

To be Kings and Priests in the Kingdom?

by James Relf

One day a man comes to visit you and join you for a meal. He brings with him a fresh loaf of bread that he made that very morning. In gratitude you thank him and take the bread into your kitchen. While in there you slice up the bread, cover it with butter, lettuce, tomatoes, sauce, meat, other assorted vegetables and bring your guest this wonderful creation called a sandwich.

Your guest is stunned and has a curious look on his face as he looks at this stack of ingredients on his plate in front of him. Politely he asks, what is it? You tell him, "it is called as a sandwich", something he has never seen before and as he tries to bite into it, the vegetables fall to one side while the meat slides out on another side and the sauce you so carefully crafted just for this meal, drips down the front of his shirt.

Embarrassed he quickly wipes off his face and puts the sandwich down and says thank you and walks away. You ask if there is a problem with the sandwich, at which time he explains that although he is grateful for the effort, it was not necessary and his purpose in visiting you today was to see how you were doing. The bread he explains where he is from, is a way friends sit and relax, and break some bread during a visit. The sandwich was more than what was expected of him. Then he proceeded to explain the story of the bread.

He begins by telling you, "bread is made up of only three basic ingredients, flour (wheat), water, yeast."

- 1) The wheat represents that people, we can see this metaphor repeated even within the feasts of Passover, and Shavuot when it comes to the harvest of people, and in the parable of the wheat and the tares.
- 2) The water the Spirit or Ruach, this is shown once again in John 3:5 and again John 7:37-39. Again, there is no direct quote where Yeshua says that water means spirit, it is implied and as such again becomes another metaphor.
- 3) Finally, while the yeast is not directly mentioned and is usually translated as "leaven". Leaven by definition is a mixing of two or more ingredients, one of which could be yeast, but in this case yeast itself is not leaven.

Once that process of mixing happens it takes on a negative meaning as something that must be removed from our lives and home before Passover. However, I have and will always believe that there is more about this story than just what is obvious and two guys sitting down and breaking bread. But before we dig into this topic a bit deeper let's come back to this a little later.

Over the years the Word has taken on many forms, taking it away from its original form and function, purpose, reason for reading and studying it. Today it is hard to recognize it with so many translations, interpretations, impressions, flavors, themes, versions, and so forth. On top of that you can add the deluge of studies, books, novels, stories, movies, songs, all in with the best of intentions to help us understand what it means. And finally, then add into the recipe, humans, like teachers, professors, pastors, deacons, bishops, popes, the list goes on and on, its exhaustive. In the end it is hard and easy to see why people get frustrated, and even just walk away all together, where and what have we done with the original bread (mana) that was given so many years ago. Ironically the word "mana" is better suited to today's version of what we call the "word" for in truth, many ask "what is it"?

Last week I was listening to a friend of mine, Eric Bissell from Eriktology.net, who was doing a request teaching on the scripture regarding us being referred to as Kings and Priests in the Kingdom. I would like to share but a portion of this teaching with you and then return to the bread.

*"6 and **ye shall be** unto Me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." (Exodus 19:6)*

*"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"*** (1 Peter 2:9)

*"And **hath made us kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (Revelations 1:6)*

*"And **hast made us unto our God kings and priests:** and we shall reign on the earth." (Revelations 5:10)*

My point is that even though this topic may at first appear simple, and we all assume that when we get to the kingdom, we will all be either a King or a Priest, first off does not make sense to me. If we are in the Kingdom of YHVH, then who are we to teach? Will it not be our Father who instructs us as our King, and

who would we need to teach as a “priest”, when it is obvious that many of us have no clue to the purpose and function of the Word in the first place and are “doing our best” just to keep our heads above water getting through this life.

Is it possible to, in this life here on earth, before the final calling for all of us to stand before Him in judgement, to comprehend enough of His Word to change us into those people worthy of being called Kings and Priests in the Kingdom? For that matter what do those words actually mean. I think for many, like I was, surprised but not shocked at the truth that is revealed when we delve into His Words, Letters, His Aleph Tav sequence, and seek out the truth that is His Word to reveal the meaning behind these words.

