

What Kind of King?

Leviticus 21

April 14th, 2019

Conclusion

- In his role as priest he speaks and acts on our behalf presenting us before God: alive, holy and perfect
- What kind of King is Jesus?
- “...the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light...” (1Timothy 6.15-16)

Amen.

Introduction

Jesus is our priest and king; he also fills the role of prophet thereby being the exemplar of all three offices of authority from the OT

This passage is about what God expects of the priests; the standard they are to meet and maintain

This passage is a study in contrasts: Life vs death; clean vs unclean, perfection over imperfection

Main Points: What can this king do?

1. Jesus can make us alive
 - The high priests couldn't approach dead bodies with the exception of close family members
 - Gerstenberger comments on the reasons the priests especially had to avoid contact with the dead: “Anything dead is laden with the power of death, and for that reason it does, in a special way, render a thing or person “impure,” that is, incapable of dealing with the holy, the power of life itself.”¹

¹ Rooker, M. F. (2000). *Leviticus* (Vol. 3A, p. 273). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers - citing E. Gerstenberger, *Leviticus*, Translated by D. Stott. Louisville: Westminster, 1993. P. 69

- Death cannot and does not exist in the kingdom of God. God can enter into a fallen world but sin cannot enter into the presence of God
 - The Fall - God comes to the Garden
 - The Incarnation - God comes to the nation
 - At the Cross, Jesus conquers sin and gains victory over death
- We are covered in death; Jesus makes us alive

2. Jesus can make us clean

- Whether by death or marital status, or the behavior of children, it's paramount that the priest does not become unclean.
 - To be unclean is to be defiled, impure, polluted, corrupt
- So, who can come into the presence of God if in fact we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God?
 - 1John 1.7-9; [Eph. 1:7](#); [Heb. 9:14](#); [1 Pet. 1:18-22](#); [Rev. 7:14](#)
 - In contrast to the priests who became unclean if they came contact with something unclean, Jesus touched unclean people and made them clean
 - Matthew 8.1-4; Mark 1.40ff.
- We're all spiritual lepers, but we can call out to Jesus; he is willing to make us whole and more than that... to make us holy

3. Jesus can make us perfect

- The final prohibition in this chapter is against people who are physically compromised from serving as priest
 - Various bodily deformities, not all of which can be identified with certainty, preclude a priest from officiating in the sanctuary. The idea emerges clearly that holiness finds physical expression in wholeness and normality.²
 - Jesus makes us perfect; it is God who sanctifies
 - Leviticus 21.8, 15, 23; Hebrews 12.23; Jude 24

² Wenham, G. J. (1979). [The Book of Leviticus](#) (p. 292). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.