



ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

When we study the Bible or listen to sermons, we come across Bible verses which we have read or heard many times before. They became so familiar, that we might even know them by heart. As we read them, or listen to them we tend to tune them out. They become clichés for us, and we do not contemplate over the practical meaning of them any more.

One of these verses for me was 1 Peter 2:9 “**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.**”

When I read this verse in the past I always thought of the fact that we are special to God, He has chosen us to be His special people, and I kind of glided over the part where He calls us royal priesthood. What does that phrase mean in practical terms? What does it mean that I am a royal priest? We don't have royalty living among us, so we can't relate it to personal experience. We probably read and heard enough about it to know that it is an honor and a privilege to be royalty and it is a position to be desired.

I looked up the synonyms of the word “priest” and found the following: cleric, pastor, minister, celebrant. The words pastor and minister bring the meaning of this verse closer to our time. The apostle Peter says that we all need to be pastors. What a privilege it is to be a royal priest -- an honored minister -- for the Lord, but that great honor is paired with responsibility.

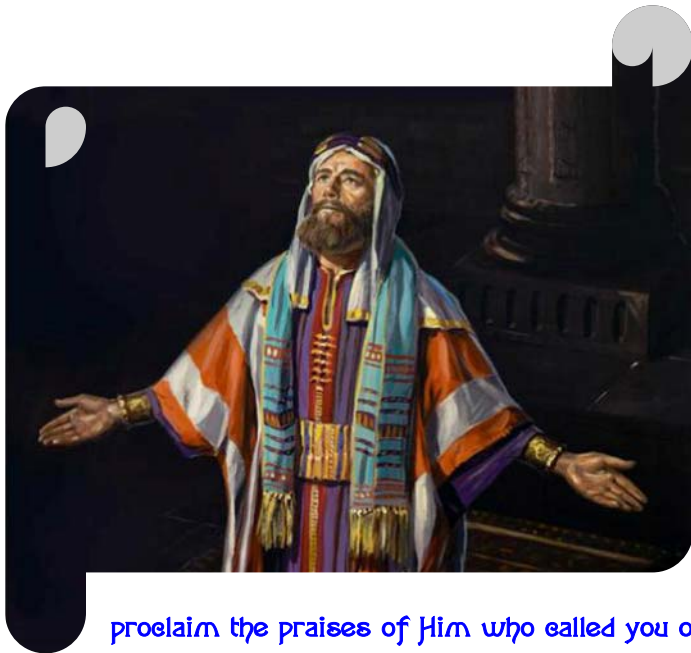
What responsibilities are included in the job description of a pastor? Among other things, a pastor is a teacher, a messenger, a mediator, he cares for souls, intercedes for people.

The Lord is waiting for His Royal Priests -- every member of His last day Church, i.e. you and I -- to do the work that is assigned to us. The world is ready -- the recent events in the Gulf of Mexico, prove that once again! As I was listening and watching the reports of the disaster in New Orleans and the reactions of the inhabitants of that city, feelings of anxiety came over me. This natural disaster brought out the worst in some people. This event is a foretaste of what we might have to face some day soon. I do not want to ever be in a situation like that, and I definitely do not want my children to live through circumstances like that. Let us all do what ever it takes to hasten Jesus' Return and cut short all the suffering.

The Lord is ready to receive us into His kingdom; Jesus is longing to be with us. He said: “**Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given me, be with me where I am.**” The mansions in Heaven are sitting there empty -- waiting to be occupied. The Lord is waiting for His royal priests to live up to their obligation. The Lord, through His prophet has given us detailed instructions as to how to fulfill this job -- please read the quotes entitled “Royal Priesthood”! Let us all earnestly pray for wisdom and strength in doing this job! The time of Jesus' return is in our hands. We can cut short the suffering, the pain, and the evil of this world.

Let us be anxious to get out of here and occupy a much better world!

Please take advantage of every witnessing opportunity that the Lord brings across your path!



Royal Priesthood

“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.” 1 Peter 2:9

“The Lord calls upon all who claim to have received Christ as their personal Savior, to obey the words, ‘If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’ ‘We are laborers together with God; you are God’s husbandry, you are God’s building.’ ‘You also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.’ ‘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.’”

