



THE
KINGDOM
OF GOD IS NEAR

A NATION OF PRIESTS

1 Peter 2:9-10; Isaiah 9:6-7



A Nation of Priests

***God's will is done
God's way, among
God's people.***

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- So we will discover today how the Old Testament was preparing God's people long ago to receive the King of Kings.

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1. God's people moved from slavery to freedom.
- We find the Kingdom of God presented subtly at first and later in a bold and outright way.

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- In the blink of an eye, the greatest *military power* on earth was defeated.
- The people of Israel thought they were going to die, only to see God *rescue* them in dramatic and miraculous fashion.

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- The Song of Moses talks about how the story of Israel's freedom will instill fear in all of their enemies.
- That one word, reign, is the beginning the Kingdom of God theology in the Old Testament.

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- God himself declares His purpose-- that the nation of Israel would become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
- The nations of the world would behold Israel's beauty and holiness.

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- He wanted an entire kingdom that consisted of priests *dedicated* solely to Him.
- Martin Luther called it “*the priesthood of all believers.*”

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- We have *received* mercy in order that we would *show* the mercy and goodness of God to a watching world.

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- David was a representation of the eventual Messiah, who was yet to come.
- While King David was himself not perfect, he was a type of Messiah.
- In that day, all of Israel expected that the Messiah would be the “Son of David.”

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- The greatness of David's kingdom led the people of Israel to look for a day when *God himself* would be king among them.
- We are called to order our lives around the *values* and the *priorities* of the King.

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3. The prophet Isaiah spoke of what the world would be like when the Son of God took His place as the King of God's eternal kingdom.

- Isaiah not only prophesied about the coming of the Messiah, he also prophesied about the rule and reign of the Messiah.

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- There are so many passages in Isaiah that declare the coming kingdom and the greatness of the King.
- And Isaiah prophesies that the government of God and the peace of Christ will be without end!

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- And the book of Isaiah is filled with prophecies about the King and His Kingdom.
- God had been teaching Israel about the coming of the King and His forever Kingdom throughout the entire book!

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- They discovered the Lord's *fingerprints* all over the Old Testament!
- *We* are the priests who deliver the good news to all the world.