



◆ Introduction

1. It is critical that we understand the way God has designed for us as humans to operate. We must know why we are alive and what we were created for. If we do not understand this, then we can never give God what it is that He truly desires from us.
2. Our eternal calling is to stand before the Lord as priests forever. This biblical reality has three primary components:
 - A. **Encounter the beauty of God**
 - B. **Declare the beauty of God to others**
 - C. **Create a context where others can encounter the beauty of God themselves**
3. We tend to give more time and energy towards our individual assignments in the Kingdom than we do our eternal calling. However, God always desires for earthly dominion (our assignments and ministries) to be fueled from the place of our eternal calling as priests (beholding His beauty, declaring His beauty, and inviting others to behold and declare His beauty).
4. One of the greatest threats to your assignment from God is when you prioritize your assignment over your eternal calling. Your assignment will never satisfy you. You must operate in your eternal calling in order to make your assignment successful. Pursuing your assignment as your priority will actually set you off track. Instead, if you operate in your eternal calling and make that your priority, you will also fulfill your assignments.
5. Lets go back and start with Adam and Eve. Their calling and interaction with God helps to shed light on our eternal purpose and created design.

◆ Adam and Eve: Kings and Priests

6. The garden was heaven on earth, literally. It was where God and man lived together, abiding in perfect unity. In this beautiful reality, the first thing that God desired for Adam and Eve to have was dominion over the earth:

...God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion ...over all the earth..." (Gen 1:26 ESV)

7. Dominion (radah) refers to the reign of a monarch. Adam and Eve were essentially King and Queen of earth, having been given this role and authority from God. God desired for them to bear His image and His nature, and He desired to actively partner with Adam and Eve in expanding His kingdom throughout the entire earth.
8. The foundation of the governance of Adam and Eve's rule was as a kingdom of priests, ministering to God continually and keeping His sanctuary. God placed them in a garden that He Himself planted (**Gen 2:8**). This garden was located in a place called "Eden",



which in the original language translates to mean “*Pleasure*”. God placed the King and Queen of earth in His garden of pleasure in order for them to work and keep it.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (Gen 2:15 ESV)

9. The word “*work*” is abad, and the word “*keep*” is shamar. These are the same words used throughout scripture to describe the roles of priestly ministry:

“Bring the tribe of Levi near, and set them before Aaron the priest... They shall keep guard over him and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they minister [*abad*] at the tabernacle. (Num 3:6-7 ESV)

“At the entrance of the tent of meeting you shall remain day and night for seven days, performing [*shamar*] what the LORD has charged...” (Lev 8:35 ESV)

10. Adam and Eve were not farmers who worked a plot of ground for food, they were stewards and ministers in the place that God had designed specifically for encounter with Him. They were ministering (*abad*) to the Lord face to face in His garden of pleasure, His sanctuary, and they were the designated keepers of that sanctuary, keeping it holy and set apart for the place of intimacy and encounter. They were meant to rule and expand the Kingdom of God throughout the earth from that place of communion. They were kings and priests.
11. More biblical support for Adam and Eve’s priestly role in the garden can be found in Ezekiel 28. Some believe this text is referring to satan, but when we use scripture to interpret scripture, it is clearly describing a human priest who lived in the garden of Eden. Adam’s garments described in Ezekiel are identical to the description of Aaron’s priestly garments in Exodus 28:

ADAM’S PRIESTLY GARMENTS IN EDEN

“You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering; sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. (Ezk 28:12-13 ESV)

COMPARE THAT TO AARONS PRIESTLY GARMENTS

“...bring near to you Aaron your brother... to serve me as priests... And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty... You shall set in it four rows of stones. A row of sardius, topaz, and carbuncle shall be the first row; and the second row an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond; and the third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; and the fourth row a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They shall be set in gold... (Exo 28:1-20 ESV)

12. Both passages are describing the same priestly garments, with the same stones and golden settings. Also, both sets of garments are described as being “glorious” or “beautiful”. When you continue reading in Ezekiel 28, there is also an anointing that is



mentioned that would only apply to a human priest or king. Therefore our logical conclusion from scripture is that this passage is referring to Adam.

