

~PRIEST (3975)

[Hebrew, *ko-hen'*, Greek, *hi-e-reus'*]

- In Early Times
- Under The Law Covenant
- Initially Israel's King Was Yehowah
- Inauguration Of The Priesthood
- Qualifications
- Maintenance
- Dress
- Regulations And Functions
- How Were Assignments Of Temple Service Determined
- Loyalty
- Other Applications Of Priest
- The Christian Priesthood
- Pagan Priests
- Not The Pattern For Israel's Priesthood
- Disgusting Practices Of Pagan Priests
- Unauthorized Priesthoods Condemned By God

• Among true worshipers of Yehowah before the formation of the Christian congregation, priests officially represented God to the people they served, instructing them about God and his Laws. In turn, they represented the people before God, offering sacrifices as well as interceding and pleading for the people.

• For every High Priest taken from among men is appointed in behalf of men over the things pertaining to God, that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. (**Hebrews 5:1**)

• Explains; Every High Priest taken from among men is appointed in behalf of men over the things pertaining to God, that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. The **Hebrew** term translated, **priest**, is *ko-hen'*, the **Greek**, *hi-e-reus'*.

• In Early Times

• In patriarchal times the family head served as **priest** for his family, the duty passing to the firstborn son in the event of the fathers death. Thus, in very early times we find Noah representing his family in a priestly capacity.

• And Noah began to build an altar to Yehowah and to take some

of all the clean beasts and of all the clean flying creatures and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar. (**Genesis 8:20**)

- **And Yehowah began to smell a restful odor, and so Yehowah said in his heart; Never again shall I call down evil upon the ground on man's account, because the inclination of the heart of man is bad from his youth up, and never again shall I deal every living thing a blow just as I have done. (**Genesis 8:21**)**
- **The family head Abraham had a large household with which he traveled from place to place, building altars and making sacrifices to Yehowah at his various places of encampment.**
- **Thus Abram got to hear that his brother had been taken captive. With that he mustered his trained men, three hundred and eighteen slaves born in his household, and went in pursuit up to Dan. (**Genesis 14:14**)**
- **Yehowah now appeared to Abram and said; To your seed I am going to give this land. After that he built an altar there to Yehowah, who had appeared to him. (**Genesis 12:7**)**
- **Later he moved from there to the mountainous region to the east of Bethel and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. Then he built an altar there to Yehowah and began to call on the name of Yehowah. (**Genesis 12:8**)**
- **To the place of the altar that he had made there originally, and Abram proceeded to call there on the name of Yehowah. (**Genesis 13:4**)**
- **God said of Abraham; I have become acquainted with him in order, that he may command his sons and his household after him so that they shall keep Yehowah's way to do righteousness and judgment.**
- **For I have become acquainted with him in order, that he may command his sons and his household after him so that they shall keep Yehowah's way to do righteousness and judgment, in order, that Yehowah may certainly bring upon Abraham what he has spoken about him. (**Genesis 18:19**)**
- **Isaac and Jacob followed the same pattern.**
- **Accordingly he built an altar there and called on the name of**

- Yehowah and pitched his tent there, and the servants of Isaac went excavating a well there. (**Genesis 26:25**)
- **After that Jacob sacrificed a sacrifice in the mountain and invited his brothers to eat bread. Accordingly they ate bread and passed the night in the mountain. (**Genesis 31:54**)**
 - **After that God said to Jacob; Rise, go up to Bethel and dwell there, and make an altar there to the true God who appeared to you when you were running away from Esau your brother. (**Genesis 35:1**)**
 - **Then Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him; Put away the foreign gods that are in the midst of you and cleanse yourselves and change your mantles. (**Genesis 35:2**)**
 - **And let us rise and go up to Bethel. And there I shall make an altar to the true God who answered me in the day of my distress in that he proved to be with me in the way that I have gone. (**Genesis 35:3**)**
 - **So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods that were in their hands and the earrings that were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the big tree that was close by Shechem. (**Genesis 35:4**)**
 - **After that they pulled away, and the terror of God came to be upon the cities that were round about them, so that they did not chase after the sons of Jacob. (**Genesis 35:5**)**
 - **Eventually Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is to say; Bethel, he and all the people who were with him. (**Genesis 35:6**)**
 - **Then he built an altar there and began to call the place Elbethel, because there the true God had revealed himself to him at the time of his running away from his brother. (**Genesis 35:7**)**
 - **Consequently Jacob stationed a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured a drink offering upon it and poured oil upon it. (**Genesis 35:14**)**
 - **And Job, a non-Israelite but likely a distant relative of Abraham, regularly offered sacrifices to Yehowah in behalf of his children, saying; Maybe my sons have sinned and have cursed God in their heart.**

- And his sons went and held a banquet at the house of each one on his own day, and they sent and invited their three sisters to eat and drink with them. (**Job 1:4**)
- And it would occur that when the banquet days had gone round the circuit, Job would send and sanctify them, and he got up early in the morning and offered up burnt sacrifices according to the number of all of them, for, said Job, maybe my sons have sinned and have cursed God in their heart. That is the way Job would do always. (**Job 1:5**)
- And now take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job, and you men must offer up a burnt sacrifice in your own behalf, and Job my servant will himself pray for you. His face only I shall accept so as not to commit disgraceful folly with you, for you have not spoken concerning me what is truthful, as has my servant Job. (**Job 42:8**)
- However, the Bible does not specifically call these men *ko-hen'* or *hi-e-reus'*. On the other hand, Jethro, the family head and the father-in-Law of Moses, is called a, **priest**, *ko-hen'*, of Midian.
- Now the **priest** of Midian had seven daughters, and as usual they came and drew water and filled the gutters to water their fathers flock. (**Exodus 2:16**)
- And Moses became a shepherd of the flock of Jethro, the **priest** of Midian, whose son-in-law he was. While he was driving the flock to the west side of the wilderness, he came at length to the mountain of the true God, to Horeb. (**Exodus 3:1**)
- Now Jethro the **priest** of Midian, Moses father-in-law, got to hear about all that God had done for Moses and for Israel his people, how Yehowah had brought Israel out of Egypt. (**Exodus 18:1**)
- Melchizedek king of Salem was a **priest**, *ko-hen'*, extraordinary. The Bible gives no record of his ancestry, his birth, or his death. His priesthood was not by inheritance, and he had no predecessors or successors in office.
- Melchizedek held both the office of king and of priest. His priesthood was greater than the Levitical priesthood, for Levi, in effect,

paid tithes to Melchizedek, since he was still in the loins of Abraham when Abraham offered tithes to Melchizedek and was blessed by him.

- **And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine, and he was **priest** of the Most High God. ([Genesis 14:18](#))**
- **Then he blessed him and said; Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, producer of heaven and earth. ([Genesis 14:19](#))**
- **And blessed be the Most High God, who has delivered your oppressors into your hand! At that Abram gave him a tenth of everything. ([Genesis 14:20](#))**
- **Behold, then, how great this man was to whom Abraham, the family head, gave a tenth out of the chief spoils. ([Hebrews 7:4](#))**
- **True, the men from the sons of Levi who receive their **priestly** office have a commandment to collect tithes from the people according to the Law, that is, from their brothers, even if these have issued from the loins of Abraham. ([Hebrews 7:5](#))**
- **But the man who did not trace his genealogy from them took tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ([Hebrews 7:6](#))**
- **Now without any dispute, the less is blessed by the greater. ([Hebrews 7:7](#))**
- **And in the one case it is men who are dying that receive tithes, but in the other case it is someone of whom it is witnessed that he lives. ([Hebrews 7:8](#))**
- **And, if I may use the expression, through Abraham even Levi who receives tithes has paid tithes. ([Hebrews 7:9](#))**
- **For he was still in the loins of his forefather when Melchizedek met him. ([Hebrews 7:10](#))**
- **In these things Melchizedek foreshadowed Jesus Christ, the **priest** forever according to the manner of Melchizedek. Melchizedek came from a different people and from a city that would eventually become the home of Abraham's offspring, his capitol organization.**

- This pictured Christ who came from Yehowah God directly in heaven, a different place than the things of this creation, and who would act as priest toward Abraham's offspring and lead them to a city having real foundations, New Jerusalem, in heaven.
- Jesus Christ came directly from Yehowah and so his lineage is not described, like that of Melchizedek, and since he lives forever he has no successors.
- For in witness it is said; You are a **priest** forever according to the manner of Melchizedek. ([Hebrews 7:17](#))
- Evidently the family heads acted as **priests** among the offspring of Jacob, Israel, until the Levitical priesthood was established by God. Hence, when God led the people to Mount Sinai he commanded; Let the priests also who regularly come near to Yehowah sanctify themselves, that Yehowah may not break out upon them.
- And let the **priests** also who regularly come near to Yehowah sanctify themselves, that Yehowah may not break out upon them. ([Exodus 19:22](#))
- This was before the Levitical **priesthood** was established. But Aaron, though not yet designated as priest, was allowed to go partially up the mountain with Moses. This circumstance harmonized with the later appointment of Aaron and his posterity as priests.
- However, Yehowah said to him; Go, descend, and you must come up, you and Aaron with you, but let not the **priests** and the people break through to come up to Yehowah, that he may not break out upon them. ([Exodus 19:24](#))
- Seen in retrospect, this was an early indication that God had in mind a superseding of the old arrangement, of family-head **priesthood** by means of a priesthood of Aaron's house.

· Under The Law Covenant

- When the Israelites were in slavery in Egypt, Yehowah sanctified to himself every firstborn son of Israel at the time that he destroyed Egypt's firstborn in the tenth plague.
- And it came about that at midnight Yehowah struck every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh

- sitting on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the prison hole, and every firstborn of beast. (**Exodus 12:29**)
- For every firstborn is mine. In the day that I struck every firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified to myself every firstborn in Israel from man to beast. They should become mine. I am Yehowah. (**Numbers 3:13**)
 - These firstborn ones accordingly belonged to Yehowah, to be used exclusively in special service to him. God could have designated all of these firstborn males of Israel as the **priests** and caretakers of the sanctuary.
 - Instead, it suited his purpose to take male members of the tribe of Levi for this service. For this reason he permitted the nation to substitute the Levite males for the firstborn males of the other 12 tribes, the offspring of Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh being counted as two tribes.
 - In a census there proved to be 273 more firstborn non-Levite sons from a month old and upward than there were Levite males, so God required a ransom price of five shekels (\$11) for each of the 273, the money being turned over to Aaron and his sons.
 - And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 3:11**)
 - As for me, look! I do take the Levites from among the sons of Israel in place of all the firstborn opening the womb of the sons of Israel, and the Levites must become mine. (**Numbers 3:12**)
 - For every firstborn is mine. In the day that I struck every firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified to myself every firstborn in Israel from man to beast. They should become mine. I am Yehowah. (**Numbers 3:13**)
 - And Yehowah spoke further to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, saying; (**Numbers 3:14**)
 - Register the sons of Levi according to the house of their fathers by their families. Every male from a month old upward you should register. (**Numbers 3:15**)
 - And Moses began to register them at the order of Yehowah, just

- as he had been commanded. (**Numbers 3:16**)
- Then Yehowah said to Moses; Register all the firstborn males of the sons of Israel from a month old upward, and take the number of their names. (**Numbers 3:40**)
 - And you must take the Levites for me, I am Yehowah, in place of all the firstborn among the sons of Israel, and the domestic animals of the Levites in place of all the firstborn among the domestic animals of the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 3:41**)
 - And Moses proceeded, just as Yehowah had commanded him, to register all the firstborn among the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 3:42**)
 - And all the firstborn males by the number of the names from a month old upward of their registered ones came to be twenty-two thousand two hundred and seventy-three. (**Numbers 3:43**)
 - And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 3:44**)
 - Take the Levites in place of all the firstborn among the sons of Israel, and the domestic animals of the Levites in place of their domestic animals, and the Levites must become mine. I am Yehowah. (**Numbers 3:45**)
 - And as the ransom price of the two hundred and seventy-three from the firstborn of the sons of Israel, who are in excess of the Levites. (**Numbers 3:46**)
 - You must take five shekels for each individual. In the shekel of the holy place you should take it. A shekel is twenty gerahs. (**Numbers 3:47**)
 - And you must give the money to Aaron and his sons as the ransom price of those who are in excess of them. (**Numbers 3:48**)
 - So Moses took the money of the redemption price from those who were in excess of the ransom price of the Levites. (**Numbers 3:49**)
 - From the firstborn of the sons of Israel he took the money, a thousand three hundred and sixty-five shekels, in the shekel of

- the holy place. (**Numbers 3:50**)
- Then Moses gave the money of the ransom price to Aaron and his sons according to the order of Yehowah, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Numbers 3:51**)
 - Prior to this transaction Yehowah had already set apart the male members of the family of Aaron of the tribe of Levi as constituting the **priesthood** of Israel.
 - And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month in the second year of their coming out of the land of Egypt, and he said. (**Numbers 1:1**)
 - Bring the tribe of Levi near, and you must stand them before Aaron the **priest**, and they must minister to him. (**Numbers 3:6**)
 - And they must keep their obligation to him and their obligation to all the assembly before the tent of meeting in discharging the service of the tabernacle. (**Numbers 3:7**)
 - And they must take care of all the utensils of the tent of meeting, even the obligation of the sons of Israel in discharging the service of the tabernacle. (**Numbers 3:8**)
 - And you must give the Levites to Aaron and his sons. They are given ones, given to him from the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 3:9**)
 - And you should appoint Aaron and his sons, and they must take care of their **priesthood**, and any stranger coming near should be put to death. (**Numbers 3:10**)
 - For a long period of time Israel had the exclusive opportunity to supply the members of a kingdom of **priests** and a holy nation.
 - And you yourselves will become to me a kingdom of **priests** and a holy nation. These are the words that you are to say to the sons of Israel. (**Exodus 19:6**)
 - But that opportunity ceased to be exclusively theirs because of the national rejection of God's Son.
 - This is why I say to you; The kingdom of God will be taken from

you and be given to a nation producing its fruits. (**Matthew 21:43**)

