

Session 8 – Royal Priesthood: We Exercise God’s Authority as his Representatives on Earth

Written for our Instruction: OT Lessons on the Christian Life

NOTES:

I. Adam and Eve as King-Priests

1. Genesis 1 and 2 present Adam and Eve as having both a _____ role and a _____ role. They are king-priests.

B. *Adam and Eve’s Kingly Role (Gen. 1:26-28)*

1. **Gen 1:26-28** describes Adam and Eve as God’s royal _____ on the earth. They are God’s kingly agents commissioned with the task of ruling the earth.
2. The blessing consists in the right to _____ over creation by being fruitful and multiplying, filling, and subduing the earth. God’s purpose for mankind was that they would rule collectively as kings, or vicegerents, over all creation.

C. *Adam and Eve’s Priestly Role (Gen. 2:15)*

1. Adam and Eve are placed in a priestly _____.
2. Adam and Eve are given a priestly _____ (Gen. 2:15)
 - a) “Cultivate” is the Hebrew word “abad” meaning to work or _____.
 - b) “Keep” is the Hebrew word “shamar” meaning “to exercise great care over to the point of _____”
 - c) The very next time you see these two verbs together is when Moses explains the duties of the _____ priests (Numbers 3:6-8; 3:31, 36; 4:28; 8:25-26; 18:1-7).

D. *Relationship between Man’s Kingly and Priestly Role*

1. Adam and Eve will fulfill their kingly role of expanding the garden and ruling it _____ fulfilling their priestly role of serving and guarding the garden in obedience to God’s word.
2. Perhaps it would be best to think of this royal priesthood, not as two entirely separated offices, but as two roles that are deeply _____. Adam and Eve are called to a kingly/priestly role and task.

E. *Objective of Man’s Kingly-Priestly Role*

1. **GK Beale:** “The intention seems to be that Adam was to widen the boundaries of the Garden in ever increasing circles by _____ the border of the garden sanctuary into the inhospitable outer spaces. The outward expansion would include the goal of spreading the glorious _____ of God.”

II. The Church as King-Priests (1 Pet 2:9; Rev 1:5-6)

A. As king-priests, believers' are God's royal representatives commissioned with _____ the borders of God's sanctuary to the ends of the earth.

1. **2 Corinthians 5:20** What does it mean that we are ambassadors for Christ?

- a) We have been _____ by Christ.
- b) We _____ Christ.
- c) We exercise Christ's _____.

2. Believers' expand God's sanctuary, not by cultivating land, as Adam and Eve, but by cultivating people's _____, by communicating an authoritative message of forgiveness to those who will turn from their sin and place their trust in Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20).

B. As king-priests, believers' join in Christ's rule and exercise Christ's authority on the earth by _____ and _____ in God's new temple.

1. **By Serving:**

- a) **We serve with _____.**
- b) **We serve with _____.**

2. **By Guarding:**

- a) **Ourselves:** We exercise our authority by saying no to sin, _____ Satan, and by pursuing holiness. We guard over our lives, our thoughts, our words, our actions, and our relationships.
- b) **Others:** We see to it that no one comes short of the grace of God (Heb. 12:15). We _____ for each other, _____ each other, and even confront each other.

3. **Summary:** The church is a mighty army of royal priests who are called to advance God's kingdom in this world, to bring light to dark places, to set captives free, by laying their lives down in service to God and others, and by guarding themselves and others from sin and Satan's attacks.