20 (NKJV) - And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

1 Corinthians 15:24–25 (NKJV) - ²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

Hebrews 1:13 (NKJV) - But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?

Revelation 12:9–10 (NKJV) - ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

Revelation 20:1–3 (NKJV) - ¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

Hebrews 5:1 (NKJV) - For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

Hebrews 8:3 (NKJV) - For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.

1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV) - you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Genesis 14:18–19 (NKJV) - ¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

Exodus 19:3–6 (NKJV) - ³ And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Exodus 32:1–10 (NKJV) - ¹ Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” ² And Aaron said to them, “Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” ³ So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!” ⁵ So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.” ⁶ Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. ⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, “Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. ⁸ They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! ¹⁰ Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.”

Deuteronomy 9:12 (NKJV) - “Then the LORD said to me, ‘Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you brought out of Egypt have acted corruptly; they have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them; they have made themselves a molded image.’

Exodus 28:1–4 (NKJV) - ¹ “Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron’s sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ² And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. ³ So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron’s garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. ⁴ And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.

Numbers 3:1–3 (NKJV) - ¹ Now these are the records of Aaron and Moses when the LORD spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai. ² And these are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab, the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ³ These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whom he consecrated to minister as priests.

Psalms 107:11 (NKJV) - Because they rebelled against the words of God, And despised the counsel of the Most High,

Jeremiah 22:5–9 (NKJV) - ⁵ But if you will not hear these words, I swear by Myself,” says the LORD, “that this house shall become a desolation.” ’ ’ ⁶ For thus says the LORD to the house of the king of Judah: “You are Gilead to Me, The head of Lebanon; Yet I surely will make you a wilderness, Cities which are not inhabited. ⁷ I will prepare destroyers against you, Everyone with his weapons; They shall cut down your choice cedars And cast them into the fire. ⁸ And many nations will pass by this city; and everyone will say to his neighbor, ‘Why has the LORD done so to this great city?’ ⁹ Then they will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshiped other gods and served them.’ ”

Matthew 21:43 (NKJV) - “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.