

***Undercover
Priests***

1 Peter 2:9-10

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⁹ But **YOU** are a chosen people, are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that **YOU** may declare the praises of him who called **YOU** out of darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; *once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

A photograph of the Pentecost Methodist Church building, a modern white structure with large glass windows. A large, diverse crowd of people is gathered in front of the church, filling the street and sidewalk. The scene is set outdoors with green trees and a clear sky.

PENTECOST
METHODIST
CHURCH

This is **WHO** we are:

- a **chosen** people
- a **royal** priesthood
- a **holy** nation
- a people **belonging** to God

What is a priest?

Basic meaning

- someone set-apart (holy)
- a representative:
from God to man; and man to God.

OT Priests

Represented the people to God

- Performed sacrifices (burnt offering, sin offering, guilt offering, peace offering ...)
- Offered prayers

OT Priests

Represented God to the people

- Word of God – teaching and guidance
- Channel of blessings (Lev 9:22; Num 6:22-27)

OT Priests

Guardians of the Temple

- Dealt with the everyday matters: manpower, operations, logistics & security!!

12 tribes of
Israel

Reuben

Simeon

Levi



Judah

Dan

Naphtali

Gad

Asher

Issachar

Zebulun

Joseph

Benjamin

Exodus 19: 5-6

Now if you obey me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession. Although the whole earth is Mine, you will be for Me a **kingdom of priests** and a holy nation ...

“The whole nation was to act as mediators of God's grace to the nations of the earth, even as Abraham had been promised that through him and his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed (Gen 12:3).”

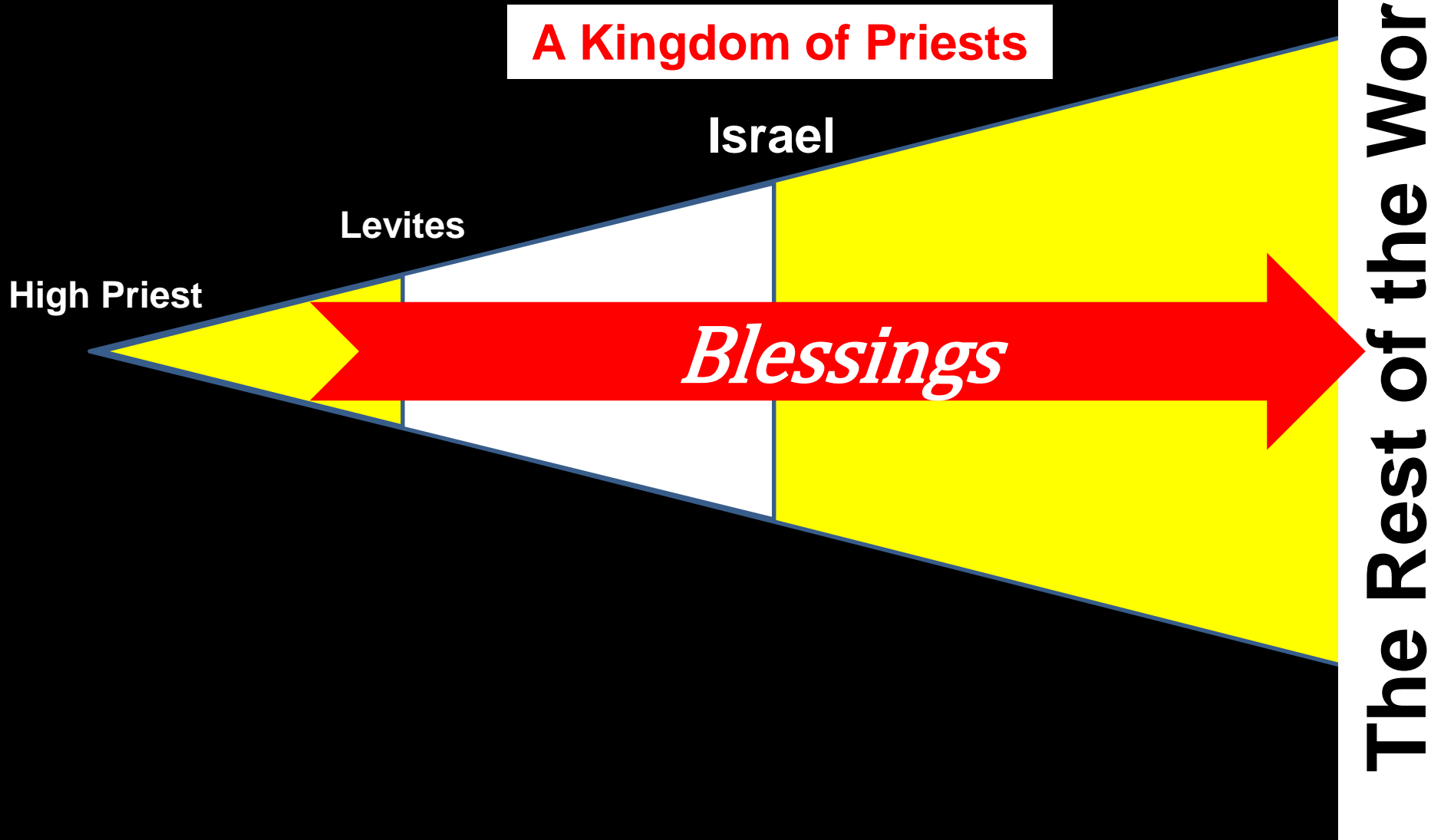
(Walter C. Kaiser, OT scholar)

