

1Peter 2:9 – 3:19

The understanding for life, human history, and the future of humanity is centered in discerning Yahweh's eternal desire for His creation. His purpose for the ages starts to unfold with Israel as is succinctly expressed in a few verses:

Exodus 19:5-6

Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;
and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

“My own possession” holds no human, negative connotation such as controlling or greed, rather similar to how a parent may feel toward their children or loving, committed spouses toward their mates.

Think about what Almighty God desired and what He offered to these people. To those God brought out of Egypt, He offer this truly exceptional loving proposal. They did not embrace His desire for them but rather continued to worship false gods; therefore, they all perished in the wilderness. However, their children were again offered the same covenant with its glorious promises. God spoke the following to the new generation:

Deuteronomy 7:6

For you are a holy people to the LORD [Yahweh] your God; the LORD [Yahweh] your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Almighty God, the most venerated, holy One of all, selected them out of all the peoples in the world. Could there be anything more glorious and privileged than this loving invitation? He had Moses repeatedly tell them His desire.

Deuteronomy 10:15

Yet on your fathers did the LORD [Yahweh] set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, *even* you above all peoples, as *it is* this day.

Deuteronomy 14:2

For you are a holy people to the LORD [Yahweh] your God, and the LORD [Yahweh] has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 26:18-19

And the LORD [Yahweh] has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you, and that you should keep all His commandments;
and that He shall set you high above all nations which He has made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a consecrated people to the LORD [Yahweh] your God, as He has spoken."

History reveals that Israel's response to their glorious calling was most often feeble and wavering, so eventually God suspended His involvement with them but maintained a promise for their future. With Jesus the Christ, a new covenant with better promises was extended to everyone who believes, not just to Israel. The prophets like Isaiah foretold of Yahweh's plan, although no one really understood until after Jesus ascended.

Isaiah 61:6

But you [this future people] will be called the priests of the LORD [Yahweh]; You will be spoken of *as* ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, And in their riches you will boast.

The New Testament reveals how God's purpose for the ages is fulfilled in Jesus the Christ and how the calling reaches out to everyone in the world. For those who respond, they become the chosen and part of the promises that were once available only to Israel. Using the same language that was spoken to just Israel, Peter explains that all people of both Jew and Gentiles may partake of God's ages' purpose.

1Peter 2:9

But you [the saints] are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Chosen race – Those who respond to the call in Christ Jesus are the chosen. “Race” comes from the Greek word *genos* that means race, family, or offspring. Family and offspring may speak more precisely to God’s calling. The descendants of Abraham (Galatians 3:29) are a special genealogy that comprise God’s family. The saints are also those who will be raised from the dead, born again (1Peter 1:3 and 23) and thusly partakers of the new, supernatural, eternal race. Today, the different races of people hate and war against each other and are lost in the senseless concerns of today. They are thereby totally oblivious to the chosen race to come.

Royal priesthood – God is and will always be The King overall, Jesus the prince will return as King of kings. We too will receive the incredible honor of reigning with him as kings in the new Kingdom to come:

2Timothy 2:11 & 12 - It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

Revelation 1:6 (KJV) - And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:10 (KJV) - And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 20:6 - Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Priests

The very first time the word “priest” is used in the Bible is regarding the only godly person who was both King and Priest and therefore was the type for what Jesus will be and for those of us who will reign with him in the Kingdom to come.

Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

He blessed him [Abram] and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all. Genesis 14:18-20

The pattern presented consists of: 1) He blessed Abram, 2) extolled Yahweh, 3) blessed Yahweh, and 4) received Abram's offering to God. In this brief, wondrous account, we learn the basic priestly function – that which Jesus has done, is doing, and will do in the future Kingdom. We also gain some insight into what we will do in the Kingdom and partly do now as we are in training.

The next occurrence of the word "priest" is in Genesis 41:45 and reveals that the devil mimicked Yahweh and incorporated priests into the worship of him. This greatly expanded quickly (Genesis 47:22 & 26) and remains so till this day.

Exodus 28:1-6; 41-43; 29:1-ff – The priests included in the old covenant also provide insight about Jesus and us.

- The priests were selected by Yahweh.
- They were to minister to Him.
- Their attire was designed by God who enabled people to assemble "for glory and for beauty."
- The attire consecrated them so they could "minister as priest to Me."
- They were cleansed, anointed, ordained, and consecrated by God.
- The sacrifice needed for their consecration was provided and offered by God through Moses.
- They offered sacrifices to Yahweh in accordance with His specific instruction.

