

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Priests in the Kingdom of God

Revelation 1:6



⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” ⁹ I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.



Revelation 1:6 (AV)



- And hath made us kings and priests
- and made us a kingdom,



**As of 2018 we have
5826 Greek NT
manuscripts like
this.**

**These manuscripts
create textual
variants.**

“Received Text”

Textus Receptus

1:6 καὶ ἐποίησεν ἡμᾶς βασιλεῖς καὶ ἱερεῖς τῷ θεῷ καὶ πατρὶ αὐτοῦ αὐτῷ ἡ δόξα καὶ τὸ κράτος εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων ἀμήν

Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus

The GNT from the Study of the Texts

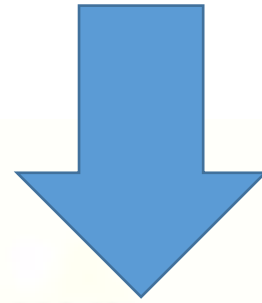
Morphological GNT

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Nestle-Aland 27th Edition Greek New
Testament (Morphological Edition)
(NA27)



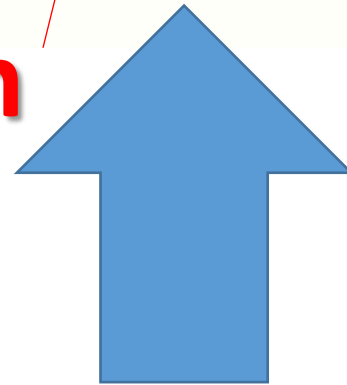
Kings



ἡμᾶς βασιλεῖς καὶ

ἡμᾶς βασιλείαν ἱερεῖς

Kingdom



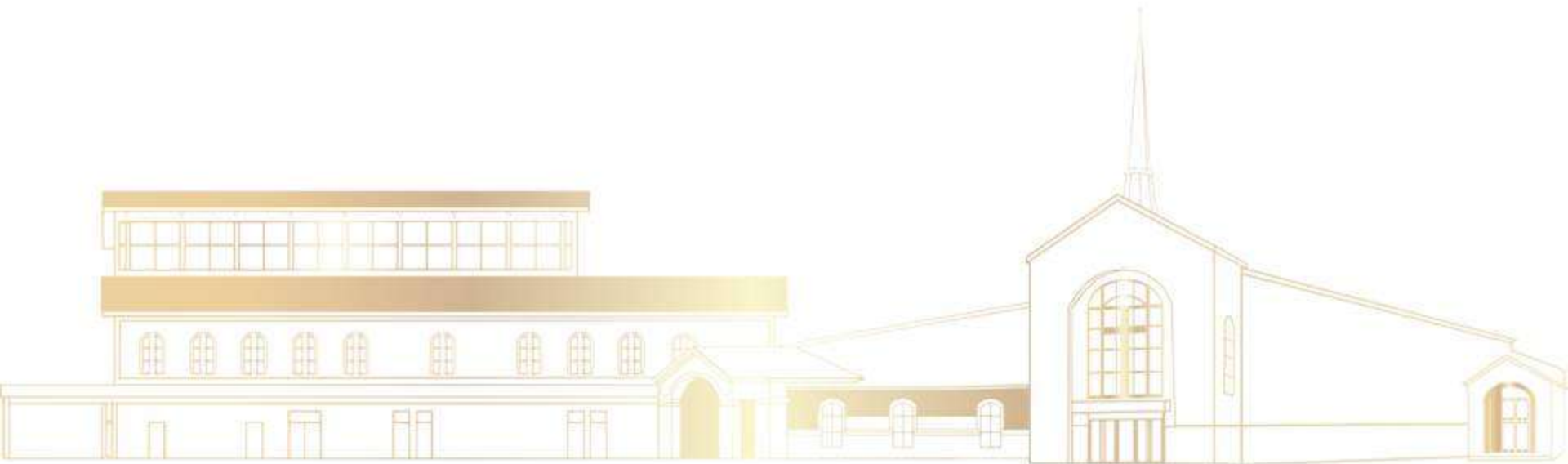
Revelation 1:6 (AV)



- And hath made us kings and priests
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**This issue repeats itself
in Revelation 5:10**



