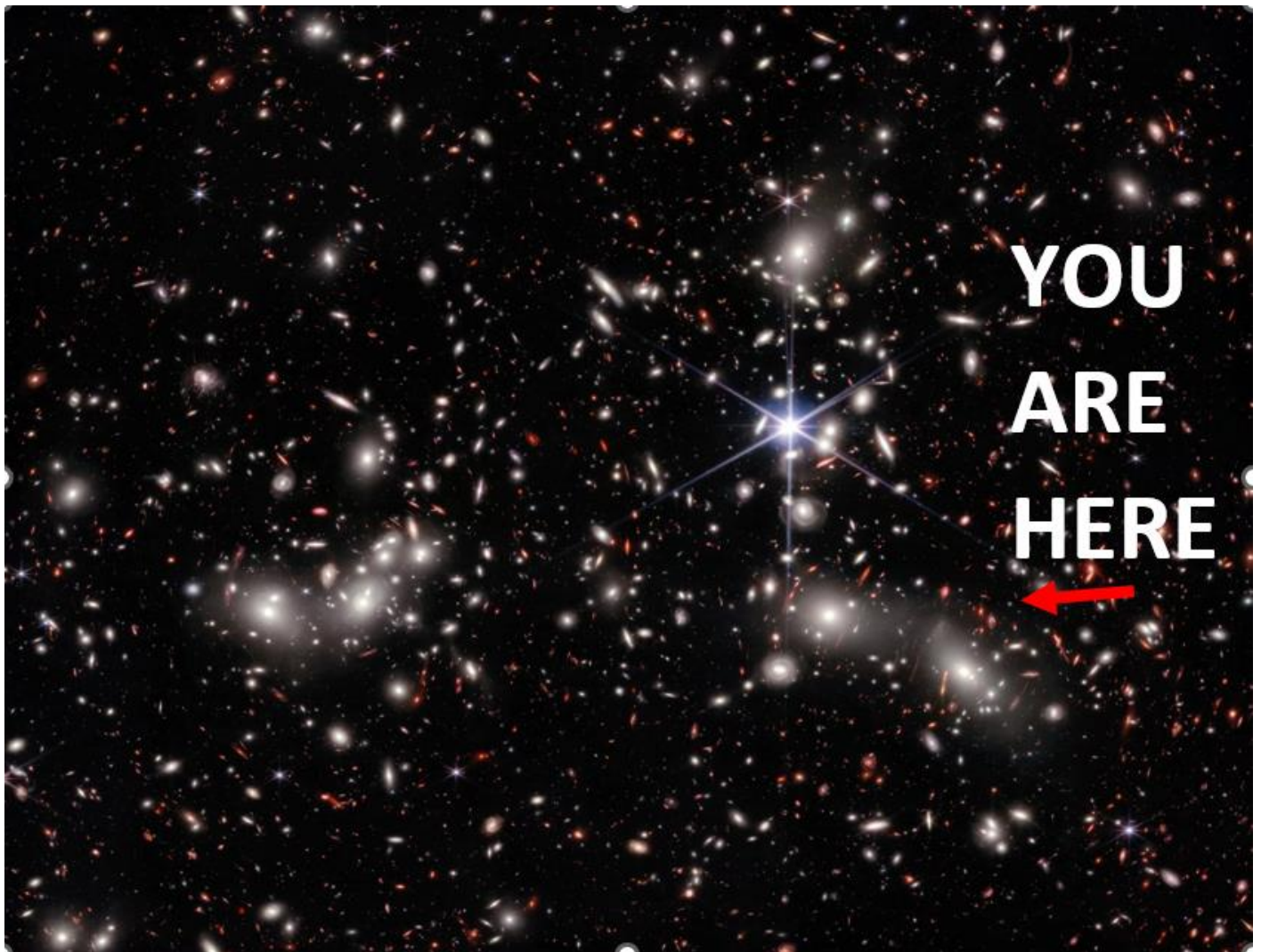


To the Servants of the Most High God at Topeka, Kansas, Sunday, March 3, 2024

**Balaam and the Blessed People, a Chosen Generation, a Royal Priesthood –
Part 3**

Before I continue to part three of my coverage of Balaam and God’s blessings of Israel, I want to cover some preliminary matters that impact this verse. I want to set the stage for you.