Recreation -PG- 48

“The instruction Christ gave His disciples when He was among them **He gave for the encouragement of His followers to the end of time.** In His humanity He prayed for them. He prays for them still, as officiating high Priest within the veil. Abundant provision has been made that those who will seek God with the whole heart may find Him a present help in every time of need; for help has been laid on One that is mighty. Today He commissions His workers, ‘Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ God calls for living, acting, working men, men who from the first moments of their religious life will depend upon God and trust in Him who is the Head of the church. ‘You are a chosen generation,’ He says, ‘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.’ The Lord has a great work for His disciples to do, not in their own wisdom, but in the wisdom which He will give them. In every church we need Christ-like workers, those who in life and character are growing in the divine likeness by working to call sinners to repentance. **The spiritual life of the church can be kept alive only as the members make personal efforts to win souls to Christ.** No amount of mental culture or theological training will do this work. But it can be done by the soul who is humble and contrite, and imbued with the Spirit of God. The bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness must shine upon the heart of the worker and purify his life before light from the throne of God can come to those who sit in darkness.”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 12-20-1899

“The people of God have a high and holy calling. They are Christ's representatives. Paul address the church in Corinth as those who are ‘sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints.’ And he adds: ‘For we are laborers together with God; you are God’s husbandry, you are God’s building.’ ‘Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.’ Again he says to them: ‘What agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for you are the temple of the living God; as God had

said, I will dwell in them and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.’ To the saints at Ephesus he writes: ‘Now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone; 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.’ Says Peter, ‘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.’”

Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 05-06-1884

“Christ has said, ‘You shall be witnesses unto me.’ You are to hold forth the word of life, to let your light so shine before men that they, seeing your good works, may glorify your Father who is in heaven. The confession of the church, the declaration of the evidences of God's truth, love, faithfulness, and power, are chosen agencies of heaven to reveal Christ's pardoning love to the world. The testimonies of the people of God, when impressed by His Spirit, convict men of the sin of neglecting so great salvation. While men who are converted to God acknowledge His power through patriarchs and prophets, they have a more interesting testimony to bear concerning the miracles of the grace of Christ, the ever-living Savior, in their present and personal experiences. These precious acknowledgments of the goodness, forbearance, and love of God, when accompanied by a consistent life, carry with them an irresistible power, that results in the salvation of souls. Says the apostle, ‘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.’”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 02-19-1889

“Those who would have the character of Christ must practice His teachings. They must study the Pattern. Then they will reveal a Christ-like character in their association with one another, and their united influence will be exerted in helping to transform the character of others. They will drink in the sympathy of Jesus, and exercise the same forbearance, supporting, encouraging, and animating one another in the work, each being a vital member of the organized body, allied to Jesus, growing up into Christ, the living head, unto the full stature of men and women. Then they will shine as lights in the world, being of one judgment, moved by the same Spirit. They will be a distinct power in the world. The mighty cleaver of truth has detached us from the world, and placed us apart, a separate people. ‘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.’ Dwelling in the light of the Sun of Righteousness, we shall shine as lights in the world.”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 10-06-1891

“‘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.’ Christ has called you to be His followers, to imitate His life of self-sacrifice and self-denial, to be interested in the great work of the redemption of the fallen race. You have no just sense of the work that God requires you to perform. Christ is your pattern. That in which you are deficient is love. This pure and holy principle distinguishes the character and conduct of Christians from those of worldlings. Divine love has a powerful, purifying influence. It is to be found only in renewed hearts, and naturally flows out to their fellow men.”

Testimonies for the Church Volume Two -PG- 169

“Who are the subjects of the kingdom of God? -- all those who do His will. They have righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. The members of Christ's kingdom are the sons of God, partners in His great firm. The elect of God 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.’ They are the salt of the earth, the light of the world. They are living stones, a royal priesthood. They are in co-partnership with Jesus Christ. ‘These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. . . .’”

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers -PG- 422

“Surely, those who speak one to another of the goodness of the Lord are **highly privileged**. Peter exclaims, ‘**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.**’ We have rich themes for thought and conversation; and those who are subjects of the grace of God, upon whom the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness are shining, are to be God's witnesses. Should they hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. God will be glorified.”

Bible Echo and Signs of the Times -DT- 04-23-1894

“Prophets and apostles have clearly set forth the **exalted privilege** of that people whom the Lord has set apart to Himself, and through whom He would communicate to the world: ‘**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.**’”

Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 07-18-1882

“To know God is the most wonderful knowledge that men can have. There is much wisdom with worldly men; but with all their wisdom, they behold not the beauty and majesty, the justice and wisdom, the goodness and holiness, of the Creator of all worlds. The Lord walks among men by His providences; but His stately steps are not heard, His presence is not discerned, His hand is not recognized. The work of Christ's disciples is to shine as lights, making manifest to the world the character of God. **They are to catch the increasing rays of light from the word of God, and reflect them to men enshrouded in the darkness of misapprehension of God.** The servants of Christ must rightly represent the character of God and Christ to men. Says the apostle, ‘**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.**’”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 03-05-1889