13. The reason that some believe that this passage in Ezekiel is referring to satan is because there is angelic language that is used, such as “Guardian Cherub”. When we look up the meaning in the original language, we get the description of an angelic being that was the guardian of Eden.
 - D. Pulling from scripture, we know that Adam was the “guardian” of Eden, because he was the one tasked with keeping Eden in Genesis 2:15, just as the Levites were the guardians and keepers of the tabernacle and the temple throughout later generations.
 - E. Lastly, the word “angel” in the original language literally means “*A messenger or representative of God: an angel, a prophet, priest, king, ambassador or teacher*”. In conclusion, this description of “an angelic being that was the guardian of Eden” most easily fits with that of Adam and Eve before the fall.

◆ The Rebellion, Fall, and Corruption of Humanity

14. Adam and Eve were meant to govern the kingdom from the place of being informed and connected to Gods nature, character, and will through constant relationship with Him. However, God had provided them with the ability to forsake this relationship and to expand their dominion apart from Him. He did not want to force them into relationship with Him, so He provided them with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil:

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Gen 2:16-17 ESV)

15. God clearly warned them that if they rebelled against Him and partook of the fruit of this tree, that they would die. There are many levels of truth to what this “*death*” looks like. The immediate death that would occur would be within Adam and Eve’s spirit.
 - A. God’s Spirit was dwelling inside of Adam and Eve’s spirit in the place of unparalleled intimacy. His Spirit was their continual source of life, goodness, and truth. Their soul (*mind, will, emotions*) were completely informed and led by His Spirit, and their body was fully glorified and saturated with His presence. God cannot dwell where there is anything that is not in full alignment with Him, therefore the first result of their rebellion would be God’s Spirit leaving Adam and Eve’s Spirit. Without God’s Spirit, Adam and Eve’s spirit would die.
 - B. Upon the separation and death of Adam and Eve’s Spirit, their soul would instantly be cut off from its source of life, goodness, and truth. For the first time, their mind, will, and emotions would not be led by the Spirit, but instead, they would be left to determine for themselves what is good or evil. Therefore their souls would become corrupted, looking only to itself to determine truth.



- C. Finally, Their body would be subjected to this corruption as well. Cut off from Gods Spirit, the body would no longer be glorified with the presence of God, and it would begin to erode and decay... a literal manifestation of the inner death that had occurred. Eventually, literal death of the body would occur.

...sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men... (Rom 5:12 ESV)

16. God had created Adam and Eve in the most intimate way. They were the only members of His creation that He created in His very own image, and He literally gave them everything that was His. All of creation was given to Adam and Eve as a gift, and they were given the highest authority in God's Kingdom, functioning as Gods very own rulers over all that He had established. But beyond all of this is the intense relationship with God that Adam and Eve were offered. They were the guardians of Gods most intimate and personal location on the earth: the garden of His pleasure. They were literally filled inside and out with the Glory of God Himself. *We should be completely undone by the extent of Gods desire to be seen though His own creation as they rule and reign with Him in perfect partnership.*
17. This is why Adam and Eve's conspiracy against God is so very intense. We can see deeper into the sin of Adam through a prophetic word found in the book of Ezekiel. The prophet compares the sin of the king of Tyre (*and incredibly rich king who mistakes himself to be a god*) with that of the sin of Adam. Lets go through this passage of scripture:

"You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings (tôp: Tambourines) and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. (Ezk 28:12-13 ESV)

18. Here the lament of God is deeply expressed. God had given Adam everything. He was the perfect expression of wisdom and beauty. He was covered in glorious priestly garments which God Himself made for Him. Musical instruments were even provided for His priestly service to God. Essentially He was Gods most treasured, most cherished, most honored, most decorated, most beautiful, and most empowered creation.

You were an anointed guardian cherub (kerûb: angelic being that guarded Eden). I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness ('ewel: injustice) was found in you. (Ezk 28:14-15 ESV)

19. God had anointed Adam as the guardian of the garden of His pleasure (*in the same way that all of Gods priests and kings were anointed throughout scripture*), He was the one whom God had appointed to minister and keep His sanctuary. No other created being had been given this level of honor, relationship, or access to Him.