- *The Attributes of God*, Arthur Pink



Astronomers believe there are between 100 and 200 billion galaxies in the observable universe (defined as a sphere with a diameter of 92 billion light years and a volume of 410 nonillion [410 thousand billion billion billion] cubic light years), but some believe the number is infinite. The Milky Way is said to have 100 billion or more stars.

No.	Attribute	Short Explanation
1.	THE SOLITARINESS OF GOD	<i>In the beginning God... (Gen. 1:1). De. 32:39 See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with me... (De. 32:39). In all eternity past God was alone: self-contained, self-sufficient, self-satisfied; in need of nothing. God was under no constraint, no obligation, no necessity to create. God's creations add nothing to Him.</i>
2.	THE DECREES OF GOD	<i>The decrees of God relate to all things without exception. Whatever is done in time was foreordained by God before time began. God's purpose is concerned with everything. God... predestinated according to the purpose of Him... and worketh all things after the counsel of His own will. Eph. 1:11.</i>
3.	THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD	<i>God is omniscient. God knows everything: everything possible, everything actual; all events and all creatures, of the past, present and future. He is perfectly acquainted with every detail in the life of every being in heaven, in earth and in hell. All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do (Heb. 4:13). Nothing escapes His notice or is forgotten by Him, ever (except the sins of His elect people). Psalm 103:12.</i>
4.	THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD	<i>God delivered by His sovereign decree, His Son, by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God (Acts 2:23). God foreknows what <i>will be</i> because He ordered and decreed what <i>shall be</i>. God not only knew the end from the beginning but He planned, fixed, and predestinated EVERYTHING from the beginning.</i>
5.	THE SUPREMACY OF GOD	<i>God is the Supreme Sovereign. He is absolutely and universally LORD of all. His will prevails and no other. A "god" whose will is resisted, whose designs are frustrated, whose purpose is checkmated, or whose will has ambiguity, possesses no title to Deity, and so far from being</i>

		<p>a fit object to worship, merits nought but contempt. All that God designs He does. All He decrees, He performs. Infinite distance and elevation separate the mightiest of His creatures from the unassailable LORD OF ALL. Eight times, the scripture says: "...the LORD hath spoken it." "I have spoken."</p>
6.	<p>THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD</p>	<p>God is subject to none, influenced by none and absolutely independent. God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, and always as He pleases. None can thwart Him and none can hinder Him. <i>My counsel shall stand and I will do all my pleasure (Isaiah 46:10)</i>. He sits on the Throne of the Universe and directs and worketh all things. Isaac Watts:</p> <p><i>Keep silence, all created things, And wait your Maker's nod! My soul stands trembling while she sings The honors of her God.</i></p> <p><i>Life, death, and hell, and worlds unknown Hang on His firm decree; He sits on no precarious throne, Nor borrows leave to be.</i></p>
7.	<p>THE IMMUTABILITY OF GOD</p>	<p>God is perpetually the same; subject to no change in His being, attributes or determinations. God has no beginning and no ending so He can know not change. He is <i>the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James 1:17)</i>. He is immutable in His essence. His being and nature are infinite. There never was a time He was not; there never will come a time when He will cease to be. God has neither evolved, grown, nor improved. All that He is today, He has always been and will forever be. <i>Mal 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.</i></p>

