

KINGS AND PRIESTS -THE ENEMY CRUSHED

INTRODUCTION

Speak about preparing a message about the "Priest", and then the Lord giving something new yesterday morning.

Has it to do with Kings & Priests? Yes. In our position as God's royal nation, we are called to reign. Kings reign:

- They have authority and power because of their position.
- They rule over their subjects.
- They prosper and enjoy great favour.

Priests on the other hand:

- Worship God, they have a deeper relationship with God.
- Carried the ark on their shoulders – they lifted it up. Jesus said, " If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me."
- Are God's ambassadors, representing Him to the people and bringing the people before Him.
- They are able to pray and see people healed, delivered and set free. This is much as Jesus did as He walked on the earth.

We **become** part of this kingdom of priests when we give our hearts to the Lord and we **remain** part of this kingdom as we learn to put God first in our lives, live in obedience to Him and honour His name.

Psalm 91 speaks about such people and I want to share a little around what I learned in my quiet time yesterday morning.

MESSAGE

Psalm 91:1,9-16(NLT) 1 Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

9 If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter,
10 no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. 11 For He will order His angels to protect you wherever you go. 12 They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone. 13 You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet! 14 The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love Me. I will protect those who trust in My name. 15 When they call on Me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honour them. 16 I will reward them with a long life and give them My salvation."

This Psalm speaks of a number of commitments from God which follow certain actions and attitudes of our own:

- Vs. 1 Those who live in the shelter of the Most High...We need to be living in His presence, under His shelter – it is as it were that we are living in His spiritual House.
- Vs. 9 If we make Him our refuge, our hiding place.
- Vs. 14 If we love Him – “I will rescue those who love me”.
- Vs.14 If we trust Him – “I will protect those who trust in My name.”
- Vs. 15 If we call on His name (If we know His name) – He will answer us and be with us in trouble. Not only that, but He will honour us, reward us with long life and eternal life (salvation).

When we live as royal priests, all those if’s will be natural attributes of our lives – We don’t serve a God who wants to beat us and harm us! He loves us and wants to bless us!

CRUSHED UNDER OUR FEET

Psalm 91:13 You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!

- Lions and cobra’s refer to our enemies – not only physical, but spiritual.
- The enemy wanders around “like” a roaring lion seeking who he can devour.”
- In Luke 10:19 snakes and scorpions represent demons and demonic forces.
- We will trample on, and crush the enemy’s forces!

Luke 10:19-20(NLT) Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and **crush them**. Nothing will injure you. 20 But don’t rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.”

- There’s that word again – the enemy and His forces are crushed under our feet.
- **Ps. 91** - “These evils will not touch you”
- Jesus said – “don’t rejoice, don’t get all excited about that, there’s something more important – (you are My Kings & Priests), your names are written in heaven!”
- In other words, this crushing of the enemy under your feet should be an everyday thing – a common thing. There are more important things than that.

WATCH OUT FOR DECEPTION

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly

Matthew 24:24 (NKJV) For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

- In the end times, strong deception will come!

- Speak about the twisted grace message – it is made to sound so right, but there are subtle differences from the true word of God.

Romans 16:17-20 (NLT) And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith **by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught**. Stay away from them. 18 Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. **By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people**. 19 But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to **be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong**. 20 The God of peace will soon **crush Satan under your feet**. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Paul warned about this deception:

- By people not serving the Lord.
- By people serving their own personal interests.
- They use smooth talk and glowing words.

This deception is:

- convincing,
- it seems right,
- but' it's wrong doctrine.
- It can cause division in the church.

As kings and priests, we are not like that:

- We are obedient to the Lord.
- We must be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong.

If we do this (as kings & priests), God won't leave us exposed to this deception – as we continue in obedient serving of God and not our own personal interests, we will see through the deception and here's the promise:

- The God of peace will bring peace, silence the deception, and soon he will **crush Satan under your feet**.

VICTORY IN REJOICING

For some today, the enemy has been buffeting you, whether it be through attack against your health, your life, your family or your finances. It may even be through strong deception. It is as though the enemy has you cornered, trapped, captive and you can't get out – you are possibly at your wit's end...

The encouragement this morning is to carefully guard the attributes in your lives that enable you to live victorious blessed lives as royal kingdom priests, God's own special people.

This the key:

- Live in the Lord's presence, under His shelter take refuge, in His hiding place.
- Love Him.
- Trust Him.
- Call on His name.
- Be obedient to the Lord and His word.
- Be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong.

And here is God's word to you for today:

Malachi 4:2-3(NLT) "But for you who fear my name, the Sun of righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture. 3 On the day when I act, you will tread upon the wicked as if they were dust under your feet," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

- A calf loves to play, it's happy, it skips about.
- So do other baby animals and humans.
- When it's time to be closed up in the stall at night, that's the last thing that calves want to do – the stall is being trapped, restricted, not having fun, not having joy.
- That's what the enemy wants to do to us – He wants us in the stall! He wants us to be held captive, he wants to rob us of our joy.

But God wants to open that stall door this morning – He wants us to have joy, He wants us to have victory, He wants us to skip about with rejoicing.

- He is opening the door.
- His Sun is rising upon us.
- Righteousness – our priesthood and kingship is rising.
- Healing is ours – it's found under the shelter of His wings. **Ps 91:4** He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with His wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection.

As we come out and start skipping, our joy will do something else... with each joyful step, the enemy is being crushed under our feet – our rejoicing is his defeat!

- As ash is stepped on, it becomes very fine, it dissolves away into the ground.
- In the same way, when we take up our role as kings and priests, the enemy will be crushed under our feet. What seemed to be a whole pile of trouble will dissolve and become unrecognizable.

Let us get up on our feet and start dancing today!