The priests of old in many ways model what we are and will be as royal priests:

- We are selected by Yahweh through Jesus Christ.
- We minister to God.
- We are clothed with power from on high, Christ within.
- God made us to be able by Christ to minister as a priest to Him.
- We were cleansed, anointed, ordained, and consecrated by God; therefore, we are holy ones (saints).
- The sacrifice needed for our consecration was provided and offered by God through Christ.
- We offer sacrifices to Yahweh in accordance with His specific instruction.

A HOLY NATION

We the saints (once either a Jew or Gentile) have become what God originally intended for Israel, that is a Holy Nation, God's own possession (Exodus 19:5 & 6). If we remain faithful, we will be the new nation when the Kingdom of God arrives. Meantime, our citizenship is in the heavenlies and guarded by God.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

To *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1Peter 1:4-5

1Peter 2:10 – We are the people of God by His great mercy. The “you” spoken of are the believers from both the Jews and the Gentiles. This part in Peter is quoted from Hosea, and the context states that those of Israel are no longer His people. However, in the future, still future, they will be again.

In view of the great abundance given to us, what follows in Peter is very logical.

11 and 12 – Avoid the distracting war of the soul caused by fleshly lust, and live godly to influence others to glorify God.

Submission and Honor 2:13-3:12

2:13-17 – Submit and honor governmental authority

18-20 – Employees submit and honor you employer

21-25 – Jesus' sterling example of submission

3:1-6 – Wives submit to husbands

7 – Husbands honor wives

8-12 – Summary of the subject

5:5 and 6 – Younger men submit yourselves to elder men

We all seem to enjoy it when others are in subjection to us and give us honor. Yet, we often struggle with submissiveness and honoring others. The instruction under consideration is more easily entreated when we keep the context in focus. The blessings bestowed upon us now and in the Kingdom place us in a mindset of sufficiency independent of the world. We no longer need the approval, validation, or acceptance from others. We are free from the worldly value system. Humility to others is no longer a sign of weakness or degrading. We do not care because in submitting and honoring others, we please God by obeying His commands. He promises to honor us in the Kingdom and throughout eternity. Who cares what others think of us?

Submission and honor are often but not always in tandem. The most honoring act that we can do with God and Jesus is to obey, that is submit to their will. Jesus is our Lord. If we want to honor him, we obey by submitting to his will as is communicated in the Scriptures (not to the things the church today has contrived).

13 – 17 – All saints are to submit and honor governmental authority except when commanded to sin as in the case of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

Matthew 22:15-22; Romans 13:1-ff; Titus 3:1

Peter wrote this epistle during the reign of Nero or shortly thereafter. Nero is infamously known as the Emperor who "fiddled while Rome burned" and as a persecutor of early Christians. He captured Christians to burn them in his garden at night for a source of light. This view is based on the writings of the main surviving sources for Nero's reign. Few surviving sources paint Nero in a favorable light. Some sources, though, portray him as an emperor who was popular with the common Roman people, especially in the east.

18 –20 – Servants are to submit to and honor your lord today – employees in relationship to employers. Ephesians 6:5-9

Submitting takes trust and faith in God that His ways are better than your ways.

21-25 – Jesus' extraordinary example of submission is to be followed by us. He never sinned in his submission, nor did he fail to confront evil.

3:1-6 – A wife is to submit to and honor your husband even if he is an unbeliever.
1Corinthians 7:10-16; Matthew 5:31 and 32; 19:3-9

And when the king's edict which he shall make is heard throughout all his kingdom, great as it is, then all women will give honor to their husbands, great and small. Esther 1:20

7 – Husbands are to honor their wives.

Ephesians 6:1-3 – Regarding our children, it is very important to teach them to submit and honor.

8-12 – Summary of the subject

Philippians 2:3-11 – Jesus is our example. If we submit and honor now, in the future we will have great honor.

Proverbs 15:33

The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor *comes* humility.

1Peter 1:7

The proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1Samuel 2:30

....Far be it from Me – for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.

1Chronicles 29:12

Both riches and honor *come* from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone.

Romans 2:7

To those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;

Proverbs 22:4

The reward of humility *and* the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life.

The world honors movie stars and athletes.

Proverbs 26:1 – Like snow in summer and like rain in harvest, So honor is not fitting for a fool.

Proverbs 26:8 – Like one who binds a stone in a sling, So is he who gives honor to a fool.

1Peter 3:10-19