8.	THE HOLINESS OF GOD	God is independently, infinitely and immutably holy. The sum of all moral excellency is found in Him. He is absolutely pure in all things. Holiness is the very excellency of the Divine nature. The Great God is <i>glorious in holiness</i> (Ex. 15:11). Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come (Rev. 4:8). Holiness is the beauty of all God's attributes. <i>Be ye holy; for I am holy</i> 1Pet. 1:16).
9.	THE POWER OF GOD	God is the source of all power in the universe. His power is infinite, absolute, eternal, incomprehensible, and which has no restraint. He who cannot do what he will and perform all his pleasure cannot be God. Power is that which gives life and action to all the perfections of the Divine nature. God's power cannot be checked, restrained nor frustrated by the creature. <i>He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest thou?</i> Dan. 4:35
10.	THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD	<i>Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the Faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations</i> (Deut. 7:9). <i>If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful...</i> (2 Tim 2:13). God never forgets, never fails, never falters, never forfeits His Word. God's character is as such that it is impossible for Him to lie (that is what Satan does, but not God). <i>God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?</i> (Num. 23:19). God is True. His Word of Promise is sure. He IS TRUSTWORTHY, and none other. ... Let God be true, but every man a liar (Rom. 3:4).
11.	THE GOODNESS OF GOD	God is not only the Greatest of all beings, but the best. All the goodness there is in any creature

		<p>has been imparted from the Creator. God's goodness is the essence of his eternal nature. <i>The goodness of God endureth continually (Psalm 52:1).</i> There is an absolute perfection in God's nature. There is nothing wanting or defective in it and nothing can be added to make it better. The goodness of God appeared most illustrious when He sent His own Son to die for the sins of His people to redeem them that had no possibility of a savior otherwise. <i>And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God (Mark 10:18).</i></p>
12.	THE PATIENCE OF GOD	<p><i>Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus (Rom. 15:5).</i> What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction (Rom. 9:22). Arthur Pink – How wonderous is God's patience with the world today. On every side people are sinning with a high hand. The Divine law is trampled underfoot and God Himself openly despised... Why does He not cause the earth to open its mouth and devour the persecutors of His people... <i>Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus (Rom 15:5).</i></p>
13.	THE GRACE OF GOD	<p>Grace (unmerited favor) is the sole source from which flows the goodwill, love, and salvation of God unto His chosen people. Grace is the eternal and absolute free favor of God, manifested in the vouchsafement of spiritual and eternal blessings to the guilty and unworthy. <i>But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in</i></p>

		<p><i>heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God (Eph 2:5-8)</i></p>
14.	<p>THE MERCY OF GOD</p>	<p><i>For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds (Psalm 57:10). To give knowledge of salvation unto His people by the remission of their sins, the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace (Luke 1:77-79). But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever (Ps. 52:8).</i></p>
15.	<p>THE LOVE OF GOD</p>	<p><i>God is love (1 John 4:8). It is not simply that God “loves” but that he is Love itself. Love is not merely one of his attributes, but His very nature. God has loved His people from everlasting and therefore nothing about the creature that can be the cause of what is found in God from eternity. He loves from Himself according to His own purpose (2 Tim 1:9). God’s love is eternal and without end. <i>The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee (Jer. 31:3). He has chosen and loved His people from the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4-5). Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of His will. Jer 9:24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.</i></i></p>

16.	THE WRATH OF GOD	<p>God has made no attempt to conceal the facts concerning His wrath. He is not ashamed to make it known that vengeance and fury belong to Him. <i>Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. (Ro 12:19). In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (2Th 1:8.) For we know Him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people (Heb 10:30). The wrath of God is as much a Divine perfection as is His faithfulness, power, or mercy. The wrath of God is His eternal destination of all unrighteousness. It is the displeasure and indignation of Divine equity against evil. It is the holiness of God stirred into activity against sin. <i>But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God (Ro. 2:5). For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18).</i></i></p>
17.	THE CONTEMPLATION OF GOD	<p>God's dominion is absolute. He who might not have made anything, had a right to make all things according to His own pleasure. In the exercise of His uncontrolled power, He has made some parts of the creation mere inanimate matter... inert and unconsciousness. In man He gave the gift of reason, and an immortal spirit, by which He is allied to a higher order of beings who are placed in the superior regions. Over the universe He has created, He sways the scepter of omnipotence... A creature as no rights – he can demand nothing from his Maker, and in whatever manner he may be treated, has no</p>

