

# PROPHET, PRIEST, & KING

Part 1



Feb. 12, 2017

## “Adam: The First Prophet, Priest, & King”

### Introduction

- Throughout Scripture the Bible provides for people certain titles which serve to describe their role in God's plans and purposes. This is especially true of our Lord. Of all the titles given to Him in Scripture, the one most frequently referred to is that of *Christ*.
- Christ* means “\_\_\_\_\_”
- In the Old Testament, when individuals were set apart to fulfill one of three specific offices (Prophet, Priest, King), they were anointed with oil to signify that they had been chosen and equipped by God for that specific area of service. This anointing was symbolic of the *Holy Spirit* of God who would be with the individual.

*Prophets* — Anointed when they were chosen by God to deliver His Word to His people (1 Kings 19:16)

*Priests* — Anointed so that they might intercede with God and offer sacrifices on behalf of the people (Ex. 30:30, Ps. 133:2)

*Kings* — Anointed to lead the people of God, protecting them from their enemies and ruling over them in righteousness and justice (1 Sam. 10:1)

- The Bible recognizes Jesus Christ as the ultimate fulfillment of each of these categories. Theologians have for centuries examined the person and work of Christ through the lens of these categories using the following title:

### *The Threefold \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ*

“And we have been told also that certain of the prophets themselves became, by the act of anointing, Christs in type, so that all these have reference to the true Christ, the divinely inspired and heavenly Word, who is the only high priest of all, and the only King of every creature, and the Father's only supreme prophet of prophets. And a proof of this is that no one of those who were of old symbolically anointed, whether priests, or kings, or prophets, possessed so great a power of inspired virtue as was exhibited by our Savior and Lord Jesus, the true and only Christ.”

— Eusebius of Caesarea (263-349 AD), *Ecclesiastical History*, I, iii, 8-9

The goal of our study is to consider the Old Testament background of the Threefold Office in order to better understand the person and work of our Savior so that we might know and love Him more. May God bless our study of His Word!

### The Threefold Office in Eden

#### 1. The Kingly Role of Mankind—Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Humanity's Responsibility: To exercise \_\_\_\_\_ over the earth for the glory of God.

How?

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...”

“...subdue it...”

⇒ Having been given a position of royal authority, it was the responsibility of mankind to be found \_\_\_\_\_ in ruling over creation, seeking that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

## 2. The Priestly Role of Mankind—Genesis 2:15

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

“work” — עָבַד (ʿavad) — To work, serve, or \_\_\_\_\_.

“keep” — שָׁמַר (sha'mar) — To keep, to guard, to have charge of, to \_\_\_\_\_.

- These terms are used together in the book of numbers to describe the role of the Levites in the Tabernacle. (Num. 3:7-8, 8:26)

Num. 18:3-6—3 They shall keep guard over you and over the whole tent, but shall not come near to the vessels of the sanctuary or to the altar lest they, and you, die. 4 They shall join you and keep guard over the tent of meeting for all the service of the tent, and no outsider shall come near you. 5 And you shall keep guard over the sanctuary and over the altar, that there may never again be wrath on the people of Israel. 6 And behold, I have taken your brothers the Levites from among the people of Israel. They are a gift to you, given to the Lord, to do the service of the tent of meeting.

⇒ Having been given a priestly role by God, mankind was to serve Him faithfully, guarding the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Garden.

How?—Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

⇒ Mankind could only preserve their own holiness and the holiness of the Garden by obeying \_\_\_\_\_!

## 3. The Prophetic Role of Mankind

This role is implied in light of the other specific roles given to mankind. Having been chosen to receive God’s Word, he was to communicate it to others.

⇒ The man was to proclaim the Word of the Lord to his wife as well as to the children that God would eventually bless them with.

God’s Original Design for Mankind: Humanity was a \_\_\_\_\_ responsible to proclaim the Word of the Lord to others so that they might also worship and serve God.

## The Failure of Mankind in the Threefold Office—Genesis 3:1-7

- \* Mankind fails in their kingly role, allowing themselves to be \_\_\_\_\_ over by a creature (Gen. 3:1)
- \* Mankind fails in their prophetic role, failing to accurately \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of the Lord (Gen. 3:2-3)
- \* Mankind fails in their priestly role, disobeying the Word of the Lord and \_\_\_\_\_ both themselves and the Garden (Gen. 3:6-7)

## The Hope of a New Adam who Fulfills the Threefold Office

Hebrews 1:1-3 — 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,