

Message Twelve

A Kingdom of Priests

MC Hymns 848, 911

Scripture Reading: Exo. 19:4-6a; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10

Exo 19:4	You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.
Exo 19:5	Now therefore if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure from among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine.
Exo 19:6a	And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. ...
1 Pet 2:5	You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
1 Pet 2:9	But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
Rev 1:6	And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
Rev 5:10	And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.

I. “You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests”—Exo. 19:6a:

- A. God chose the Israelites to be a kingdom of priests; He wanted the whole nation to be priests, and His salvation was to obtain a kingdom of priests—v. 4:

Exo 19:4 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

1. The Lord brought the children of Israel out of Egypt in order to make them a kingdom of priests, a kingdom in which everyone would be a priest, one who serves God; hence, God's goal was to have a priestly nation—v. 6a:

Exo 19:6a And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. ...

- a. This nation was to be different from all other nations on earth, for all the people of this nation would be priests—those who live solely for God's interests and serve Him.
 - b. Every person in the nation would have one unique occupation—serving God.
2. The priests wait on God and follow God, and their job is to serve God; the whole nation of Israel was to be a nation of priests serving God; everyone in this kingdom was to serve God alone—v. 6a; Rom. 1:9.

Exo 19:6a And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. ...

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

- B. What is depicted in the Old Testament is merely a picture; in the New Testament we have the reality—1 Pet. 2:5, 9:

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1. God's intention toward the church today is for everyone to be a priest; we are a kingdom of priests—Rev. 5:10.

Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.

2. The Lord Jesus, the Priest, brought us into the priesthood through His redemption, and the whole church should now be the priesthood—1:5-6.

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

Rev 1:6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

3. All the saved ones are called to be priests; as to our person, we are sons of God (Eph. 1:5; Heb. 2:10), and as to our spiritual occupation, we are priests of God (Rev. 1:6; 5:10).

Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

- Rev 1:6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
- Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
4. Since we are priests, we should be serving God all day long in whatever we do—Rom. 1:9.
- Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

II. In order to realize what a priest is, we need to see God's eternal plan—Eph. 3:11; Gen. 1:26:

- Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- A. God's plan is to work Himself into a group of people in order that He might be their life and that they might be His expression—Eph. 3:16-17a, 21; Col. 3:4.
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.
Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- B. From the beginning to the end of the Bible, God wants to gain a priesthood; all the glorious things in the Bible are related to the priesthood—Rev. 21:11; 22:3b.
- Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
Rev 22:3b ... And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;
- C. Man was destined and created to receive God, to be filled, saturated, and permeated with God, and to have God flow out of him so that he might be a living expression of God; this is a brief definition of a priest.

III. As one who serves God continually, a priest is a particular kind of person:

- A. A priest is a person who serves God by enjoying God in Christ—Rom. 1:9; Gal. 5:22.
- Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- B. A priest is a person who serves God through Christ as the reality of the offerings—1 Pet. 2:5.
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- C. A genuine priest of God is one who serves God with Christ, through Christ, and by Christ—Phil. 1:8; Col. 1:27-28; 2:9-10.
- Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.
Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;
Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
Col 2:10 And you have been made full in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.
- D. A priest is a person who enjoys Christ—Phil. 3:1; Eph. 3:8.
- Phil 3:1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, for me it is not irksome, but for you it is safe.
Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- E. A priest is a person who lives by Christ; his eating, clothing, and dwelling are Christ—John 6:57b; Gal. 3:27; John 15:4.
- John 6:57b ... so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
Gal 3:27 For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

- F. A priest is a person who contacts God in the mingling with God—1 Cor. 6:17.
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- G. A priest is one who is absolutely and thoroughly mingled with God—John 14:20.
John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- H. A priest is one who becomes a part of God's dwelling, God's house—1 Pet. 2:5.
1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- I. A priest is a person who bears the testimony of God—Rev. 1:2, 9.
Rev 1:2 Who testified the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, even all that he saw.
Rev 1:9 I John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
- J. A priest is a person who ministers Christ to others—Rom. 15:16; 2 Cor. 4:5.
Rom 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.
2 Cor 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
- K. A priest is one who brings man into fellowship with God and brings God into fellowship with man—1 John 1:3.
1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
- L. A priest is a person who builds up the dwelling place of God—Eph. 2:21-22.
Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- M. A priest is a person who is a laboring priest of the gospel of God—Rom. 15:16.
Rom 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

