

THE PRIESTHOOD

LESSON #1

INTRODUCTION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Intro: I. There are three types of priests in the Scripture

- A. Priest: All members of the Aaronic Family ([Exodus 28:1](#))
 - 1. These assisted with the daily ministry in the Tabernacle
- B. The High Priest
 - 1. There has always been only one high priest at a time
 - 2. All priests came from the Aaronic Family Line
 - 3. Only reason for change was the death of a high priest ([Hebrews 7:23](#))
 - a. Indication: The Old Testament priesthood was imperfect.
- C. Great High Priest – One and only and forever – Our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 1. He was not after the Aaronic Family Life
 - 2. He was “after the order of Melchisedec” ([Hebrews 7:1-3](#))
 - a. Christ had “no beginning – no ending”

II. Four Stages of the Priesthood

- A. In the beginning - Every man was a priest in and of himself.
 - 1. Adam, Able, Shem, Noah, Abram
 - a. All offered sacrifices for their own sins ([Exodus 12:3](#))
- B. Family Priest: Head of each household ([Genesis 8:20-21](#))
 - 1. Offered sacrifices for himself and for his family

Parenthetical: God planned for The nation of Israel to be:

- (1) A Peculiar Treasure
- (2) A Kingdom of Priest.
- (3) A Holy Nation

This promise was “conditional.” ([Exodus 19:5-8](#)). Israel did not obey the Word of the Lord and did not keep God’s covenants. ([Exodus 32](#)). Therefore, God canceled their stand as being “a Kingdom of Priests.” God chose the tribe of Levi, and, from that tribe, God chose Aaron and his sons.

- C. Aaron: Chosen by God from the tribe of Levi. ([Exodus 28:1](#))
 - 1. Offered sacrifices for (1) himself and (2) for the entire nation Israel
- D. Christ: **High Priest of the Church** ([Hebrews 4:14](#)) “...we have a High Priest...
 - a. [Hebrews 7:25](#) “...ever liveth to make intercession for us.”
 - 1. Therefore, there has been four stages of the High Priest:
 - Priest for self
 - Priest for family
 - Husbands are still responsible for the home ([Eph. 5:25-28](#))
 - Priest for nation
 - Priest for church

THE INAGURATION OF THE PRIESTHOOD

Exodus 28 & 32

(Remember, "these things were written for our learning." – (Romans 15:4)

QUALIFICATION

I. A Man Had to be "Called of God" to be a Priest

A. Aaron (Exodus 28:1) – (His three sons were called also).

1. Called – The first matter of importance

a. Korah and friends tried to enter the priesthood – Died (Num. 16-17)

b. Priesthood could not be obtained by self-desire. (Hebrews 5:4)

2. Christ followed the pattern of "being called" to set the example.

a. Hebrews 5:1-6 & 10 "...called of God"

3. If it was necessary for Aaron in the Old Testament & Christ in the New Testament to be "called...."

4. Every Christian is "called."

a. Romans 1:1 – Paul was called

b. Romans 1:6 – **Ye are also called!**

B. All True New Testament Christians are priests (I Peter 2:9)

1. What under the law, was "conditional," under grace is "unconditional."

2. Every New Testament believer is **a priest by "birthright."**

(Just as the sons of Aaron were priests by birthright.)

1. Called to "Walk worthy" (Ephesians 4:1-2)

2. Called to "Stand fast" (II Thess. 2:13-15)

II. "Cleansing" followed "Calling" for a Priest

A. "Wash them with water" (Exodus 29:45)

1. This relates to the PRIESTHOOD

a. Salvation is not pictured here (Salvation is always: **Washed in the blood!**)

1. No lost person has ever been called to be a priest

b. John 15:3 – Ye are cleansed through the Word (Water)

c. Psalms 119:9 "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?....."

2. Anyone called of God MUST be immersed in the WORD of God daily

a. For our own sanctification

b. For being equipped to serve and help others

3. It was done publicly

Today: Priest MUST take a public stand for the Word of God.

III. Clothing followed Calling and Cleansing

A. The type of clothing (Exodus 28:1-2)

1. Holy Garments

2. Beautiful Garments

3. Glorious Garments

B. The importance of the clothing (Exodus 28:3-6)

1. The wisest and most skillful chosen to make the garments.

- C. His clothing was part of his consecration (Exodus 28:3)
 - 1. Christ was clothed by the symbol of a “Dove” (Matthew 3:16)
 - 2. Christian (priest) clothed with the Holy Spirit – Part of our consecration!
 - a. Galatians 2:22-23!
- D. **Have things changed today?** **NO! - ABSOLUTELY NOT!**

IV. **Compassion followed Calling, Cleansing, and Clothing**

- A. Hebrews 5:1-2 “...who can have compassion on the ignorant...”
Example: Hebrews 4:1 “can be ...touched by our infirmities...”
- B. Jesus was “...moved with compassion...” (Math: 9:36; 14:14; 18:27; Mk 1:41 & 6:34)
Example: Luke 10:30-36 “He had compassion....”

V. **Commissioning followed Calling, Cleansing, Clothing, and Compassion**

Their commissioning is to be found throughout the Book of Leviticus. They had to obey ALL the instructions of the Lord gave and to become, through the sacrifices, intercessors between God and man. Christ today is fulfilling His High Priestly functions on our behalf, and as His children and servants, we must fulfil ours! **“He ever liveth to make intercession...”**