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W. O. Vaught

Ouachita Baptist University

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THE SUPERIORITY OF ROYALTY

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 46
HEBREWS 7:1

Dr. W. O. Vaught
Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

I read a letter written by a man just before he died, telling his preacher of his experience. He knew that he was dying from cancer and he told the preacher that he ought to plead with the people to turn on the tapes and listen to doctrine. He told the preacher that he had built an edification complex in his soul and it would be the one great thing he would take with him to heaven. He told the preacher that he got mad at him many times when listening to the tapes, but he would always come back for more. With those tapes he had learned to look into the Mind of Christ. He ended by saying, "You kicked me all the way to glory."

God's Royal Family

We need to know about the royal family of God. We are not just ordinary people. We are in the Royal Family. You are superior, positionally, to anything that has ever or will ever walk on this earth. You are on the road to super grace.

1. There are many types of royalty and nobility.
In ancient times royalty played a very important role in human history. Royalty had great military power and they were also great intellectually. Like the Eupatridai of ancient Athens. These were some of the most brilliant men that ever lived in the field of administration. And like the Patricians of ancient Rome who also were amazingly brilliant. Like the Brahman Caste in India who ruled India for more than a thousand years and had people of amazing brilliance.
2. There were many families who left their impression on history.
One that comes to mind first is the Hohenzollern family founded by Frederick the first. Under them Germany was finally united in 1870. Also the Medici family of Florence, Italy during the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. They were famous bankers and great patrons of art and literature. The Hapsburg family first in Austria, then of Spain and then The Holy Roman Empire. The Romanov family of Russia that ruled Russia for over 300 years and furnished the Czars of Russia for these three centuries until Lenin took over and drove them from the throne.
3. There were great individuals who stood out above the crowd.
Men like Alexander The Great, or Gaius Julius Caesar, or Napoleon

Royalty was developed through ability. These were the people who rose above the ordinary and rose above the environment around them. In this study before us we are to study the nobility of Melchisedec and through this we will get a glimpse of the Royal Priesthood of Jesus Christ.

The World's Highest Royalty

When you were born again you walked into the greatest system of royalty the world has ever known. We have two chapters in the Bible that describe our royal state, the seventh chapter of Hebrews and the fourth chapter of Ephesians. Royalty is super grace. This royalty is designed to help the believer grow into the image God had in mind for him.

Royalty must have those elements that provide for royal living and this is the super grace life. Now whether believers enjoy the royal status provided for them in this life depends on their knowledge of doctrine. It also depends on their volition and their willingness to learn the content of the Mind Of Christ. Every believer should be characterized by these two things:

Royal blood in your veins.

Royal doctrine in your soul.

Doctrine will cause you to enjoy your blessings of royalty more than any other one thing. To enjoy the blessings of royalty you must be positive toward Bible doctrine.

Now Hebrews 7 has nothing to do with Hebrews 6. Beginning at Heb. 5:11 and running clear through Hebrews 6 we have a parenthesis, written to pull the believers of that day out of their reversionism. These verses actually say something about like this--"Look here! You are not acting like the Royalty you are supposed to be. Wake up! Come to realize who and what you are. You are acting like a skeleton in the closet of a great palace. Now come on out of the closet and start living in the royal palace like God designed for you all along."

Look at Hebrews 5:10 again--"Having been designated by God an High Priest according to the battalion of Melchisedec."

1. Those to whom Hebrews was originally addressed were believers living in Jerusalem in 67 A.D. just three years before the great destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman legion. This was the greatest catastrophe that had ever fallen on any nation in history.
2. This was the second administration of the 5th Cycle of Discipline to the Jews. The first administration of this discipline came in 586 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, and the second administration of discipline came in 70 A.D. when Rome came in and completely wiped them out, killing over a million Jews and taking 90,000 captive and burning The Temple.
3. At the time of the writing of Hebrews, believers in Jerusalem and Judah were mainly reversionistic. We saw this described in Hebrews 6. They were not ready for the message we will be studying in Hebrews 7.
4. The super grace life and the Royal Priesthood were not a challenge to them at all.
5. They did not join together the victory of Jesus Christ and the victory he designed for them to have. It never dawned on them that these two victories were designed to go together.
6. Spiritual growth and progress has always been hindered by reversionism.
7. The believers who received this message of Hebrews were being challenged to recover from reversionism. This challenge was presented to them in Hebrews 5:11 through 6:20.

Verses 19 and 20 of Hebrews describes the high position of this Royal Priestly condition.

There are Three Battalions of The Priesthood.

1. The Royal Priesthood

The illustration of this is Melchisedec, who was a King and a Priest. Jesus Christ is our Royal Priest. We are in union with Christ. Therefore, we are not only saved, but we are saved as ROYALTY. You can say right now of yourself--"I am royalty forever." You may not act like it or look like it, but you are. You have something that even the Old Testament saints didn't have.

(There is a super grace package with your name on it and you don't have to wait until you get to heaven in order to open it. It can be opened right here and now by taking in doctrine.)

2. The Levitical Priesthood.

This began with Aaron of the Tribe of Levi. This priesthood is now defunct.

3. The Family Priesthood.

This priesthood has also been deactivated. However, in a certain way, parents are commissioned to be as God to their children until they get old enough to go it on their own.