IV. To be a priest is not mainly to do something for the Lord but to be taken over by Him—Eph. 3:17a:

- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- A. The main function of a priest is not to work but to spend time in the presence of the Lord until he is one with Him in spirit—2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Cor. 6:17.
2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- B. The Lord's intention is for us to open ourselves to Him and let Him come into us to fill us, saturate us, and be one with us; then He will do something through us, and whatever He does will flow out of Himself—Rev. 22:1-2.
Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- C. The priesthood that God desires to have is a corporate man who is saturated and permeated with Himself—Eph. 3:17a; 4:23-24; 5:18b:
Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
Eph 5:18b ... but be filled in spirit,
1. If we are saturated and permeated with the glory of the Lord, we will be one with Him and one with one another in Him—2 Cor. 3:18; John 17:22, 24.
2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
John 17:24 Father, concerning that which You have given Me, I desire that they also may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

2. If we realize the desire of God's heart, we will be fully open to Him so that He may flood us with Himself—Eph. 1:5, 9; 3:17a.
 - Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
 - Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
 - Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
3. All Christian work and service must issue out of this priesthood—Acts 13:1-2.
 - Acts 13:1 Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
 - Acts 13:2 And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.

V. As a kingdom of priests, we are both a holy priesthood and a royal priesthood—

Rev. 5:10; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9:

- Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

A. The holy priesthood is typified by the order of Aaron, and the royal priesthood is typified by the order of Melchizedek—Exo. 29:1, 4; Gen. 14:18; Heb. 2:17; 6:20.

- Exo 29:1 And this is what you shall do to them to sanctify them to serve Me as priests: take one bull of the herd and two rams without blemish,
- Exo 29:4 And you shall bring Aaron and his sons near to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and wash them with water.
- Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine. Now he was priest of God the Most High.
- Heb 2:17 Hence He should have been made like His brothers in all things that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
- Heb 6:20 Where the Forerunner, Jesus, has entered for us, having become forever a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedec.

B. The order of Aaron is the holy order—1 Pet. 2:5:

- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1. To be holy is to be separated from the worldly things unto God—1:16.
 - 1 Pet 1:16 Because it is written, "You shall be holy because I am holy."
- 2. The holy order is an order separated from common things unto the divine things and unto the use of the Lord.
- 3. The holy priests are those who are separated to go to God to represent God's people—2:5.
 - 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

C. The order of Melchizedek is the royal order—v. 9; Gen. 14:18:

- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine. Now he was priest of God the Most High.
- 1. Melchizedek was a king, and he was a kingly priest—Heb. 7:1.
 - Heb 7:1 For this Melchizedec, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,
- 2. The kingly priests come from God to care for God's people, just as Melchizedek came from God to meet Abraham to minister bread and wine to him—Gen. 14:18-19.
 - Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine. Now he was priest of God the Most High.
 - Gen 14:19 And he blessed him and said, Blessed be Abram of God the Most High, / Possessor of heaven and earth;

- D. On the one hand, we are the holy priests, going to God to represent God's people; on the other hand, we are the royal priests, coming from God to the people to represent God—1 Pet. 2:5, 9:
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
1. The holy priesthood offers spiritual sacrifices to God (v. 5), and the kingly priesthood tells out the virtues of God (v. 9).

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
 2. The holy priests offer something to God for the sake of the people, and the royal priests declare the things of God to people.
 3. We are the holy priests and the kingly priests, going and coming in two directions.

VI. The building of God's house is related to the priesthood and depends on the priesthood—Exo. 19:6a; 25:8-9; Zech. 6:12-13; 1 Pet. 2:5:

- Exo 19:6a And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. ...
- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
- Exo 25:9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it.
- Zech 6:12 And speak to him, saying, Thus speaks Jehovah of hosts, saying, Here is a man, whose name is the Shoot; and he will shoot forth from his place and will build the temple of Jehovah.
- Zech 6:13 Indeed, it is He who will build the temple of Jehovah; and He will bear majesty and will sit and rule on his throne; and He will be a priest on his throne; and the counsel of peace will be between the two of them.
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- A. The building of God as the dwelling place of God is the priesthood; the holy priesthood is the spiritual house—Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
 - B. The priesthood upholds the building of the church; without the priesthood it is impossible to build up the church.
 - C. The building of the church depends on whether or not the saints will bear the priesthood before God—Heb. 3:6; 6:20; 7:26; 8:1; 10:19.