So, let’s begin and I hope I can do this justice. I would like to thank YHVH for opening the eyes of a close friend, Eric Bissell with this understanding and not just because it is Eric himself, for YHVH could have chosen anyone to do it, but in doing it itself. That is part of the plan, to open the eyes of us as well and to reveal that which has and is hidden yet right in front of us all along.

Through my ignorance years ago I would like so many just toss around the concepts or words in the Bible especially after I started studying the tabernacle, which in itself is a fascinating study but for another day, and I thought that this concept of us being Kings and Priests was speaking only “spiritually or metaphorically” much like many of the items in the tabernacle. While I still believe this to a certain degree, we must not be hasty in our understanding and assume that it cannot apply to us today or else we will miss out on some of the gems hidden right in front of us. So, in looking closer at 1 Peter and some of the words chosen for this verse:

*“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a 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”
(1 Peter 2:9)*

The first word here that I think we need to consider is “chosen” which in Hebrew is “beit het resh”, which means; “to elect, choose, or select, or it can also mean a young warrior”. Kind of like the best of the young warriors are the chosen ones, but in Hebrew might be those who have elected of their own free will, or volition, to regard YHVH’s Words as true, and behave accordingly with all their heart, all their mind, and all their soul, and to the best of their ability. That is just the Hebrew perspective.

Again, keeping an open mind, if we look at this, we can also see that within these words, if we are to be a chosen people, a royal priesthood can mean that we become His inheritance, just as our children become ours. Meaning, that if we get a heritage like those who have come before us, then what has been handed

down to us through the generations would be the understanding of these His Words. Not everything as we all know is beneficial and it is discernment that allows us to choose what is good and what is to be guarded.

YHVH tells us the Israel is His inheritance. Why would the maker of heaven and earth need or require an inheritance when He owns it all anyway? Why would He say that Israel is His inheritance and what does it mean? This is why we study and need to understand and grasp this with our mind in order to make use of this. Is it worth digging into or just reading over? If He owns it everything and everyone and He calls Israel His inheritance, then what is it that He is looking forward to claiming when the time comes? He already has it?? This is quite the puzzle!

He says we will be a kingdom of kings and priests. What does that exactly mean? Let's look for starter at the definition of the word Priest, "as one who recognizes, comprehends, studies, examines, and points to the truth for the sake of everybody else to have access to." In simple terms he studies, meditates, researches, prays, seeks YHVH, for understanding, wisdom, so that he may depart that to others.

The word king, (mem-lamed-kaf), melek, means to you, for you, go this is the way to go, walk. So melek, is not just a king, someone who sits on a throne and orders people around. He is according to Hebrew, one who is engaged in walking, as instructed. So, the priests say, look this is what YHVH says, and the king is the one who is actually doing it, conducting his course, the way, method and manner of his journey according to those instructions. The King is the one to sets the presidents and example for others to see.

So, for Israel to be a kingdom of priests and kings, we have to take on the personal responsibility to see these words, comprehend these words, understand, translate, and put into accessibility to those who cannot read or understand what they see on the pages.

The word for, in Revelations 5:10 "...you made them into a kingdom for Elohim to rule, to serve Him", priest who serve Him. That word "Serve" is Ayin-beit-dalet", which is "obed" which is where we get the word, obedience and obey. It means a slave and a servant, but can also mean tanning hides which is a great deal of work as well. "...and they will rule over the earth!".

The word "rule" in Hebrew is "mashall" (mem-shin-lamed), like in the mashall of the town but does not have an "r" in it. The mashall is the boss the one who gets to rule and has everyone do his bidding, NOT! While it does mean to rule and have dominion, but the word "mashall" is where we get the word for the Book of Proverbs, it means proverb, allegory, metaphor, parable, example, a poem. The word, "Sar" as in "Sar Shalom" translated "Prince of Peace", but can also mean; poet, singer, bracelet chain.

So, the one who has the responsibility to take the difficult matters and make them poetically beautiful like the bracelet, stringing one beautiful item after another, like Yeshua who came as the Prince, who put things into parables. That's mashall! The word dalet-mem (dam), is blood but it is also "likeness and similarity" to tell stories or word pictures that are likenesses and similarities of big heavy, weighty matters and concepts or realities, is the job of the prince or the mashall. This is what YHVH said His people will do spread out over the whole earth.

