

The Church – the Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation

- I. *God's own special treasure (Deut. 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Psa. 135:4; Matt. 13:44)*
- II. *A kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exod. 19:6; Isa. 61:6; 1Pet. 2:5-9; Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10; 2:26-27; 3:21; 12:4-6; 20:4; Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Psa. 149)*
- III. *A spiritual house built up with living stones with Christ as the Cornerstone*
 - A. The house of the living God – a holy temple in the Lord (1 Cor. 3:16-17; Psa. 93:5; Exo. 26:33)
 - B. How to conduct oneself in the house of God (2 Tim. 3:15)
 1. To be holy as God is holy (1 Pet. 1:14-16) – perfect as the Father is perfect
 - a. God's divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4)
 - b. He dwells in His holy mountain (Psa. 48:1)
 - c. He sits on His holy throne, reigning over the nations (Psa. 47:8)
 - d. His way is a "highway of holiness" (Isa. 35:8)
 2. The believers are called "saints" (1 Cor. 1:2)
 - a. Putting off the old man and putting on the new man (Eph. 4:22-24)
 - b. Pursuing peace and holiness (Heb. 12:10, 14).
 - c. Serving in holiness and righteousness (Luk. 1:74-75; Rom. 6:19b, 22)
 - d. Perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1; 6:14-18)
 3. Christ desires to present to Himself a glorious church – holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:25-27)
 - C. The daily sacrifice offered in the temple (Exo. 29:37-42; Num. 28:3-8)
 1. The fire of the burnt offering altar should never go out (Lev. 6:9-12)
 2. Reminding the priests that the temple belongs to God and is for God

3. The Jews turned the temple into a den of thieves and a house of merchandise (Jer. 7:11; Mat. 21:13; Joh. 2:13-17)

IV. A holy and royal priesthood –

- A. To offer up Christ as spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God the Father
- B. To worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness (1 Chron. 16:29; Psa. 29:2; 96:9)

V. The garments (Exo. 28) and the consecration of the priests (Exo. 29:1-34)

VI. The true worship in the word of God – the 7 feasts and the 7 offerings

- A. The feasts are prepared by God in and through Christ for our enjoyment and experience
- B. The offerings are prepared by us through our daily experience of Christ to offer up to God as His food (Num. 28:2)
- C. The Lord's table
 1. The first part is for the remembering of the Lord with the partaking of the bread and the cup of blessing
 2. The second part is for the worship of the Father with the offerings brought by the saints