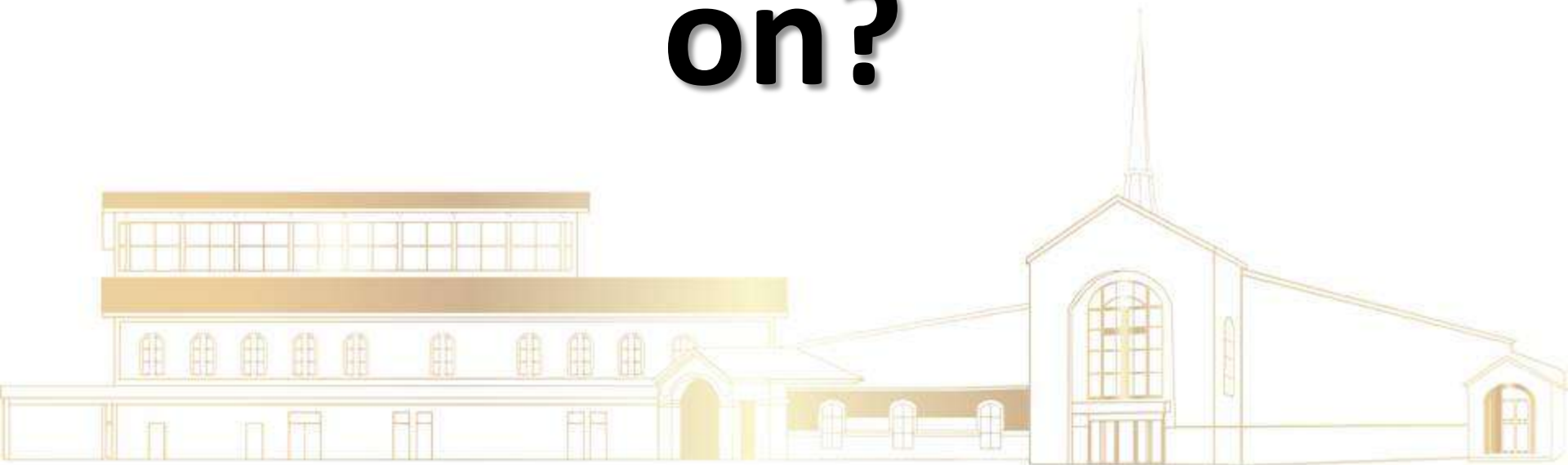
Revelation 5:10



- And hast made us unto our God **kings and priests:** and we shall reign on the earth.
- and you have made them a **kingdom and priests** to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

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**So which one
should we focus
on?**



I found 3 references to Christians reigning

Mt 25:21, 2 Tim 2:12, Rev 5:10



Matthew 25:21

- His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, **I will make thee ruler over many things:** enter thou into the joy of thy lord.



2 Timothy 2:12

- if we endure, **we will also reign with him**; if we deny him, he also will deny us;



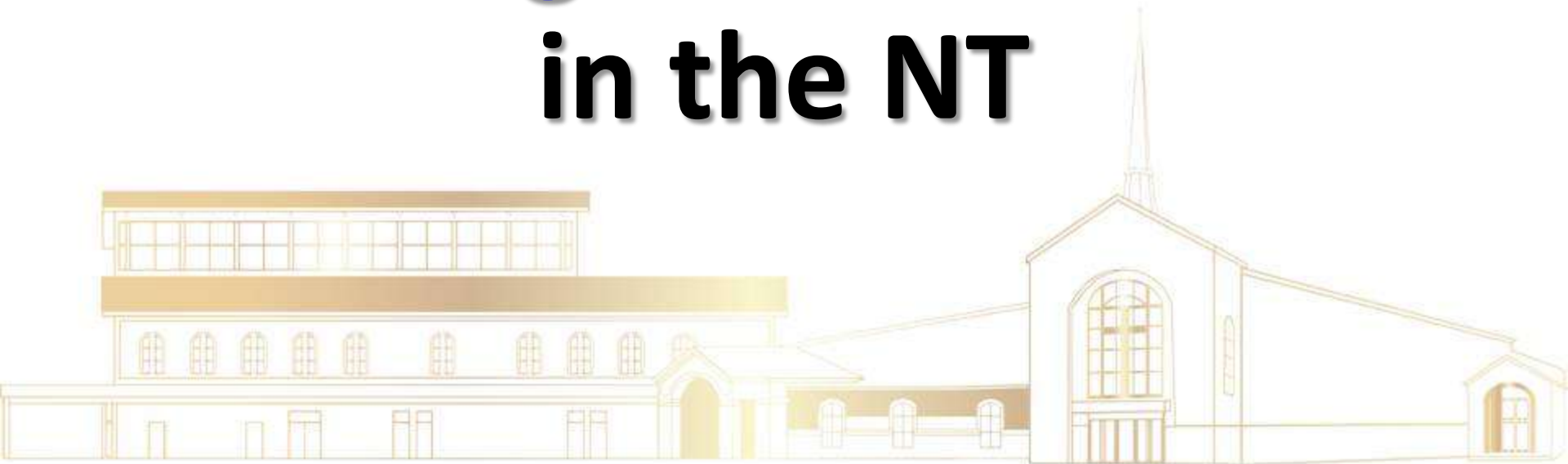
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**There are 100+
references to the
Kingdom of God
in the NT**



