

PRIESTS?!

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I used e-Sword, a bible software, to see how many times the word "priest" occurs in the King James Bible.

Search term/method: "Priest"- Regular expression (REGEX) which incl. "priest", "priests", "priesthood", "high priest" etc.

844 verses found, 958 matches

Genesis	6 verses found	7 matches
Exodus	21 verses found	25 matches
Leviticus	155 verses found	195 matches
Numbers	69 verses found	77 matches
Deuteronomy	14 verses found	15 matches
Joshua	36 verses found	41 matches
Judges	13 verses found	15 matches
1 Samuel	27 verses found	33 matches
2 Samuel	6 verses found	7 matches
1 Kings	27 verses found	28 matches
2 Kings	36 verses found	45 matches
1 Chronicles	19 verses found	21 matches
2 Chronicles	73 verses found	90 matches
Ezra	34 verses found	35 matches
Nehemiah	44 verses found	47 matches
Psalms	5 verses found	5 matches
Isaiah	5 verses found	5 matches
Jeremiah	38 verses found	41 matches
Lamentations	6 verses found	6 matches
Ezekiel	24 verses found	25 matches
Hosea	6 verses found	6 matches
Joel	3 verses found	3 matches
Amos	1 verse found	1 match
Micah	1 verse found	1 match
Zephaniah	2 verses found	2 matches
Haggai	8 verses found	8 matches

Zechariah	6 verses found	6 matches
Malachi	3 verses found	3 matches
Matthew	27 verses found	28 matches
Mark	22 verses found	24 matches
Luke	23 verses found	23 matches
John	21 verses found	22 matches
Acts	25 verses found	27 matches
Hebrews	33 verses found	36 matches
1 Peter	2 verses found	2 matches
Revelation	3 verses found	3 matches

...did you notice something special? Take a closer look at the books between Acts and Hebrews: Romans thru Philemon (Paul's epistles/books).

Wait, they aren't there?! Did I remove them?! Nope!

So, the the words priest(s) and priesthood are mentioned 958 times in 844 verses throughout the Bible, BUT not once in Paul's epistles (Romans-Philemon)?! Why is that?

Because today, in the dispensation of the grace of God or 'the age of grace', there is only one mediator, or go-between, between God and us, and that mediator is Jesus Christ:

1 Timothy 2:3-7

3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

5 **For *there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;***

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

7 Whereunto I [Paul] am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

It's not men dressed in robes and hoods...who work for the religious systems of this world...performing legalistic rituals and ordinances on Sunday mornings...keeping people under bondage; the law and doctrines of men...and claiming to have the ability to forgive sins if you confess them to them. There are no real priests today, and I'll explain it to you.

Ephesians chapter 2 speaks of 3 time periods:

TIME PAST (the past):

Ephesians 2:11-12

11 Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Genesis (from Abram/Abraham) thru Acts 8.

God's earthly program; the kingdom program or the bride of Christ program, concerning A nation; the nation Israel...God's favored nation at that time. Jews. They would get the land promised them as an everlasting possession, and an earthly kingdom (the kingdom of heaven) to be set up in that land, if they'd simply change their mind (repent) about the source of their righteousness.....never being the law (Deuteronomy 6:25, Leviticus 26:40+, James 2:10)

Under prophecy and law. By sight. FOR us, not to us.

The nation Israel is temporarily fallen (Romans 11), because of their rejection of the messengers; God the Father thru John the Baptist, The Son: Jesus Christ (his earthly ministry in Matthew-John, and the early parts of Acts), and the Holy Spirit thru Stephen in the book of Acts (chapter 7). So, this program is temporarily put on hold, in favor of a new program;

BUT NOW (the present: the dispensation of the grace of God):

Ephesians 2:13-16

- 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
- 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;
- 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;
- 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Acts 9-Romans-Philemon. God's heavenly program; the body of Christ program. God is not dealing with A nation today, and he's not recognizing any nation above any other nation. He is dealing with individuals today; Jew or gentile (the non-Jewish people of the world)...makes no difference. Under mystery and grace (not under law). Not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). FOR and TO us.

Paul, the Apostle of and to the Gentiles, wrote 13 epistles: Romans thru Philemon. Covers Jesus Christ's heavenly ministry to us, living in the dispensation of the grace of God.

AGES TO COME (the future):

Ephesians 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Hebrews thru Revelation.

Fulfillment of prophecy. God's earthly program; the kingdom program or the bride of Christ program, continues. Under prophecy and law. By sight. FOR us, not to us. Primarily emphasis is on the great tribulation (wrath) and the earthly kingdom; the kingdom of heaven.

God's future plan for Israel is that they one day will become a kingdom of priests:

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

In time past, Jew and gentile weren't equal...they weren't on the same level.

Matthew 10:1-8, 15:22-28, Acts 1:21-26, Romans 15:8

Ephesians 2:11-12

- 11 Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;
- 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

...so the gentiles had to go thru the nation Israel, in order to be saved. They had to proselyte to Judaism and take hold of their covenant. Being cut off from Israel, was the same as being cut off from God. No wonder why Jesus Christ, during his earthly ministry to the nation Israel, says that "salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22)

Romans 9:4-5 KJV

- 4 Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service *of God*, and the promises;
- 5 Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ *came*, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

So, as you can see the priests served as mediators between God and men.

Isaiah 60:1-3

- 1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.
- 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.
- 3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Today, rather than having to go thru an earthly nation; Israel, in order to be saved, we now have direct access to salvation and God, thru Jesus Christ. This was a result of their fall (mystery), not their rising (prophecy).

Romans 11:11-12

- 11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.
- 12 Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

Romans 11:15 For if the casting away of them *be* the reconciling of the world, what *shall* the receiving *of them be*, but life from the dead?

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

This mystery was exclusively revealed to our Apostle; Paul, by the ascended, glorified Jesus Christ (as he spoke from heaven):

Romans 16:25-26

- 25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and **the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,**
- 26 **But now is made manifest,** and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the

commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

God hasn't done away with Israel entirely! In a day yet future, they will experience the state of prominence God promised them throughout the pages of prophecy!

Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

1 Peter 2:9-10

- 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 marvellous light:
- 10 Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

After the great tribulation, with the 2nd coming of Christ, God will make a new covenant with Israel, not according to the old covenant:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

- 31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:
- 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:
- 33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Also read Hebrews 8.

So, today there is no need for a priest, priesthood or a nation, to have fellowship with God. Although there aren't any real priests today, the saved are called to be ambassadors for Christ, of the ministry of reconciliation, telling the world about the word of reconciliation:

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

- 18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;
- 19 **To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**
- 20 **Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.**
- 21 For he [God the Father] hath made him [God's only begotten Son/God in the flesh: Jesus Christ] *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

- 1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;
- 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.
- 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
- 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Ephesians 2:8-9

- 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:
 - 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.
- Daniel

<http://www.youtube.com/romansthrufilemon>