To be able to understand the meanings of the pictures, the words, the pictographic value of even the letters, those twenty-two letters of the Hebrew language, to comprehend them at great depth and then to transform them into something light and beautiful while still retaining the meaning and message, is the job of one who would rule over the earth. In order to do that we still have to conduct our own path and walk in accordance with that and those words, that is the melek, the king.

If we take that same understanding and turn it around to say who would then be disqualified, meaning someone who is not really according to this understanding, a "priest" or "king", for that lets go to Hosea 4:6.

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. Hosea 4:6

In Hebrew the first word is spelled, "נָדָמוֹ, נָדָמוֹ" (nadamo) (noon-dalet-mem-vav) the root "Dalet-mem" is the word for blood, but can also mean "likeness and similarity". So, to put or have a nun in front of the root means to put the root into action, but "put what into action"? It's the dalet-mem, the blood, to put the blood into action, and "vav" as the suffix can mean "he" or "they" or sometimes translated "you", so we get this word, "נָדָמוֹ nadamo" is somehow speaking of a "resemblance, or even bloody or silence". It can also mean "likeness and similarity" So there is this "similarity of bloodiness"?

Something I am learning in Hebrew is that using my Kline's Dictionary, which is not easy with my eyes so I need my magnifying glass, to examine what these words mean more in detail is to recognize the prefixes and suffixes and those that can be changed out to expand on a word's meaning. I am no expert yet and I

am trying to learn a bit more each day, so having someone like Erik how has probably more than 10k hours working on this stuff really helps out.

So, in this case, knowing that our prefix here is the nun, we could take off the “nun” and replace it with the prefix letters, “hei” or “Yod” or “tav” or “beit”. So, if we look at “hei-dalet-mem”, it means cut, dissect, dismember, thus silencing, chopping something up, or somebody so as they have no more voice. And the way this verse is translated, Hosea 4:6, “My people are destroyed”, the next words is “Ayin-mem-yod (ahmee)”, the Yod suffix here is the word for “my” so YHVH is speaking here, saying, “My people are eliminated and destroyed, chopped up and made silent”, which as it turns out is the exact opposite of what the word priest is supposed to mean. Remember that word “priest” means “hey look, here it is, referring to the Word, revealing the truth for all.”

The word melek is walking, leading as example, ruling and having dominion, but if you are chopped up and silenced, someone else is having dominion over you. So what we see here is that even within the first couple of words here in Hosea 4:6, if we understand the meaning of the language, we can look at these two words, and realize it does not just say, “my people are destroyed” which downplays and dilutes, the understanding so much more: “my people are chopped up, lost their dominion, NOT officiating as priests and kings,” according to this Word.

Then the next word is, “mem-beit-lamed-yod” (מְבֵית־לַמֶּדְיָ) , which means “eliminated” and the next word, “hey, dalet-ayin-tav” (הִדְעַת) is the “knowledge.” In other words, “My people have turned away, have eliminated the knowledge,” so you can’t be a king or a priest. The word, “mem-beit-lamed” or “nun-beit-lamed” because both nun and mem are prefixes, they can be switched out without losing the meaning of the word. Mem is like the “heart” and nun is like that which is expressed out of the heart, ie words, feelings, etc. Now the “beit-lamed” can mean *“vain, empty, disgraced, despised, wither, fade, and senseless”*. “Because my people”, YHVH says, “have despised knowledge, they will be chopped up, eliminated, and loose everything I gave them”.

Continuing on, the next word is “kaf-yod” can mean *“so, thus, therefore, because, when, why, while then, although, which case..., just like me”*, meaning YHVH. It can also mean the word for “branding”. In the old west the ranchers would brand their cattle so that they could recognize them and no one would be able to steal them from them. So, when YHVH says uses the “kaf-yod”, *“this is mine, just like me”*. So when YHVH says that he wants us, His children of Israel, to be Kings and Priests, means, “Just like Me, exactly

in my thinking, in my disposition, in line with the Aleph-tav, to know His Torah, means to be able to measure every choice, decision based on the guidelines given to us in His Torah. To be a priest you need to know what this stuff means. “

