**20 Status Privileges**

**We have looked 10 of the possession considered our status in Christ. Now we will examine 8 of the positions of privilege, their functions and blessings.**

**Priesthood: 1Pt 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6 Living Stone/Temple: 1Pt 2:4-8; Eph 2:19-22**

**Ambassadors: 2Cor 5:18-20; Eph 6:15, 20 Body of Christ/Church: 1Cor 12:12-27; Eph 1:22-23**

**Citizen/Heaven: Phil 3:20; Eph 2:19 Bond Slave/Christ: Gal 1:10; Eph 6:6-8; 1Pt 2:16**

**Escrow Inheritance: Eph 1:3; Col 1:12; 1Pt 1:3-4 Joint Heirs/Christ: Rom 8:17; Gal 4:7; Act 20:32**

**Royal Priesthood 1Pet 2:5, 9; Heb 7:12; Rev 1:6**

**Rev 1:6** ***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.***

1. **Definition & Description**: a priest is one who is divinely called to represent people to God, himself, family, Israel or the church, offering sacrifices and gifts to God & offering encouragement to man,
2. A priest must be a member of the human race to be able to represent mankind to God.

**Hebrews 5:1-6** For every high priest **taken from among men** is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; 2 he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness; 3 and because of it he is obligated to offer *sacrifices* for sins, as for the people, so also for himself. 4 And no one takes the honor to himself, but *receives it* when he is called by God, even as Aaron was. 5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee"; 6 just as He says also in another *passage*, "Thou art a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

1. A priest was intended to be a teacher of the person and work of the Messiah through the rituals of animal sacrifice and the function of the many details of the Mosaic Law.
2. A priest was a bringer of hope to lost sinners through his teaching about the person & work of Messiah
3. His divine message was for believers to attach their faith to the message of the gospel as revealed to Abraham and through the visual aid of blood sacrifices.

* Blood sacrifices began being used to transmit the Messianic message in Eden and were the primary means of conveying the message until the death of Jesus Christ

**Gen 3:21** Lord God sacrificed animals to clothe Adam & Eve; **Gen 4:3-4** Cain & Abel bring offerings; **Gen 9:20-21** Noah builds an altar & makes blood sacrifice; **Gen 22:2** Abraham told to sacrifice his son as a burnt offering;

**Gen 35:14** – Jacob builds an altar/pillar & pours out a drink offering (cup of sins Christ drank); **Exo 8:25-28** plague of flies: we must go 3 days into the desert to sacrifice a lamb to the Lord – offend Khunum – ram god.

1. God’s purpose for the priesthood was to represent God’s message to the people and to be a mediator through which they directed their worship to the Lord.
2. Prior to the Church Age, all priest were male human beings, not females or angels.
3. Prior to the Church Age, priesthood was based on physical birth (line of Levi) not spiritual birth.
4. A priest is required to share in the nature (humanity) and challenges of those he represents

**Hebrews 5:1** for every high priest **taken from among men** is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins

1. One of a priests major privileges is the opportunity to pray for self & one of the major functions is intercessory prayer - Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25
2. **The first known priest was Lucifer the guardian cherub who was high priest to the angels.**

**Ezekiel 28:11-18** Again the word of the LORD came to me saying, 12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre (devil’s vessel), and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 "You were in Eden, the garden of God**; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald;**

* 9 of the 12 stones that made up the breastplate of the high priest of Israel

And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets (voice) in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. 14 "**you were the appointed cherub who covers (guards)**,

* Lucifer guarded the throne room of God

And I **placed** (appointed) you *there*. You were on the **holy mountain of God**; you walked in the midst of the **stones of fire** (altar for worship).

* Holy mountain – God’s rule over the earth; Stones – same as the stones of his covering

15 "You were **blameless in your ways** (**righteous**) from the day you were **created (he is a created being)**, until unrighteousness was found in you. 16 "By the abundance of your **trade (slander**) you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned;

* The fall of Lucifer that began his journey of corruption & degeneration to become satan.

Therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. and I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you. 18 "By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade, You profaned your **sanctuaries (places of worship)** Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you.

1. **Different Categories of Priests in Biblical History**

**Gentile Age**

1. Head of Family - Initially in human history priests husbands and fathers were the family priest.

**Job 1:5** And it came about, when the days of feasting had completed their cycle, that Job would send and consecrate them (children), rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings based onthe number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned & cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

* Job as the family priest offering sacrifices for the sins of his children

1. Melchizedek was a family priest & a king and is a type or shadow of the high priesthood of Jesus Christ.

The historical pattern is found in Melchizedek, a king who was the head of his family and a priest, Heb 7:1-3. He was the king of Salem, which later became the city of Jerusalem. He was both a king and a priest with no emphasis on his genealogy. He was a priest as the head of his family, not by birth. He was a Gentile believer-priest living in the time of Abraham. The relationship between Melchizedek and Christ are what we would classify as type and antitype, a New Testament reality prefigured in the Old Testament. Each was a human being, a king, and a priest. Both in their humanity were superior to Abraham as the father of the Jewish race and are without priestly genealogies related to Israel. Heb 7:3, “Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but having resembled the Son of God he remains a priest perpetually. **R.B Thieme Jr.**

**Hebrews 7:1-3** For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all *the spoils*, was first of all, by the translation *of his name*, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. 3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he abides a priest perpetually.

