I. INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this teaching series is to give a biblical perspective of our position and function before God’s throne as priests who worship and pray. My prayer is that this would inspire our confidence in the validity and effectiveness of prayer and worship unto revival and the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

2. The Bible reveals our 3 main identities as being children of God, the Bride of Christ and Priests unto God. They each have unique distinctions, but they all weave together in many ways.

3. Our Priestly Calling is summarized in these qualities:
   1. **Friendship**: Access and Nearness to God’s Presence.
   2. **Gazing**: Capacity andCalling to see God’s Personality/Glory
   3. **Partnership**: Intercession, Worship, Part of God’s Counsel
   4. **Proclamation**: Telling others what God is like (His Personality, values, gospel, future plans)

4. Our main vision as a Church is to host a 24/7 worship and prayer sanctuary that fosters intimacy with God and engages in intercession for a Great Awakening. We want all other ministry initiatives to flow out of the foundation of our corporate worship center. Ideally, we would like everyone to first find friendship and function in the prayer room vision and then to add other ministries on top of that.

5. We believe that God has and will bring people to this church who want intentional community, deep intimacy with God, feel drawn to prayer and worship and want to impact the lost and oppressed in a supernatural way.

II. ROYAL PRIESTHOOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

“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; who once were not a people but are now the people of God (Gentiles), who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10)

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests (Newly Formed Israel) and a holy nation.” (Exodus 19:5-6)
A. All believers are brought into God’s Royal Priesthood through the New Covenant. Peter used the language of Exodus 19, which is when God was first commissioning Israel to be a kingdom of Priests unto Him. He referenced Israel’s commissioning because he wanted New Covenant believers to understand that their new identity and function was comparable to Israel’s priestly identity and function.

B. Israel was commissioned by God to host God’s manifest in a 24/7 prayer and worship sanctuary as a nation of priests. Their first calling was to minister to Him and focus on His presence as friends of God, which in turn would be the main way they would be a light to the Gentile around them.

“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through (through our union with Him as a High Priest) Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:5)

“In whom the whole building being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:21-22)

C. The New Testament Church, in smaller church communities, is being built up into a corporate dwelling place for God’s manifest presence in the same way that Israel was a dwelling place. Notice the priestly language of 1 Peter and Ephesians.

“To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father.” (Revelation 1:5-6)

D. Jesus has redeemed us by His blood, which means He has bought us out of slavery and brought us back to our original position as Priests. In the Old Testament, redemption occurred when a family member was indebted to another person and therefore lost their status in society as well as their property, etc. A Redeemer, who had to be a family member, could pay the price to the slave owner to buy the person back and restore all things back to them. Jesus became one of us in order to be our Redeemer.

E. The book of Revelation gives us the greatest insight into what heavenly worship looks like out all of all the books of the Bible (4:1-5:14, 7:9-12, 14:1-3, 15:1-4, 19:1-7). Revelation begins with the statement of our priestly identity because the entire book builds off this idea and reveals the priestly ministry of saints and angels in heaven and how their ministry impacts the earthly realm. Jesus reveals Himself as a Priest in Revelation 1 and throughout the book.
II. PRIESTS RULING ON KINGLY THRONES

“You (Jesus) are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.” (Revelation 5:9-11)

“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection (resurrection of believers – John 5:29). Over such the second death (hell for unbelievers – Rev 21:8) has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” (Revelation 20:6)

A. God original design was for humans to function as Kings and Priests. Redemption is more than getting to go to heaven, it’s about being brought back into place of being Priests before God. Adam and Eve operated as Priests before they sinned and lost constant access to the Garden of Eden.

B. The moment our spirit was born again, we entered into the Kingdom as a King and a Priest. Being a born again believer means you are a Priest on a throne who gets to rule with God in this age and after the 2nd coming of Jesus. You were born into a governmental position with Jesus for all of eternity.

“We have such a High Priest who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty (Father) in the heavens.” (Hebrews 8:1)

C. Jesus was resurrected from the dead, ascended to heaven and was exalted on a throne, but He sits on His throne as a Priest. He rules as a King through priestly functions (prayer, worship, declarations, conversations with the Father). In God’s design, governmental authority and priestly ministry go together, which is why the throne room in heaven is a temple.

“Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...and raised us up together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:5-6)

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your minds (meditate) on things above (throne room) not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:1-2)

D. Through the gospel we were joined to Jesus in His death, burial, resurrection, ascension and exaltation. Even now our spirit is somehow seated with Jesus in the heavenly throne room. The Elders around God’s throne are a representation of the believers position before God as Priests on thrones with robes and crowns (Revelation 4:4).
III. ACCESS INTO THE HEAVENLY THRONE ROOM

“Therefore brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us.” (Hebrews 10:19-20)

A. As priests, we have access into the heavenly throne room by the blood of Jesus. In the Old Testament, the High Priest was given access to God’s presence once a year through various animal sacrifices. In the New Covenant, all believers are given access in the heavenly throne room to see God, interact with God and rule with God as Priests.

B. We are “washed” by the blood of Jesus in the same way that the priests were purified by blood sacrifices in order to enter God’s presence.

“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle (Heaven) not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.” (Hebrews 9:11-12)

C. Jesus is literally a High Priest on a throne in heaven and He sprinkled His own blood in that heavenly temple to make a way for us to come inside. We can experience this supernaturally through the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

D. All the earthly tabernacles were legitimate copies of the heavenly tabernacle. From God’s perspective, the earthly tabernacles were extensions of His heavenly tabernacle, so when someone entered the earthly, they also entered the heavenly.

IV. GOING DEEPER ASSIGNMENTS

E. Take time this week to meditate on Revelation 1:5-6, 4:4 and 5:10.

F. Look up “Priesthood” on online bible study websites or Bible Dictionaries (www.biblestudytools.com, biblegateway.com, blueletterbible.org).

G. Consider buying the book resource for the class (Unceasing by Billy Humphrey).