Revelation 1:6



- and made us a kingdom,

**kingdom fits
well with v. 9**

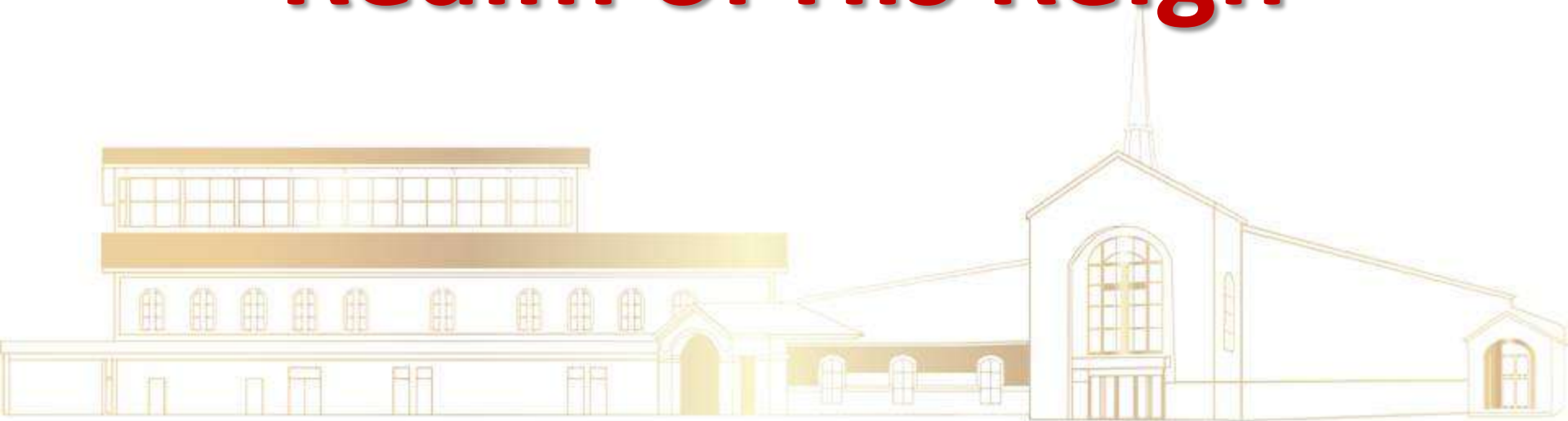
Revelations 1:9



- I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

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Made Us a Kingdom
Reminds us of the
“Realm of His Reign”



In the NT, there is a focus on both the local church with its elders, deacons, and members AND the universal reign of God—the Kingdom of God and His dear Son the Christ. Look at this book; it is written to 7 churches with focus on the Kingdom of God.



The Kingdom of God is the most monolithic and simultaneously most diverse entity in the history of humanity and all of creation.

Monolithic because it is built upon the rock Jesus Christ.

Diverse because it has both genders, all races and ethnicities and is diverse politically, socially, economically, and even theologically.