Isaiah 42: 6-7

I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and
will make you to be a covenant for the people
and **a light for the Gentiles**,
to open eyes that are blind, to free captives
from prison and to release from the dungeon
those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 49: 6

“ I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, **that you may bring My salvation to the ends of the earth.**”



A Kingdom of Priests

Israel

Levites

High Priest

Blessings

The Rest of the World

IMPORTANT!!

The High Priest was chosen not because he was special. He was special, because God chose him.

The Levites were chosen not because they were special. They were special, because God chose them.

Israel was chosen not because she was special. She was special, because God chose her
- to be a **kingdom of priests** and **light for the Gentiles**.

Deuteronomy 7: 6-8

⁶ For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession.

⁷ **The LORD did not ... choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.**

⁸ **But it was because the LORD loved you ...**

NT Priests

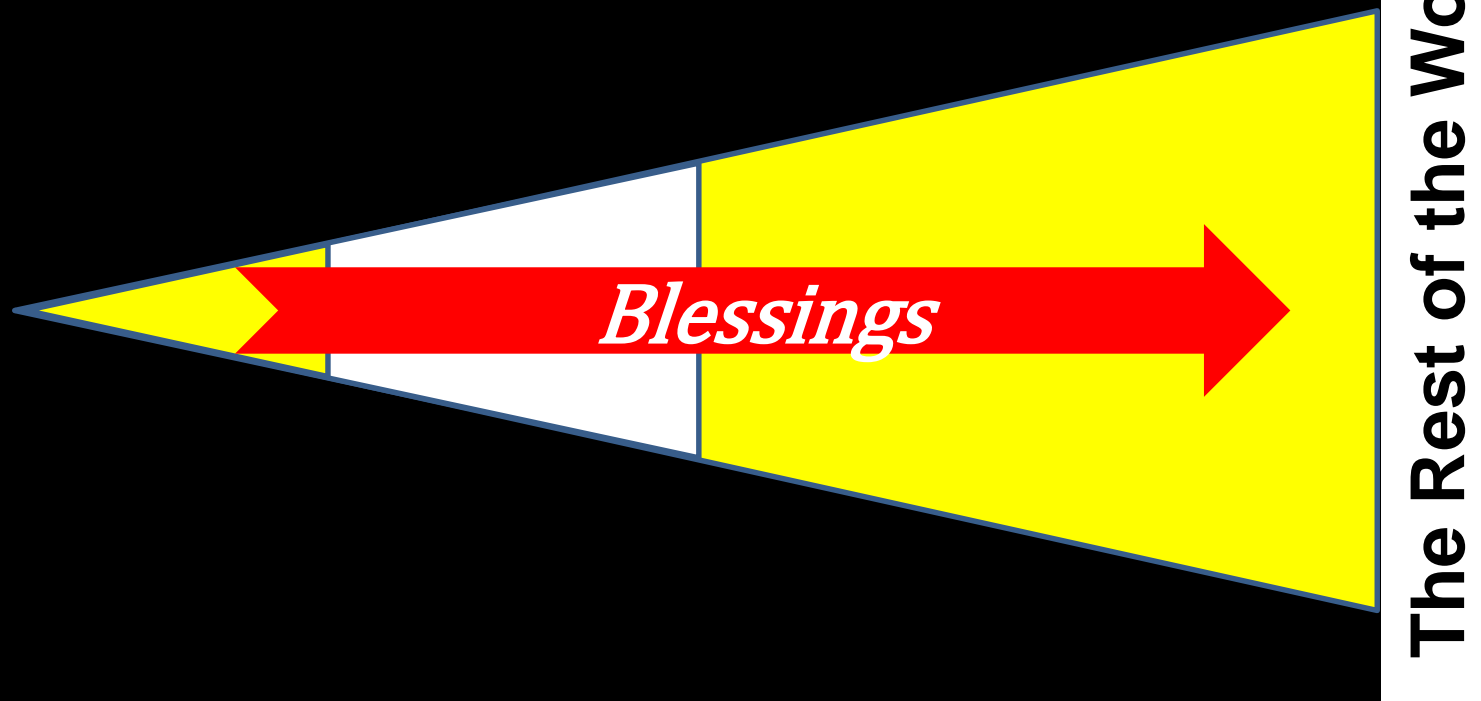
Represent people to God

- > ~~Performed sacrifices (burnt offering, sin offering, guilt offering, peace offering, gift/grain offering)~~
- >> Fulfilled by Jesus Christ – the perfect High Priest.
- > Sacrifice - a life of worship & obedience (Rom 12:1)
- > Offering prayers for the world

NT Priests

Represent God to the people

- > Word of God: teaching & preaching
- > Channel of blessings (see Isa 61:6)



NT Priests

Guardians of the Church

> Deals with everyday matters

– manpower, operations, logistics & security!!



Priests = *all of us!!*

- someone set-apart (holy)
- a representative: God to man, man to God.