In the abundance of your trade (*reḵulâ: merchandize*) you were filled with violence (*hâmâs: damage, falseness, wrongness*) in your midst, and you sinned (*hâtâ': missed, forfeit*); so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God... Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor... (Ezk 28:16-19 ESV)

20. In the midst of Adam having incredible wealth and beauty as Gods most cherished creation, He became filled with violence against God within His heart, and through a conspiracy with Satan, Adam and Eve decided to become their own god and to have the kingdom and dominion for themselves apart from God:

But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Gen 3:4 ESV)

21. We see the climax of Adam’s sin in Ezekiel 28:19: His heart became proud because of His beauty, and he corrupted his wisdom for the sake of his splendor. Adam was the most beautiful and most decorated of all of Gods creation, and his deep mistake was to attribute this beauty as being inherently his. There was a shift that had taken place in Adam’s heart in which he was no longer beholding the beauty of God, but instead he had begun to behold his own beauty. What Adam did not realize is that the source of his own beauty was God Himself, and that apart from God, His beauty would fade and become corrupted.

22. Paul, in the book of Romans, directly compares the sin of Adam to the sin of the coming Antichrist:

...death reigned from Adam... who was a type of the one who was to come. (Romans 5:14 ESV)

23. The Antichrist will come and establish dominion throughout the entire earth, but this dominion will be for his own glory (*Revelation 13:7-8*). He will demand that the entire world worships him and confesses that He alone is God (*2 Thessalonians 2:3-4*). We must begin to truly feel the weight of Adam and Eve’s sin, and recognize it for what it is: Full rebellion against God with an inherent desire to become God themselves.

24. God had designed Adam and Eve to behold beauty. Their desire to behold beauty was not wrong, it was ingrained into who they are. They were created to behold the beauty of God, to proclaim His beauty throughout their dominion of the world, and to create a context for all future generations of humanity to behold and be continuously disciplined into God’s beauty forever. The root of their sin was that they determined themselves to be more beautiful and worthy of worship than God.

◆ The Resulting War Over Beauty & Worship

25. Every generation after Adam and Eve has entered into this same war over what they deem to be beautiful and worthy of worship. We as humanity are wired to behold beauty



and to worship that which is beautiful. The problem is that we have become corrupted and disconnected from that which is truly beautiful.

26. Because of our rebellion against God, Heaven has been separated from the earth, and God no longer dwells with humanity, meaning that we are no longer connected to God's source of all true beauty and life. There is still inherent beauty all throughout God's creation, however it has all fallen under the curse of death and corruption.
27. We are under assault in the area of beauty. There are billions of dollars being spent each year trying to sell you something that you perceive to be beautiful: *Cosmetics, cars, computers, phones, clothes, homes, sports, entertainment, music, food, etc.* Beauty is not only limited to things that you can see with your eyes: it also includes emotions, ideas, dreams, and so on. Music often provokes an emotion or thought that is perceived to be beautiful by the listener, even if the emotion or thought is a dark one.
28. The great need of the nations is for there to be a people who are satisfied with God and who are feeding off of God continually. We are feeding off of a thousand lesser things. This results in a people who are starving because they are overfed.
29. The Church stands alone as the only community that can preserve what it means to be truly human, because the church alone has the revelation of the One who is truly beautiful. However, we must learn how to correctly address this desperate need for fascination:
 - A. We tend to rebuke for overconsumption of false things. However this is only half of the answer: We must redirect our appetites, not only suppress them:

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. (Isaiah 55:1-2 ESV)

- B. He does not rebuke us for having hunger or thirst, He only commands for us to come to Him instead. He does not rebuke us for consuming, He rebukes us for consuming that which does not satisfy.
 - *If you are destroying your body because you are eating the wrong things, the answer is not to quit eating: it is to change what you eat. Your appetite is not the problem: it just needs to be redirected.*
 - *We are made to crave the beauty of God. The answer to the pollution in our culture is not abstinence from pleasure, but instead a shift from counterfeit pleasures to divine pleasures.*
30. The world is in a conflict over the issue of beauty, and it has resulted in a conflict over worship. Because God has given humanity dominion over the earth, whatever we worship, we also give our authority to. This means that worship is incredibly powerful, as well as dangerous when we as humans worship the wrong things.



31. Whatever we worship, we become like. This is why Gods command for us to worship Him is kindest command that He can give us: He knows that when we worship Him, it makes us like Him.
32. God is the only one who can be trusted to be enthroned through worship because of His incredibly humble nature and proven character:

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
(Philippians 2:3-8 ESV)

33. Everything else that we worship that is not God oppresses us, because God is the only source of all that is good, true, and right.

