

KINGDOM OF PRIESTS

This will be our 2015 Series of lessons on **Spiritual Gifts** taken from Rom.12:1-8.

It is interesting that Paul began with a technical lesson on **priestly spiritual** (ten logikos) **service of worship** (latreia) as a preliminary study to spiritual gifts in Rom.12:1-2.

Ten logikos latreia refers to priestly service of worship in the kingdom of God.

(Rev.1:5-6) "And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood – and **He made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father** – to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

(Heb.12:28) "Therefore, **since we receive a kingdom** which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service (euairetos latreuo) with reverence and awe."

(Rom.12:1) "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."

The kingdom of God has always been represented by priestly spiritual service of worship.

Today's lesson will study five aspects of the history of priestly service of worship in the kingdom of God.

- 1. Priestly spiritual service of worship began with the Adam and Sethite family (Gen5:6-32). It was based on shadow Christology theology (Heb.10:1-14)**

It went from Adam (Gen.3:7, 21) to Abel (Gen.4:1-7) to Seth and then to Noah (Gen.7:2-5; 8:20-22).

From Noah, it went from the Shemite family to Abraham (Gen.11:10-26; Luke 3:33-35).

- 2. With Abraham, the priestly spiritual service of worship was represented by the patriarchs: Abraham (Gen.12:7-8) Isaac (Gen.26:24-25) and Jacob (Gen.28:13-19).**

Under the patriarch Jacob, the Israelites went into Egypt and spent 430 years developing into the priest-nation (Ex.12:40-42; 19:3-6) until Moses.

- 3. With Moses, the priestly spiritual service of worship was represented by the Levitical priesthood of Shadow Christology (Tabernacle and Ark of Covenant) (Ex.24-31) (Heb.5-10: 10:8-10) until King David.**

- 4. King David developed the Levitical priesthood into 24 orders of spiritual service of worship (1 Chron.24:1-5, 10) until the coming of Christ into world.**

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, was a priest of the 8th order of priesthood, Abijah. (Luke 1:5, 8-10)

John the Baptist was the national prophet that would announce the historical coming of Christ into the world (John 1:19-23).

(Isa.40:3) "A voice is calling, 'Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.'"

5. With the coming of Jesus Christ into the world, the kingdom of priestly spiritual service of worship is represented by every Church Age Believer (CAB) in church of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ became the high priest after the order of Melchizedek's from the days of Abraham (Gen.14; Heb.7:12-17; 8:4-5; Ps.110:4). It is based on the death, burial, resurrection, and session of Jesus Christ (Heb.5:5-10; 7:26-28; 8:1-2, 6).

Every Church Age Believer (CAB) is a priest under the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ (1 Pet.2:5, 9).

(Rev.1:6; 5:10) "And He **has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father;** to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

All the other kingdom of priests offered dead sacrifices apart from themselves.

- (Shadow Christology).

But all Church Age Believer priests **offer themselves** as living and holy acceptable sacrifices to God (Rom.12:1-2; Heb.12:28)

- (Historical Christology).

(1 Pet.2:5) "You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a **holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**"