“If these rules were observed, there would not be that constant strain after the things of the world that makes life a burden in its intensity; but in its place would be the rest and peace that comes of seeking first the **‘kingdom of God, and His righteousness.’** Many professed Christians seem to think that no effort on their part is needed in order to insure growth in grace, and as a consequence they are indolent and listless in spiritual things. But they are entertaining a mistaken view. They are called upon to be a peculiar people, a holy nation, a royal priesthood. God has opened to them the treasures of His word. Christ is to be made unto them wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption; and He would have them communicate the rich treasures of His grace to the world.”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 03-05-1885

“The grace of God, which, if received, leads to the practice of right things, is the line of demarcation between God's children and the multitude that believe not. While one is brought into captivity to Christ, another is brought into captivity and bondage to the prince of darkness. He who has responded to the drawing of Christ is aglow with His love. ‘**He shows forth the praises of Him who has called him out of darkness into His marvelous light.**’ He can not help employing his talent of speech to show forth the grace which has been so abundantly bestowed on him. He has enlisted in the army of those who strive to advance the glory of God, and has thus become a channel of light. Willing and obedient, he is one of the number who are called by inspiration, ‘**a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people.**’”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 09-22-1898

“‘**Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**’ When the heart has a deep longing for God, when the mind contemplates the goodness and the loving kindness of God, when the soul hopes and trusts in the Lord, the Holy Spirit will be as a comforter to the soul. Jesus says, ‘**If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**’ ‘**Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how you ought to answer every man.**’ Shall we be obedient to these inspired words that come sounding down the line to our time? The purpose to which we are called

is an exalted one. Peter says, '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.' How can you show forth His praises? -- By the words that you utter. You can speak in such a way as to bless others, -- to be a savor of life unto life in working the works of righteousness. 'Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evil doers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.'"

The Youth's Instructor -DT- 07-18-1895

"Thus you will reveal the grace of God in your character. You need to feel that in your ministry to the sick you are representing Jesus. '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.' Bear in mind that God is your Guide, your Comforter. What a vineyard you have in which to work! What a field for action! The Lord guides and cheers the humble, meek, and lowly workers as He cheered Moses in his work. In the commonest duties of life we may ask God for wisdom for the work to be done. If the worker receives his commission from God, he will be strengthened and blessed. Dangerous temptations will assail you one every side, but ask of God, as did Moses, for His presence and guidance. The Lord said to Moses, 'Certainly I will be with thee.' This same assurance is given to every humble, consecrated worker. Let every student, every helper, bear in mind that he is to be daily a living epistle of truth and righteousness. Remember that you are not your own, but are bought with a price, even the precious blood of the Son of God. **To all with whom you come in contact you are to reveal that you are the trophies of the grace of Christ, His living instruments to glorify His name.**"

Health, Philanthropic, and Medical Missionary Work -PG- 12-13

"Who are the subjects of the kingdom of God? All those who do His will. They have righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. The members of Christ's kingdom are the sons of God, **partners in His great firm**. The elect of God are a chosen generation, a peculiar people, a holy nation, to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. They are the salt of the earth, the light of the world. They are living stones, a royal priesthood. They are in **co-partnership** with Jesus Christ. 'These are they that follow the Lamb wherever He goes.'"

Manuscript Releases Volume Twenty -PG- 114

"The Lord has blessed many of you of late. What reason did you assign for this enlightenment? Did you think that God had blessed you simply that you might sit down and be happy, while others were left to perish for the want of the knowledge and experience that you have obtained through the mercy and forbearance of God? Were you willing to be content and gratified that you had received so rich a blessing? The Holy Spirit was imparted to you in order that you might become agents by which God could communicate that blessing to others. Every true believer is a light that will shine amid the moral darkness of the world. 'Nor do they light a lamp, and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven.' '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.' 'You are the salt of the earth: but if the salt loses its flavor [it will not communicate its saving qualities,] how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out, and trampled under foot by men.' **The religion that does not reveal itself in good works, in true righteousness and goodness, in saving the souls of poor sinners, is of no value in the estimation of God, and it will not save the souls of those who possess it.**"

Advent Review & Sabbath Herald 12-12-1893



“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.”



“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.”



“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.”