34. Our words have immense power. We are in a war of words (Intercession).

- A. Our words give place to powers and principalities. Our Intercession is actively fueling a war against the corrupt intercession of others.
- B. God created through His words:

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. (Genesis 1:3 ESV)

- C. Jesus Himself is the “Living Word”:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father... (John 1:1-14 ESV)

- D. Our words are an outward expression of our inward reality:

...What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart... (Matthew 15:18 ESV)

35. A big part of our calling is to take back the air. When we fail to do this, false gods are given space to rule. This is why Gods people have always gathered together in worship and prayer: (Exodus, David, Israels Reformers, New Testament Church, etc.)

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes... praising God and having favor with all the people. (Acts 2:42-47 ESV)



But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”
(Acts 6:4 ESV)

So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. ***(Acts 12:5 ESV)***

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. ***(Acts 13:2-3 ESV)***

...Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them... ***(Acts 16:25 ESV)***

◆ The Restoration of Our Eternal Calling

36. In the book of Revelation, John receives an incredible encounter of what is to come. In this encounter, John sees the glory of who Jesus is along with the glory of our eternal calling.

37. The entire book of Revelation can be summarized with this intense statement of what God is going to accomplish before the end of the age: Reveal the beauty of Jesus to all nations and destroy everything that contends against it. This is why the book is titled “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”. The Father is going to put an end to Adam and Eve’s rebellion once and for all and establish Jesus as supremely excellent and worthy above all else.

38. The 1st chapter of Revelation reveals the beauty of Jesus to John in a way that He has never seen before:

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place... I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom... was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches...” Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw... one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. 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. 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. 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, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.
(Revelation 1:1-18 ESV)

- A. John was one of the closest disciples to Jesus when Jesus was on the Earth. He was among the select few who saw Jesus transfigured on the mount in His glorified body. John felt so confident about their relationship that he even called



himself “the disciple that Jesus loved” (*John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, 21:20*). It is safe to say that he is one of the disciples who knew Jesus best.

- B. However, when John sees Jesus this time, he collapsed before Him as if he were dead! All John can say was that He was “*like a man*”. His appearance was completely different from anything that John had previously experienced.
- C. *John, who knew Jesus best, realized that he didn’t know Jesus at all.*
- D. Jesus is the source of unending fascination and beauty: we can never exhaust Him or complete the journey of discovering who He is. *He is unending fascination.* We must recover our fascination in Jesus in order to enter into our eternal calling.

39. In Revelation 4, John hears an invitation that God desires to extend to the entire Church:

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” (Revelation 4:1 ESV)

- A. This statement is key for understanding our human identity and for Gods divine plan of redeeming the world.

40. After hearing this invitation, John is caught up into heaven where he sees the living creatures continually gazing and responding to the beauty of God:

...and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald... From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and pearls of thunder... And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind... and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” (Revelation 4:2-8 ESV)

41. In this moment, John suddenly remembers the prayer that Jesus asked for him to pray:

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:9-10 ESV)

- A. *John realizes that he is seeing what Jesus desires to happen on the earth.*

42. Since Adam and Eve’s fall, God has been continuously partnering with humanity to create copies and shadows of this heavenly reality on the earth like it was in the garden.

There are priests who... serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” (Hebrews 8:1-5 ESV)



“All this,” said David, “the LORD made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, all the details of this pattern.” (1 Chronicles 28:19 ESV)

43. John is beholding the heavenly pattern for Earth.
44. The four living creatures in heaven see and respond to the beauty of God:
 - A. They are covered in eyes because God wants for them to encounter His beauty.
 - B. They are gripped by pleasure in what they see: Our eyes are a doorway for pleasure. We are born with “thirsty eyes” in the sense that we long to look at what is beautiful. God designed us so that when we behold beauty it would be pleasurable.
 - C. They react to the beauty they see. There is a natural impulse that arises when we behold something beautiful or incredible: When a stadium filled with people see a sports team perform an incredible play, there is no need for an announcer to inform them that now would be a good time to respond with some cheering... the crowd naturally erupts with praise and shouts!
45. John describes this act of gazing and reacting as unceasing: the four living creatures never stop.
 - A. The reason they never stop is because they are gazing at infinite beauty. This source of beauty can never be exhausted! *We naturally stop looking at something when it ceases to be beautiful or captivating.* They never stop looking at God because He simply never ceases to be beautiful.
 - B. Jesus’ invitation, “Come up here”, is an invitation to the global body of Christ to come and drink of the endless beauty of God. He is more beautiful than we think He is. We will never exhaust His beauty.
 - C. Our cravings in this world are exhaustible, but not so with God’s beauty. This is why we have an endless appetite and why everything in this age falls short of truly satisfying us. God designed us so that He is the only one who can satisfy us.
46. When we encounter beauty, we respond to it, and we tell others about it. *When you watch an engaging and captivating movie, you have to tell your friends about it, and if they haven’t seen it yet, you tell them that they have to experience it for themselves!*
 - A. God created us to experience the pleasure of His beauty and to make it known on the earth.
 - B. Because our authority (*dominion*) over the earth is real, when we fail to point towards true beauty and point instead towards lesser beauty, it results in tragedy and empowers darkness.