Yeshua said He was the Aleph Tav, the Word, that He was ONLY saying what His Father says, ONLY doing what He sees His Father doing, nothing He does is of His own invention. So why do we protest so much against this? We think we are doing what is right and we cannot even read apportion of scripture correctly to understand it enough to make the necessary correction within ourselves. When I first read about being Priest and Kings, I wanted to be a “Pastor” so bad I could taste it. I envied those who were and the power they held behind the pulpit. Maybe that was because that was what I was seeing in those behind the pulpit and not the truth because even they did not know the truth. Now the truth is here, and the weight of the matter is for us to “melek” out in our daily lives. To know the truth holds much weight, like those who choose to dig into His word, to make light that which was heavy, maybe the Yolk Y’shua spoke about was in the understanding of His Word. We make things so complicated, they become heavy weighty matters that need not be a burden and not a delight.

Speaking of Yeshua, let’s get back to the bread for a minute.

Earlier we were talking about the bread. I hope that after hearing about how the words used for “King and Priest” and the concepts behind those words that are revealed within the letters of the Hebrew, you might have an idea where this is going. So, let’s head back and look at those ingredients; “flour, water and yeast”.

Flour (אֶמְקָה) (אֶמְקָה) (Chet – Mem – Qof) (KE-makkh)

While we understand the flour comes from wheat, and wheat represents people, particularly those who follow Torah, when we examine or break down the word in Hebrew / Paleo, to see if there is something else being said here.

Take the first two letters (**Qof-mem**) it can mean: enemy, adversary, foe, one who rises against someone, destroyer, crush...

The last two letters (**Mem-Chet**) mean: marrow, brain, fatling or fat one. These two letters are unique in the on a side note it mentions that this word is a “hapax legomenon”, which means it only occurs once ever!

Summary: those who will be tested, tempted, confused, to break, destroy, our will our understanding, and determination, to follow after Torah, this is flour

Water (מַיִם) (מַיִם) (MAH-yeem)

I know that “Mem” in itself can mean water, the same as “mem-yod-mem”. Mem also means “what you initiate, manufacture, construct, blend, compose, what goes around comes around, to gestate, build, construct, wear down, wear away, erode, create”

“Yod” meaning “I do, he will, working hand, I will, by my own authority, make create, plumbline, standard, strength, to cause, point of reference, undergo, change, lay my life down and take it back up”

“**Mem-Yod**” can mean: who, whoever, someone, anyone, what, or music...

“**Yod-Mem**” can mean: sea, lake reservoir, water, to mix with water, hydrate

Summary: TO take that which is first given, put it to the working hand and mold it, remake it into something better, renew, rebirth, bring back to original. So, in water we see going both ways that we start with this power to create, this water, which can come in many forms, liquid, ice, steam, air, and then work with it to produce something or destroy something. Or bring back to original form.

Yeast (שְׁמֵרִים) (שְׁמֵרִים) (ShAM-reem) שְׁמֵרִים

By itself if I take it back to the Paleo Hebrew letters is (Shin – Mem – Resh – Yod – Mem).

The **Shin-mem** (Shem) means: name, fame, renown, designation, reputation; in other words what we stand for and represent ourselves to be, who we are when we are alone, that which YHVH sees when no one else can, the summation to our life experiences, education, loves, loses, who we see in the mirror.

The **Resh-Yod** – means moisture, while **resh-yod-mem / resh-aleph-mem** – can mean a call or calling, to rise up, stand out, fixed, was established, was fulfilled and more.

The yeast is what gives the bread the flavor, and if left longer adds more flavor to the bread, also more moisture/spirit, increased growth with water, much like the more we study the better chance we have to stand against those who come against us and Torah.

Let’s put this all together now using what we know of the letters, and words, both in Hebrew and Paleo.

Bread is a “metaphor” for someone who is humble, contrite, one who will be tested beyond normal, pressured, willing to be destroyed, yet not willing to compromise, stand for something better than themselves, and you can go on and on here, but in the end do you know understand why the Messiah called himself the “bread of life, and out of His mouth “flows living water?” This once again ties us back to the idea of being a Priest and King for the Kingdom.

