

Dive! FBCD Women's Ministry

From Garden to Glory by Courtney Doctor - Chapter 5 (A Kingdom of Priests)

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Once upon a time...

Characters:

- God is the Source of everything, the sovereign King, and a good and loving Father.
- Human beings are the crown of God's creation made in the image of God to be his representatives in the world.

Setting:

- The garden is full of God's glory, and everything is very good.
- The pattern of the kingdom is established. The kingdom of God exists perfectly as God's people in God's place under God's rule.

But then an evil serpent...

The Fall:

- The crafty serpent introduces doubt concerning who God is.
- Adam and Eve sin through their disobedience, and the sovereign King rightfully issues a curse that affects humanity's relationship with God, man, and the earth.
- Adam stands as our representative, which means we are born as sinners and bear the consequences of the curse.

The Promise:

- The sovereign King acts in sovereign grace by promising to send a Savior who will crush the serpent's head.

The heart of our King...

The Heart of the King—Love:

- Sin makes us guilty before God, and God's holiness does not allow him to overlook our sin.
- God's love compelled him to fix the problem of our sin and his holy need for justice.

The Way of the King–Covenant:

- The Noahic covenant gives us a foretaste of both coming judgment and coming salvation.
- The Abrahamic covenant gives us a foretaste of the gospel in that it highlights righteousness through faith, salvation through substitution, circumcision of the heart, and a longing for the heavenly city.

A kingdom of priests...

OVERVIEW OF EXODUS

Exodus = “departure” or “a going out”

Part 1: God delivers his people from Egyptian bondage through Moses (1-15).

Part 2: God speaks through Moses to his people in the giving of the Law (15-31).

Part 3: God dwells with his people in the tabernacle that Moses builds (32-40).

“When reading OT narratives, it’s helpful to compare how a book begins with how it ends” (Hunter and Wellum, 129).

Beginning of Exodus	Ending of Exodus
Servitude in Egypt	Service to God
Building cities for an oppressor	Building a tabernacle for God
Drowning of Israel’s children	Drowning of Pharaoh’s army

A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS AND A HOLY NATION

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:5-6).

1. A Kingdom of Priests

Question: What is the role of a priest?

Believers are considered priests in that we are interceding on behalf of people that they might believe in the Lord. We have an obligation to walk in a manner

worthy of our calling and ought to be actively proclaiming his excellencies so that others may come to know him.

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” (Rom 10:14).

2. A Holy Nation

Question: What does it mean for believers to be a holy nation?

Believers are called to represent their heavenly home by reflecting the holiness of God.

Question: In what ways can we be guilty of syncretism (merging with the world) or separatism (separation from the world)?

THE FLOOR AND THE CEILING OF THE LAW

“The law was meant to help God’s children flourish and to show others the goodness of being in God’s family. Yes, the law . . . restricts at times, but only to promote the flourishing of those to whom the law applies” (Doctor, 122-123).

In a cathedral, the floor is the place you enter and the platform on which you stand. The ceiling is the place that lifts your eyes upward and can cause you to lose your breath in wonder and awe.

Question: In what way can the Ten Commandments be considered the floor?

“But the ceiling is the character of God himself: Instead of murder, he brings life; instead of lying, he is the source of truth; instead of stealing, he gives generously; and instead of adultery, he is ever faithful” (Doctor, 123).

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27).

LOOKING AHEAD

1. A Greater Exodus

- The death of Jesus is called his “departure” (Luke 9:31). This is the Greek word *exodus*! The liberation of the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt ultimately points to a much greater rescue mission. The death of Jesus is the believer’s liberation from sin. (It is more than that, but it is certainly not less!)

2. A Greater Israel

- Jesus is the true Israel who came out of Egypt (Matthew 2:15), fulfilled Israel’s role of being the light of the world (John 8:12), and lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father (Hebrews 4:15).
- Israel (and we) failed to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, but Jesus is our Great High Priest who makes intercession for us and sacrificed his holy life in our place.
- “Jesus, the true offspring of Abraham, the true Israelite, obeys in his life for us and in his death wins for us our salvation” (Hunter and Wellum, 146).

3. A Greater Law

- “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Jeremiah 31:33).
- “The Law-covenant was needed, and it was glorious and good, but it was not enough. In God’s plan, the Law-covenant did many things for the nation, but it also pointed beyond itself to something—Someone—greater who would deal finally and definitively with the problem of sin” (Hunter and Wellum, 140-141).