- It is to you, therefore, that he is precious, because you are believers, but to those not believing, the identical stone that the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. (**1 Peter 2:7**)
- And a stone of stumbling and a rock-mass of offense. These are stumbling because they are disobedient to the word. To this very end they were also appointed. (**1 Peter 2:8**)
- But you are, a chosen race, a royal **priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies; of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (**1 Peter 2:9**)
- For you were once not a people, but are now God's people; You were those who had not been shown mercy, but are now those who have been shown mercy. (**1 Peter 2:10**)

•• **Initially Israel's King Was Yehowah**

- Later Yehowah directed that the kingship be vested in the line of David. Yehowah was still their invisible King but used the Davidic line as his representatives, as to secular rulership. As such, these earthly kings were said to sit on Yehowah's throne.
- And Solomon began to sit upon Yehowah's throne as king in place of David his father and to make a success of it, and all the Israelites were obedient to him. (**1 Chronicles 29:23**)
- But the **priesthood** was still kept separate, in the line of Aaron. Therefore to that nation alone belonged both the kingdom and the priesthood of Yehowah God with its sacred service.
- For I could wish that I myself were separated as the cursed one from the Christ in behalf of my brothers, my relatives according to the flesh. (**Romans 9:3**)
- Who, as such, are Israelites, to whom belong the adoption as sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the sacred service and the promises. (**Romans 9:4**)

· Inauguration Of The Priesthood

- The appointment of a **priest** must come from God, a man does not take the office of his own accord.
- Also, a man takes this honor, not of his own accord, but only when he is called by God, just as Aaron also was. (**Hebrews 5:4**)
- Accordingly, Yehowah himself appointed Aaron and his house to the **priesthood** to time indefinite, separating them from the family of the Kohathites, one of the three main divisions of the tribe of Levi.
- And these are the names of the sons of Levi, according to their family descents, Gershon and Kohath and Merari. And the years of Levis life were a hundred and thirty-seven years. (**Exodus 6:16**)
- And they must be upon Aaron and his sons when they come into the tent of meeting or when they go near to the altar to minister in the holy place, that they may not incur error and certainly die. It is a statute to time indefinite for him and his offspring after him. (**Exodus 28:43**)
- First, however, Moses the Levite, as mediator of the Law covenant, represented God in the sanctification of Aaron and his sons and the filling of their hands with power to serve as **priests**, the procedure being described at. (**Exodus Chapter 29**) and. (**Leviticus Chapter 8**)
- Their installation apparently occupied the seven-day period of **Nisan 1-7, 1512 B.C.E.** The newly installed priesthood began their services toward Israel the next day, Nisan 8.

See Also INSTALLATION

· Qualifications

- Yehowah laid down the qualifications for those of Aaron's family line who would serve at God's altar. To be a **priest**, a man had to be **physically sound and of normal appearance**.
- Otherwise he could not approach the altar with offerings and he could not come near to the curtain between the Holy and Most Holy compartments of the tabernacle. Such a one was entitled, however, to

receive support from the tithe and could partake of the holy things provided as food for the **priesthood**.

- And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (**Leviticus 21:16**)
- Speak to Aaron, saying; No man of your seed throughout their generations in whom there proves to be a defect may come near to present the bread of his God. (**Leviticus 21:17**)
- In case there is any man in whom there is a defect, he may not come near, a man blind or lame or with his nose slit or with one member too long. (**Leviticus 21:18**)
- Or a man in whom there proves to be a fracture of the foot or a fracture of the hand. (**Leviticus 21:19**)
- Or hunchback or thin or diseased in his eyes or scabby or having ringworms or having his testicles broken. (**Leviticus 21:20**)
- Any man of the seed of Aaron the **priest** in whom there is a defect may not approach to present Yehowah's offerings made by fire. There is a defect in him. He may not approach to present the bread of his God. (**Leviticus 21:21**)
- He may eat the bread of his God from the most holy things and from the holy things. (**Leviticus 21:22**)
- However, he may not come in near the curtain, and he may not approach the altar, because there is a defect in him, and he should not profane my sanctuary, for I am Yehowah who is sanctifying them. (**Leviticus 21:23**)
- The age for entering upon the **priesthood** is not specifically stated, although the census of the Kohathites, taken at Mount Sinai, included those from 30 to 50 years old.
- From thirty years old upward to fifty years old, all those going into the service group to do the work in the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 4:3**)
- The service of the Levites at the sanctuary began at age 25, reduced in King David's time to 20.

- This is what applies to the Levites. From twenty-five years old upward he will come to enter into the company in the service of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 8:24**)
- These were the sons of Levi by the house of their fathers, the heads of the fathers, by their commissioned ones, in the number of the names, head by head of them, the doers of the work for the service of the house of Yehowah, from the age of twenty years upward. (**1 Chronicles 23:24**)
- Retirement of **nonpriestly** Levites from obligatory service at the sanctuary was at 50 years, but there was no retirement provided for priests.
- But after the age of fifty years he will retire from the service company and serve no longer. (**Numbers 8:25**)
- And he must minister to his brothers in the tent of meeting in taking care of the obligation, but he must render no service. In accord with this you will do to the Levites in their obligations. (**Numbers 8:26**)

See Also **RETIREMENT**

•• **Maintenance**

- The tribe of Levi was not given a block of land as an inheritance, but they were scattered in Israel, receiving 48 cities in which to live with their families and cattle. Thirteen of these cities went to the **priests**.
- Simeon and Levi are brothers. Instruments of violence are their slaughter weapons. (**Genesis 49:5**)
- Cursed be their anger, because it is cruel, and their fury, because it acts harshly. Let me parcel them out in Jacob and let me scatter them in Israel. (**Genesis 49:7**)
- The heads of the fathers of the Levites now approached Eleazar the **priest** and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the sons of Israel. (**Joshua 21:1**)
- And they proceeded to speak to them in Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying; Yehowah by means of Moses commanded cities

- to be given us in which to dwell, together with their pasture grounds for our domestic animals. (**Joshua 21:2**)
- So the sons of Israel gave the Levites, at the order of Yehowah, these cities and their pasture grounds out of their inheritance. (**Joshua 21:3**)
 - Then the lot came out for the families of the Kohathites, and thirteen cities came to belong to the sons of Aaron the **priest**, of the Levites, by lot, out of the tribe of Judah and out of the tribe of the Simeonites and out of the tribe of Benjamin. (**Joshua 21:4**)
 - And for the sons of Kohath that were left over there were by lot ten cities out of the families of the tribe of Ephraim and out of the tribe of Dan and out of the half tribe of Manasseh. (**Joshua 21:5**)
 - And for the sons of Gershon there were by lot thirteen cities out of the families of the tribe of Issachar and out of the tribe of Asher and out of the tribe of Naphtali and out of the half tribe of Manasseh in Bashan. (**Joshua 21:6**)
 - For the sons of Merari by their families there were twelve cities out of the tribe of Reuben and out of the tribe of Gad and out of the tribe of Zebulun. (**Joshua 21:7**)
 - Thus the sons of Israel gave the Levites these cities and their pasture grounds by lot, just as Yehowah had commanded by means of Moses. (**Joshua 21:8**)
 - So out of the tribe of the sons of Judah and out of the tribe of the sons of Simeon they gave these cities that were called by name. (**Joshua 21:9**)
 - And they came to belong to the sons of Aaron out of the families of the Kohathites of the sons of Levi, because the first lot became theirs. (**Joshua 21:10**)
 - Thus they gave them Kiriath-arba, said Arba being the father of Anak, that is to say; Hebron, in the mountainous region of Judah, and its pasture ground all around it. (**Joshua 21:11**)
 - One of the cities of refuge, Hebron, was a **priestly** city.

- And to the sons of Aaron the **priest** they gave the city of refuge for the manslayer, namely, Hebron, and its pasture ground, also Libnah and its pasture ground. (**Joshua 21:13**)
- The Levites received no region as a tribal inheritance because, as Yehowah said; I am your share and your inheritance in the midst of the sons of Israel.
- And Yehowah went on to say to Aaron; In their land you will not have an inheritance, and no share will become yours in their midst. I am your share and your inheritance in the midst of the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 18:20**)
- The Levites did the assigned work of their ministry and maintained their houses and the pasture grounds of the cities allotted to them. They would also care for other land that the Israelites might devote to sanctuary use.
- And the field when it goes out in the Jubilee must become something holy to Yehowah, as a field that is devoted. The possession of it will become the **priests**. (**Leviticus 27:21**)
- Only no sort of devoted thing that a man might devote to Yehowah for destruction out of all that is his, whether from mankind or beasts or from the field of his possession, may be sold, and no sort of devoted thing may be bought back. It is something most holy to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 27:28**)
- Yehowah provided for the Levites by arranging for them to receive a tithe of all the produce of the land from the other 12 tribes.
- And to the sons of Levi, look! I have given every tenth part in Israel as an inheritance in return for their service that they are carrying on, the service of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 18:21**)
- And the sons of Israel should no more come near to the tent of meeting to incur sin so as to die. (**Numbers 18:22**)
- And the Levites themselves must carry on the service of the tent of meeting, and they are the ones who should answer for their error. It is a statute to time indefinite during your generations that in the midst of the sons of Israel they should not get possession of an inheritance. (**Numbers 18:23**)

- For the tenth part of the sons of Israel, which they will contribute to Yehowah as a contribution, I have given to the Levites as an inheritance. That is why I have said to them, In the midst of the sons of Israel they should not get possession of an inheritance. **(Numbers 18:24)**
- Of this tithe, or tenth, the Levites were, in turn, to give a tenth of the very best as a tithe to the **priesthood**.
- Then Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; **(Numbers 18:25)**
- And you should speak to the Levites, and you must say to them, you will receive from the sons of Israel the tenth part that I have given to you from them for your inheritance, and you must contribute from it as a contribution to Yehowah a tenth part of the tenth part. **(Numbers 18:26)**
- And it must be reckoned to you as your contribution, like the grain of the threshing floor and like the full produce of the wine or oil press. **(Numbers 18:27)**
- In this way you yourselves also will contribute a contribution to Yehowah from all your tenth parts that you will receive from the sons of Israel, and from them you must give the contribution to Yehowah to Aaron the **priest**. **(Numbers 18:28)**
- From all the gifts to you, you will contribute every sort of contribution to Yehowah, of the very best of it, as some holy thing from them. **(Numbers 18:29)**
- And the **priest**, the son of Aaron, must prove to be with the Levites when the Levites receive a tenth, and the Levites themselves should offer up a tenth of the tenth to the house of our God to the dining halls of the supply house. **(Nehemiah 10:38)**
- For it is to the dining halls that the sons of Israel and the sons of the Levites should bring the contribution of the grain, the new wine and the oil, and there is where the utensils of the sanctuary and the **priests** that were ministering, and the gatekeepers and the singers are, and we should not neglect the house of our God. **(Nehemiah 10:39)**

- The **priesthood** would thereby receive 1 percent of the national produce, enabling them to devote all their time to their assigned service of God.
- This provision for the **priesthood**, though abundant, was in contrast to the luxury and financial power attained by the priesthood of pagan nations. In Egypt, for example, the **priests owned** portions of the land.
- Only the land of the **priests** he did not buy, because the rations for the **priests** were from Pharaoh and they ate their rations that Pharaoh gave them. That is why they did not sell their land. (**Genesis 47:22**)
- And Joseph proceeded to make it a decree down to this day over the landed estate of Egypt for Pharaoh to have to the amount of a fifth. Only the land of the **priests** as a distinct group did not become Pharaoh's. (**Genesis 47:26**)
- And by crafty maneuvering eventually were the richest and most powerful men in Egypt. James H. Breasted, in *A History of the Ancient Egyptians* [1908, pp. 355,356,431,432], records that during the so-called Twentieth Dynasty the Pharaoh was reduced to a mere puppet. The priesthood had possession of the Nubian gold country and the great province of the Upper Nile.
- The High Priest was the most important fiscal officer of the state, next to the chief treasurer himself. He commanded all the armies and held the treasury in his hands. He is represented more prominently in the monuments than the Pharaoh.
- It was only when Israel became lax in their worship and negligent in paying their tithes that the **priesthood** suffered, along with nonpriestly Levites, who had to look for other work to provide for themselves and their families.
- In turn, this bad attitude toward the sanctuary and its maintenance caused the nation to suffer still further for lack of spirituality and knowledge of Yehowah.
- And I got to find out that the very portions of the Levites had not been given them, so that the Levites and the singers doing the work went running off, each one to his own field. (**Nehemiah 13:10**)

- **And I began to find fault with the deputy rulers and say; Why has the house of the true God been neglected? Consequently I collected them together and stationed them at their standing place. (Nehemiah 13:11)**
- **And all Judah, for their part, brought in the tenth of the grain and of the new wine and of the oil to the stores. (Nehemiah 13:12)**
- **Then I put Shelemiah the **priest** and Zadok the copyist and Pedaiah of the Levites in charge of the stores, and under their control there was Hanan the son of Zaccur the son of Mattaniah, for they were considered faithful, and upon them it devolved to do the distributing to their brothers. (Nehemiah 13:13)**
- **Will earthling man rob God? But you are robbing me. And you have said; In what way have we robbed you? In the tenth parts and in the contributions. (Malachi 3:8)**
- **With the curse you are cursing me, and me you are robbing, the nation in its entirety. (Malachi 3:9)**
- **Bring all the tenth parts into the storehouse, that there may come to be food in my house, and test me out, please, in this respect, Yehowah of armies has said, whether I shall not open to you people the floodgates of the heavens and actually empty out upon you a blessing until there is no more want. (Malachi 3:10)**
- **The **priesthood** received, the regular tithe. The redemption money for a firstborn male child or beast. In the case of a firstborn bull, male lamb, or goat, they received the flesh for food.**
- **Every devoted thing in Israel should become yours. (Numbers 18:14)**
- **Everything opening the womb, of every sort of flesh, which they will present to Yehowah, among man and among beast, should become yours. However, you should without fail redeem the firstborn of mankind, and the firstborn of the unclean beast you should redeem. (Numbers 18:15)**
- **And with a redemption price for it from a month old onward you should redeem it, by the estimated value, five silver shekels by the shekel of the holy place. It is twenty gerahs. (Numbers**

