

Preparing to Reign: Biblical Mandates for Future Kings and Priests

A Scriptural Study of Old Covenant Directives Applied to New Covenant Destiny

Introduction: The Dual Calling

The overarching narrative of the Holy Scriptures culminates in a profound reality for the believer: a redeemed corporate identity destined for divine governance and sacred service. In the Book of Revelation, this high calling is explicitly stated across several panoramic visions of the Church's ultimate purpose. Revelation 1:6 declares that Jesus Christ "hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." This dynamic promise is repeated and expanded by the twenty-four elders in Revelation 5:10: "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

This dual office of kingly authority and priestly sanctity is unique; under the Old Covenant mosaic framework, these offices were rigidly divided between the line of David (Judah) and the order of Aaron (Levi). However, to fully appreciate the administrative weight and moral rectitude expected of those who will assume these roles in the Kingdom of God, one must thoroughly explore the historical precedents, admonitions, and instructions given to the ancient kings and priests of Israel and Judah. By analyzing these Old Testament boundaries, we discover the timeless principles of holiness, justice, sobriety, and absolute submission to the Law of God necessary to fulfill our future roles according to His divine will.

The Standard of the Throne: Instructions to the Kings

The primary framework governing Israelite kingship is laid out long before the monarchy was established. In Deuteronomy 17, God anticipated Israel's desire for a human king and established structural, lifelong rules designed to ensure that the ruler would remain a humble servant-leader rather than an autocratic tyrant. These universal constraints focused heavily on stripping away worldly mechanisms of security and pride.

1. Prohibitions Against Material Dependency and Pride

God strictly forbade kings from multiplying three specific resources: horses (military might), wives (foreign political alliances), and silver and gold (economic self-reliance). Deuteronomy 17:16–17 states:

"But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. Neither shall he multiply wives to himself,

that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold."

For the future king, this underscores a core foundational truth: eternal governance cannot rely upon carnal weapons, compromising alliances, or material wealth. Power must be sourced entirely from God.

2. Meticulous Immersion in the Word of God

To counteract human arrogance, God required each monarch to execute an act of rigorous personal transcription and daily study. Deuteronomy 17:18–20 mandates:

"And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left..."

The King was not above the law; he was to be its primary keeper. His authority flowed strictly from his explicit submission to the supreme Sovereign.

3. Absolute Righteousness, Sobriety, and Investigation

Beyond Deuteronomy, the wisdom literature explicitly details the internal discipline required for unperverted justice. In Proverbs 31:4–5, monarchs are strictly warned against intoxicating substances:

"It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted."

The king's mind must remain perfectly sober to guarantee that the marginalized receive absolute equity. Furthermore, Proverbs 16:12 establishes that "It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness," while Proverbs 25:2 highlights the analytical responsibility of leadership: "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter."

This legacy of judicial duty is brilliantly captured in David's dying words to King Solomon in 1 Kings 2:2–3, commanding him to "be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; And keep the charge of the LORD thy God... that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest."

The Sanctity of the Altar: Instructions to the Priests and Levites

While kings were appointed to govern the external actions of the nation, the priests and Levites were charged with guarding the internal, spiritual life of the people. Their proximity to the

immediate Presence of God within the Tabernacle and Temple required an unprecedented level of separation, physical cleanliness, and flawless doctrinal execution.

1. Total Separation and Absolute Sobriety in Ministry

Immediately following the horrific judgment upon Nadab and Abihu—who offered "strange fire" before the Lord—God delivered an urgent, perpetual statute to Aaron regarding operational sobriety. Leviticus 10:9–11 commands:

"Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses."

Like the king, the priest cannot afford a clouded mind. A priest's primary responsibility is clarity—serving as a clear, uncompromised conduit of divine truth.

2. Guarding Doctrinal Purity and Moral Discernment

In the prophetic rebukes of Malachi, the divine expectation for priestly instruction is perfectly detailed. Malachi 2:6–7 states:

"The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts."