- C. Worship preserves or destroys nations: Priestly people who carry a clear vision of something captivating will move people towards it, for good or for evil.

47. In Revelation 5, Johns encounter continues as he sees Jesus being worshipped because He has redeemed humanities eternal calling:

And when he (Jesus) had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” (Revelation 5:8-10 ESV)

- A. Jesus shed His blood in order to establish priests from every nation: He has restored humanities eternal calling. We are a holy priesthood, called to behold and praise His endless beauty and Proclaim His beauty to the nations:

You are... a royal priesthood... His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light... (1 Peter 2:9-10)

- B. We as Christians must become priests on the earth: This is Gods solution to the crisis and rebellion that exists throughout the nations. As believers begin to behold Him and declare His beauty throughout the world, *the world will begin to respond*. This is why from this point on in Revelation 5, worship continues to expand throughout all of creation:

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you... for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” (Revelation 5:9-14 ESV)

- C. We are commanded over and over throughout scripture to sing a new song of His beauty and declare it to the nations:

Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. (Psalms 96:1-4 ESV)



Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants. Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice... let the habitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare his praise in the coastlands. (Isaiah 42:10-12 ESV)

D. This new song of the beauty of God will one day cover the entire earth:

...the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14 ESV)

For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts. (Malachi 1:11 ESV)

◆ Jesus, The Second Adam

48. Through Jesus, our internal rebellion that we inherited from Adam has been defeated, our standing before God has been restored, and our eternal calling has been redeemed:

...We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith... (Romans 5:1-2 ESV)

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Rev 1:6 ESV)

49. Jesus is described as being the “Second Adam”:

“The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit... Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (1 Co 15:45-49 ESV)

A. Where Adam rebelled against God and forsook his priestly calling, Jesus came in the exact opposite spirit: He completely submitted Himself to His Father (*John 5:19*) and became our great high Priest:

...We have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God. (Hebrews 4:14 ESV)

B. Where Adam introduced the curse of death through His rebellion, Jesus defeats the curse of death through His submission:

...He must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.”... When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all. (1 Co 15:25-28 ESV)



- C. Jesus will do the opposite of what Adam did when God gave Adam dominion. Instead of trying to take it for Himself, Jesus will turn around and willingly submit Himself completely to the Father.

50. Reading on thought the book of revelation, we discover a false worship movement that will arise under the leadership of the antichrist (*the beast*) and Satan (*the dragon*):

And I saw a beast... And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority... and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. And they worshiped the dragon... and they worshiped the beast. (Revelation 13:1-4 ESV)

- A. The Antichrist will come and establish dominion throughout the entire earth, but this dominion will be for his own glory (*Revelation 13:7-8*). He will demand that the entire world worships him and confesses that He alone is God:

...The man of lawlessness... the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship... proclaiming himself to be God. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 ESV)

- B. This is the final stand for the rebellion of Adam. The book of revelation foretells of this climatic story: two clashing worship movements, both competing for the gaze of humanity.
- C. At the climax of this story, Jesus will return and reveal His perfect beauty to all of humanity, exposing the antichrist as counterfeit. He will destroy the antichrist and his false worship movement:

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. (2 Thessalonians 2:8 ESV)

51. This is why it is critical that we enter into our eternal calling as Priests: At the end of the age, all the nations will be confronted with a choice: marvel and worship the one true living God, or marvel and worship the counterfeit. We must be actively declaring His beauty throughout the earth, it is the only way that millions of people will be able to make the right decision.

◆ Summarizing Our Eternal Calling

52. Jesus has restored our calling by redeeming us so that we can be priests. We have been made to be priests now and we will continue to be priests forever: It is our eternal occupation.