Notice I did not say “in” the Kingdom, because 1) we are not there, 2) this all about how we get there, not about being there 3) the Torah, the Word are all meant to guide, direct, coach, support, instruct, correct, convict, its all about choices here now, not later. Later is too late, if we do not get this right now, I do not see any other options to buy in later after His Kingdom has arrived.

My other point is that when we compare the detail on meaning on being a “Priest” or “King” in the Kingdom, we need not look any further than our Messiah as an example given to us as a representation of that which we pretend to be. He was both Priest and King in the way that He conducted His life while here before us and so many people never saw what He actually did by living His life the way that He did because all the see is the cross, while missing out on everything He did before that final test.

Oh if we could just get this point!

I had a dream, which I do almost every night, so not really a big deal, but when I wake and I am still talking with someone and my mind is so clear, it’s like I am having a conversation with Yah. He teaches me about things including this teaching. In this dream, I was addressing a large crowd, sharing, encouraging, uplifting, and anyone who knows me know this comes hard for me, but I was doing it. This was the topic I spoke on:

“Our biggest goal, purpose, function in this life is to figure out what we were created for and what our purpose is in His Plan. Without knowing what our purpose is and why we are here, we seem to stop functioning and start to die inside, I know I have been there and seen many people in the same place. I also believe that it is impossible to not know Him, as He is everywhere and in everything. When a person gets low, low enough there is only one way to look and that is up, and it is there that at one point everyone

eventually looks. There are so many people out there who have been wounded, hurt, bruised by life, lost much, bullied, humiliated, harmed, wounded or damaged in so many ways, and I needed to tell you that none of that matters. Its our job is to figure out what that part or role is in this life that we are to play, with the time that you are given, and then go after it.

The bottom line is this, it does not matter how much time we have, years or decades left, or where we are on this planet, if we do not believe in that purpose or function and that “YOU” believe that you have a very specific part to plan in that plan, you will never get there. Its up to you to figure that out!

Now let me give you a clue at to how to get there. You see many people think that they will be ok, if they can only complete this “mission” or be “that person” or “if I am so and so” or even “had that title”. The secret is NOT about the destination! Oh, it’s about getting to the Kingdom and sitting at that marriage supper, but not as “Something or someone important!”, it is about as we see in this simple breakdown of the wording right here in His Word, when defining what it means to be a “priest and King”, that it is about the journey. That everyday struggle within ourselves to make it one more step, to figure it out, if I can just make it one more day, then I will be OK. It is that moving forward everyday and not stopping, not turning around, not moving off the path, don’t stop reading, looking, searching, asking questions, praying, seeking His face in His Word, thats the way to achieve, and win.

I have known for along time that it is not about who I was, although my flesh tells me I should be so important, but that is a lie. It was and is only about who I am today and what I do with today that matters. Its about the journey, not the destination that matter to YHVH. We are the people of the journey and what we do with what He has given us today that matters. The Hebrew language what I understand about it, is “verb” or “action” orientated. In English we see a chair as an object, a noun, as something you sit on, and that’s it. But in Hebrew it is about “what is the chair’s purpose and function is that is important” It is there to “support, bear our weight, comfort over time, help our posture, relieve our stress and give us rest”. Kind or like the Ruach. You see action orientated.

We are no different. We have a function and purpose in His Kingdom and that has to be sought after every day and with passion. The Torah has a purpose and it is not to tell stories to us, although in the telling of stories, it is conveying much more that the words used to tell that story, it is about what the Creator what’s us to learn from these stories that will elevate, encourage, learn, help others through this learning, and grow towards the final destination. As long as you are moving forward and not focused on ourselves,

you will succeed, and don't forget to take along with you, your roadmap, the Torah, because without it you will never find and stay on the path for very long without it. The Torah and the Word's enclosed within it, are our greatest gift, our greatest strength against ourselves and the world around us, and reveal the true path.

It is hidden within these Word's, within the letters, the answer to all that we seek not only about the journey to the Kingdom, but about ourselves and how to become the greatest version of us that every was.

Funny, the greatest version of us it turns out is to become like YHVH who created us and be just like Him. In doing so we have unlimited resources at our disposal, and they are all written right there in front of you, it is just up to you to decide what to do with them.

Thank you.