The kingdom of God has both Baptists and Pentecostals; it has both Catholics and Protestants and Calvinists (Presbyterians) and Arminians (Methodists) and on and on....



Revelation 5:9



- They were singing a new song:
“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals because you were killed, and at the cost of your own blood you have purchased for God persons from every tribe, language, people, and nation.”

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Jesus' Preaching

Begins with an
announcement that the
Kingdom of God is at Hand



Matthew 4:17

- From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say,
Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.



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And Jesus' Ministry Ends w/

Acts 1:3



Acts 1:3

- To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, **and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:**



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How do we pray?

**Our Father who art in
heaven....**



This kingdom of God

- **Is more than universal in size and scope**
- **Exists in heaven and on earth**
- **Has God as its King and the people of God as its citizens**
- **Is eternal in its existence**
- **Ultimately crushes all other kingdoms**



John 18:36

- Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world.** If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”



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Revelation 11:5

Contains an Incredible
Promise Concerning the
Kingdom



Revelation 11:15



- Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

Ultimately there are ONLY two kingdoms in existence today:

- 1.The Kingdom of our Lord and His Christ.**
- 2.The Kingdom of this world with Satan as its god. (2 Cor 4:4)**

Which one are you in?



Universal Kingdom of God Truths

Everyone in the kingdom of God believes (agrees) that God the Creator and Father sent His one and only Son, The Lord Jesus Christ, to the earth as a human (God-man) to die for the sins He did not commit, was buried, and rose again on the third day and is presently seated in heaven on the right hand of His Father and the one and only mediator between God and man.



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Turn to Matthew 16



¹⁵ He said to them, **“But who do you say that I am?”** ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, **“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”** ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ. ²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, **and be killed, and on the third day be raised.**



**In Revelation, both God
the Father and God the
Son are called King.
Is He your king?**



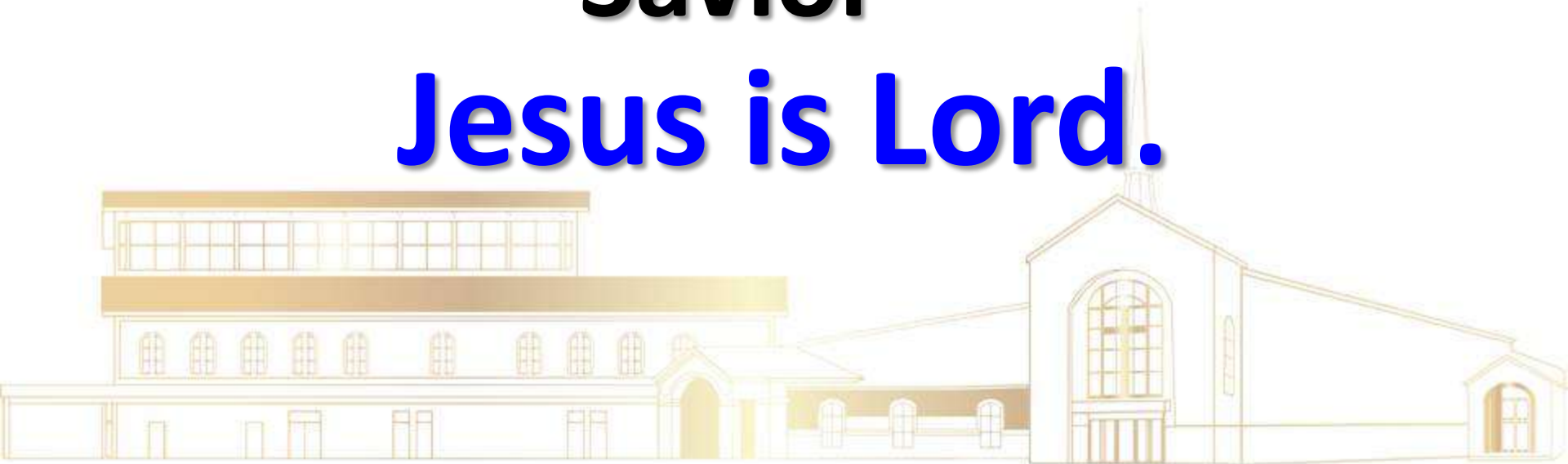
Colossians 1:13 AV

- Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:



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**Every reference to
kingdom reminds me that
Jesus is more than my
Savior—
Jesus is Lord.**



Matthew 21:5 (NET)

- *“Tell the people of Zion, ‘Look, your king is coming to you, unassuming and seated on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”*



Matthew 27:11

- Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.”



