

they are using the Bible as a banner rather than as a guide. We believe in inerrancy, but what good does inerrancy do us if we don't get into it and see exactly what that inerrant Bible teaches?

Of course that comes under the heading of the prophetic purpose of the Bible and the prophetic ministry of Christ, not only for 3 and a half years but also as he works through the prophets of the OT and afterwards as he reveals himself thru the NT apostles likewise.

The second of these terms is that of priest. Oh, incidentally in connection with that you notice that the first reference we looked at to prophet was God speaking to the king of a heathen nation and said he is a prophet. So it is obvious that the word prophet contained a meaning to Abimilech. It's not a word that was originated for the purpose of revealing Christian truth. The same is true of the word priest and the word king.

The word priest is first used in the Bible in a very important place, where we read how Abraham was returning after having rescued his nephew Lot. In Gen. 18:14, Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High and he blessed Abram saying, Blessed be Abram by God most high creator of heaven and earth, and blessed be God most high who has delivered your enemies into your hands. This is the first use of the word priest and it doesn't explain what it means at all. It merely says that Melchizedek was a priest of God mosthigh. And the ancient nations had whom they called priests or used some other title which had the same general meaning.

Now the difference between the prophet and the priest, is that the prophet gives God's message to us and the priest represents us to God. All the nations until so-called sophisticated confusers of thought convinced people that God does not exist, that it all just came out of nowhere somehow by accident, and unfortunately such a large part of our educated class has been confused by that kind of teaching. Aside from that, most of the people in this country and in fact nearly all the people everywhere before this teaching began to be circulated, knew there was a God and they knew that they fell far short of meeting the desires of this God. The realization that we fall far short of what we should be is universal.

Men may not admit it and try to hide it but they recognize if they stop to think that they fall far short of what they ought to be. Therefore probably every nation has had either priests or something that would be similar to them--not those who would represent God to us and give his message to us as the prophets did, but those who would in some way represent us in removing the disfavor of this power or in winning his favor. The priest was our representative before God. That is the general idea of the term as used in just about every nation, since ancient times. The world has largely disappeared from our sophisticated nations where we all know that we are good enough and we can do everything. We soon find out we're not and we find that without God we're nothing.