Ezekiel 44:23–24 further expands this instructional mandate into the judicial realm, stating that priests "shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. And in controversy they shall stand in judgment... and they shall hallow my sabbaths."

3. Strict Personal Holiness and Sacred Custody

The physical ritualism of the Old Covenant explicitly pointed to an internal reality. Leviticus 21:6 mandates that priests "shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire... they do offer: therefore they shall be holy." To reinforce this, Exodus 28:43 notes that Aaron and his descendants must wear their sacred garments whenever approaching the altar "that they bear not iniquity, and die." Finally, Numbers 18:7 reminds them that their office is not a platform for personal entitlement, but rather "a service of gift," requiring diligent custody under penalty of death for any profane intrusion.

Comparative Analysis of Scriptural Instructions

The following table provides a direct cross-reference of the key Old Testament commands, their primary scriptural sources, and their direct spiritual application for our future calling as kings and priests.

Office	Core Scriptural Instruction (KJV)	Historical Passage	Application for Future Eternal Office
King	Shall not multiply horses, wives, or silver and gold.	Deuteronomy 17:16-17	Renouncing worldly security, carnal weapons, and material greed.
King	Write a personal copy of the Law and read it daily.	Deuteronomy 17:18-20	Absolute immersion in the Word to maintain fear of God and humility.
King	Abstain entirely from wine and strong drink to avoid perverting judgment.	Proverbs 31:4-5	Maintaining perfect spiritual sobriety and clarity to execute fair justice.
King	Eschew wickedness, establish the throne through righteousness.	Proverbs 16:12	Sovereignty must be rooted in uncompromised loyalty to God and his Word.
King	Search out and diligently investigate matters.	Proverbs 25:2	Developing deep divine wisdom, discernment, and administrative diligence.
King	Keep the charge of the Lord and walk explicitly in His statutes.	1 Kings 2:2-3	Demonstrating mature spiritual character through precise obedience.
Priest	Abstain from wine and strong drink when entering the Tabernacle.	Leviticus 10:9-11	Ensuring uncompromised cognitive and spiritual clarity in God's presence.
Priest	Keep truth on lips; walk in peace and turn many away from sin.	Malachi 2:6-7	Acting as a flawless messenger of God's true character and doctrine.
Priest	Teach the distinction between holy/profane and clean/unclean.	Ezekiel 44:23-24	Enforcing God's spiritual boundaries and resolving spiritual controversies justly.
Priest	Remain holy; do not profane the name of God while offering bread.	Leviticus 21:6	Preserving the sanctity of close fellowship with God.

Priest	Approach the altar with proper vestments to avoid bearing iniquity.	Exodus 28:43	Walking in the actions and thoughts of righteousness to avoid spiritual profanity.
Priest	Guard the priesthood as a sovereign service of gift.	Numbers 18:7	Viewing spiritual ministry as a sacred stewardship, not a personal right.

Conclusion: Preparing for Eternal Service

The structural analysis of these Old Testament admonitions reveals that the future roles of king and priest are not mere honorary titles or positions of self-indulgent privilege. Instead, they represent an intense burden of stewardship, requiring deep internal transformation. The instructions given to the historical kings of Israel demand an unwavering commitment to personal righteousness, constant immersion in God's Word, absolute freedom from material reliance, and flawless sobriety. Concurrently, the instructions to the levitical priesthood demand immaculate moral discernment, uncompromised doctrinal truth, deep spiritual cleanliness, and an acute awareness of the sanctity of God's presence.

As New Covenant believers anticipating our future roles under the Melchizedek order of Jesus Christ, our preparation begins today. We must actively cultivate the mental and spiritual sobriety demanded of Lemuel, the tireless scriptural study demanded of Deuteronomy, and the rigorous moral discernment required of Aaron. By learning from the systemic failures and successes of the historical leaders of Israel and Judah, we train our hearts to govern with equity and minister with purity. Only by integrating these timeless instructions into our current earthly walk can we hope to stand fully equipped, ready to reign on the earth according to God's perfect, eternal will.