

PROPHETS, PRIESTS, AND KINGS

ISRAEL ASKED FOR A KING so she could be like other nations (1 Sam. 8:6). God grants her request but sets lines of authority between prophet, priest, and king to provide checks and balances for the monarchy.¹⁰ All three rule under God’s authority. Each entity has its own privileges and responsibilities and is to respect the authority of the others. All are to exercise their power with humility since they answer to God. Though Israel will have an earthly king, the king and the people are to remember that God is sovereign.

	PROPHETS	PRIESTS	KINGS
Role	Speak God’s Word to the people	Represent the people to God	Govern the people on behalf of God
Responsibility	Warn, sometimes foretell the future	Mediate, perform sacrifices	Establish civil authority under God
Practical Concern	Relationship with God	The Temple and Law	The Kingdom
Theological Concern	Obedience	Holiness	Justice and Mercy