- A. We are designed to encounter the beauty of God.
- B. We are designed to respond to that beauty by declaring it. We do not just simply enjoy encountering beauty, we take incredible pleasure in talking about it. This is why Paul desires that all would prophecy:



Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. (1 Corinthians 14:1 ESV)

- C. We are to create a context where people can encounter the beauty of God for themselves.

53. This is why you were born. This is what you were made for.

◆ Summarizing The Divine Invitation: Come Up Here

54. Gods invitation for us to “come up here” is an invitation to gaze upon the endless beauty of God and then declare that beauty throughout the Earth:

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (Colossians 3:1-2 ESV)

- A. We are to set our minds on things above.
- B. This is not an abstract “spiritual” statement about heavenly vs. earthly. It is not primarily a statement of morality (*such as heaven is good, and earth is bad*), there are many good things on earth, God made that clear when He declared creation to be “good” in Genesis.
- C. This is a statement about our calling. We have been raised with Christ and seated in heavenly places so that we can discover what God has established in heaven and partner with Him in establishing these realities on the earth.

...Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”
(Matthew 6:9-10 ESV)

55. We must set our minds on things that are above. We must behold the beauty of God. Here are the primary pathways that we use to do this (*all of these are intricately connected*):

- A. The in-dwelling Spirit. Through Jesus we have been filled with the Holy Spirit, who searched out the deep things of God and reveals it to us:

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10 ESV)

- *The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation who opens the eyes of our hearts to the beauty (the knowledge) of God:*

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts



enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you.
(Ephesians 1:17-18 ESV)

- *The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth that reveals the glory of Jesus to us. He also shows us the things that are to come (same language that's in Revelation):*

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16:13-15 ESV)

- *The Holy Spirit is our primary escort into the beauty of God. Although right now we cannot go into heaven and see Jesus with our physical eyes, the Holy Spirit can enlighten the eyes of our hearts and reveal the knowledge of His beauty to us in a very real way.*
- *The Holy Spirit is an active agent who is fully involved in the following pathways to Gods beauty:*

- B. The Written Word of God. This a crucial escort into discovering the beauty of God. Through the Bible, we discover Gods character, His nature, His will, His purposes and plans... All critical elements of what makes Him so beautiful!

For the word of God is living and active... (Hebrews 4:11-12 ESV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalms 119:105 ESV)

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
(Psalms 119:103 ESV)

I have stored up your word in my heart... With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word. (Psalms 119:11-16 ESV)

- C. Worship. Worship is both a response to Gods beauty and the vehicle in which we discover Gods beauty. As we worship, we are declaring the knowledge of God and the glory of His unparalleled beauty. As a result, we are provoked to respond to our own declaration through more worship! This is a glorious cycle.

...Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ... (Ephesians 5:15-21)

- *Worship is much more dynamic than simply singing a couple of songs together. Worship is call and response; where we sing to one another about His beauty, and then shift our gaze directly to Him and sing together in unison. There are*



psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs... showing a combination of pre-written worship songs that are filled with the knowledge of God as well as the spontaneous new song that suddenly arises as a response.

◆ Conclusion: Enter Into Your Eternal Calling

56. Our inheritance as human beings is access to the beauty of God. In Jesus we are called to “come up here” in order to be fascinated by the beauty of God.
57. Assignments are important, but we will be priests forever: We need to recover our eternal calling... it is why we were created.
58. We must be confident in our identity before God and know who we are. If we don’t know who we are, then we will not respond to His invitation to “come up here”, and we won’t have a vision for the “things to come”.
59. In this age, our assignment as priests begins with three simple things:
 - A. Gaze on the beauty of God
 - B. Declare the beauty of God
 - C. Create a context for others to encounter the beauty of God.
60. Our words are powerful. The Words you speak will reverberate throughout eternity. This is why Jesus said that we would be justified or condemned by our words:

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. (Matthew 12:36-37 ESV)

61. We have no idea how powerful our simple worship is. We have no idea how powerful our small prayer meetings are. When we speak weak words into the atmosphere, we are engaging in war with the powers of darkness.

62. Isaiah called the nations to come and feast on the Lord:

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. (Isaiah 55:1 ESV)

63. The Lord invites us to feast on the knowledge of God, and then call the nations to that same feast. Only those who are satisfied by God Himself can call the nations to that same satisfaction.
 - A. The Lord cries out to us: “Come and eat!”
 - B. We are called to cry out to the nations: “Come and eat!”