* Without father, mother or genealogy means he wasn’t a priest because he was of the tribe of Levi

**Jewish Age**

Began with Head of Family: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob….. Moses/Aaron 🡪 Levi 🡪 Levitical priesthood

1. Levitical Priesthood – the sons of Aaron through Levi will serve as priest before the Lord **for Israel**.

**Exodus 30:30** "And you shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister as priests to Me. **Leviticus 8:30** So Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar, and sprinkled it on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him; and he consecrated Aaron, his garments, and his sons, and the garments of his sons with him. **Numbers 3:5-10** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 6 "Bring the tribe of Levi near and set them before Aaron the priest that they may serve him. 7 "And they shall perform the duties for him and for the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, to do the service of the tabernacle. 8 "They shall also keep all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, along with the duties of the sons of Israel, to do the service of the tabernacle. 9 "You shall give the Levites to Aaron & to his sons; they are wholly given to him from among the sons of Israel. 10 you shall appoint Aaron & his sons that they may keep their priesthood, the layman who comes near shall be put to death

* The legitimacy & necessity of the Levitical priesthood ended when Christ died on the cross & the veil of the temple (Christ) was torn from top to bottom (His death) making the way into the holy place (God’s throne) open to all who would come through the death of the savior.

**Church Age**

1. High Priesthood of Christ – Jesus is the high priest of the church, the body of Christ.

**Heb 5:9** And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, 10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. **Heb 6:20** where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

* Christ offered Himself as the one and only sacrifice for sin

**Hebrews 9:24-28** For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a *mere* copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 nor was it that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood not his own. 26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment, 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without *reference to* sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

* Christ is our high priest who represents us to God with His prayers (Rom 8:34) and represents the plan & provision of God to us as Head of the Church (Eph 4:15-16)
* As the high priest Jesus Christ is the minister of spiritual blessings to the believer— Hebrews 5:1.
* Jesus Christ has left us a legacy of spiritual blessings in the Word of God. The completed canon of scripture is the legacy through which he ministers.
* Christ is appointed high priest by God the Father — Hebrews 5:4-10; 6:20.
* Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for the priesthood — Hebrews 9:26, 27

**Heb 4:14-16** Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin. 16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy & may find grace to help in time of need.

1. Royal Priesthood of the Church Age Believer

**1 Peter 2:4-5** And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house (temple) for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

* Every Church Age believer, indwelt by the Spirit is joined together, forming a spiritual temple for God.
* Every Church Age believer is in union with Christ, sitting at the right hand of God, sharing His priesthood
* From this collective temple [inside the believer(s)] we are holy priests, representing ourselves/others to God/Father and Him to the world.

**Spiritual sacrifices in Church Age**

**Mark 12:33** and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as himself, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.

* Jesus is transitioning the disciples away from the animal sacrifices that He is about to fulfill and toward the sacrifice of the self by focusing all of your love, understanding & strength to Him & to others.

**Romans 12:1-2** I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

* We sacrifice our body & minds to be renewed after His image and for His use in the world.

**2 Cor 1:11** you also joining in helping us through your prayers, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through *the prayers of* many.

**Phil 2:17** But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

* Paul likens giving himself to his ministry & coming martyrdom as a drink offering given to the Lord

**Phil 4:18** But I have received everything in full, and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

* The financial grace giving of the Philippian church to Paul was a sacrifice, well pleasing to God
* Paul sacrificed himself as a love gift to the Lord & the Lord in return had those he served sacrifice for him

**1 Peter 2:9** But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

* The Church Age believer is a chosen, royal & holy people who belong to God for Him to use.
* Proclaim (***exangello*** – proclaim/evangelize outward into the world) His praises (***arête*** – His heroic virtues)
* God’s virtues are His essence (love, righteousness, justice, veracity, immutability, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, Sovereignty, eternal) as expressed by His grace & mercy to fallen, undeserving mankind
* The Church Age believer proclaims the essence of God, His grace & mercy by first being transformed to adopt the same beliefs, thoughts & actions so that we live out His same love & grace to the world of man.
* The Church Age believer proclaims the virtues of God by evangelizing the world with the gospel so that men can be saved and then by teaching the truths of the completed canon of scripture so that believers might also be transformed to become like Him.
* The sacrifice that God desires from us is nothing less than everything we are, every bit of love within us, our full devotion & obedience to fully give our hearts & minds to be remade to be like Him.

**Eph 5:1-2** therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children **2** and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

* Imitators of God – ***mimetes*** – mimics; as children who are dearly loved – as a child who is loved well attaches to his father, fixated on him so that he slowly takes on his father’s thinking & values, becoming more and more like him, so we are to attach to God and fixate on Him to become like Him
* As we do, we will walk more in unconditional committed benevolence toward others like Christ did with us, giving up His life to pay for our sins as the ultimate sacrifice to the Lord, benefitting all who believe.