So, there is one priesthood that is active today and you are in it and it is a royal priesthood. The moment of salvation you were entered into union with Christ, who is the one true King Priest. Now most people don't know that or realize that. Jesus Christ in his deity is Sovereign forever. In his humanity he was born of the Tribe of Judah, the Royal tribe. He was born of the family of David, the Royal family and in his humanity, he was a King. But he is a King High Priest and he is therefore, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Do you really know who Jesus Christ is? (That was the big stumbling block for the Jews. They never realized who he really was.) In the moment of conversion the Holy Spirit baptizes us into union with Jesus Christ. It is a major tragedy that we have allowed the extreme Holy Spirit crowd, the deceptive ding-dong tongues crowd to rob us of this glory. They are emotional wrecks and at worst they are demon possessed. The tongues crowd is a Satanic attack on the Royal Priesthood of Jesus Christ. YOU WERE BORN INTO ROYALTY, The Holy Spirit indwells you and that is your badge of royalty. The Holy Spirit seals you and that is your security of royalty. The Holy Spirit gave you a spiritual gift and that's what we call being born with a gold spoon in your mouth. I would like for you to become NOBILITY CONSCIOUS.

Outline of Hebrews 7 is threefold

1. The superiority of the Melchisedec battalion. Verses 1-10
2. The inferiority of the Levitical battalion. Verses 11-19
(This battalion doesn't exist today.)
3. The superiority of the Royal Priesthood in the Church Age.
Verses 20-28

THE DOCTRINE OF THE PRIESTHOOD

1. DEFINITION.

A priest is a member of the human race, representing the human race to God. The priest is taken from the male population of the human race, never from angels. He must partake of the nature of the people for whom he acts, those for whom he officiates. He must be a bona fide member of the human race. Hebrews 5:1, 7:4-5 and verses 14 and 25. Hebrews 10:5 and Hebrews 10:10-14

2. THE SPHERE OF PRIESTLY FUNCTION.

The High Priest functions in the realm of spiritual things. Therefore, he is appointed for the benefit of man in spiritual things. From this you can see the advantage of being your own priest. By grace you come to understand super grace and are able to handle your own life before the Lord. You do not need help from anyone else. This means that your life is totally related to Bible Doctrine.

3. THE CATEGORIES OF THE PRIESTHOOD.

A. The Royal Priesthood.

Melchisedec is the pattern. Hebrews 7:1-3. He was both a king and a priest, without any emphasis on his origin, his birth certificate, his parents, or his death certificate. Melchisedec appeared to Abraham once to administer to him bread and wine. These are symbols of Christ's death on the cross. By way of contrast, the Levitical priests symbolized the cross with animal sacrifices. Animal sacrifices were discontinued when the Jewish Age was interrupted by the Church Age.

Symbols of the royal priesthood were bread and wine. The office of the Royal priesthood is not hereditary but perpetual. We are royal priests, but that does not mean our children will be royal priests. They will be when they are born again. (My son, Carl Gray Vaught, is a royal priest, not because he is my son but because he is born again.) You are born into the royal priesthood and once you are in it, you are there forever. It is perpetual.

The appointment to the royal priesthood is not related to your physical birth but rather to your new birth.

B. The Levitical Priesthood.

- a. The Levitical priesthood began with Aaron, the older brother of Moses.
- b. The concept of the administration of spiritual things by the Levitical priesthood is found in Numbers 16:5.
- c. This priesthood was perpetuated through heredity. Aaron in his natural line had four sons. Two of them were eliminated from the priesthood because of their rebellion and disobedience. They were anti-authority and their names were Nadab and Abihu. There were two other sons of Aaron, Ithamar and Eleazar. (Kohen means priest.)
- d. Physical defects in his person disqualified his functioning in the priestly line. Lev. 21:17-21 (But our priesthood in Christ does not depend on our physical perfection.)
- e. The Levites were financed by thirteen Levitical cities. Joshua 21:13-19
- f. In addition there was a special tithe given to the Levites for their support. Lev. 23:10

- g. Other support money came from the redemption fee paid for the redemption of the first-born. Numbers 18:16
 - h. The spiritual significance and power of the Levitical priesthood was great, but limited to shadows, pointing to the reality which was the cross.
- C. The Family Priesthood.
 Before the Levitical Priesthood there was the family priesthood. We saw this in Adam and Noah and Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.

JESUS CHRIST, THE ROYAL HIGH PRIEST

1. Jesus Christ is the Royal High Priest of the Church Age.
2. Jesus Christ fulfilled the first requirement of a royal high priest which is offerings--He offered himself on the cross for the sins of the world.
3. Every sin that has ever come from an old sin nature was poured out on Christ and judged. All human good was rejected by Christ.
4. From this offering of Christ came the first great victory of the Angelic Conflict--Resurrection, ascension, and session. Hebrews 10:4-14
5. Our Royal High Priest, Jesus Christ, was appointed Royal High Priest forever in the divine decrees. Hebrews 5:6
6. Christ was appointed to the first battalion, the Royal battalion, the battalion of Melchisedec. Hebrews 5:10
7. He was assigned to the Melchisedec order to show that it is superior to the Levitical order, the Kohen order.
8. He was appointed with two immutable things which we will study in Hebrews 7:21.

EVERY BELIEVER A ROYAL PRIEST

The Royal Priesthood of the Church Age includes every believer. Every believer will function in the Millennium and in Eternity as a royal priest. YOU ARE ROYALTY FOREVER. Your royalty is not based on your I.Q., or your ability or your faithfulness or your cleverness and it is not dependent on anything you have achieved or acquired. It is rather based on God's perfect plan and the death of Christ for us on the cross.

You are not just saved, you are in the Royal plan forever. 1 Peter 2:5, 1 Peter 2:9, Rev. 1:6, Rev. 5:10, Rev. 20:6

PURPOSE OF THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

The purpose of the Royal Priesthood in the life of the Christian is to reach super grace. It is God's objective to do this for you right here in the Devil's world. This is Romans 8:28 in action for you. God has your name on a super grace paragraph. The fact that God will keep the terms of this paragraph is based on the perfect character of God. Hebrews 6:17-20.

Our next study will survey the function of the Royal Priesthood.