Heb 3:6 But Christ was faithful as a Son over His house, whose house we are if indeed we hold fast the boldness and the boast of hope firm to the end.

Heb 6:20 Where the Forerunner, Jesus, has entered for us, having become forever a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedec.

Heb 7:26 For such a High Priest was also fitting to us, holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners and having become higher than the heavens,

Heb 8:1 Now in the things which are being said the chief point is this: We have such a High Priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,
 - D. If we are willing to come forward to God, fellowship with God, live before God, and allow God to flow through us, we will enjoy the riches of Christ and express the glory of Christ in a full way; in this way we will bear the testimony of the church, and the building of the church will be realized among us— 11:6; 1 John 1:3; Eph. 3:8; 2:21-22.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to Him, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

- Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- E. In order to recover the building of God, God must first recover the priesthood—Ezra 1:1-4; 7:1-7.
- Ezra 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus the king of Persia, so that the word of Jehovah by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, Jehovah stirred up the spirit of Cyrus the king of Persia; and he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and put it also in writing, saying,
- Ezra 1:2 Thus says Cyrus the king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth has Jehovah the God of heaven given to me; and He has charged me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.
- Ezra 1:3 Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him; and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and let him build the house of Jehovah the God of Israel—He is God—who is in Jerusalem.
- Ezra 1:4 And everyone who is left, in whatever place he sojourns, let the men of his place support him with silver and with gold and with goods and with cattle, besides the freewill offering for the house of God, which is in Jerusalem.
- Ezra 7:1 Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,
- Ezra 7:2 The son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,
- Ezra 7:3 The son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,
- Ezra 7:4 The son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,
- Ezra 7:5 The son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest;
- Ezra 7:6 This Ezra went up from Babylon, and he was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which Jehovah the God of Israel had given; and the king granted him all his request according to the hand of Jehovah his God upon him.
- Ezra 7:7 Some of the children of Israel and some of the priests, and the Levites and the singers and the gatekeepers and the temple servants also went up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.

VII. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the priesthood— Zech. 3:1-5; 6:12-13; Hag. 1:8, 12, 14:

- Zech 3:1 Then He showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of Jehovah and Satan standing at his right hand to be his adversary.
- Zech 3:2 And Jehovah said to Satan, Jehovah rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, Jehovah, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?
- Zech 3:3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and was standing before the Angel.
- Zech 3:4 And He answered and spoke to those standing before Him, saying, Remove the filthy garments from him. Then He said to him, See, I hereby make your iniquity pass from you and clothe you with stately robes.
- Zech 3:5 And He said, Let them put a clean turban upon his head. And they put the clean turban upon his head and clothed him with garments while the Angel of Jehovah stood by.
- Zech 6:12 And speak to him, saying, Thus speaks Jehovah of hosts, saying, Here is a man, whose name is the Shoot; and he will shoot forth from his place and will build the temple of Jehovah.
- Zech 6:13 Indeed, it is He who will build the temple of Jehovah; and He will bear majesty and will sit and rule on his throne; and He will be a priest on his throne; and the counsel of peace will be between the two of them.
- Hag 1:8 Go up to the mountain and bring wood and build the house, and I will take pleasure in it and will be glorified, says Jehovah.
- Hag 1:12 And Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all the remnant of the people listened to the voice of Jehovah their God and to the words of Haggai the prophet, as Jehovah their God had sent him; and the people were in fear before Jehovah.
- Hag 1:14 And Jehovah stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of Jehovah of hosts their God,
- A. What the Lord needs today is a group of people who are brought into His presence and even into the Lord Himself until they are one with Him—Heb. 10:19; 2 Cor. 3:18; John 17:22, 24.
- Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,
- 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;

John 17:24 Father, concerning that which You have given Me, I desire that they also may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

B. When the Lord has such a priesthood—a kingdom of priests— He will have the freedom to flow out and work out His will for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose—Eph. 1:5, 9, 11; Phil. 2:13; Rev. 4:11.

Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,

Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

Rev 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.