18:16)

- Only the firstborn bull or firstborn male lamb or firstborn goat you should not redeem. They are something holy. Their blood you should sprinkle upon the altar, and their fat you should make smoke as an offering made by fire for a restful odor to Yehowah. (**Numbers 18:17**)
- And their flesh should become yours. Like the breast of the wave offering and like the right leg, it should become yours. (**Numbers 18:18**)
- All the holy contributions, which the sons of Israel will contribute to Yehowah, I have given to you and your sons and your daughters with you, as an allowance to time indefinite. It is a covenant of salt to time indefinite before Yehowah for you and your offspring with you. (**Numbers 18:19**)
- The redemption money for men and things sanctified as holy and also the things devoted to Yehowah. (**Leviticus Chapter 27**)
- Certain parts of the various offerings brought by the people, as well as the showbread.
- Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying; This is the Law of the sin offering. In the place where the burnt offering is regularly slaughtered the sin offering will be slaughtered before Yehowah. It is a most holy thing. (**Leviticus 6:25**)
- The **priest** who offers it for sin will eat it. In a holy place it will be eaten in the courtyard of the tent of meeting. (**Leviticus 6:26**)
- Every male among the **priests** will eat it. It is something most holy. (**Leviticus 6:29**)
- Every male among the **priests** will eat it. In a holy place it will be eaten. It is something most holy. (**Leviticus 7:6**)
- Like the sin offering, so is the guilt offering. There is one Law for them. The **priest** who will make atonement with it, his it will become. (**Leviticus 7:7**)
- As for the **priest** who presents the burnt offering of any man, the skin of the burnt offering that he has presented to the priest will

become his. (**Leviticus 7:8**)

- **And every grain offering that may be baked in the oven and every one made in the deep-fat kettle and upon the griddle belongs to the **priest** who presents it. It will become his. (**Leviticus 7:9**)**
- **But every grain offering that is moistened with oil or dry will come to be for all of Aaron's sons, for the one the same as for the other. (**Leviticus 7:10**)**
- **And Yehowah spoke further to Aaron; As for me, look! I have given you the custody of the contributions made to me. Of all the holy things of the sons of Israel I have given them to you and to your sons as a portion, as an allowance to time indefinite. (**Numbers 18:8**)**
- **This should become yours out of the most holy things, out of the offering made by fire, every offering of theirs together with every grain offering of theirs and every sin offering of theirs and every guilt offering of theirs, which they will return to me. It is something most holy for you and for your sons. (**Numbers 18:9**)**
- **In a most holy place you should eat it. Every male should eat it. It should become something holy to you. (**Numbers 18:10**)**
- **And this belongs to you, the contribution of their gift together with all the wave offerings of the sons of Israel. I have given them to you and your sons and your daughters with you, as an allowance to time indefinite. Everyone clean in your house may eat it. (**Numbers 18:11**)**
- **All the best of the oil and all the best of the new wine and the grain, their firstfruits, which they will give to Yehowah, I have given them to you. (**Numbers 18:12**)**
- **The first ripe fruits of all that is on their land, which they will bring to Yehowah, yours it should become. Everyone clean in your house may eat it. (**Numbers 18:13**)**
- **Every devoted thing in Israel should become yours. (**Numbers 18:14**)**
- **Benefit from the offerings of the best of the first ripe fruits of grain, wine, and oil.**

- The best of the first ripe fruits of your ground you are to bring to the house of Yehowah your God. You must not boil a kid in its mothers milk. (**Exodus 23:19**)
- And if you would present the grain offering of the first ripe fruits to Yehowah, you should present green ears roasted with fire, the grits of new grain, as the grain offering of your first ripe fruits. (**Leviticus 2:14**)
- And you must put oil upon it and place frankincense upon it. It is a grain offering. (**Leviticus 2:15**)
- And the **priest** must make the remembrancer of it smoke, that is, some of its grits and oil, along with all its frankincense, as an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 2:16**)
- And the **priest** must make the remembrancer of it smoke, that is, some of its grits and oil, along with all its frankincense, as an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 2:16**)
- **Stranger in the latter text means one not a priest.**
- Without fail you should give a tenth of all the produce of your seed, that which comes forth of the field year by year. (**Deuteronomy 14:22**)
- And before Yehowah your God, in the place that he will choose to have his name reside there, you must eat the tenth part of your grain, your new wine and your oil and the firstborn ones of your herd and of your flock, in order, that you may learn to fear Yehowah your God always. (**Deuteronomy 14:23**)
- Now in case the journey should be too long for you, because you will not be able to carry it, since the place that Yehowah your God will choose to place his name there will be too far away for you, because Yehowah your God will bless you. (**Deuteronomy 14:24**)
- You must then turn it into money, and you must wrap the money up in your hand and travel to the place that Yehowah your God will choose. (**Deuteronomy 14:25**)
- You must also give the money for whatever your soul may crave

- in the way of cattle and sheep and goats and wine and intoxicating liquor and anything that your soul may ask of you, and you must eat there before Yehowah your God and rejoice, you and your household. ([Deuteronomy 14:26](#))
- And the Levite who is inside your gates, you must not abandon him, for he has no share or inheritance with you. ([Deuteronomy 14:27](#))
 - And it must occur that when at last you enter into the land that Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you have taken possession of it and dwelt in it. ([Deuteronomy 26:1](#))
 - You must also take some of the firstfruits of all the fruitage of the soil, which you will bring in from the land of yours that Yehowah your God is giving you, and you must put them in a basket and go to the place that Yehowah your God will choose to have his name reside there. ([Deuteronomy 26:2](#))
 - And you must come to the **priest** who will be acting in those days and say to him, I must report today to Yehowah your God that I have come into the land that Yehowah swore to our forefathers to give to us. ([Deuteronomy 26:3](#))
 - And the **priest** must take the basket out of your hand and deposit it before the altar of Yehowah your God. ([Deuteronomy 26:4](#))
 - And you must answer and say before Yehowah your God; My father was a perishing Syrian, and he proceeded to go down to Egypt and to reside there as an alien with very few in number, but there he became a great nation, mighty and numerous. ([Deuteronomy 26:5](#))
 - And the Egyptians went treating us badly and afflicting us and putting hard slavery upon us. ([Deuteronomy 26:6](#))
 - And we began to cry out to Yehowah the God of our forefathers, and Yehowah proceeded to hear our voice and to look on our affliction and our trouble and our oppression. ([Deuteronomy 26:7](#))
 - Finally Yehowah brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm and with great fearsomeness and with signs and miracles. ([Deuteronomy 26:8](#))

- Then he brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. (**Deuteronomy 26:9**)
- And now here I have brought the firstfruits of the fruitage of the ground that Yehowah has given me. You must also deposit it before Yehowah your God and bow down before Yehowah your God. (**Deuteronomy 26:10**)
- Except for certain specified portions that only the **priests** could eat
- Every male among the **priests** will eat it. It is something most holy. (**Leviticus 6:29**)
- Their sons and daughters and, in some cases, the **priests** household even slaves could lawfully share.
- And you will eat the breast of the wave offering and the leg of the sacred portion in a clean place, you and your sons and your daughters with you, because they have been given as your allowance and the allowance of your sons from the communion sacrifices of the sons of Israel. (**Leviticus 10:14**)
- And no stranger at all may eat anything holy. No settler with a **priest** nor a hired laborer may eat anything holy. (**Leviticus 22:10**)
- But in case a **priest** should purchase a soul, as a purchase with his money, he as such may share in eating it. As for slaves born in his house, they as such may share in eating his bread. (**Leviticus 22:11**)
- And in case the daughter of a **priest** should become a man's who is a stranger, she as such may not eat of the contribution of the holy things. (**Leviticus 22:12**)
- But in case the daughter of a **priest** should become a widow or divorced when she has no offspring, and she must return to her father's house as in her youth, she may eat some of her fathers bread, but no stranger at all may feed on it. (**Leviticus 22:13**)
- No doubt a share in the third-year tithe for the Levites and the poor.

- **At the end of three years you will bring out the entire tenth part of your produce in that year, and you must deposit it inside your gates. (Deuteronomy 14:28)**
- **And the Levite, because he has no share or inheritance with you, and the alien resident and the fatherless boy and the widow, who are inside your gates, must come, and they must eat and satisfy themselves, in order, that Yehowah your God may bless you in every deed of your hand that you will do. (Deuteronomy 14:29)**
- **When you finish with tithing the entire tenth of your produce in the third year, the year of the tenth, you must also give it to the Levite, the alien resident, the fatherless boy and the widow, and they must eat it within your gates and satisfy themselves. (Deuteronomy 26:12)**
- **The booty taken in war.**
- **Take the sum of the booty, the captives both of humankind and of domestic animals, you and Eleazar the **priest** and the heads of the fathers of the assembly. (Numbers 31:26)**
- **And you must divide the booty in two between those taking part in the battle who went out on the expedition and all the rest of the assembly. (Numbers 31:27)**
- **And as a tax for Yehowah you must take away from the men of war who went out on the expedition one soul out of five hundred, of humankind and of the herd and of the asses and of the flock. (Numbers 31:28)**
- **From their half you should take it and you must give it to Eleazar the **priest** as Yehowah's contribution. (Numbers 31:29)**
- **And from the half of the sons of Israel you should take one out of fifty, of humankind, of the herd, of the asses and of the flock, of every sort of domestic animal, and you must give them to the Levites, the keepers of the obligation of Yehowah's tabernacle. (Numbers 31:30)**

· Dress

- In performing their official duties, the **priests** served barefoot, in harmony with the fact that the sanctuary was holy ground.
- Then he said; Do not come near here. Draw your sandals from off your feet, because the place where you are standing is holy ground. (**Exodus 3:5**)
- In the instructions for making the special garments for the **priests**, sandals were not mentioned.
- And as for you, bring near to yourself Aaron your brother and his sons with him from the midst of the sons of Israel that he may act as **priest** to me, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron. (**Exodus 28:1**)
- And you must make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and beauty. (**Exodus 28:2**)
- And you yourself are to speak to all the ones wise with a heart that I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, and they must make Aaron's garments for sanctifying him, that he may act as **priest** to me. (**Exodus 28:3**)
- And these are the garments that they will make: a breastpiece, and an ephod and a sleeveless coat and a robe of checker-work, a turban and a sash, and they must make the holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may act as **priest** to me. (**Exodus 28:4**)
- And they themselves will take the gold and the blue thread and the wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material and the fine linen. (**Exodus 28:5**)
- And they must make the ephod of gold, blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple, coccus scarlet material and fine twisted linen, the work of an embroiderer. (**Exodus 28:6**)
- And it is to have two shoulder pieces to be joined at its two extremities, and it must be joined. (**Exodus 28:7**)
- And the girdle, which is upon it for tying it close, according to its workmanship should be of its materials, of gold, blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material and fine twisted linen. (**Exodus 28:8**)

- **And you must take two onyx stones and engrave upon them the names of the sons of Israel. (Exodus 28:9)**
- **Six of their names upon the one stone and the names of the six remaining ones upon the other stone in the order of their births. (Exodus 28:10)**
- **With the work of a craftsman in stones, with the engravings of a seal, you are to engrave the two stones with the names of the sons of Israel. Set in settings of gold is how you will make them. (Exodus 28:11)**
- **And you must put the two stones upon the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel, and Aaron must carry their names before Yehowah upon his two shoulder pieces as a memorial. (Exodus 28:12)**
- **And you must make settings of gold. (Exodus 28:13)**
- **And two chains of pure gold. As cords you will make them, with the workmanship of a rope, and you must attach the ropelike chains to the settings. (Exodus 28:14)**
- **And you must make the breastpiece of judgment with the workmanship of an embroiderer. Like the workmanship of the ephod you will make it. Of gold, blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material and fine twisted linen you will make it. (Exodus 28:15)**
- **It should be foursquare when doubled, a span of the hand being its length and a span of the hand its width. (Exodus 28:16)**
- **And you must fill it with a filling of stones, there being four rows of stones. A row of ruby, topaz and emerald is the first row. (Exodus 28:17)**
- **And the second row is turquoise, sapphire and jasper. (Exodus 28:18)**
- **And the third row is leshem stone, agate and amethyst. (Exodus 28:19)**
- **And the fourth row is chrysolite and onyx and jade. Sockets of**

gold should be in their fillings. (**Exodus 28:20**)

- **And the stones should be according to the names of the sons of Israel, the twelve according to their names. With the engravings of a seal they should be, each one according to its name, for the twelve tribes. (**Exodus 28:21**)**
- **And you must make upon the breastpiece wreathed chains, in rope-work, of pure gold. (**Exodus 28:22**)**
- **And you must make upon the breastpiece two rings of gold, and you must put the two rings upon the two extremities of the breastpiece. (**Exodus 28:23**)**
- **And you must put the two ropes of gold through the two rings at the extremities of the breastpiece. (**Exodus 28:24**)**
- **And you will put the two ends of the two ropes through the two settings, and you must put them upon the shoulder pieces of the ephod, at the forefront of it. (**Exodus 28:25**)**
- **And you must make two rings of gold and set them at the two extremities of the breastpiece upon its edge that is on the side toward the ephod inward. (**Exodus 28:26**)**
- **And you must make two rings of gold and put them upon the two shoulder pieces of the ephod from below, on its forefront, near its place of joining, above the girdle of the ephod. (**Exodus 28:27**)**
- **And they will bind the breastpiece by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a blue string, that it may continue above the girdle of the ephod and the breastpiece may not get displaced from on top the ephod. (**Exodus 28:28**)**
- **And Aaron must carry the names of the sons of Israel on the breastpiece of judgment over his heart when he comes into the Holy as a memorial before Yehowah constantly. (**Exodus 28:29**)**
- **And you must put the Urim and the Thummim into the breastpiece of judgment, and they must prove to be over Aaron's heart when he comes in before Yehowah, and Aaron must carry the judgments of the sons of Israel over his heart before Yehowah constantly. (**Exodus 28:30**)**

