

# Top Ten Ideas: Class 4

Saturday, February 06, 2010

8:01 PM

Exodus 19b5-6

כִּי-לִי כָּל-הָאָרֶץ.

וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ-לִי מְמַלְכֶת כֹּהֲנִים, וְגוֹי קְדוֹשׁ: אֵלֶּה, הַדְּבָרִים,  
אֲשֶׁר תִּדְבֹר, אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

For all the earth is Mine; and ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.'

JPS 1917

Indeed, all the earth is Mine, but you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.

NJV 1962

"ministers : The word kohamin in the context of this verse means that the entire nation of Israel is to be dedicated to leading the world toward an understanding and acceptance of God's mission. In the ritual sense, priests, too, can be seen as having this function.

Stone Chumash

Indeed, the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup>but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.'

New Revised Standard Version

[Meaning:] "princes," as you say: "And David's sons were *kohanim* (princes)."

Rashi

Kohen means here a people living a holy life devoted to the service of God.

Nachmanides

Kohen - Israel should be an inspiration and a model to all humanity.

Rabbi Ovadia Sforno

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The Kohen is closer to God than the rest of the people; so is Israel closer to God than other nations; The kohen accepts more obligations than other members of the people. So too do the Jewish People accept upon themselves more religious responsibilities than other nations (kashrut, Shabbat, brit milah, etc.). The kohen atones for the people; so Israel atones for the nations through its exemplary behavior. The kohen teaches the people respect for God; so the Jewish People is to teach the nations of the world respect for God and God's ethical laws.

Da'at Mikra

There are three crowns of the people of Israel: of Torah, of priesthood, and of royalty. The only one that is hereditary is that of kehunah (priesthood). Along with the hereditary nature of the priesthood comes the ability to pass on the holiness of the kehunah. "The Lord's portion is God's people, Jacob God's own inheritance" (Deut 32:9).

Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev

Goy Kadosh - this implies that Israel will be a united nation, as "one body and one soul." "Who is like your people Israel, a single nation on earth? (Chron 17:21). Further is that whenever one Israelite sins, all are punished; and when one Israelite is hurt all feel the pain. This is unlike other nations whose members sometimes rejoice in the pain of their neighbors.

Mekhilta de R. Shimon b. Yochai

You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am Holy

Lev. 19:1

For I the Lord am your God; you shall sanctify yourselves and be holy for I am holy... For I the Lord am He who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your god; you shall be holy for I am holy

Lev 11:44-45

You shall sanctify yourselves and be holy, for I the Lord am your God. You shall faithfully observe My laws; I the Lord make you holy

Lev 20:7-8

Holy = separate

Onkelos to Lev. 19:1

Holy = eternal

Rabbi O. Sforno

Holy nation = Divine protection : "Israel was holy to the Lord/The first fruits of God's harvest / All who ate of it were held guilty; Disaster befell them..." (Jeremiah 2:3)

Da'at Mikra