



THE PRIESTHOOD AND CULTURE PART 2

3.10.2024 - Matthew Lilley

The Pattern of the Priesthood: God's Presence Changes Everything

I Chronicles 13-16 - Priesthood and Culture

Story of the Boiler Room

- Place for my glory to dwell
- Guy gets shot & a new regulation is established
- Crime rates drop

The Garden of Eden

1. **Takeaway: Our original and eternal purpose is to be a kingdom of priests unto God.**
2. Redefining our understanding of the “garden” of Eden.
3. **Tend and Keep.** Adam's original mandate was to be a king and priest. While not immediately apparent, the language used in Genesis 2:15 is priestly language.

*The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.
Genesis 2:15*

4. The phrase “tend and keep” used to describe Adam's role is always used to describe priestly activity. These are the same words Moses used to charge the priestly Levites with their ministry of “tending and keeping” the tabernacle (Numbers 3:7-8). The Hebrew people would have interpreted this language so that Eden was viewed as a temple of God's presence and Adam was seen as the first “royal priest” of Eden.
5. **Be Fruitful and Multiply.** This gives a whole new meaning to the kingly dominion

mandate given to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28 to fill the earth, subdue it and have dominion over it. This kindle mandate was to be the overflow of their role as priests. Adam and Eve were commissioned to grow a family that would expand Eden to the ends of the earth.

6. **The Fall.** When Adam and Eve sinned, they were cast out of the garden and lost the authority to fulfill their original purpose. God's narrative is the restoration of His people back to their original purpose as worshipers, lovers of God and co-laborers with Him in stewarding the earth.
7. **The Restoration.** This is ultimately what Jesus has done and is doing - making His people a royal priesthood! Our eternal occupation will be as kings and priests, restored to our original purpose, ministering in the throne room of the King.

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. I Peter 2:9

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." Revelation 1:5-6

8. **Takeaway: Our original purpose and our eternal purpose is to be a kingdom of priests unto God.**

David's Journey to Kingship

1. **Takeaway: What you cultivate privately will manifest publicly.**

2. I Chronicles 1:1 starts with "Adam...."

3. David's Early Years

- a. David discovered that worship ushers us into God's presence

Psalms 100:4 - Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise

- b. "...it is in the process of being worshiped that God communicates His presence to men. It is not of course the only way. But for many people at many times the "fair beauty of the Lord" is revealed chiefly or only while they worship Him together." - CS Lewis

- c. David playing his harp for a demonized Saul

And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him. I Samuel 16:23

- d. David's experienced Samuel's school of prophetic minstrels - Saul was "turned into another man" (I Samuel 10) + I Samuel 19 (which David witnessed)

4. David Launched into Kingship

- a. In due time, David was sent from the hillside to the palace. He never wanted promotion. He just wanted God's presence and God's will.
- b. Saul wanted to be a king but couldn't learn to be a priest. David wanted to be a priest, so God made him a king.
- c. Can't be kingly without being priestly. 7 Mountains vs Mt Zion
- d. Those who minister to God are launched into the world to be salt and light through good deeds (Matthew 5:13-16)
- e. ***Takeaway: What you cultivate privately will manifest publicly.***

The Era of David and Solomon

1. Takeaway: Cultural shifts happen generationally

2. David's Tabernacle

- a. I Chron 13-14 - David brings the Ark (God's presence) into Jerusalem. b. What happened on the hillsides is now happening in the nation's capital. c. I Chron 16:4-7 - David launches his (priestly) worship revolution.

Then he appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the Lord, to invoke, to thank, and to praise the Lord, the God of Israel. I Chron 16:4

- d. I Chron 16:37 - ongoing worship at David's Tabernacle. The worship at David's tabernacle - musical, prophetic, Bible-based, creative, excellent, generational, intimate.... Day and night. "Regularly"
- e. Psalm 22:3 - God is enthroned in the praises of Israel. David mirrored heaven on earth, and God manifested his presence and kingdom in Israel.
- f. David reigned 33 years - the same time Jesus lived on earth. David prepared the way for Solomon to continue to host the presence of God.
- g. 4,000 musicians were trained and 1 billion dollars was raised towards the priesthood.

3. Cultural Impact in the reigns of David and Solomon

a. Justice

So David reigned over all Israel, and he administered justice and equity to all his people. I Chronicles 18:14

b. Prosperity

Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing. 1 Kings 4:20

c. Peace

And Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon. I Kings 4:25

d. Favor

And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon. - I Kings 4:34

e. Righteousness / Salvation

*Let your priests be clothed with righteousness... Psalm 132:9
Her priests I will clothe with salvation... Psalm 132:16*

f. Provision

I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread. Psalm 132:15

g. Joy

...her saints will shout for joy. Psalm 132:16

h. (Spiritual) Victory

His enemies I will clothe with shame. Psalm 132:18

4. Takeaway: Cultural shifts happen generationally

- a. Things can shift for the good and the bad in one generation - this is the story of I Chronicles. We're not measuring success in weeks and months, but in decades. What happens in 20-40 years if we establish a royal priesthood right now?

5. Jesus - the Davidic King

- a. Despite the incredible breakthroughs during the reigns of David and Solomon, those were only temporary. God is now raising up the One who can truly establish

a permanent priesthood, transform the culture and bring the kingdom of God to earth again.

- b. What Chronicles was pointed towards and hoping for what was manifest in Jesus!!
- c. Now a global “tent of David” is being raised up by Jesus. This includes the restoration of our purpose as a royal priesthood. This includes the raising up of day and night worship and prayer.
- d. It is not our worship and prayer that transforms culture, it is JESUS.

How does priestly ministry transform culture?

1. Priests Host the Presence of God (2 Cor. 3:18)

- a. Those who spend times in God’s presence are transformed from glory to glory (2 Cor 3:18)

2. Priests War in the Spirit (Eph. 6:12)

- a. We wrestle not against flesh and blood (Eph 6:12)

3. Priests are Sent in Power (Acts 13:2)

- a. Antioch - Acts 13:2
- b. *“When the church comes back to ministry to the heart of God, revival comes back to the church. When revival is in the church, then the church transforms the world!” -Sean Feucht & Andy Byrd, Fire and Fragrance*

Application

The Challenge

1. Cultivate the secret place - where is your hillside?
2. Engage in worship
3. Commit to the prayer room
4. Go where He sends you