- **And you must make the sleeveless coat of the ephod completely of blue thread. (Exodus 28:31)**
- **And there must be an opening at its top in the middle of it. Its opening should have a border round about, the product of a loom worker. Like the opening of a coat of mail it should be for it, that it may not be torn. (Exodus 28:32)**
- **And you must make upon the hem of it pomegranates of blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material, upon its hem round about, and bells of gold in between them round about. (Exodus 28:33)**
- **A bell of gold and a pomegranate, a bell of gold and a pomegranate upon the hem of the sleeveless coat round about. (Exodus 28:34)**
- **And it must be upon Aaron that he may minister, and the sound from him must be heard when he goes into the sanctuary before Yehowah and when he comes out, that he may not die. (Exodus 28:35)**
- **And you must make a shining plate of pure gold and engrave upon it with the engravings of a seal, Holiness belongs to Yehowah. (Exodus 28:36)**
- **And you must fasten it with a blue string, and it must come to be upon the turban. On the forefront of the turban it should come to be. (Exodus 28:37)**
- **And it must come to be upon Aaron's forehead, and Aaron must answer for the error committed against the holy objects, which the sons of Israel will sanctify, that is to say, all their holy gifts, and it must stay upon his forehead constantly, to gain approval for them before Yehowah. (Exodus 28:38)**
- **And you must weave in checker-work the robe of fine linen and make a turban of fine linen, and you will make a sash, the work of a weaver. (Exodus 28:39)**
- **And for Aaron's sons you will make robes, and you must make sashes for them, and you will make headgears for them for glory and beauty. (Exodus 28:40)**

- **And with them you must clothe Aaron your brother and his sons with him, and you must anoint them and fill their hand with power and sanctify them, and they must act as **priests** to me. (Exodus 28:41)**
- **And make drawers of linen for them to cover the naked flesh. From t he hips and to the thighs they are to extend. (Exodus 28:42)**
- **And they must be upon Aaron and his sons when they come into the tent of meeting or when they go near to the altar to minister in the holy place, that they may not incur error and certainly die. It is a statute to time indefinite for him and his offspring after him. (Exodus 28:43)**
- **They wore linen drawers extending from the hips to the thighs for moral propriety, to cover the naked flesh that they might not incur error and certainly die.**
- **And make drawers of linen for them to cover the naked flesh. From t he hips and to the thighs they are to extend. (Exodus 28:42)**
- **And they must be upon Aaron and his sons when they come into the tent of meeting or when they go near to the altar to minister in the holy place, that they may not incur error and certainly die. It is a statute to time indefinite for him and his offspring after him. (Exodus 28:43)**
- **Over this they wore a fine linen robe tied about the body by a linen sash. Their headgear was wrapped upon them.**
- **Moses then brought Aaron's sons near and clothed them with robes and girded them with sashes and wrapped the headgear upon them, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (Leviticus 8:13)**
- **And for Aaron's sons you will make robes, and you must make sashes for them, and you will make headgears for them for glory and beauty. (Exodus 28:40)**
- **Next they made the robes of fine linen, the workmanship of a loom worker, for Aaron and his sons. (Exodus 39:27)**

- And the turban of fine linen and the ornamental headgears of fine linen and the linen drawers of fine twisted linen. (**Exodus 39:28**)
- And the sash of fine twisted linen and blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material, the work of a weaver, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Exodus 39:29**)
- This headdress seems to have been somewhat different from the turban of the High Priest, which may have been sewn into a wraparound form and set on the High Priest's head.
- Then he placed the turban upon his head and placed upon the turban at the forefront of it the shining plate of gold, the holy sign of dedication, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Leviticus 8:9**)
- It appears that it was in later times that the **underpriests** on occasion wore ephods of linen, though these were not richly embroidered as was the ephod of the High Priest.
- And Samuel was ministering before Yehowah, as a boy, having a linen ephod girded on. (**1 Samuel 2:18**)

•• Regulations And Functions

- The **priests** were required to maintain personal fleshly cleanliness and high moral standards. When entering the tent of meeting and before presenting an offering at the altar, they were to wash their hands and feet at the basin in the courtyard that they might not die.
- And Yehowah spoke further to Moses, saying; (**Exodus 30:17**)
- You must make a basin of copper and its stand of copper for washing, and you must put it between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water into it. (**Exodus 30:18**)
- And Aaron and his sons must wash their hands and their feet at it. (**Exodus 30:19**)
- When they go into the tent of meeting they will wash with water that they may not die, or when they go near the altar to minister in order to make an offering made by fire smoke to Yehowah.

(Exodus 30:20)

- **And they must wash their hands and their feet that they may not die, and it must serve as a regulation to time indefinite for them, for him and his offspring throughout their generations. (Exodus 30:21)**
- **Then he placed the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it for washing. (Exodus 40:30)**
- **And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet at it. (Exodus 40:31)**
- **When they went into the tent of meeting and when they went near to the altar they would wash, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (Exodus 40:32)**
- **With similar warning they were commanded not to drink wine or intoxicating liquor when serving at the sanctuary.**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Aaron, saying; (Leviticus 10:8)**
- **Do not drink wine or intoxicating liquor, you and your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, that you may not die. It is a statute to time indefinite for your generations. (Leviticus 10:9)**
- **Both in order to make a distinction between the holy thing and the profane and between the unclean thing and the clean. (Leviticus 10:10)**
- **And in order to teach the sons of Israel all the regulations that Yehowah has spoken to them by means of Moses. (Leviticus 10:11)**
- **They could not defile themselves by touching a corpse or mourning for the dead, this would make them temporarily unclean for service. The **underpriests**, but not the **High Priest**, might do so, however, for one in very close family relationship, mother, father, son, daughter, brother, or virgin sister who was close to, apparently, living with or near, him, also the wife was possibly included as one close to him.**

- **And Yehowah went on to say to Moses; Talk to the **priests**, Aaron's sons, and you must say to them, For a deceased soul no one may defile himself among his people. (Leviticus 21:1)**
- **But for a blood relation of his who is close to him, for his mother and for his father and for his son and for his daughter and for his brother. (Leviticus 21:2)**
- **And for his sister, a virgin who is close to him, who has not become a man's, for her he may defile himself. (Leviticus 21:3)**
- **He may not defile himself for a woman possessed by an owner among his people so as to make himself profane. (Leviticus 21:4)**
- **Any **priest** who became unclean, by leprosy, by a running discharge, or by a corpse or other unclean thing, could not eat of the holy things or perform sanctuary service until cleansed, otherwise he must die.**
- **And Yehowah spoke further to Moses, saying; (Leviticus 22:1)**
- **Speak to Aaron and his sons, that they may keep themselves separate from the holy things of the sons of Israel and not profane my holy name in the things they are sanctifying to me. I am Yehowah. (Leviticus 22:2)**
- **Say to them, Throughout your generations any man of all your offspring who comes near to the holy things, which the sons of Israel will sanctify to Yehowah, while his uncleanness is upon him, that soul must be cut off from before me. I am Yehowah. (Leviticus 22:3)**
- **No man of Aaron's offspring when he is leprous or has a running discharge may eat of the holy things until he becomes clean, neither he who touches anyone unclean by a deceased soul or a man from whom there goes out a seminal emission. (Leviticus 22:4)**
- **Nor a man who touches any swarming thing that is unclean for him or touches a man who is unclean for him as respects any uncleanness of his. (Leviticus 22:5)**
- **The soul who touches any such must be unclean until the evening and may not eat any of the holy things, but he must bathe his**

- flesh in water. (**Leviticus 22:6**)
- When the sun has set, he must also be clean, and afterward he may eat some of the holy things, because it is his bread. (**Leviticus 22:7**)
 - He should also not eat any body already dead or anything torn by wild beasts so as to become unclean by it. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 22:8**)
 - And they must keep their obligation to me, that they may not carry sin because of it and have to die for it because they were profaning it. I am Yehowah who is sanctifying them. (**Leviticus 22:9**)
 - The **priests** were commanded not to shave their heads or the extremities of their beards, or to make cuttings in themselves, practices common among pagan **priests**.
 - They should not produce baldness upon their heads, and the extremity of their beard they should not shave, and on their flesh they should not make an incision. (**Leviticus 21:5**)
 - They should prove themselves holy to their God, and they should not profane the name of their God, because they are those presenting Yehowah's offerings made by fire, the bread of their God, and they must prove themselves holy. (**Leviticus 21:6**)
 - And you must not make cuts in your flesh for a deceased soul, and you must not put tattoo marking upon yourselves. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 19:28**)
 - And they began calling at the top of their voice and cutting themselves according to their custom with daggers and with lances, until they caused blood to flow out upon them. (**1 Kings 18:28**)
 - While the **High Priest** could marry only a virgin girl, the underpriests could marry a widow, but not a divorced woman or a prostitute.
 - prostitute or a violated woman they should not take, and a woman divorced from her husband they should not take, because he is holy to his God. (**Leviticus 21:7**)

- So you must sanctify him, because he is one presenting the bread of your God. He should prove to be holy to you, because I Yehowah, who am sanctifying you, am holy. (**Leviticus 21:8**)
- And as for the **High Priest** of his brothers upon whose head the anointing oil would be poured and whose hand was filled with power to wear the garments, he should not let his head go ungroomed, and he should not tear his garments. (**Leviticus 21:10**)
- And for his part, he should take a woman in her virginity. (**Leviticus 21:13**)
- As for a widow or a divorced woman and one violated, a prostitute, none of these may he take, but he should take a virgin from his people as a wife. (**Leviticus 21:14**)
- Evidently, all the members of the High Priest's family were to uphold the high standard of morality and the dignity due the priests office. Thus, a **priests** daughter who became a prostitute was to be put to death, being burned afterward as something detestable to God.
- Now in case the daughter of a **priest** should make herself profane by committing prostitution, it is her father that she is profaning. She should be burned in the fire. (**Leviticus 21:9**)
- When in the wilderness, at the time of moving camp, it was the duty of Aaron and his sons to cover the holy furniture and utensils in the tent of meeting before the other Kohathites were allowed to come in to carry them, so that the Kohathites would not die. Likewise they uncovered and set up these things in the tent at the new location.
- And Aaron and his sons must come in when the camp is departing, and they must take down the screening curtain and must cover the ark of the testimony with it. (**Numbers 4:5**)
- And they must put a covering of sealskins over it and spread out an entire cloth of blue on top and put in its poles. (**Numbers 4:6**)
- And they will spread out a cloth of blue over the table of showbread, and they must put upon it the dishes and the cups and the bowls and the pitchers of the drink offering, and the constant bread should continue on it. (**Numbers 4:7**)

- **And they must spread out a cloth of coccus scarlet over them, and they must cover it with a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (Numbers 4:8)**
- **And they must take a cloth of blue and cover the lampstand of the luminary and its lamps and its snuffers and its fire holders and all its vessels for oil with which they regularly minister to it. (Numbers 4:9)**
- **And they must put it and all its utensils into a covering of sealskins and put it upon a bar. (Numbers 4:10)**
- **And over the golden altar they will spread out a cloth of blue, and they must cover it with a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (Numbers 4:11)**
- **And they must take all the utensils of the ministry with which they regularly minister in the holy place, and they must put them in a cloth of blue and cover them with a covering of sealskins and put them upon a bar. (Numbers 4:12)**
- **And they must clear away the fatty ashes of the altar and spread out a cloth of wool dyed reddish purple over it. (Numbers 4:13)**
- **And they must put upon it all its utensils with which they regularly minister at it, the fire holders, the forks and the shovels and the bowls, all the utensils of the altar, and they must spread out over it a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (Numbers 4:14)**
- **And Aaron and his sons must finish covering the holy place and all the utensils of the holy place when the camp is departing, and after that the sons of Kohath will come in to carry them, but they must not touch the holy place so that they have to die. These things are the load of the sons of Kohath in the tent of meeting. (Numbers 4:15)**
- **On the march, the **priests** carried the ark of the covenant.**
- **And to command the people, saying; As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of Yehowah your God, and the **priests**, the Levites, carrying it, then you yourselves will pull away from your place, and you must follow it. (Joshua 3:3)**

- And it must occur that at the instant that the soles of the feet of the **priests** carrying the ark of Yehowah, the Lord of the whole earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, the waters descending from above, and they will stand still as one dam. (**Joshua 3:13**)
- And at the instant that the carriers of the Ark came as far as the Jordan and the feet of the **priests** carrying the Ark were dipped in the edge of the waters, now the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest. (**Joshua 3:15**)
- Meanwhile the **priests** carrying the ark of Yehowah's covenant kept standing immovable on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan as all Israel were passing over on dry ground, until the whole nation had completed passing over the Jordan. (**Joshua 3:17**)
- To all the older men of Israel came, and the **priests** began to carry the Ark. (**1 Kings 8:3**)
- And they came bringing up the ark of Yehowah and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils that were in the tent, and the **priests** and the Levites came bringing them up. (**1 Kings 8:4**)
- And King Solomon and with him all the assembly of Israel, those keeping their appointment with him, were before the Ark, sacrificing sheep and cattle that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. (**1 Kings 8:5**)
- Then the **priests** brought in the ark of the covenant of Yehowah to its place, to the innermost room of the house, the Most Holy, to underneath the wings of the cherubs. (**1 Kings 8:6**)
- The **priests** were responsible for blowing the holy trumpets, thus giving definite leadership to the people, whether in the matter of setting up or breaking camp, assembling, engaging in battle, or celebrating some festival to Yehowah.
- And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 10:1**)
- Make for yourself two trumpets of silver. You will make them of hammered work, and they must be at your service for convening

