

## Prophets, Priests and Kings

by Hendrik Joubert

Man seems to always have been fascinated by ritual; perhaps as a result of the status and glory associated with it. Who would not enjoy the importance of being designated a *prophet of God*, or a *priest* of the God Most High, and even a king? The responsibilities associated with these positions are neglected, even ignored as many overstep the boundaries implied by one being a servant of The Prophet, Priest and King. A study of these offices in the light of the Scriptures is more than interesting; it exposes an accountability for every believer as he and she are drawn into the godly responsibilities associated with each office - ***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;... 1Peter 2:9***

A preoccupation with the things of this life reveals a lack of spiritual consciousness and more specifically, a lack of faith in God. Reminiscent of the game “Simon says” the majority become distracted so as not to act upon *faith* as suggested by **Romans 10:17 – *Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ***. Instead of believing what God has revealed through the Scriptures, *faith* is reduced to personal feelings and opinions. “I believe...” is not followed by a scriptural reference to indicate how this *belief* resulted from the word of Christ. Instead scholars and other self-proclaimed prophets, priests and kings are quoted to settle matters of faith.

The responsible position of the prophet of God is apparent in the following instruction: ***Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do.*** <sup>16</sup> ***So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.*** (Exodus 4:15-16) In chapter 7:1 ***the LORD said to Moses: “See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.”***

A prophet who spoke presumptuously was to be put to death. (**Deuteronomy 18:22**) Notice that the prophet is not miraculously killed by God. It is in **Deuteronomy chapter 13** one finds an interesting passage, a test of faith, so to speak. Even if he produces signs, but changes the Source of authority, his message is to be rejected. Because of the physical aspects associated with idolatry many fail to see that following after the words of another is to set that person up as God in your life, as is suggested by what God said to Moses in **Exodus 4:15-16** and 7:1– you speak the words of the one who is your God. That person may be none other than you – “I believe...”

It is through Peter that we receive the warning: ***If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*** (1Peter 4:11) ***The faith was once for all delivered to the saints.*** (Jude 3) We have in the Scriptures the only reliable source. (**2Timothy 3:16-4:3**)

The association with the priesthood becomes evident from the following words given through Peter: ***you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*** (1Peter 4:5) We do not want to be one of the dedicated individuals who have to concern themselves with the things of God. We want to be ordinary sinners continuing with our sins as before while addressing Jesus as Lord. ***...as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;*** <sup>15</sup> ***but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,*** <sup>16</sup> ***because it is written, “BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”*** (1Peter 1:14-16)

Under the new covenant sacrificing has taken on a personal dimension: ***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*** (Romans 12:1) It is not the life of an innocent animal that must be taken; it is putting to death my personal desires so that I will submit wholly to God. ***For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*** (Romans 8:13)

Each king of Israel was to write for himself ***a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites.*** <sup>19</sup> ***And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes,*** <sup>20</sup> ***that his heart may not be***

***lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel. (Exodus 15:18-20)***

It is not what one says that matters, it is the manner in which a person handles the word of God and how he or she responds to the Bible which reveals one's faith, and therefore whose servant you are. ***"You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*** (James 2:18)