		<p>title to complain. When thinking of the absolute dominion of God over all, we ought never to lose sight of His moral perfections. God is just and good and ever does that which is right...True happiness consists only in the enjoyment of God. His favor is life; and His lovingkindness is better than life. <i>Now, unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen (1 Tim. 1:17).</i></p>
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- **What is the meaning of life? Probation**

What is the meaning of life? The world will answer: 1) What you make of it; 2) Seeking as much pleasure as possible 3) Dying with the most money and things; 4) To be alive; 5) To love as much as possible; 6) To experience as much as possible; 7) Nothing - from a scientific perspective, we find there is no grand design, no cosmic plan that bestows meaning upon our lives; 8) It is a waste of time to ask the question; 9) To leave the universe better than you found it; 10) To bring the greatest happiness to the greatest number of people. Blah, blah, barf.

ANSWER: Adapted from John Brown Exposition of First Peter, quoting Robert Hall - The supposition is that man is a moral and accountable being, destined to survive the stroke of death, and to live in a future world in a never-ending state of happiness or misery. Consider him as placed here by the Almighty Ruler in a state of **probation**, and that the present life is his period of trial, the first link in a vast and interminable chain which stretches into eternity. (The tick mark on the line around the church). In the end he will be accountable - cutoff from the state of probation, and hurried, most likely unprepared, into the presence of the Almighty Judge (the Great and Dreadful God – Daniel 9:4), for arraignment and irrevocable sentencing (Luke 16:19-24, *And...the rich man* [Taylor Swift, Elon Musk, Warrant Buffet, call the role]... *died, and was buried... And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments... And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame*) which is to fix him forever in an unalterable condition of felicity (state of being happy – in a high degree) or of woe. Eccl. 12:12 *And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14*

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

This is probation like when you start a new job and you are in a probationary state. When the probationary period is over you may be terminated or retained. It is a test (proving) period. We don't know how long our probationary period on this earth is Beloved. *Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire (Mat. 3:12).*

In this probationary period, God proves us, e.g.:

Ex 20:20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

De 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

De 8:16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

Beloved NOTHING, and I mean nothing transfers from this life to the next except the record that you make in this life. Do you serve God, or do you serve Satan? *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear (Heb 12:28). Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? (Rom 6:16). They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed (Rom. 9:8). For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Rom 8:13-14). But I say unto you, **That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned (Mat. 12:36-37).***

- **Blessed People**

King Balak hired Balam, the false prophet and counselor extraordinaire to curse Israel and what he did was to bless them three times (see Numbers 23 and 24) because the LORD put it in his mouth to do so. We covered those three wonderful blessings in detail in part 2. Those blessings remind me of this verse in the New Testament.

1 Pet. 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

Adapted from John Brown.

