

# We Are PRIESTS

1 Peter 2:4-12

Malachi 2:1-9

Revelation 1:4-8

24 November 2024

## Blowing the Trumpet (Isaiah 58:1)

- Are we praying as we are commanded to pray?
- (Luke 21:34-36) Christ commanded us to pray . . .
  - ① Are we WATCHING? (1 Peter 4:7)
  - ② Are OUR ADDICTIONS and cares of this life blinding us to God's ways?
  - ③ Are we concerned about the things that are happening around us?
  - ④ Are we crying out to escape?
  - ⑤ Are we concerned of standing before our Lord and Saviour UNASHAMED of how we lived the Christian life? (1 John 2:28; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
- ★ Are we PASSIVE INDIFFERENT to the times we are living?
- ★ Does 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:1-3; 4:3-4 describe you?
- ★ Are you falling away? (Hebrews 2:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 2:3)



## A Letter to the Elect (1 Peter 1:1-2)

- This is a letter to a SELECT group of people: **THE ELECT**.
  - ★ Who are the ELECT? Chosen of God before time began to be His people for eternity. (Eph 1:3-4; 1 Thess 2:13; Rom 8:28-30, 33; 11:5-7; Acts 15:18; 2 Tim 1:9; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Revelation 13:8; 17:8)
  - ★ The ELECT are the ones for whom Christ came to live and die for. (John 6:37-39; 10:27-30; 17:2, 6, 9, 11, 22, 24)
  - ★ The ELECT are sanctified (set apart) by God, the Holy Spirit.
    - Set apart from the world. (John 15:18-21; 17:14-17; Eph 2:2-3; Philippians 3:20-21)
    - Set apart for God's purpose. (Rom 8:28; 2 Tim 1:9)
    - Set apart from sin. (Matt 1:21; Romans 6:10-22)
    - Set apart from death. (Eph 2:1-10; Col 2:13; John 11:25)
    - Set apart to God. (Eph 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Cor 1:22; 5:5; 2 Tim 2:3-4)
  - ★ “for obedience” – The ELECT are the “children of God” who practice righteousness in the pursuit of holiness. (1 John 2:3-4, 29; 3:6-10; 3:3; Rom 1:5; 6:16, 18, 22; 16:26; Heb 12:14)
- Written to a people group LIVING OUT the teachings of Christ and suffering for it. (2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:18-20)
- Written as a letter of encouragement and **exhortation!**
- Written as a warning of more severe persecution coming. (1 Peter 4:12-17; John 15:18-20; Acts 14:22; Philippians 1:29)

## THE ELECT: A Holy Priesthood (vv. 5, 9)

- Because we are CHOSEN by GOD we are citizens of a HOLY NATION (where holiness is the rule) and a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD. (Exodus 19:5-6; Philippians 3:20-21; Isaiah 26:1-2; Eph 2:19; Heb 12:22)
  - ★ We are called to live by the LAWS of our NATION (holiness; righteousness) and to serve as PRIESTS.
- Only PRIESTS have direct access to God. The ELECT are “made priests” by God. (Revelation 1:5-6; 5:9-10; 20:6; 1 Peter 2:9)
- PRIESTS were sovereignly chosen by God. In the Old Testament God chose the tribe of Levi and the family of Aaron to be priests. The tribe of Levi was under a curse! (Exodus 28:1; Genesis 49:5-7)
  - ★ The ELECT of God are sovereignly chosen by God. (Ephesians 1:4; Romans 8:33; 9:11; 11:5, 7; 1 Peter 1:2)
- PRIESTS are priests BY BIRTH. By His own will, GOD, our Father, begot us! (James 1:18) We are the children of God and thereby we become His priests! (1 John 3:1-3)
- PRIESTS were CLEANSED by Moses. (Leviticus 8-9). God cleanses His elect. (**1 Corinthians 6:11**; Titus 2:14; 3:5; Hebrews 10:22)
- PRIESTS were clothed with clothes designed by God to set them apart from all others! The ELECT are CLOTHED by GOD with His own righteousness. (Philippians 3:9; Isaiah 61:10; Luke 15:22)
- PRIESTS were appointed to service. The ELECT are saved “unto good works”. (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14)
- PRIESTS were called to STRICT OBEDIENCE. Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron, priests, were struck down dead when they failed to abide by God’s Word. (Leviticus 10:1-3) The ELECT are called to obedience. (1 John 2:3-4; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10; 1 John 5:3; 1 Samuel 15:22; Matthew 7:21-23; John 8:31; 1 Peter 1:13-16)
- The ELECT are a **royal priesthood** obligated to “offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable through Jesus Christ” (v. 5). Some of these sacrifices include:
  - ① We offer up our **bodies** as living sacrifices. (Rom 12:1; 6:13, 16, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
  - ② We offer up the “sacrifice of **praise**”. (Hebrews 13:15)
  - ③ We offer up our “good **works**”. (Hebrews 13:16; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14; Colossians 1:10; 3:17, 23)
  - ④ We offer up our **financial** offerings. (Philippians 4:18)
  - ⑤ We offer up our **prayers** as sweet incense. (Psa 141:2; Rev 5:8)

## Malachi: A Love Problem (Malachi 1:1-5)

- The people had become INDIFFERENT (UNMOVED BY) to God’s love.
  - ★ MEDITATE on God’s love for His special people:
    - ① God’s love with without beginning - it is an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3; see Ephesians 1:4-5)
    - ② **God’s love is without measure!** (Ephesians 3:17-19)