- the assembly and for breaking up the camps. (**Numbers 10:2**)
- And they must blow on them both, and the whole assembly must keep their appointment with you at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 10:3**)
 - And if they should blow on just one, the chieftains as heads of the thousands of Israel must also keep their appointment with you. (**Numbers 10:4**)
 - And you men must blow a fluctuating blast, and the camps of those camping to the east must pull away. (**Numbers 10:5**)
 - And you must blow a fluctuating blast a second time, and the camps of those camping to the south must pull away. They should blow a fluctuating blast for each time one of them pulls away. (**Numbers 10:6**)
 - Now when calling the congregation together, you should blow, but you must not sound a fluctuating blast. (**Numbers 10:7**)
 - And Aaron's sons, the **priests**, should blow on the trumpets, and the use of them must serve as a statute for you men to time indefinite during your generations. (**Numbers 10:8**)
 - And in case you should enter into war in your land against the oppressor who is harassing you, you must also sound a war call on the trumpets, and you will certainly be remembered before Yehowah your God and be saved from your enemies. (**Numbers 10:9**)
 - And in the day of your rejoicing and in your festal seasons and at the commencements of your months, you must blow on the trumpets over your burnt offerings and your communion sacrifices, and their use must serve as a memorial for you before your God. I am Yehowah your God. (**Numbers 10:10**)
 - The **priests** and Levites were exempt from military conscription, though they did serve as blowers of the trumpets and singers before the army.
 - However, the Levites according to the tribe of their fathers did not get registered in among them. (**Numbers 1:47**)

- Accordingly Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 1:48**)
- Only the tribe of Levi you must not register, and the sum of them you must not take in among the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 1:49**)
- But the Levites did not get registered in among the sons of Israel, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Numbers 2:33**)
- And seven **priests** should carry seven rams horns, before the Ark, and on the seventh day you should march round the city seven times and the priests should blow the horns. (**Joshua 6:4**)
- And, look! With us there is at the head the true God with his **priests** and the signal trumpets for sounding the battle alarm against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against Yehowah the God of your forefathers, for you will not prove successful. (**2 Chronicles 13:12**)
- When the **priests** were on assignment at the sanctuary, their duties included the slaughtering of sacrifices brought by the people, sprinkling the blood on the altar, cutting up the sacrifices, keeping the altar fire burning, cooking the meat, and accepting all other offerings, such as the grain offerings. They were to take care of matters dealing with uncleannesses contracted by individuals, as well as their special vows, and so forth. (**Leviticus Chapters 1-7**)
- Then at the fulfilling of the days of her purification for a son or for a daughter she will bring a young ram in its first year for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering to the entrance of the tent of meeting to the **priest**. (**Leviticus 12:6**)
- See Also (**Leviticus Chapters 13-15**).
- And Yehowah spoke further to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 6:1**)
- Speak to the sons of Israel and you must say to them; In case a man or a woman takes a special vow to live as a Nazirite to Yehowah. (**Numbers 6:2**)
- He should keep away from wine and intoxicating liquor. He should not drink the vinegar of wine or the vinegar of intoxicating liquor, nor drink any liquid made from grapes, nor eat grapes either fresh or dried. (**Numbers 6:3**)

- **All the days of his Naziriteship he should not eat anything at all that is made from the wine vine, from the unripe grapes to the skins. (Numbers 6:4)**
- **All the days of the vow of his Naziriteship no razor should pass over his head, until the days that he should be separated to Yehowah come to the full, he should prove holy by letting the locks of the hair of his head grow. (Numbers 6:5)**
- **All the days of his keeping separate to Yehowah he may not come toward any dead soul. (Numbers 6:6)**
- **Not even for his father or his mother or his brother or his sister may he defile himself when they die, because the sign of his Naziriteship to his God is upon his head. (Numbers 6:7)**
- **All the days of his Naziriteship he is holy to Yehowah. (Numbers 6:8)**
- **But in case anyone dying should die quite suddenly alongside him so that he has defiled the head of his Naziriteship, he must then shave his head in the day of establishing his purification. On the seventh day he should shave it. (Numbers 6:9)**
- **And on the eighth day he should bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the priest to the entrance of the tent of meeting. (Numbers 6:10)**
- **And the priest must handle one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering and make atonement for him, since he has sinned because of the dead soul. Then he must sanctify his head on that day. (Numbers 6:11)**
- **And he must live as a Nazirite to Yehowah for the days of his Naziriteship, and he must bring a young ram in its first year as a guilt offering, and the former days will go uncounted because he defiled his Naziriteship. (Numbers 6:12)**
- **Now this is the Law about the Nazirite. On the day that the days of his Naziriteship come to the full, he will be brought to the entrance of the tent of meeting. (Numbers 6:13)**
- **And he must present as his offering to Yehowah one sound young**

- ram in its first year as a burnt offering and one sound female lamb in its first year as a sin offering and one sound ram as a communion sacrifice. (**Numbers 6:14**)
- And a basket of unfermented ring-shaped cakes of fine flour, moistened with oil, and unfermented wafers smeared with oil, and their grain offering and their drink offerings. (**Numbers 6:15**)
 - And the **priest** must present them before Yehowah and render up his sin offering and his burnt offering. (**Numbers 6:16**)
 - And he will render up the ram as a communion sacrifice to Yehowah along with the basket of unfermented cakes, and the **priest** must render up its grain offering and its drink offering. (**Numbers 6:17**)
 - And the Nazirite must shave the head of his Naziriteship at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and he must take the hair of the head of his Naziriteship and put it upon the fire that is under the communion sacrifice. (**Numbers 6:18**)
 - And the **priest** must take a boiled shoulder from the ram and one unfermented ring-shaped cake out of the basket, and one unfermented wafer, and put them upon the palms of the Nazirite after he has had the sign of his Naziriteship shaved off. (**Numbers 6:19**)
 - And the **priest** must wave them to and fro as a wave offering before Yehowah. It is something holy for the priest, along with the breast of the wave offering and the leg of the contribution. And afterward the Nazirite may drink wine. (**Numbers 6:20**)
 - This is the Law about the Nazirite who vows, his offering to Yehowah over his Naziriteship, besides that which he can afford. According to his vow that he may make, so he should do because of the Law of his Naziriteship. (**Numbers 6:21**)
 - Also, when the days for purifying them according to the Law of Moses came to the full, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to Yehowah. (**Luke 2:22**)
 - Just as it is written in Yehowah's Law; Every male opening a womb must be called holy to Yehowah. (**Luke 2:23**)

- **And to offer sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of Yehowah; A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. (Luke 2:24)**
- **They took care of the morning and evening burnt offerings and all other sacrifices regularly made at the sanctuary except those that it was the High Priest's duty to offer, they burned incense on the golden altar.**
- **And this is what you will offer upon the altar, young rams each a year old, two a day constantly. (Exodus 29:38)**
- **And you will offer the one young ram in the morning, and you will offer the other young ram between the two evenings. (Exodus 29:39)**
- **And a tenth part of an ephah measure of fine flour moistened with the fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a drink offering of the fourth of a hin of wine, will go for the first young ram. (Exodus 29:40)**
- **And you will offer the second young ram between the two evenings. With a grain offering like that of the morning and with a drink offering like its, you will render it as a restful odor, an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (Exodus 29:41)**
- **It is a constant burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before Yehowah, where I shall present myself to you people to speak to you there. (Exodus 29:42)**
- **And Yehowah spoke further to Moses, saying; (Numbers 28:1)**
- **Command the sons of Israel, and you must say to them, you should take care to present to me my offering, my bread, for my offerings made by fire as a restful odor to me, at their appointed times. (Numbers 28:2)**
- **And you must say to them; This is the offering made by fire that you will present to Yehowah, two sound year-old male lambs a day as a burnt offering constantly. (Numbers 28:3)**
- **The one male lamb you will render up in the morning, and the other male lamb you will render up between the two evenings.**

(Numbers 28:4)

- **Together with the tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering moistened with the fourth of a hin of beaten oil. (Numbers 28:5)**
- **The constant burnt offering, which was rendered up at Mount Sinai as a restful odor, an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (Numbers 28:6)**
- **Along with its drink offering, the fourth of a hin to each male lamb. Pour out in the holy place the drink offering of intoxicating liquor to Yehowah. (Numbers 28:7)**
- **And you will render up the other male lamb between the two evenings. With the same grain offering as of the morning and with its same drink offering you will render it up as an offering made by fire, of a restful odor to Yehowah. (Numbers 28:8)**
- **However, on the Sabbath day there will be two sound year-old male lambs and two tenth measures of fine flour as a grain offering moistened with oil, together with its drink offering. (Numbers 28:9)**
- **As a Sabbath burnt offering on its Sabbath, along with the constant burnt offering and its drink offering. (Numbers 28:10)**
- **As for us, Yehowah is our God, and we have not left him, but **priests** are ministering to Yehowah, the sons of Aaron, and also the Levites in the work. (2 Chronicles 13:10)**
- **And they are making burnt offerings smoke to Yehowah morning by morning and evening by evening and also perfumed incense, and the layers of bread are upon the table of pure gold, and there are the golden lampstand and its lamps to light up evening by evening, because we are keeping the obligation to Yehowah our God, but you yourselves have left him. (2 Chronicles 13:11)**
- **They trimmed the lamps and kept them supplied with oil**
- **As for you, you are to command the sons of Israel that they get for you pure, beaten olive oil for the luminary, in order to light up the lamps constantly. (Exodus 27:20)**

- In the tent of meeting, outside the curtain that is by the Testimony, Aaron and his sons will set it in order from evening till morning before Yehowah. It is a statute to time indefinite for their generations, to be performed by the sons of Israel. (**Exodus 27:21**)
- And took care of the holy oil and the incense.
- And the oversight of Eleazar the son of Aaron the **priest** is over the oil of the luminary and the perfumed incense and the constant grain offering and the anointing oil, the oversight of all the tabernacle and all that is in it, namely, the holy place and its utensils. (**Numbers 4:16**)
- They blessed the people at the solemn assemblies in the manner outlined at;
- Then Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 6:22**)
- Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying; This is the way you should bless the sons of Israel, saying to them: (**Numbers 6:23**)
- May Yehowah bless you and keep you. (**Numbers 6:24**)
- May Yehowah make his face shine toward you, and may he favor you. (**Numbers 6:25**)
- May Yehowah lift up his face toward you and assign peace to you. (**Numbers 6:26**)
- And they must place my name upon the sons of Israel, that I myself may bless them. (**Numbers 6:27**)
- But no other **priest** could be in the sanctuary when the High Priest went into the Most Holy to make atonement.
- And no other man should happen to be in the tent of meeting from when he goes in to make atonement in the holy place until he comes out, and he must make atonement in behalf of himself and in behalf of his house and in behalf of the entire congregation of Israel. (**Leviticus 16:17**)
- The **priests** were primarily the ones privileged to explain God's law, and they played a major role in Israel's judiciary. In the cities

allotted to them the priests were available to assist the judges, and they also served with the judges in extraordinarily difficult cases beyond the ability of local courts to decide.

- In case a matter for judicial decision should be too extraordinary for you, one in which blood has been shed, in which a legal claim has been raised, or a violent deed has been committed, matters of dispute, inside your gates, you must also rise and go up to the place that Yehowah your God will choose. ([Deuteronomy 17:8](#))
- And you must go to the **priests**, the Levites, and to the judge who will be acting in those days, and you must make inquiry, and they must hand down to you the word of the judicial decision. ([Deuteronomy 17:9](#))
- They were required to be on hand along with the older men of the city in cases of unsolved murder, to assure that the proper procedure was followed to remove bloodguilt from the city.
- In case someone is found slain on the ground that Yehowah your God is giving you to take possession of it, fallen on the field, and it has not become known who struck him fatally. ([Deuteronomy 21:1](#))
- Your older men and your judges must also go out and measure to the cities that are all around the slain one. ([Deuteronomy 21:2](#))
- And the **priests** the sons of Levi must approach, because they are the ones Yehowah your God has chosen to minister to him and to bless in the name of Yehowah and at whose mouth every dispute over every violent deed should be disposed of. ([Deuteronomy 21:5](#))
- If a jealous husband charged his wife with secret adultery, she had to be brought to the sanctuary, where the **priest** carried out the prescribed ceremony in which Yehowah's knowledge of the truth of the woman's innocence or guilt was appealed to for His direct judgment.
- And Yehowah went on to speak to Moses, saying; ([Numbers 5:11](#))
- Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them, In case any man's wife turns aside in that she does commit an act of unfaithfulness against him. ([Numbers 5:12](#))

- **And another man actually lies down with her and has an emission of semen, and it has been hidden from the eyes of her husband and has remained undiscovered, and she, on her part, has defiled herself but there is no witness against her, and she herself has not been caught. (Numbers 5:13)**
- **And the spirit of jealousy has passed upon him, and he has become suspicious of his wife's faithfulness, and she in fact has defiled herself, or the spirit of jealousy has passed upon him, and he has become suspicious of his wife's faithfulness, but she in fact has not defiled herself. (Numbers 5:14)**
- **Then the man must bring his wife to the **priest** and bring her offering along with her, a tenth of an ephah of barley flour. He must not pour oil upon it nor put frankincense upon it, because it is a grain offering of jealousy, a memorial grain offering bringing error to remembrance. (Numbers 5:15)**
- **And the **priest** must bring her forward and make her stand before Yehowah. (Numbers 5:16)**
- **And the **priest** must take holy water in an earthenware vessel, and the priest will take some of the dust that happens to be on the floor of the tabernacle, and he must put it in the water. (Numbers 5:17)**
- **And the **priest** must make the woman stand before Yehowah and loosen the hair of the woman's head and put upon her palms the memorial grain offering, that is, the grain offering of jealousy, and in the hand of the priest there should be the bitter water that brings a curse. (Numbers 5:18)**
- **And the **priest** must make her swear, and he must say to the woman; If no man has lain down with you and if while under your husband you have not turned aside in any uncleanness, be free of the effect of this bitter water that brings a curse. (Numbers 5:19)**
- **But you, in case you have turned aside while under your husband and in case you have defiled yourself and some man has put in you his seminal emission, besides your husband. (Numbers 5:20)**
- **The **priest** must now make the woman swear with an oath**

