

The Duties of The Priest

Part 3

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1Peter 2:9)

The family is the basic unit for the church as well as the society. We will go to the book of Genesis and see how people followed God and how their personal and family life had affected God’s work and His church. When God created the world, He created man and woman in his own image and entrusted to them the Garden of Eden. But they sinned and the LORD disciplined them and drove them away from his presence. Not mentioned in the bible whether Adam and Eve repented or not, but what is mentioned is part of their life as a family. In Genesis 4:1-2 we read the following, ***“Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.”² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.”*** Eve testified that ***“With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.”*** So she was acknowledging the goodness of the LORD in her life and that is why she named her first born Cain. We know also that both Cain and Abel presented their gifts to God and the Lord accepted Abel offering but to Cain offering he did not commend, ***“By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.” (Hebrews 11:4)*** As a consequence of that later on Cain killed his brother Abel, and that was in the mid of a family.

Thing happening inside the families, where children fighting and harming one another is a bad testimony to the parents, to the church and for the Lord. To what happened, Cain killed Abel, we are not sure if Adam and Eve had disciplined their children, or if the children did not respond to their parent’s discipline. As well as speaking about families and children, there are good people coming out from bad families, as well as there are bad people coming out from good families. But the point here is that we as royal priests God had placed us over our families and children then we should do our parts and raise up our children in the fear of the LORD. Yes the outcome of the children is not fully in our hands but have we done our part by training our children in the way they should go? To this we are accountable for and to this we are called to do.

God later on restored the righteous line after the dead of Abel and He blessed Adam and Eve with another son, ***“Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, “God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.” (Genesis 4:25)*** Seth was the righteous descendant who would carry the truth to the next generation. So here we found that God’s people are not much but few individuals or a mere family whom come to God and commit themselves to follow God, aware that living righteous life as royal priests had great impact on God and on His church

One of the descendant of Seth was Enoch, ***“²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²² And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.” (Genesis 5:21-24)*** Enoch walked faithfully with God and lived a righteous living and His life

was a challenge to everyone to walk with God. ***“⁶ By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.” (Hebrews 11:5)***

Till now only few people were following God and we can consider them the church at that moment of the history. The word church means those who are called out of the world and were willing to follow God.

Later on in the book of Genesis we notice another righteous man raised up with his family, and that was Noah, ***“⁹ This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.” (Genesis 6:9-10)*** Noah and His family, eight in all did excellent work. One family was the church size at that time, and had great impact on the world for God. ***“⁷ By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.” (Hebrews 11:7)*** Noah led his family in righteousness, he was the royal priest of his family and with them he achieved the work of the ark; he saved himself and his family and condemned the world around them ***“²⁰ who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water.” (1Peter 3:20)*** Noah was a preacher of righteousness, he cared for his family and lived a righteous living and did whatever God had told him to do in building the ark and preaching the word of God to the people around him. Noah living the word of God in the way he led his family was the method he used to preach the word of God to the people around him. And the Lord used his life as testimony against those who did not follow his example at his time, ***2Peter 2:5*** tell us that, ***“⁶ if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others.”*** God called him the preacher of righteousness because he lived the word of life that he received from God.

See from the above few examples that we had read from the book of Genesis we can see clearly the responsibly that God had placed on us as priests, whether individuals or families. We are called to live the word of God and imparting that to our spouses and children. Our families as living holy living are great potential to God to speak to the world through our lives of what He want the world to know and to follow.

My Dear and Beloved: Now is the time for you to be aware and wake up and see clearly the responsibilities that the LORD clearly defined for you to achieve for Him in your family that He entrusted in your hand. Therefore keep your priority right and commit your ways unto Him as you are willing to obey and agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal. Lord I put aside and renounce my pride and my selfish ambition and my own entire plans. Lord I commit myself into your hands to live my life as a royal priest to lead my family and my children in the way that you wants me to lead them and do my responsibilities correctly as your word describe them to me, so that my family with all the members will be the light for others to know Christ and walk in His ways. Lord gives me the strength, the grace and the perseverance to achieve that for your glory, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*