- ③ God's love is unchanging! His love for us is a PERFECT love.
  - We can do nothing to cause God to love us more.
  - We can do nothing to cause God to love us less.
- ④ God's love is unending - it is an everlasting love! (Jeremiah 31:3)
  - ★ Consider Isaiah's and Christ's words: Isaiah 29:13; Matt 15:7-9
- God points to His unconditional, sovereign, free, electing love!
- **God's election energizes holy living and spirit filled worship.**
- A lack of genuine undivided biblical love for God leads to ALL sin. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10-14; 1 John 5:3; Psa 86:11; James 1:8)
- We are warned in the NT that the very same indifference has polluted the "church". (Rev 3:15-17; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Matthew 24:11-13)

### Malachi: A Priest Problem (Malachi 1:6-2:9)

- PRIMARY ROLE of a PRIEST: PRIESTS were called to teach the people the difference between the CLEAN and the UNCLEAN (Malachi 2:6-7; Ezekiel 22:26; 44:23). The ELECT of God are called to be TEACHERS. (Hebrews 5:12-14; Psalm 34:11; Matthew 28:20; Deut 4:9; 6:7; 29:29; ; Psalm 78:3-8; Ephesians 6:4)
  - ★ Priests were to "contend earnestly for the faith handed down to them"!  
(Jude 3)
  - ★ **READ MALACHI 2:6-7 THEN READ 2:8-9**
- Before the 70 year captivity the priesthood had become corrupt! (Jer 2:8-9; **Micah 3:11-12**; Zeph 3:3-4; 1 Sam 2:12-17, 22)
- As they were going into captivity the priests continued their corruption. (Ezekiel 22:26)
- When they came out of captivity it did not take long for the priesthood to corrupt themselves. (Neh 13:1-9; Mal 1:6-2:9)
- When the priests neglected their primary purpose (teaching doctrine), the people also became corrupt! (Hosea 4:1-10)
  - ★ **The PRIESTS did not KNOW GOD!** (Jer 2:8; Hosea 4:1,6; 6:6)
  - ★ The children suffer because of the sins of the priests and the people.  
When people do not perform their obligations they **and** others suffer!  
(Hosea 4:6)

### Malachi: A People Problem (Malachi 2:10-4:3)

- It is true that the priests were to blame as God points His finger at them. **BUT** God's people also must share in the blame as well (as God points out).
- The priests were wrong in offering up blemished offerings, **but** the people **brought** those offerings to the priest is direct violation of God's Word.
- The people ought to have never brought their sick offerings and the priests ought to have **rejected** those offerings.
- The people liked it that way. (Jeremiah 5:30-31)
- ✗ Many "professing Christians" are following the same path as the Jews did during Malachi's time:

- They do not want high standards (Isaiah 30:10-11; Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7, 26; 21:8; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 2 Cor 7:2; Matt 5:48).
- They do not care whether or not the “prophets” and “priests” are doing their job according to God’s way! In fact, they like it that way! (Jer 5:30-31)
- God’s people have a history of rejecting godly leaders. (Matthew 5:10-12; 23:31-36; 1 Thess 2:14-15; Acts 7:51-52)
- They want to hear what they want to hear, so they seek out leaders that will do just that! (2 Timothy 4:3-4; Isaiah 30:10-11; Romans 16:18; **Galatians 4:16**)
- They did/do not test their leaders. (Jude 3-4; 2 Corinthian 11:13-15; Matthew 24:5, 11; Isaiah 8:20; )
- The people were negligent in their support and respect for their leaders. (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Thess 5:12-13)
- God’s people share in the blame for the growth of false teachers and immorality in our age.

## We Are Priests

- ① As PRIESTS we are obligated to offer our bodies as living sacrifices unto the God who chose us. Our bodies and spirits belong to Him and are to be used 24 hours a day for His glory. (Romans 12:1-2; 6:13; 1 Cor 6:19-20; 10:31; Colossians 3:17, 23; 1 Peter 4:11)
- ② As PRIESTS we are obligated to offer up “sacrifices of praise”. (Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:9; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19-20; Revelation 4:8-11; 5:9-14; Psalm 113:3)
- ③ As PRIESTS we are obligated to perform those “good works” for which we were saved. (Hebrews 13:15; Titus 2:14; Eph 2:10; 1 Peter 2:12; Matt 5:16; Col 1:10; 1 Cor 15:58; Titus 2:14)
- ④ As PRIESTS we are obligated to offer up prayers of praise, thanksgiving, and intercession. (Luke 18:1; 1 Thess 5:17; Col 4:2; Rom 12:12; Philippians 4:6-7; Eph 6:18-19; Acts 12:5)
- ⑤ As PRIESTS we are obligated to “contend earnestly” for **the** (word & doctrine) that was “**once fro all delivered**” to us. (Jude 3) We are the ones who must distinguish and declare to the world those things that are CLEAN and UNCLEAN; HOLY and UNHOLY; GOOD and EVIL. (**HEBREWS 5:11-14**; Ezekiel 22:26; Philippians 1:9-11)
- ⑥ As PRIESTS we are obligated to “Be diligent to present ourselves approved to God, workers who do not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the Word of **TRUTH.**” As PRIESTS we are obligated to intimately know and carefully teach God’s Word! (2 Timothy 2:15)
- ⑦ As PRIESTS we must have UNDIVIDED hearts. (Psalm 86:11)
- ⑧ We are WATCH and PRAY ALWAYS! (Luke 18:1; 21:34-36; 1 Thess 5:17)