- involving cursing, and the priest must say to the woman. May Yehowah set you for a cursing and an oath in the midst of your people by Yehowah's letting your thigh fall away, and your belly swell. (**Numbers 5:21**)
- And this water that brings a curse must enter into your intestines to cause your belly to swell and the thigh to fall away. To this the woman must say; Amen! Amen! (**Numbers 5:22**)
 - And the **priest** must write these cursings in the book and must wipe them out into the bitter water. (**Numbers 5:23**)
 - And he must make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and the water that brings a curse must enter into her as something bitter. (**Numbers 5:24**)
 - And the **priest** must take the grain offering of jealousy from the woman's hand and wave the grain offering to and fro before Yehowah, and he must bring it near the altar. (**Numbers 5:25**)
 - And the **priest** must grasp some of the grain offering as a remembrancer of it and must make it smoke upon the altar, and afterward he will make the woman drink the water. (**Numbers 5:26**)
 - When he has made her drink the water, it must also occur that if she has defiled herself in that she committed an act of unfaithfulness toward her husband, the water that brings a curse must then enter into her as something bitter, and her belly must swell, and her thigh must fall away, and the woman must become a cursing in among her people. (**Numbers 5:27**)
 - However, if the woman has not defiled herself but she is clean, she must then be free from such punishment, and she must be made pregnant with semen. (**Numbers 5:28**)
 - This is the Law about jealousy, where a woman may turn aside while under her husband, and she does defile herself. (**Numbers 5:29**)
 - Or in the case of a man where the spirit of jealousy may pass upon him, and he does suspect his wife of unfaithfulness, and he must make the wife stand before Yehowah, and the **priest** must carry out toward her all this Law. (**Numbers 5:30**)

- And the man must be innocent of error, but that wife will answer for her error. (**Numbers 5:31**)
- In all cases, judgment rendered by the **priests** or appointed judges was to be respected, deliberate disrespect or disobedience brought the death penalty.
- But the soul that does something deliberately, whether he is a native or an alien resident, he speaking abusively of Yehowah, in that case that soul must be cut off from among his people. (**Numbers 15:30**)
- Then you must do in accordance with the word that they will hand down to you from that place which Yehowah will choose, and you must be careful to do according to all that they instruct you. (**Deuteronomy 17:10**)
- In accordance with the Law that they will point out to you, and according to the judicial decision that they will say to you, you should do. You must not turn aside from the word that they will hand down to you, to the right or to the left. (**Deuteronomy 17:11**)
- And the man who will behave with presumptuousness in not listening to the **priest** who is standing to minister there to Yehowah your God or to the judge, that man must die, and you must clear out what is bad from Israel. (**Deuteronomy 17:12**)
- And all the people will hear and become afraid, and they will not act presumptuously anymore. (**Deuteronomy 17:13**)
- The **priests** were teachers of the Law to the people, reading and explaining it to those coming to the sanctuary to worship. Also, when not on assigned duty, they would have wide opportunity for such teaching, whether in the area of the sanctuary or in other parts of the land.
- Let them instruct Jacob in your judicial decisions and Israel in your law. Let them render up incense before your nostrils and a whole offering on your altar. (**Deuteronomy 33:10**)
- And many were the days that Israel had been without a true God and without a **priest** teaching and without Law. (**2 Chronicles**

15:3)

- **And in the third year of his reigning he sent for his princes, namely, Ben-hail and Obadiah and Zechariah and Nethanel and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. (2 Chronicles 17:7)**
- **And with them the Levites, Shemaiah and Nethaniah and Zebadiah and Asahel and Shemiramoth and Jehonathan and Adonijah and TobiYah and Tob-Adonijah the Levites, and with them Elishama and Jehoram the **priests**. (2 Chronicles 17:8)**
- **And they began teaching in Judah, and with them there was the book of Yehowah's Law, and they kept going around through all the cities of Judah and teaching among the people. (2 Chronicles 17:9)**
- **For the lips of a **priest** are the ones that should keep knowledge, and the Law is what people should seek from his mouth, for he is the messenger of Yehowah of armies. (Malachi 2:7)**
- **Upon returning to Jerusalem from Babylon, Ezra the **priest**, assisted by other **priests** along with the Levites, gathered the people and spent hours reading and explaining the Law to them.**
- **And all the people proceeded to gather themselves as one man at the public square that was before the Water Gate. Then they said to Ezra the copyist to bring the book of the Law of Moses, which Yehowah had commanded Israel. (Nehemiah 8:1)**
- **Accordingly Ezra the **priest** brought the Law before the congregation of men as well as of women and of all intelligent enough to listen, on the first day of the seventh month. (Nehemiah 8:2)**
- **And he continued to read aloud from it before the public square that is before the Water Gate, from daybreak till midday, in front of the men and the women and the other intelligent ones, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the Law. (Nehemiah 8:3)**
- **And Ezra the copyist kept standing upon a wooden podium, which they had made for the occasion, and there were standing alongside him Mattithiah and Shema and Anaiah and Uriah and Hilkiyah and Maaseiah to his right hand, and at his left Pedaiah**

and Mishael and Malchijah and Hashum and Hash-baddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam. (**Nehemiah 8:4**)

- And Ezra proceeded to open the book before the eyes of all the people, for he happened to be above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood up. (**Nehemiah 8:5**)
- Then Ezra blessed Yehowah the true God, the great One, at which all the people answered, Amen! Amen! With the lifting up of their hands. They then bowed low and prostrated themselves to Yehowah with their faces to the earth. (**Nehemiah 8:6**)
- And Jeshua and Bani and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, even the Levites, were explaining the Law to the people, while the people were in a standing position. (**Nehemiah 8:7**)
- And they continued reading aloud from the book, from the Law of the true God, it being expounded, and there being a putting of meaning into it, and they continued giving understanding in the reading. (**Nehemiah 8:8**)
- And Nehemiah, that is, the Tirshatha, and Ezra the **priest**, the copyist, and the Levites who were instructing the people proceeded to say to all the people; This very day is holy to Yehowah your God. Do not mourn or weep. For all the people were weeping as they were hearing the words of the Law. (**Nehemiah 8:9**)
- And he went on to say to them; Go, eat the fatty things and drink the sweet things, and send portions to the one for whom nothing has been prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not feel hurt, for the joy of Yehowah is your stronghold. (**Nehemiah 8:10**)
- And the Levites were ordering all the people to be silent, saying; Keep quiet! for this day is holy, and do not feel hurt. (**Nehemiah 8:11**)
- So all the people went away to eat and drink and to send out portions and to carry on a great rejoicing, for they had understood the words that had been made known to them. (**Nehemiah 8:12**)

- And on the second day the heads of the fathers of all the people, the **priests** and the Levites, gathered themselves together to Ezra the copyist, even to gain insight into the words of the law. (**Nehemiah 8:13**)
- Then they found written in the Law that Yehowah had commanded by means of Moses that the sons of Israel should dwell in booths during the festival in the seventh month. (**Nehemiah 8:14**)
- And that they should make proclamation and cause a call to pass throughout all their cities and throughout Jerusalem, saying; Go out to the mountainous region and bring in olive leaves and the leaves of oil trees and myrtle leaves and palm leaves and the leaves of branchy trees to make booths, according to what is written. (**Nehemiah 8:15**)
- The **priestly** administration served as a safeguard to the nation in religious cleanness as also in physical health. The **priest** was to judge between the clean and the unclean in cases of leprosy of a man, a garment, or a house. He saw to it that the legal quarantine regulations were carried out. He also officiated in the cleansing of those who had been defiled by a dead body or were unclean from morbid discharges, and so forth. (**Leviticus Chapters 13-15**)

•• How Were Assignments Of Temple Service Determined

- Of the 24 divisions, or courses, of the **priests** established by King David, 16 were made up from the house of Eleazar and 8 from the house of Ithamar, due to the relative number of members of each family.
- Now the sons of Aaron had their divisions. The sons of Aaron were Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. (**1 Chronicles 24:1**)
- However, Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and they did not happen to have any sons, but Eleazar and Ithamar continued to act as **priests**. (**1 Chronicles 24:2**)
- And David, and Zadok from the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech from the sons of Ithamar proceeded to make divisions of them for their office in their service. (**1 Chronicles 24:3**)
- But the sons of Eleazar were found to be more numerous in

headmen than the sons of Ithamar. So they distributed them to the sons of Eleazar, as heads for their paternal houses, sixteen, and to the sons of Ithamar, as heads for their paternal houses, eight. (**1 Chronicles 24:4**)

- Further, they distributed them by lots, these along with those, for there had to be chiefs of the holy place and chiefs of the true God from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar. (**1 Chronicles 24:5**)
- Then Shemaiah the son of Nethanel the secretary of the Levites wrote them down before the king and the princes and Zadok the **priest** and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar and the heads of the fathers of the priests and of the Levites, one paternal house being picked out for Eleazar and one being picked out for Ithamar. (**1 Chronicles 24:6**)
- And the lot proceeded to come out, the first for Jehoiarib, for Jedaiah the second. (**1 Chronicles 24:7**)
- For Harim the third, for Seorim the fourth. (**1 Chronicles 24:8**)
- For Malchijah the fifth, for Mijamin the sixth. (**1 Chronicles 24:9**)
- For Hakkoz the seventh, for Abijah the eighth. (**1 Chronicles 24:10**)
- For Jeshua the ninth, for Shecaniah the tenth. (**1 Chronicles 24:11**)
- For Eliashib the eleventh, for Jakim the twelfth. (**1 Chronicles 24:12**)
- For Huppah the thirteenth, for Jeshebeab the fourteenth. (**1 Chronicles 24:13**)
- For Bilgah the fifteenth, for Immer the sixteenth. (**1 Chronicles 24:14**)
- For Hezir the seventeenth, for Happizzetz the eighteenth. (**1 Chronicles 24:15**)
- For Pethahiah the nineteenth, for Jehezkel the twentieth. (**1 Chronicles 24:16**)

- For Jachin the twenty-first, for Gamul the twenty-second. (**1 Chronicles 24:17**)
- For Delaiah the twenty-third, for Maaziah the twenty-fourth. (**1 Chronicles 24:18**)
- These were their offices for their service, to come into the house of Yehowah according to their due right by the hand of Aaron their forefather, just as Yehowah the God of Israel had commanded him. (**1 Chronicles 24:19**)
- However, at least initially, **priests** from only four of the divisions returned from the Babylonian exile.
- The **priests**, the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua nine hundred and seventy-three. (**Ezra 2:36**)
- The sons of Immer, a thousand and fifty-two. (**Ezra 2:37**)
- The sons of Pashhur, a thousand two hundred and forty-seven. (**Ezra 2:38**)
- The sons of Harim, a thousand and seventeen. (**Ezra 2:39**)
- Some suggest that, in order to continue the former organizational arrangement, the four families returning were divided so that there were again 24 courses.
- **Alfred Edersheim, in The Temple (1874, p. 63), suggests that this was accomplished by each family's drawing five lots for those who had not returned, thereby forming from their groups 20 more courses to which they gave the original names.**
- John the Baptizers father Zechariah was a **priest** of the eighth division, that of Abijah. However, if the above view represents the true case, he may not have been a descendant of Abijah he may have merely belonged to the division which carried his name.
- For Hakkoz the seventh, for Abijah the eighth. (**1 Chronicles 24:10**)
- In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there happened to be a certain **priest** named Zechariah of the division of Abijah, and he

had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ([Luke 1:5](#))

- **Absence of full information does not allow for firm conclusions on these points.**
- **In the temple service the **priests** were organized under various officers. Lot's were drawn in assigning certain services. Each of the 24 divisions served one week at a time, being on assigned duty twice a year. Evidently the entire priesthood served at festival seasons when thousands of sacrifices were offered by the people, as they did at the temple dedication.**
- **Now the sons of Aaron had their divisions. The sons of Aaron were Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. ([1 Chronicles 24:1](#))**
- **However, Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and they did not happen to have any sons, but Eleazar and Ithamar continued to act as priests. ([1 Chronicles 24:2](#))**
- **And David, and Zadok from the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech from the sons of Ithamar proceeded to make divisions of them for their office in their service. ([1 Chronicles 24:3](#))**
- **But the sons of Eleazar were found to be more numerous in headmen than the sons of Ithamar. So they distributed them to the sons of Eleazar, as heads for their paternal houses, sixteen, and to the sons of Ithamar, as heads for their paternal houses, eight. ([1 Chronicles 24:4](#))**
- **Further, they distributed them by lots, these along with those, for there had to be chiefs of the holy place and chiefs of the true God from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar. ([1 Chronicles 24:5](#))**
- **Then Shemaiah the son of Nethanel the secretary of the Levites wrote them down before the king and the princes and Zadok the priest and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar and the heads of the fathers of the priests and of the Levites, one paternal house being picked out for Eleazar and one being picked out for Ithamar. ([1 Chronicles 24:6](#))**
- **And the lot proceeded to come out, the first for Jehoiarib, for Jedaiah the second. ([1 Chronicles 24:7](#))**

- For Harim the third, for Seorim the fourth. (**1 Chronicles 24:8**)
- For Malchijah the fifth, for Mijamin the sixth. (**1 Chronicles 24:9**)
- For Hakkoz the seventh, for Abijah the eighth. (**1 Chronicles 24:10**)
- For Jeshua the ninth, for Shecaniah the tenth. (**1 Chronicles 24:11**)
- For Eliashib the eleventh, for Jakim the twelfth. (**1 Chronicles 24:12**)
- For Huppah the thirteenth, for Jeshebeab the fourteenth. (**1 Chronicles 24:13**)
- For Bilgah the fifteenth, for Immer the sixteenth. (**1 Chronicles 24:14**)
- For Hezir the seventeenth, for Happizzez the eighteenth. (**1 Chronicles 24:15**)
- For Pethahiah the nineteenth, for Jehezkel the twentieth. (**1 Chronicles 24:16**)
- For Jachin the twenty-first, for Gamul the twenty-second. (**1 Chronicles 24:17**)
- For Delaiah the twenty-third, for Maaziah the twenty-fourth. (**1 Chronicles 24:18**)
- And they themselves also proceeded to cast lots exactly as their brothers the sons of Aaron did before David the king and Zadok and Ahimelech and the heads of the paternal houses of the priests and of the Levites. As respects paternal houses, the head one was exactly as his younger brother. (**1 Chronicles 24:31**)
- And it came about when the **priests** came out from the holy place, for all the **priests** that were to be found had, for their part, sanctified themselves, there was no need to observe the divisions. (**2 Chronicles 5:11**)
- Finally Hezekiah answered and said; Now you have filled your

