

Agape House of Worship Wednesday Bible Study

Topic: Kings and Priest
Text: Revelation 1:4-6 (KJV)

Wednesday, April 30, 2025
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Revelation 1:4-6 “John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 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.

Introduction: The perception of the priesthood of all Christians is rooted in Exodus 19:6: "And you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.". However, in the New Testament, it was made clear that through Christ, we have all been made priests. Traditionally, priests were mediators between God and humanity, offering sacrifices and prayers on behalf of others. However, in the New Testament, the traditional roles of priests have been eliminated. Through Christ, believers now have direct access to God (Hebrews 10:19) and no longer need any mediator.

Question 1: Why do you think many modern-day believers still think they need mediators between them and God.

Objective: The objective of this bible study is to understand what it means for the modern-day Christian to function as a priest.

Priesthood and the Great Commission

The primary objective of the priesthood of all believers is to give every believer access to God thereby empowering and equipping every Christian to actively participate in God's work of reconciliation, service, and witness in the world. This is why the Great Commission is a commandment given to all believers.

- ❖ Jesus' preaching focused on the Kingdom of God, a message that emphasized God's reign and the coming of His rule. He proclaimed the arrival of this Kingdom and called for repentance and faith in his teachings. Every Christian has a responsibility to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Great Commission is a command given by Jesus to his disciples to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all of his commands (Matthew 28:18-20). It's a call to spread the gospel and make followers of Jesus across the world.

Question 2: In Luke 14:23 Jesus said to his servants ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full’. Why do you think Jesus used the word “compel” and how do we compel people to accept the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Priesthood Involves Sacrifice

- ❖ Priesthood involves sacrifice and Jesus became our high priest by making the ultimate sacrifice by laying down his life for mankind. Hebrews 7:27
- ❖ So also, the priesthood of the believers according to the New Testament involves concept of offering oneself or something valuable to God, particularly as a way to express love, devotion, and obedience.
- ❖ This is why the scripture asks us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, giving up the pleasures of the world, abstinence, self-denial, servanthood, tithing and more (Luke 9:23, 1 John 2:15-17, Romans 12:1).

Question 3: What does it mean to offer your body as a living sacrifice?

Priesthood and Intercession

- ❖ One of the major roles of priests in the Bible is to be an intercessor. To intercede is to mediate on behalf of another person. In both the old and the New Testament, the priest played a crucial role in mediating between God and the people. They offered sacrifices and prayers on behalf of the Israelites, seeking forgiveness for their sins and blessings from God.
- ❖ While on earth, Jesus interceded for others through prayer, for his disciples and believers to come, seeking unity, protection, and sanctification. Jesus prayed for his disciples to be united, protected from the world's temptations, and made holy in God's truth. He also prayed for them to have the fullness of his joy.
- ❖ Intercession for others is a core part of a Christian's priestly role, where believers pray on behalf of other individuals or groups, seeking God's favor and blessings for them (James 5:16, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Jeremiah 29:7). In Luke 8:1 Jesus admonished his disciples to make prayer a lifestyle.

Question 4: Why is intercession important in the life of a believer, and how does it reflect the heart of God?

Question 5: What practical steps can we take to grow in our role as intercessors for others in our daily lives, especially given our busy schedules?