Revelation 17:14



- They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

Revelation 19:16



- And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**

Is He Your Lord?

Is He Your King?



Revelation 1:6



- priests to his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion
forever and ever.
- Amen.

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Turn Back To Exodus 19:5-6



Exodus 19:5-6

- Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: 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.



According to Peter, the church of Jesus Christ is now what the house of Jacob was in the OT.

Turn to 1 Peter 2:4ff



⁴ To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious, ⁵ **Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house,**

This spiritual house replaces or continues the 'house of Israel' or the 'house of Jacob' in the OT.

This spiritual house is composed NOT of ethnicity or spirituality. Members of this house share in the reality and unity that the Spirit of Christ dwells in them.



Synonyms

- **Spiritual House**
- **Kingdom of God**
- **Kingdom of Heaven**
- **Church of God**
- **Holy Nation**



an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ⁶ Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. ⁷ Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, ⁸ And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

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 marvelous light:**



**The NT teaches that
every born from
above Christian is a
priest in the kingdom.**



When we hear “priesthood of the believer” we normally focus upon the individuality of each Christian to approach the throne of God through Christ alone.

But that is NOT Peter or John’s focus.

Nor is it the individuality of the believer to make decisions for himself.



**What are the two things Peter
says the priesthood of believers
has been created to do in this
passage?**

**the answer is in
v. 5 & 9**



1 Peter 2:5

- you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, **to offer spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.



Sacrifice Defined

an act of offering to a deity

Merriam-Webster



Offering Defined

a: the act of one who offers

b: something offered; *especially: a sacrifice ceremonially offered as a part of worship*

c: a contribution to the support of a church

Merriam-Webster



Romans 12:1

- I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*



Spiritual sacrifices include:

- **Acts of love/service in the name of Jesus**



1 Peter 2:9

- But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, **that you may proclaim the excellencies of him** who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



1 Peter 2:9 (NET)

- But you are *a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own*, **so that you may proclaim the virtues** of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



Spiritual sacrifices include:

- Acts of love/service in the name of Jesus
- **Praise and worship in song or with instruments**



Hebrews 13:15

- By him therefore let us **offer the sacrifice of praise to God** continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.



Spiritual sacrifices include:

- Acts of love/service in the name of Jesus
- Praise and worship in song or with instruments
- **Offerings and gifts for the work of the Lord**



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- Acts of love/service in the name of Jesus
- Praise and worship in song or with instruments
- Offerings and gifts for the work of the Lord
- **Expressions of thanksgiving**



