



Chapter 1 **Kings Get the Job Done**

In 458 BC a Jewish Priest named Ezra returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the city. It had been destroyed over 100 years earlier by the Babylonians who took the Jews into captivity. Ezra's work stagnated before he could manage to rebuild the walls and the gates of the city.

A full 13 years later Nehemiah arrived at Jerusalem, took charge of the project, and had the walls up in 52 days.

So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. (Neh. 6:15)

That was an historic accomplishment.

As a Priest, Ezra was well-versed in the law of Moses (Ezra 7:5). Nehemiah, on the other hand, was a government official—the King's cupbearer (Neh. 1:11), who later was appointed to be the governor of Jerusalem (Neh. 5:14). Both were anointed, godly men who served together.

...in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra the Priest.... (Neh. 12:26)

What Ezra could not accomplish by himself as a Priest was achieved easily by Nehemiah in a “kingly” capacity.

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Think about the great names that you know from the Bible. Perhaps Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, or David come to mind. Now, list all the Priests you can remember. Draw a blank? You may think of one or two Prophets, but leaders identified strictly as Priests do not stand out. Why is this? The reason is that God always has used Kings as the movers and shakers in the Kingdom.

Priests (pastors, teachers, and other church leaders) play an important role in the Temple (Church), but it's a role that has a maintenance implication. They keep families healthy by feeding them the Word. They counsel, encourage, heal, marry, and bury. They shepherd, feed, and equip God's people. Pastors naturally gravitate to a peaceful, healthy atmosphere and have a godly motivation to keep their congregations happy and maturing.

In contrast, Kings go to war. They establish their authority. They move people into new territories—stretching people out of their comfort zones to expand the Kingdom of God on this Earth.

Historically, Kings have been leaders who worked closely with Priests and Prophets. They were talented people with the resources to get things done. They also were well-versed in God's Word and occasionally could operate in prophetic ministries themselves.

In the Old Testament, we see that Daniel spent his life in a governmental (kingly) role but used a prophetic gift to interpret dreams. Abraham was a businessman who raised livestock and became the most powerful man in his day. Moses was a national leader. Joshua was a military leader. They all had a

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calling as Kings to possess the inheritance God gave His people.

In the New Testament, we see the Lord pressing major initiatives with Kings again. Neither Jesus nor any of the 12 disciples came from priestly lines. The major players were Kings in the ministry sense. They had influence and power in the marketplace; some even had significant wealth.

Notice that the Kings did more than provide for the Temple of God. This is important because some church leaders today want to release the Kings, but they think the King is to use all of his profit to provide for the Priests and the Temple. Of course, the Kings will be blessed financially, and they will be generous in providing for God's house, but they are called to do more than that. Kings have the calling of God to extend the rulership of Jesus Christ into all of the world. They expand the Kingdom to fill the Earth with His glory.



Chapter 2

The Roles: Kings, Priests, and Prophets

In the Old Testament times, God raised leaders as Kings and Priests. Of course, we cannot totally equate today's Kings and Priests to those of Bible days, but we can understand differences in their roles by examining God's plan for their lives.

In addition to Kings and Priests, we also will take a quick look at the role of Prophets, for these people of God often work alongside the Kings and Priests.

Kings

When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a King over us like all the nations around us," be sure to appoint over you the King the LORD your God chooses. He must be from among your own brothers. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not a brother Israelite. The King, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, "You are not to go back that way again." He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He

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must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Priests, who are Levites. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.

(Deut. 17:14-20)

A few observations concerning Kings:

1. Notice that the Lord chose the Kings (vs. 15). The kingly anointing and ordination was just as sacred as the ordination of Priests in the Old Testament. It is the same today.
2. Kings are cautioned against materialism and other indulgences (vs. 16-17). Why? Kings have an anointing to accumulate resources and get things done. Their weaknesses, however, can be pride and independence.
3. Kings are cautioned to stay close to Scripture; to write it, keep it with them, and read it all the days of their lives (vs. 18-19).
4. Kings command the people. They have influence and exercise leadership.

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Priests

The Priests, who are Levites—indeed the whole tribe of Levi—are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the offerings made to the LORD by fire, for that is their inheritance. They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them. This is the share due the Priests from the people who sacrifice a bull or a sheep: the shoulder, the jowls and the inner parts. You are to give them the firstfruits of your grain, new wine and oil, and the first wool from the shearing of your sheep, for the LORD your God has chosen them and their descendants out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the LORD's name always. If a Levite moves from one of your towns anywhere in Israel where he is living, and comes in all earnestness to the place the LORD will choose, he may minister in the name of the LORD his God like all his fellow Levites who serve there in the presence of the LORD. He is to share equally in their benefits, even though he has received money from the sale of family possessions. (Deut. 18:1-8)

The LORD said to Aaron, "You will have

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no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites. I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting.” (Num. 18:20-21)

A few observations concerning Priests:

1. They have no allotment nor inheritance. The Lord is their inheritance.
2. Priestly income comes from offerings and tithes (Deut. 18:1-4).
3. While Kings have great wealth, Priests do not.
4. The Priests' primary function is to minister to the Lord.

Here are a few more practical observations about Priests and the personalities that go with their roles:

1. Priests have a focus for God's people and they should not be weighed down by projects or material concerns. This principle is illustrated by the Apostles in Acts 6.2:

So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.”

2. Priests are the shepherds who leave the 99 sheep to retrieve the lost one. They hesitate to go faster than the slowest lamb. By contrast,

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- Kings rarely go slower than the fastest horse.
3. Priests have hearts for worship, since their greatest possession is the Lord Himself.
 4. Priests are chosen by God. They are consecrated and ordained to be ministers to Him and His people.

Prophets

Now let's look at a key passage of Scripture to identify God's plan for Prophets.

The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. If anyone does not listen to my words that the Prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. But a Prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a Prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death." You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?" If what a Prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That Prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him. (Deut. 18:18-22)

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A few observations concerning Prophets.

1. Prophets are introduced as those who guard against “detestable” practices (Deut. 18:12) of sorcery or divination.
2. Prophets can discern wrong motives and hidden behavior as if by a sixth sense.
3. Prophets speak God’s voice. They often intercede in prayer, going before God for the people.
4. Prophets can fall into the excess of presumption when they go beyond the words, the method, or the timing of God (vs. 20). God holds them to severe accountability for this.
5. God endorses these prophetic ministries and holds people accountable to heed a Prophet’s words (vs. 19).
6. Prophets sometimes are supported in unusual ways. For example, Elijah was fed by ravens (Kings 17:6), then by a widow with no food (Kings 17:14). Whereas Kings have businesses and Priests have the tithe, Prophets often were supported supernaturally. Today’s Prophets often have itinerant ministries, and they are supported by special offerings or by “Kings” who provide direct support.

In the Scriptures we see Prophets working alongside Kings and Priests. God often used the Prophets to give direction, correct error, or help leaders make breakthroughs necessary for success. They can bless or curse. They can recognize anointings or attacks of the enemy. Prophets add a supernatural boost for the expansion for the Kingdom.