

IV. The Position and Practice of a Priest Before God

1 Peter 2:1-12, Rev. 1:1-6

A. Introduction

The word "priest", related to the word "temple" (in Greek), indicates one who does the service of the temple or is in the "employ" of God. The Old Testament word "priest" suggests the same concepts through its usage. The priest is both a servant for and of the Lord and has his being and operation under the direction of God. Historically the priestly office developed from the Lord himself as He performed a priestly role for Adam after the fall. The law would eventually make men of a certain class to be priests and the Lord Jesus would assume the high priestly function himself. In this age one of the unique factors is that the church is a "royal priesthood" and that every believer is a "priest." Three times this expression is given us in Revelation but without these explicit statements, the priesthood of all Christians would be seen in 1 Peter 2 and in Hebrews 13—as well as in many other places. The idea was one of the revived truths of the Reformation and is still a popular expression in protestantism. But the force of it is easily forgotten as Christians forget that each has a priestly position and begin to think that only the clergy or leaders have this place of access to the will and the enjoyment of God. In our series on Christian position, this is a very important point. Every believer is a priest before God and should therefore begin to think of himself in that light.

B. Discussion

1. The character of the priestly position.

Describing the position of the priest before God, we may notice the following points based on a wide selection of Scriptures:

a. Divine Appointment...1 Peter 2:7. It is