But ye are a chosen generation – God’s Elect (Rom. 8:33, Titus 1:1) (i.e., God’s people) are **chosen** by God out of a corrupt mass. Man has no free will. They (Christians/spiritual Israel) are a race or family, the descendants of one Father, standing to each other in relation of brethren. They are *Christ’s and Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise* (Gal. 3:29). *Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity* (2Ti 2:19). The very foundation of God (the Godhead) Himself testifies by an irrefutable seal (that cannot be counterfeited) – that the Lord knoweth them that are His! They are His, because He personally chose these specific, particular and *peculiar people* out of a corrupt mass to save them (in eternity past) – not for any good they did – but because He willed it. *Hurt not the earth, nor the seas, nor the trees, till we have sealed (confirmed and authenticated) the servants of our God in their forehead* (Rev. 7:3). See also Exodus 12 (put the blood on the lintel and 2 side posts and the destroyer will pass by and not kill the first born). This view of the state of Christians as a race of brings, puts before our minds two things – disconnection from the rest of mankind, and intimate union among themselves. Israel as a people “dwelt alone and was not numbered with the nations.” Christians “come out from the world, and are separate.” *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you* (2 Cor. 6:17). They are in the world, not of it. They have *saved themselves from this untoward generation* (Acts 2:40). Israel was not only a body from the rest of mankind, but also a brotherhood. Christians have one Father, one Elder Brother; they have a common faith and hope, common interests and enemies, common duties and dangers, common joys and sorrows, one mind, one heart, one inheritance. The original state of this chosen generation was not better than that of other men. They were guilty, depraved, condemned to death, children of wrath and aliens from the commonwealth of Israel. What a blessing to be selected from among these victims of error, these slaves of corruption, and heirs of destruction. They were not selected for their moral worth, but because of His grace and mercy on whom He will have mercy.

But Ye Are... a Royal Priesthood – The Elect of God offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God by Jesus Christ, like Abel’s blood sacrifice, while Cain’s sacrifice was not accepted (Gen. 4, Heb. 11:4). Revelation 1:6 *And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.* We are priests of the Most High God. Christ makes His Elect possessor of priestly and regal honors. He makes them kings in giving them even now a superiority to things seen and temporal, in enabling them to trample under foot those spiritual enemies, the powers of darkness, and the lusts of their own hearts, which once reigned over them. He will at a future period, in a manner of which we can form only an indistinct conception, enable His saints to “take the kingdom” (Dan. 7:18 *But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever*) and “reign on earth” (Rev. 5:10 *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*).

Re 4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. A throne, and crowns of gold represent royalty. *Re 4:10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

In the great day of final retribution, they, along with Him, shall judge the world and angels (*Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? ... 3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels?* 1 Cor. 6:2-3). Kings and those in the royal line do such important and stately things. Rev. 3:21 *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.* Their mein (appearance and demeanor) and deportment are “like the children of a king,” doing the will of their royal Father. Freed from all degrading submission to human authority, they are only answerable to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. You are a kingdom, the subjects of a sovereign; and you are a kingdom of priests. Jehovah, the object of our worship, is your King, so that the discharge of all your civil duties has a religious character, all being done to God. Christians are not a collection of isolated individuals, they are the “body of Christ” and members in particular. They are one body in Christ and every one members of one another. *And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular* (1 Cor. 12:26-27). They are a kingdom and subjects of the Sovereign. *Now therefore, if ye will obey*

*my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a **kingdom of priests**, and an holy nation* (Ex. 19:5-6). They belong to a spiritual monarchy, at the head of which is Jehovah, in the person of the only-begotten Son. They are His subject and perform all of their religious duties, all exercises of the priestly function. Whatever they do, they do it as unto the Lord. They are ever dwelling in His sanctuary, ever engaged in His service, and gratefully acknowledge that grace of the Lord and indebted to Him for all of this honor, security and happiness. The best way of showing your gratitude, is by acting in a manner corresponding to the high and holy dignity to which you are raised. Conduct yourselves like members of the chose family, denizens (inhabitants or occupiers of a space) of the priestly kingdom. Be obedient children. Submit to the Father. Be affectionate children, giving your Father veneration, esteem, love and confidence He so well deserves. Give due honor to Him, your Elder Brother who has been appointed “as son over the whole family” and remember it is the will of the Father, “that all should honor the Son” as they honor himself. You are not to be regulated by your own will but by the will of the Lord. Have no mind, but His mind, and no will, but His will. Offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually and give thanks to Him.

Next time I will cover: **ye are... an holy nation, a peculiar people.**

1 Tim. 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief (verse 12 – Paul refers to himself as a blasphemer, persecutor, and injurious – no self-righteousness). 16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting. 17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare. War a good warfare against this flesh beloved and worship the King of Glory. I love you all. Amen.