

## Prophets, Priests and Kings in Christ

7-12-15 PM

Who is Jesus Christ? Most people are aware that the word “*Christ*” is not a name but is a title. It is a transliteration of the Greek word *Cristos*, meaning “anointed (one)”. It is taken in idea from the Old Testament Hebrew word for “anointed (one)” *Mashiyach*, which we transliterate as *Messiah* (John 4:25 *The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ))*).

Most also understand that this term (anointed one) is a reference to three offices in the Mosaic Law (and before) that required an anointing in order to be ordained. These three offices were the High Priest/Priests (Exodus 28:1), Kings (2 Samuel 2:4) and Prophets (I Kings 19:16). Corresponding to these Old Testament offices, we are told that Jesus work as the Christ of God is as the High Priest Mediator between God and men (Hebrews 8:1), King of the Kingdom of Heaven (Revelation 19:16), and the Chief Prophet of God (John 6:14), the very living Word of God.

But sometimes we fail to appreciate that those who are in Christ share the anointing of Christ. John tells us in 1 John 2:20 (and again in 1 John 2:27) “*But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know*”. Being a Christian means being of the “anointed ones” by the very meaning of the word (consider we are not called “*Jesus-ites*” or some variety of that name; instead, it is His title we partake of). If we are partaking of Jesus anointing, then we too are (of a fashion) prophets, priests and kings.

In fact, Scripture makes this very claim. In Revelation 1:6 we are told that Jesus “*has made us kings and priests to His God and Father*”. In I Peter 2:9 we are called a “*royal priesthood*” that “*proclaims the praises of Him*”; can you see that both of these passages are pointing to the anointing of Christ?

Christians are priests of Christ. In I Peter 2:5 we are told that Christians are “a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”. This sums up our purpose as priests: to offer ourselves as living sacrifices. Paul spoke of this as well in Romans 12:1. Let us look at this from the negative perspective; if we were not priests of God in Christ, nothing we offer God could be acceptable. This includes our prayers (John 9:31).

Christians are kings of Christ. There are many “kingly” words used in the New Testament, such as “reign”, “rule”, “authority”, or “royal”. Consider our need to allow the peace of Christ “rule” our hearts (Colossians 3:15); consider our need to allow Christ to reign in us and not sin as stated in Romans 6:12-14. We are given by Christ a portion of His kingly authority when we are commissioned and authorized to spread the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 28:19-20). This is our kingly station with Christ.

Christians are prophets of Christ. The prophets of the Old Testament either spoke the word of the Lord to men among them or foretold those things which God revealed to them. Consider the prophecy given to a Christian today: “*So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts*” (2 Peter 1:19). Christians have a greater revelation of truth given to them than any prophet of the Old Testament. As well, we have been entrusted to deliver the most important prophecy in history: Jesus is coming back (Revelation 22:12).

If we are Christians, we are those who have the anointing of Christ. That anointing makes us Priests, Kings and Prophets. Each of these anointings has an expectation that we must carry out. We are obligated as priests to spiritual service. We are entrusted as kings to keep in our hearts the divine law of Christ and to deliver that law to all men. Finally, as prophets we have the confirmed total word of God and the most important prophecy in history to deliver to men.