- hand with power for Yehowah. Approach, and bring sacrifices and thanksgiving sacrifices to the house of Yehowah. And the congregation began to bring sacrifices and thanksgiving sacrifices, and also every one willing of heart, burnt offerings. (2 Chronicles 29:31)
- And the number of the burnt offerings that the congregation brought came to be seventy cattle, a hundred rams, two hundred male lambs, all these as a burnt offering to Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 29:32)
 - And also the holy offerings, six hundred cattle and three thousand of the flock. (2 Chronicles 29:33)
 - Only the **priests** themselves happened to be too few, and they were not able to skin all the burnt offerings. So their brothers the Levites helped them out until the work was finished and until the priests could sanctify themselves, for the Levites were more upright of heart for sanctifying themselves than the priests. (2 Chronicles 29:34)
 - And, too, the burnt offerings were in great quantity with the fat pieces of the communion sacrifices and with the drink offerings for the burnt offerings. Thus the service of the house of Yehowah was prepared. (2 Chronicles 29:35)
 - Then all the congregation decided to hold it for seven more days, and so they held it for seven days with rejoicing. (2 Chronicles 30:23)
 - For Hezekiah the king of Judah himself contributed for the congregation a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep, and the princes themselves contributed for the congregation a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep, and **priests** kept sanctifying themselves in great number. (2 Chronicles 30:24)
 - And all the congregation of Judah and the **priests** and the Levites and all the congregation that came from Israel and the alien residents that came from the land of Israel and those dwelling in Judah continued rejoicing. (2 Chronicles 30:25)
 - And the service was prepared and the **priests** kept standing at their places, and the Levites by their divisions, according to the kings commandment. (2 Chronicles 35:10)

- **And they proceeded to slaughter the Passover victim and the **priests** sprinkled the blood from their hand, while the Levites were stripping the skins off. (2 Chronicles 35:11)**
- **Further, they prepared the burnt offerings so as to give them to the classes by the paternal house, to the sons of the people, so as to make a presentation to Yehowah according to what is written in the book of Moses, and thus also with the cattle. (2 Chronicles 35:12)**
- **And they went boiling the Passover offering over the fire according to the custom, and the things made holy they boiled in cooking pots and in round-bottomed pots and in banquet bowls, after which they brought it quickly to all the sons of the people. (2 Chronicles 35:13)**
- **And afterward they prepared for themselves and for the **priests**, because the **priests** the sons of Aaron were engaged in offering up the burnt sacrifices and the fat pieces until night, and the Levites, for their part, prepared for themselves and for the priests the sons of Aaron. (2 Chronicles 35:14)**
- **And the singers the sons of Asaph were at their office according to the commandment of David and of Asaph and of Heman and of Jeduthun the visionary of the king, and the gatekeepers were at the different gates. There was no need for them to turn aside from their service, because their brothers the Levites themselves prepared for them. (2 Chronicles 35:15)**
- **And all the service of Yehowah was prepared on that day to hold the Passover and to offer up the burnt offerings upon the altar of Yehowah, according to the commandment of King Josiah. (2 Chronicles 35:16)**
- **And the sons of Israel that were to be found proceeded to hold the Passover at that time and also the festival of the unfermented cakes for seven days. (2 Chronicles 35:17)**
- **And there had never been held a Passover like it in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet, neither had any of the other kings of Israel themselves held a Passover like that which Josiah and the **priests** and the Levites and all Judah and Israel that were to be found and the inhabitants of Jerusalem held. (2 Chronicles**

35:18)

- In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign this Passover was held. (2 Chronicles 35:19)
- A **priest** might serve at other times as long as he did not interfere with the allotted services of the **priests** on assigned duty. According to rabbinic traditions, in the time of Jesus earthly life, the **priests** were numerous, so that the service of the week was subdivided among the various families making up the division, each family serving one or more days according to their number.
- Probably considered the most honorable of the daily services was the burning of incense on the golden altar. This was done after the sacrifice was offered.
- During the burning of incense, the people would be gathered outside the sanctuary in prayer. Rabbinic tradition is that lots were drawn for this service but that one who had previously officiated was not allowed to participate unless all present had performed the service before. [The Temple, pp. 135,137,138]
- If this is so, a **priest** would usually have the honor only once in a lifetime. It was this service that Zechariah was performing when the angel Gabriel appeared to him to announce that Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth would have a son.
- When Zechariah came out of the sanctuary, the crowd gathered there could discern by his appearance and his inability to speak that Zechariah had seen a supernatural sight in the sanctuary, thus the event became public knowledge.
- Now as he was acting as **priest** in the assignment of his division before God. (Luke 1:8)
- According to the solemn practice of the **priestly** office it became his turn to offer incense when he entered into the sanctuary of Yehowah. (Luke 1:9)
- And all the multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of offering incense. (Luke 1:10)
- To him Yehowah's angel appeared, standing at the right side of the incense altar. (Luke 1:11)

- **But Zechariah became troubled at the sight, and fear fell upon him. (Luke 1:12)**
- **However, the angel said to him; Have no fear, Zechariah, because your supplication has been favorably heard, and your wife Elizabeth will become mother to a son to you, and you are to call his name John. (Luke 1:13)**
- **And you will have joy and great gladness, and many will rejoice over his birth. (Luke 1:14)**
- **For he will be great before Yehowah. But he must drink no wine and strong drink at all, and he will be filled with Holy Spirit right from his mothers womb. (Luke 1:15)**
- **And many of the sons of Israel will he turn back to Yehowah their God. (Luke 1:16)**
- **Also, he will go before him with Elijah's spirit and power, to turn back the hearts of fathers to children and the disobedient ones to the practical wisdom of righteous ones, to get ready for Yehowah a prepared people. (Luke 1:17)**
- **And Zechariah said to the angel; How am I to be sure of this? For I am aged and my wife is well along in years. (Luke 1:18)**
- **In reply the angel said to him; I am Gabriel, who stands near before God, and I was sent forth to speak with you and declare the Good News of these things to you. (Luke 1:19)**
- **But, look! You will be silent and not able to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their appointed time. (Luke 1:20)**
- **Meanwhile the people continued waiting for Zechariah, and they began to wonder at his delaying in the sanctuary. (Luke 1:21)**
- **But when he came out he was not able to speak to them, and they perceived that he had just seen a supernatural sight in the sanctuary, and he kept making signs to them, but remained dumb. (Luke 1:22)**
- **When, now, the days of his public service were fulfilled, he went**

off to his home. ([Luke 1:23](#))

- Each Sabbath day, it appears, the **priests** had the privilege of changing the showbread. It was also on the Sabbath that the priestly division for that week completed its service and the new course began duty for the following week.
- These and other necessary duties were performed by the priests without constituting a breaking of the Sabbath.
- At seeing this the Pharisees said to him; Look! Your disciples are doing what it is not lawful to do on the Sabbath. ([Matthew 12:2](#))
- He said to them; Have you not read what David did when he and the men with him got hungry? ([Matthew 12:3](#))
- How he entered into the house of God and they ate the loaves of presentation, something that it was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those with him, but for the **priests** only? ([Matthew 12:4](#))
- Or, have you not read in the Law that on the Sabbaths the **priests** in the temple treat the Sabbath as not sacred and continue guiltless? ([Matthew 12:5](#))
- At that the **priest** gave him what was holy, because there happened to be no bread there but the showbread that had been removed from before Yehowah so as to place fresh bread there on the day of its being taken away. ([1 Samuel 21:6](#))
- And he went on to command them, saying; This is the thing that you will do. One third of you are coming in on the Sabbath and keeping strict watch over the king's house. ([2 Kings 11:5](#))
- And one third will be at the Gate of the Foundation, and one third will be at the gate behind the runners, and you must keep strict watch over the house by turns. ([2 Kings 11:6](#))
- And there are two divisions among you that are all going out on the Sabbath, and they must keep strict watch over the house of Yehowah in behalf of the king. ([2 Kings 11:7](#))
- And the Levites and all Judah proceeded to do according to all that Jehoiada the **priest** had commanded. So they took each one his men that were coming in on the Sabbath together with those

going out on the Sabbath, for Jehoiada the priest had not set the divisions free from duty. (2 Chronicles 23:8)

•• Loyalty

- When the ten tribes broke away from the kingdom under Rehoboam and established the northern kingdom under Jeroboam, the tribe of Levi remained loyal and stuck with the two-tribe kingdom of Judah and Benjamin.
- Jeroboam appointed non-Levite men to be **priests** serving in the worship of golden calves, and he drove out the priests of Yehowah, the sons of Aaron.
- And he began to make a house of high places and to make **priests** from the people in general, who did not happen to be of the sons of Levi. (1 Kings 12:31)
- And Jeroboam went on to make a festival in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the festival that was in Judah, that he might make offerings upon the altar that he had made in Bethel, to sacrifice to the calves that he had made, and he put in attendance at Bethel the **priests** of the high places that he had made. (1 Kings 12:32)
- After this thing Jeroboam did not turn back from his bad way, but he again went making **priests** of high places from the people in general. As for anyone delighting in it, he would fill his hand with power, saying; And let him become one of the **priests** of high places. (1 Kings 13:33)
- For the Levites left their pasture grounds and their possession and then came to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons had discharged them from acting as **priests** to Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 11:14)
- Have you not driven out Yehowah's **priests**, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and do you not keep making **priests** for yourselves like the peoples of the lands? As for anyone that came and filled his hand with power by means of a young bull and seven rams, he became a priest of what are no gods. (2 Chronicles 13:9)

- Later on in Judah, although many of the **priests** became unfaithful to God, the priesthood at times exercised strong influence to keep Israel faithful to Yehowah.
- And in the seventh year Jehoiada showed himself courageous and proceeded to take the chiefs of hundreds, namely, Azariah the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael the son of Jehohanan and Azariah the son of Obed and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, with him into the covenant. (2 Chronicles 23:1)
- Then Jehoiada concluded a covenant between himself and all the people and the king that they would continue as the people of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 23:16)
- And Jehoash kept doing what was right in Yehowah's eyes all the days of Jehoiada the **priest**. (2 Chronicles 24:2)
- So they buried him in the City of David along with the kings, because he had done good in Israel and with the true God and His house. (2 Chronicles 24:16)
- Immediately Azariah the **priest** and with him priests of Yehowah, eighty valiant men, came in after him. (2 Chronicles 26:17)
- Then they stood up against Uzziah the king and said to him; It is not your business, O Uzziah, to burn incense to Yehowah, but it is the business of the **priests** the sons of Aaron, the ones sanctified, to burn incense. Go out from the sanctuary, for you have acted unfaithfully, and it is not for any glory to you on the part of Yehowah God. (2 Chronicles 26:18)
- But Uzziah became enraged while in his hand there was a censer for burning incense, and, during his rage against the **priests**, leprosy itself flashed up in his forehead before the priests in the house of Yehowah beside the altar of incense. (2 Chronicles 26:19)
- When Azariah the chief **priest** and all the priests turned toward him, why, there he was stricken with leprosy in his forehead! So they excitedly began to remove him from there, and he himself also hastened to go out, because Yehowah had smitten him. (2 Chronicles 26:20)

- Now while they were bringing out the money that was being brought to the house of Yehowah, Hilkiah the **priest** found the book of Yehowah's Law by the hand of Moses. (2 **Chronicles 34:14**)
- So Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the secretary; The very book of the Law I have found in the house of Yehowah. With that Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan. (2 **Chronicles 34:15**)
- And he proceeded to show me Joshua the High Priest standing before the angel of Yehowah, and Satan standing at his right hand in order to resist him. (**Zechariah 3:1**)
- And you must take silver and gold and make a grand crown and put it upon the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest. (**Zechariah 6:11**)
- By the time of the ministry of Jesus and the apostles, the High Priesthood had become very corrupt, but there were many priests with good hearts toward Yehowah, as is evidenced by the fact that not long after Jesus death a great crowd of priests began to be obedient to the faith.
- Consequently the word of God went on growing, and the number of the disciples kept multiplying in Jerusalem very much, and a great crowd of **priests** began to be obedient to the faith. (**Acts of Apostles 6:7**)

· Other Applications Of Priest

- Moses was called a **priest**, at;
- Moses and Aaron were among his **priests**, and Samuel was among those calling upon his name. They were calling to Yehowah, and he himself kept answering them. (**Psalms 99:6**)
- Because of his mediatorship and his being designated to perform the sanctification service at the sanctuary, in which Aaron and his sons were inducted into the **priesthood**. Moses interceded for Israel, calling upon Yehowah's name.
- But Moses said to Yehowah; Then the Egyptians will be bound to hear that you by your power have led this people up out of their midst. (**Numbers 14:13**)

- And they will be bound to tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you are Yehowah in among this people, who has appeared face to face. You are Yehowah, and your cloud is standing over them, and you are going before them in the pillar of cloud by day and in the pillar of fire by night. **(Numbers 14:14)**
- Were you to put this people to death as one man, then the nations who have heard of your fame would certainly say this. **(Numbers 14:15)**
- Because of Yehowah's not being able to bring this people into the land about which he swore to them he proceeded to slaughter them in the wilderness. **(Numbers 14:16)**
- And now, please, let your power become great, O Yehowah, just as you have spoken, saying; **(Numbers 14:17)**
- Yehowah, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, pardoning error and transgression, but by no means will he give exemption from punishment, bringing punishment for the error of the fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation. **(Numbers 14:18)**
- Forgive, please, the error of this people according to the greatness of your loving-kindness, and just as you have pardoned this people from Egypt onward until now. **(Numbers 14:19)**
- Then Yehowah said; I do forgive according to your word. **(Numbers 14:20)**
- The word **priest** was also used occasionally to denote a **lieutenant** or **chief minister** or **official**. In the list of the chief officers serving under King David the record reads; As for the sons of David, they became **priests**.
- And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites. As for the sons of David, they became **priests**. **(2 Samuel 8:18)**
- And Ira the Jairite also became a **priest** of David. **(2 Samuel 20:26)**