“The Lord has blessed many of you of late. What reason did you assign for this enlightenment? Did you think that God had blessed you simply that you might sit down and be happy, while others were left to perish for the want of the knowledge and experience that you have obtained through the mercy and forbearance of God? Were you willing to be content and gratified that you had received so rich a blessing? The Holy Spirit was imparted to you in order that you might become agents by which God could communicate that blessing to others. Every true believer is a light that will shine amid the moral darkness of the world. ‘Nor do they light a lamp, and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven.’ ‘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.’ ‘You are the salt of the earth: but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out, and trampled under foot by men.’ **The religion that does not reveal itself in good works, in true righteousness and goodness, in saving the souls of poor sinners, is of no value in the estimation of God, and it will not save the souls of those who possess it.”**

Advent Review & Sabbath Herald 12-12-1893

HastenHisComing.com or UmatillaSDA.com

ET

“The Lord has blessed many of you of late. What reason did you assign for this enlightenment? Did you think that God had blessed you simply that you might sit down and be happy, while others were left to perish for the want of the knowledge and experience that you have obtained through the mercy and forbearance of God? Were you willing to be content and gratified that you had received so rich a blessing? The Holy Spirit was imparted to you in order that you might become agents by which God could communicate that blessing to others. Every true believer is a light that will shine amid the moral darkness of the world. ‘Nor do they light a lamp, and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven.’ ‘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.’ ‘You are the salt of the earth: but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out, and trampled under foot by men.’ **The religion that does not reveal itself in good works, in true righteousness and goodness, in saving the souls of poor sinners, is of no value in the estimation of God, and it will not save the souls of those who possess it.”**

Advent Review & Sabbath Herald 12-12-1893

HastenHisComing.com or UmatillaSDA.com

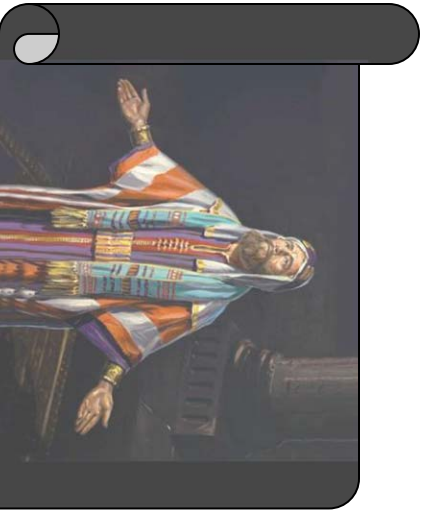
ET

“The Lord has blessed many of you of late. What reason did you assign for this enlightenment? Did you think that God had blessed you simply that you might sit down and be happy, while others were left to perish for the want of the knowledge and experience that you have obtained through the mercy and forbearance of God? Were you willing to be content and gratified that you had received so rich a blessing? The Holy Spirit was imparted to you in order that you might become agents by which God could communicate that blessing to others. Every true believer is a light that will shine amid the moral darkness of the world. ‘Nor do they light a lamp, and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven.’ ‘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.’ ‘You are the salt of the earth: but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out, and trampled under foot by men.’ **The religion that does not reveal itself in good works, in true righteousness and goodness, in saving the souls of poor sinners, is of no value in the estimation of God, and it will not save the souls of those who possess it.”**

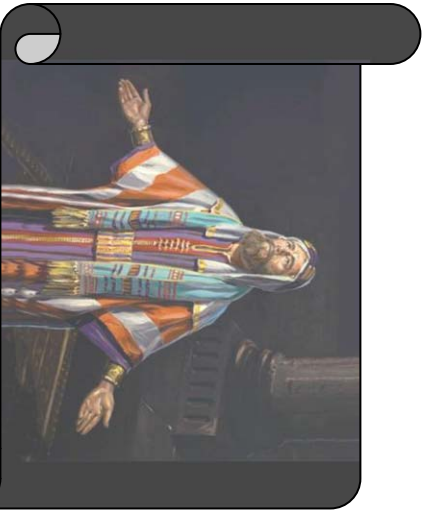
Advent Review & Sabbath Herald 12-12-1893

HastenHisComing.com or UmatillaSDA.com

ET



Royal Priesthood



Royal Priesthood

Directions:

- ❖ Print page 1 on 24lb white paper.
- ❖ Print pages 2 - 5 back to back on white paper
- ❖ Print pages 6 & 7 back to back on white cardstock (67lb or heavier)
- ❖ Print page 8 or 9 on a 4.25" x 9.5" envelope (depending on the type of printer you have, page 8 if envelope loads on the right side of the printer, or page 9 if printer loads envelope in the center)
- ❖ Fold appeal in 3 even sections (Z-fold artwork out on top section)
- ❖ Fold set of quotes in 3 even sections (Z-fold artwork out on top section)
- ❖ Cut bookmarks (pages 6 & 7)
- ❖ Place 1 appeal, 1 set of quotes, and 1 bookmark in each envelope.