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Review

**Citizens of the kingdom of God
share in their**

- **Belief**
- **Purpose**



Revelations 1:10



- I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

Revelation 1:11



- saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

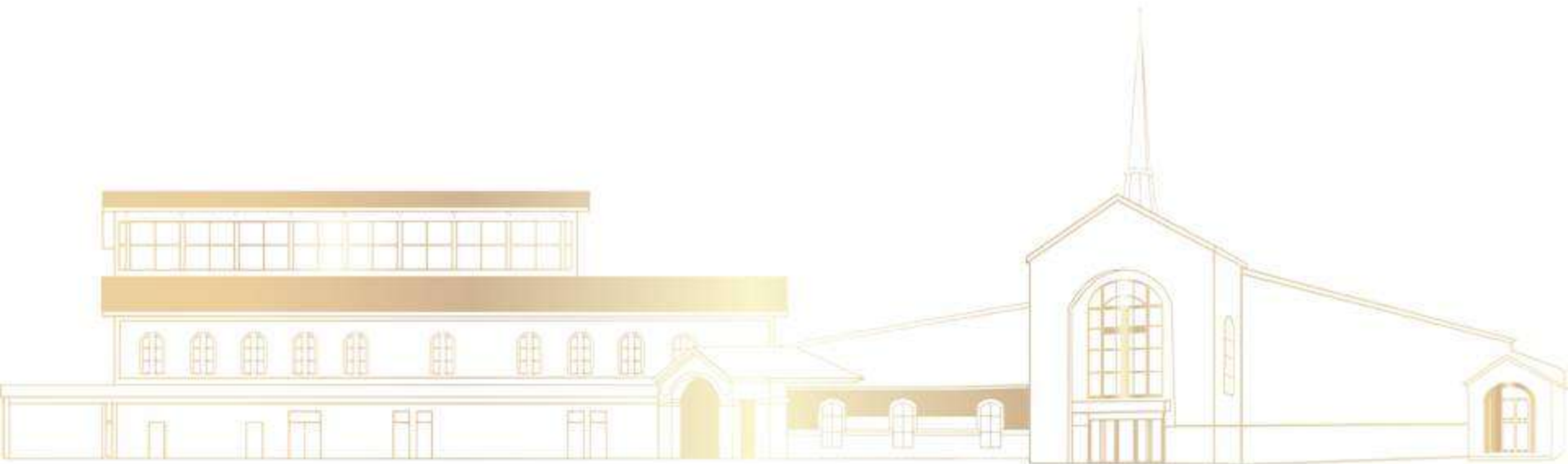
Revelation 1:12



- Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,

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A lampstand for each of the seven churches



Revelation 2:5



- Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Revelation 1:14-15



- The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.

Revelation 1:16



- In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

Revelation 1:17



- When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.
- But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last,

Revelation 1:18



- and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Revelation 1:19



Write therefore

- 1. the things that you have seen,**
- 2. those that are**
- 3. and those that are to take place after this.**

**This last phrase in v. 19
nearly assures us that
this book contains
futuristic prophecies yet
to be fulfilled.**



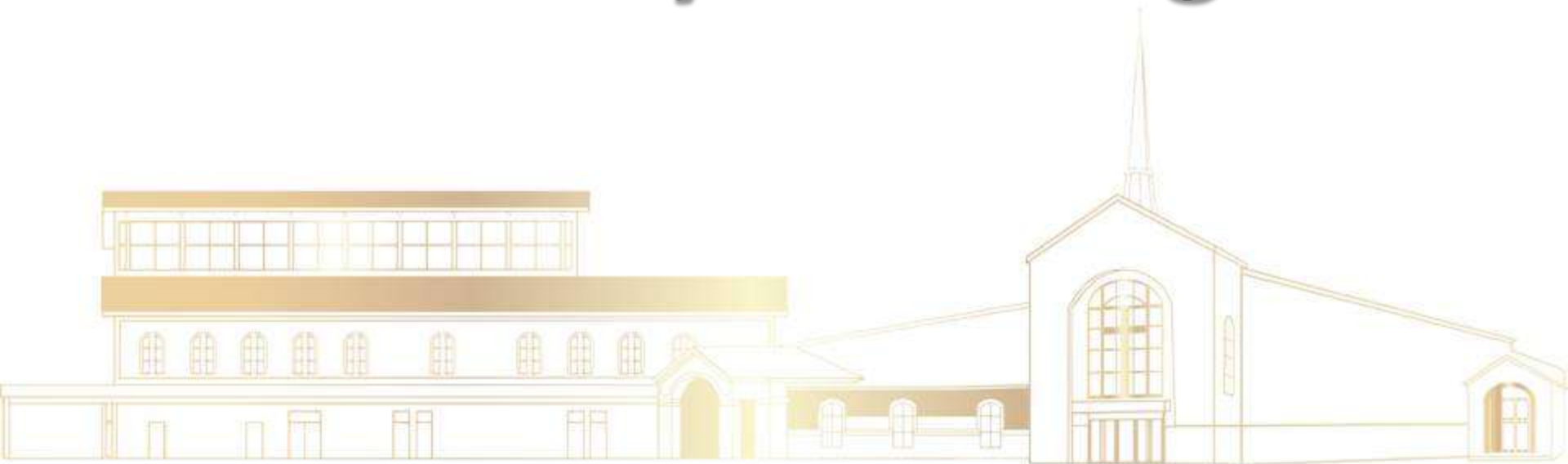
Revelation 1:20



- **As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.**

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**Are the angels “angels”
or are they messengers?**



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**What does the
lampstand represent?**

