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Kingdom of Priests

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“And they sang a new song with these words: “You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth.””

Revelation 5:9-10 NLT

Kingdom of Priests

Behold this scene in Revelation 5 - what does it look like with your imagination?

“Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who was sitting on the throne. There was writing on the inside and the outside of the scroll, and it was sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel, who shouted with a loud voice: “Who is worthy to break the seals on this scroll and open it?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll and read it. Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it. But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, “Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David’s throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.”” Revelation 5:1-5

I read this and I’m overcome with the realization that I am so unworthy. Yet, I move throughout my routine and responsibilities each day with a sense of control that I sometimes confuse with worthiness. I’m reminded how important it is to follow the instruction of Psalm 46:10, “Be still and know [He] is God,” and I am not. Perhaps that’s why this scene in Revelation is so captivating - I feel so small.

The author John goes on to recount:

“Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the earth. He stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.” Revelation 5:6-8

Hallelujah! My soul shouts with joy and wonder today! The Lion of Judah has conquered! The Lamb of God has given us victory!

By His sacrifice and His spilt blood, Jesus has redeemed us and freed us! But not only to that end. God has made us to be a “Kingdom of priests.” What does this mean?

The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary explains: “Christ has constituted His church a “Kingdom” and it’s individual members “priests.” To be a member of the Kingdom is to be a “priest.” Those who have accepted salvation in Christ make up a kingdom whose king is Christ. A priest may be regarded as one who presents offerings to God and in this sense every Christian has the privilege of presenting “spiritual sacrifices”—prayer, intercession, thanksgiving, glory—to God. Because every Christian is a priest, he [or she] may approach God on his [or her] own behalf, without the mediation of another human being, and on behalf of others,” (733).

Praise the Lord! We have direct access to God the Father through our mediator Jesus Christ! But not only this, but we also have the opportunity, and dare I say, responsibility to come before Him interceding on behalf of our families, our students, our coworkers, and even the strangers within our gates - pointing each other to the only One who is worthy!

Today, may you make the Main Thing the main thing in your life and worship Him alone who deserves the highest honor for all He has done and all He has yet to do on our behalf!

-Anna Bennett