A Kingdom of Priests

Israel

Levites

High Priest

Blessings

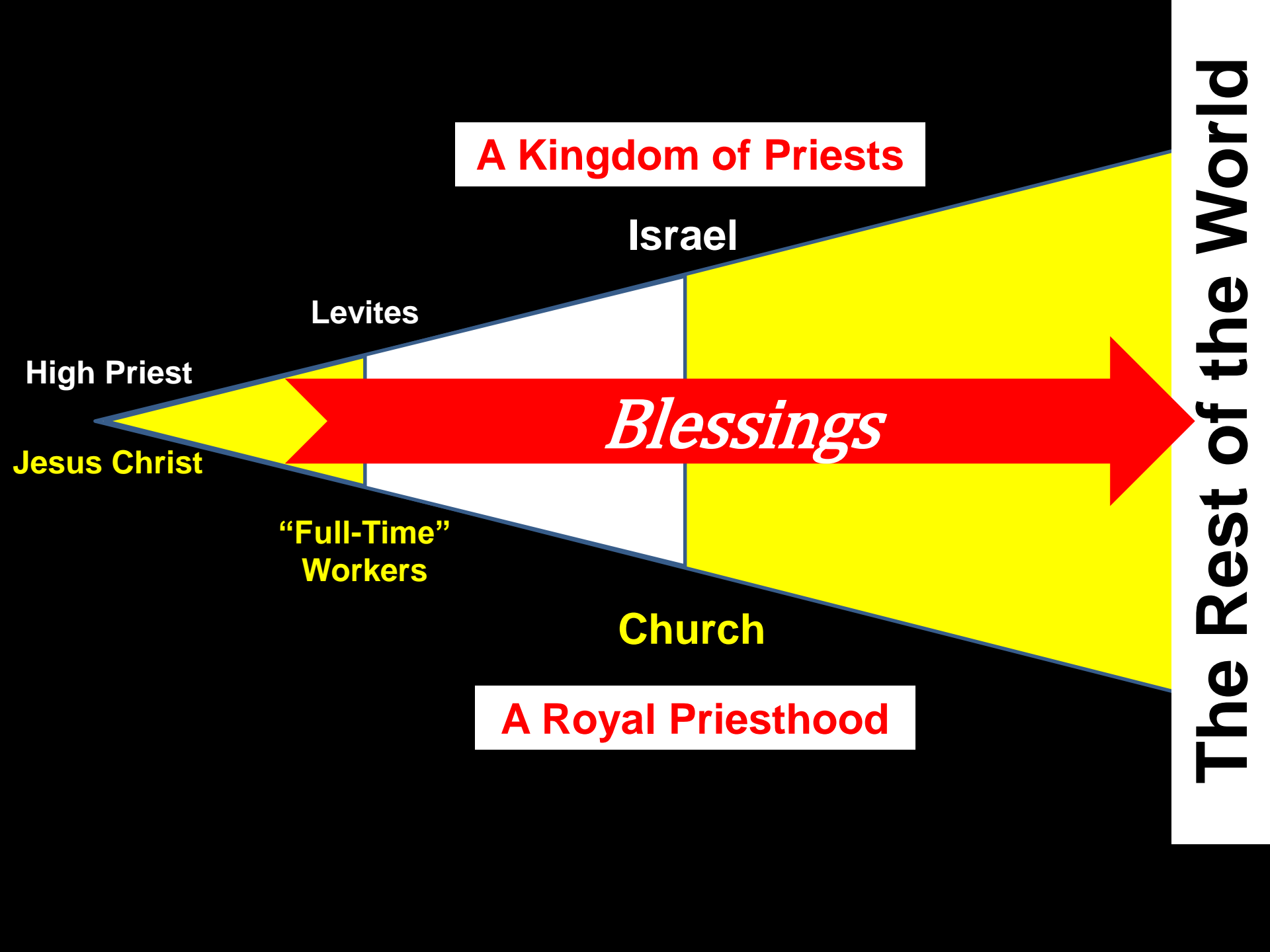
Jesus Christ

**"Full-Time"
Workers**

Church

A Royal Priesthood

The Rest of the World



A Kingdom of Priests

Israel

Levites

High Priest

Blessings

Jesus Christ

“Full-Time”
Workers

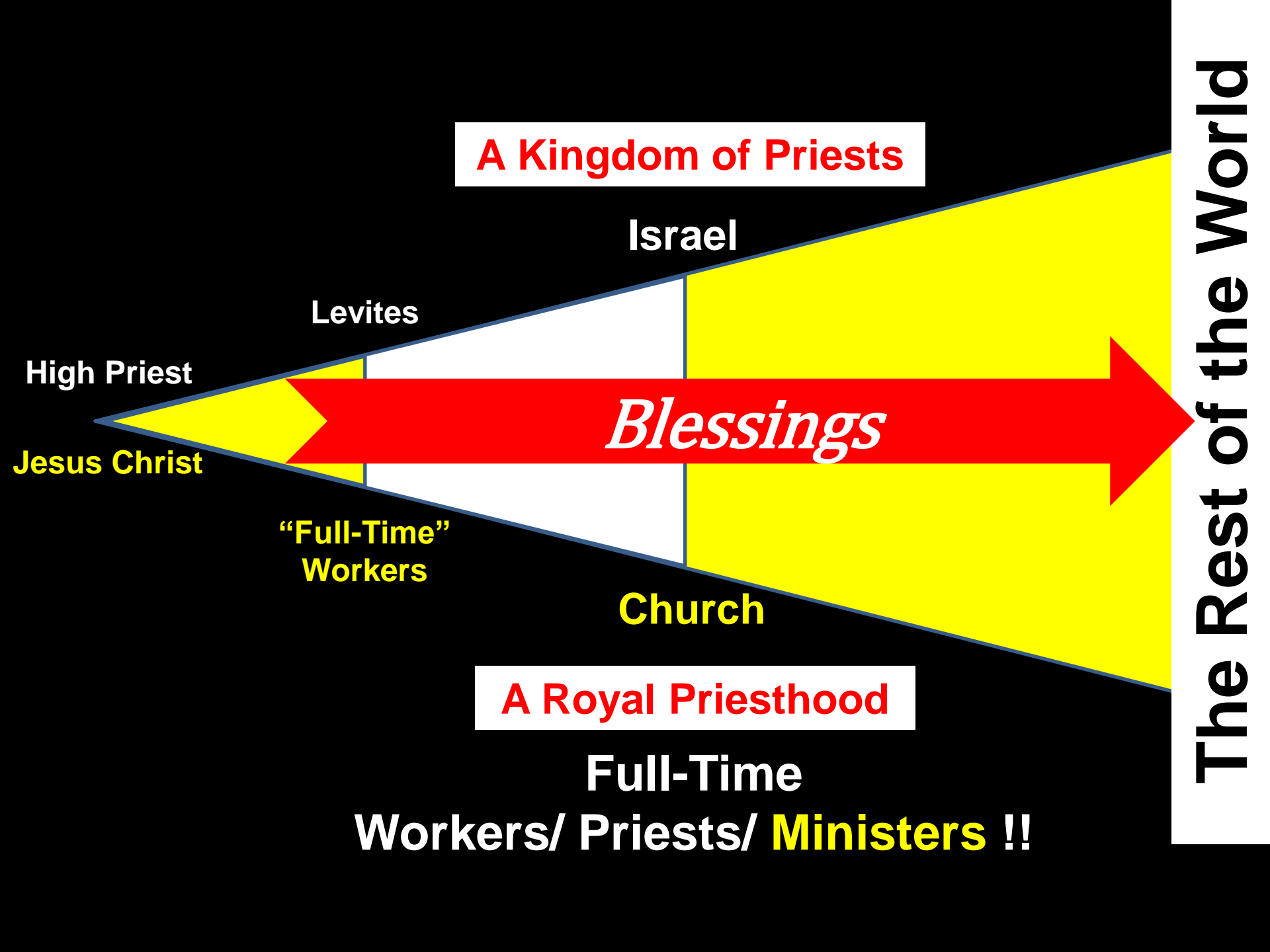
Church

A Royal Priesthood

Full-Time

Workers/ Priests/ **Ministers !!**

The Rest of the World



Minister, one who serves:

Ministers of Environment (cleaners, inspectors)

Ministers of Transport (drivers, vehicle operators)

Ministers of Arts and Communication (music, creative arts, design, media)

Ministers of Health (doctors and nurses)

Ministers of Education (teachers, trainers)

Ministers of Home Affairs (police, civil defence, social workers)

Ministers of Finance (banks, accounts, clerks)

Ministers of Manpower (HR)

Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Migrant workers)

Ministers of Trade and Industry (business, sales & retail, F&B, hospitality, technicians, engineers)

Ministers of Defence (NSF, regulars)

Ministers of Law (lawyers, compliance)

Prime Minister's Office (stay-home mums!)

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Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

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Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Being God's priest:

Point people to God

Being God's priest:

Point people to God

- “Can I share with you what the Bible says (about your situation)?”
- “Can I pray for you?”

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BENEDICTION (NUM 6:24–26)

The LORD bless you and keep you;

**the LORD make His face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;**

**the LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
and give you peace.**