- **And Azariah the son of Nathan was over the deputies, and Zabud the son of Nathan was a **priest**, the friend of the king. (1 Kings 4:5)**
- **And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and the sons of David were the first in position at the side of the king. (1 Chronicles 18:17)**

•• **The Christian Priesthood**

- **Yehowah had promised that if Israel kept his covenant they would become to Him a kingdom of **priests** and a holy nation.**
- **And you yourselves will become to me a kingdom of **priests** and a holy nation. These are the words that you are to say to the sons of Israel. (Exodus 19:6)**
- **However, the **priesthood** of Aaron's line was to continue only until the coming of the greater priesthood that it foreshadowed.**
- **If, now, he were upon earth, he would not be a **priest**, there being men who offer the gifts according to the Law. (Hebrews 8:4)**
- **But which men are rendering sacred service in a typical representation and a shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses, when about to make the tent in completion, was given the divine command. For says he; See that you make all things after their pattern that was shown to you in the mountain. (Hebrews 8:5)**
- **It would endure until the ending of the Law covenant and the inauguration of the New Covenant.**
- **If, then, perfection were really through the Levitical **priesthood**, for with it as a feature the people were given the Law, what further need would there be for another priest to arise according to the manner of Melchizedek and not said to be according to the manner of Aaron? (Hebrews 7:11)**
- **For since the **priesthood** is being changed, there comes to be of necessity a change also of the Law. (Hebrews 7:12)**

- For the man respecting whom these things are said has been a member of another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar. (**Hebrews 7:13**)
- For it is quite plain that our Lord has sprung up out of Judah, a tribe about which Moses spoke nothing concerning **priests**. (**Hebrews 7:14**)
- But now Jesus has obtained a more excellent public service, so that he is also the mediator of a correspondingly better covenant, which has been legally established upon better promises. (**Hebrews 8:6**)
- For if that first covenant had been faultless, no place would have been sought for a second. (**Hebrews 8:7**)
- In his saying **a New Covenant** he has made the former one obsolete. Now that which is made obsolete and growing old is near to vanishing away. (**Hebrews 8:13**)
- The offer was first made exclusively to Israel to become Yehowah's **priests** serving in God's promised Kingdom arrangement, in time this offer was extended to the Gentiles.
- At this Peter opened his mouth and said; For a certainty I perceive that God is not partial. (**Acts of Apostles 10:34**)
- But in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him. (**Acts of Apostles 10:35**)
- Symeon has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name. (**Acts of Apostles 15:14**)
- But as respects Israel he says; All day long I have spread out my hands toward a people that is disobedient and talks back. (**Romans 10:21**)
- Only a remnant of the Jews accepted Christ, the nation thereby failing to provide the members of the **real** kingdom of **priests** and the holy nation.
- What, then? The very thing Israel is earnestly seeking he did not obtain, but the ones chosen obtained it. The rest had their

sensibilities blunted. (**Romans 11:7**)

- **All right! For their lack of faith they were broken off, but you are standing by faith. Quit having lofty ideas, but be in fear. (**Romans 11:20**)**
- **Because of Israel's unfaithfulness God had forewarned them of this by his prophet Hosea centuries before, saying,**
- **My people will certainly be silenced, because there is no knowledge. Because the knowledge is what you yourself have rejected, I shall also reject you from serving as a **priest** to me, and because you keep forgetting the Law of your God, I shall forget your sons, even I. (**Hosea 4:6**)**
- **Correspondingly, Jesus told the Jewish leaders:**
- **This is why I say to you; The kingdom of God will be taken from you and be given to a nation producing its fruits. (**Matthew 21:43**)**
- **Nevertheless, Jesus Christ, being under the Law while on earth, recognized the Aaronic **priesthood** as being in force, and he directed ones whom he cured of leprosy to go to the **priest** and make the required offering.**
- **Then Jesus said to him; See that you tell no one, but go, show yourself to the **priest**, and offer the gift that Moses appointed, for the purpose of a witness to them. (**Matthew 8:4**)**
- **And said to him; See that you tell nobody a thing, but go show yourself to the **priest** and offer in behalf of your cleansing the things Moses directed, for a witness to them. (**Mark 1:44**)**
- **And when he got sight of them he said to them; Go and show yourselves to the **priests**. Then as they were going off their cleansing occurred. (**Luke 17:14**)**
- **On Pentecost day of the year **33 C.E**, the Law covenant came to an end and the better covenant, the New Covenant, was inaugurated.**
- **But now Jesus has obtained a more excellent public service, so that he is also the mediator of a correspondingly better covenant, which has been legally established upon better promises.**

(Hebrews 8:6)

- For if that first covenant had been faultless, no place would have been sought for a second. **(Hebrews 8:7)**
- For he does find fault with the people when he says; Look! There are days coming, says Yehowah, and I will conclude with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah a New Covenant. **(Hebrews 8:8)**
- Not according to the covenant that I made with their forefathers in the day of my taking hold of their hand to bring them forth out of the land of Egypt, because they did not continue in my covenant, so that I stopped caring for them, says Yehowah. **(Hebrews 8:9)**
- On that day God made manifest this change by the outpouring of Holy Spirit. The apostle Peter then explained to the Jews present from many nations that their only salvation now lay in repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ. **(Acts of Apostles Chapter 2)**
- That is why it is necessary for us to pay more than the usual attention to the things heard by us, that we may never drift away. **(Hebrews 2:1)**
- For if the word spoken through angels proved to be firm, and every transgression and disobedient act received a retribution in harmony with justice. **(Hebrews 2:2)**
- How shall we escape if we have neglected a salvation of such greatness in that it began to be spoken through our Lord and was verified for us by those who heard him. **(Hebrews 2:3)**
- While God joined in bearing witness with signs as well as portents and various powerful works and with distributions of Holy Spirit according to his will? **(Hebrews 2:4)**
- Later, Peter spoke of the Jewish builders rejecting Jesus Christ as the cornerstone and then said to Christians; But you are a chosen race, a royal **priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for special possession.
- It is to you, therefore, that he is precious, because you are believers, but to those not believing, the identical stone that the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. **(1 Peter**

2:7)

- And a stone of stumbling and a rock-mass of offense. These are stumbling because they are disobedient to the word. To this very end they were also appointed. (1 Peter 2:8)
- But you are, a chosen race, a royal **priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies, of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)
- Peter explained also that the new **priesthood** is a spiritual house for the purpose of a **holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- You yourselves also as living stones are being built up a spiritual house for the purpose of a **holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5)
- Jesus Christ is their great High **Priest**, and they, like Aaron's sons, make up the **underpriesthood**.
- Consequently, holy brothers, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the apostle and High Priest whom we confess, Jesus. (Hebrews 3:1)
- Now as to the things being discussed this is the main point. We have such a High Priest as this, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. (Hebrews 8:1)
- Yet, different from the Aaronic **priesthood**, which had no part in kingship, kingship and **priesthood** are combined in this royal **priesthood** of Christ and his joint heirs.
- In the Bible book of Revelation the apostle John speaks of the followers of Jesus Christ as loosed from our sins by means of his own blood and says that he made us to be a kingdom, **priests** to his God and Father.
- And from Jesus Christ, the Faithful Witness, The firstborn from the dead, and The Ruler of the kings of the earth. To him that loves us and that loosed us from our sins by means of his own blood. (Revelation 1:5)

- And he made us to be a kingdom, **priests** to his God and Father, yes, to him be the glory and the might forever. Amen. (**Revelation 1:6**)
- This last book of the Bible also reveals the number composing the body of **underpriests**. Those whom Jesus Christ made to be a kingdom and **priests** to our God are shown as singing a new song in which they say that they were bought by Christ's blood.
- And they sing a new song, saying; You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slaughtered and with your blood you bought persons for God out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (**Revelation 5:9**)
- And you made them to be a kingdom and **priests** to our God, and they are to rule as kings over the earth. (**Revelation 5:10**)
- Further on, the ones singing the new song are enumerated as **144,000** persons bought from among mankind as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.
- And I saw, and, look! The Lamb standing upon the Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand having his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads. (**Revelation 14:1**)
- And I heard a sound out of heaven as the sound of many waters and as the sound of loud thunder, and the sound that I heard was as of singers who accompany themselves on the harp playing on their harps. (**Revelation 14:2**)
- And they are singing as if a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders, and no one was able to master that song but the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been bought from the earth. (**Revelation 14:3**)
- These are the ones that did not defile themselves with women, in fact, they are virgins. These are the ones that keep following the Lamb no matter where he goes. These were bought from among mankind as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. (**Revelation 14:4**)
- And no falsehood was found in their mouths, they are without blemish. (**Revelation 14:5**)

- Finally this **underpriesthood** is shown as being resurrected to heaven and joining Jesus Christ in his rule, becoming **priests** of God and of the Christ and ruling as kings with Christ during his Thousand Year Reign.
- And I saw thrones, and there were those who sat down on them, and power of judging was given them. Yes, I saw the souls of those executed with the ax for the witness they bore to Jesus and for speaking about God, and those who had worshiped neither the wild beast nor its image and who had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand. And they came to life and ruled as kings with the Christ for a thousand years. (**Revelation 20:4**)
- Happy and holy is anyone having part in the first resurrection, over these the second death has no authority, but they will be **priests** of God and of the Christ, and will rule as kings with him for the thousand years. (**Revelation 20:6**)
- By comparing the **priesthood** of Israel, as well as its functions and benefits to the people of that nation
- But which men are rendering sacred service in a typical representation and a shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses, when about to make the tent in completion, was given the divine command; For says he; See that you make all things after their pattern that was shown to you in the mountain. (**Hebrews 8:5**)
- We can get some idea of the benefits and blessings to be received by the people of earth from the perfect and everlasting **priesthood** of Jesus Christ and his body of **underpriests** during their joint reign over the earth for a thousand years. They will have the privilege of teaching the people the Law of God
- For the lips of a **priest** are the ones that should keep knowledge, and the Law is what people should seek from his mouth, for he is the messenger of Yehowah of armies. (**Malachi 2:7**)
- Accomplishing complete forgiveness of sins on the basis of the ransom sacrifice of the great **High Priest**, administering the benefits of Christ's sacrifice, and bringing about the healing of all infirmities

- Which is easier, to say to the paralytic; Your sins are forgiven, or to say; Get up and pick up your cot and walk? (**Mark 2:9**)
- But in order for you men to know that the Son of man has authority to forgive sins upon the earth, he said to the paralytic. (**Mark 2:10**)
- I say to you; Get up, pick up your cot, and go to your home. (**Mark 2:11**)
- At that he did get up, and immediately picked up his cot and walked out in front of them all, so that they were all simply carried away, and they glorified God, saying; We never saw the like of it. (**Mark 2:12**)
- He entered, no, not with the blood of goats and of young bulls, but with his own blood, once for all time into the holy place and obtained an everlasting deliverance for us. (**Hebrews 9:12**)
- For if the blood of goats and of bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who have been defiled sanctifies to the extent of cleanness of the flesh. (**Hebrews 9:13**)
- How much more will the blood of the Christ, who through an everlasting spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works that we may render sacred service to the living God? (**Hebrews 9:14**)
- For since the Law has a shadow of the good things to come, but not the very substance of the things, men can never with the same sacrifices from year to year which they offer continually make those who approach perfect. (**Hebrews 10:1**)
- Otherwise, would the sacrifices not have stopped being offered, because those rendering sacred service who had been cleansed once for all time would have no consciousness of sins anymore? (**Hebrews 10:2**)
- To the contrary, by these sacrifices there is a reminding of sins from year to year. (**Hebrews 10:3**)
- For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and of goats to take sins away. (**Hebrews 10:4**)

- By the said, **will**, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time. (**Hebrews 10:10**)
- **Distinguishing between what is clean and what is unclean in God's sight and removing all uncleanness (Leviticus Chapters 13-15), judging the people in righteousness, and seeing that Yehowah's righteous Law is enforced throughout the earth.**
- **In case a matter for judicial decision should be too extraordinary for you, one in which blood has been shed, in which a legal claim has been raised, or a violent deed has been committed, matters of dispute, inside your gates, you must also rise and go up to the place that Yehowah your God will choose. (Deuteronomy 17:8)**
- **And you must go to the **priests**, the Levites, and to the judge who will be acting in those days, and you must make inquiry, and they must hand down to you the word of the judicial decision. (Deuteronomy 17:9)**
- **Then you must do in accordance with the word that they will hand down to you from that place which Yehowah will choose, and you must be careful to do according to all that they instruct you. (Deuteronomy 17:10)**
- **In accordance with the Law that they will point out to you, and according to the judicial decision that they will say to you, you should do. You must not turn aside from the word that they will hand down to you, to the right or to the left. (Deuteronomy 17:11)**
- **And the man who will behave with presumptuousness in not listening to the **priest** who is standing to minister there to Yehowah your God or to the judge, that man must die, and you must clear out what is bad from Israel. (Deuteronomy 17:12)**
- **And all the people will hear and become afraid, and they will not act presumptuously anymore. (Deuteronomy 17:13)**
- **Just as the ancient tent of meeting in the wilderness was God's place of dwelling with men, a sanctuary where they could approach him, so during the thousand years God's tent will again be with mankind in a much closer, more lasting and beneficial way, as he deals with them representatively through his great **High Priest**, Jesus Christ,**

and the 144,000 who serve with Christ as **underpriests** in the great spiritual temple that was foreshadowed by that sacred tabernacle.

- And they must make a sanctuary for me, as I must tabernacle in the midst of them. (**Exodus 25:8**)
- Seeing, therefore, that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold onto our confessing of him. (**Hebrews 4:14**)
- And he made us to be a kingdom, **priests** to his God and Father, yes, to him be the glory and the might forever. Amen. (**Revelation 1:6**)
- With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say; Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. (**Revelation 21:3**)
- With such a royal **priesthood** the people will certainly be happy, as was Israel when the kingdom and priesthood were faithful to God, during which time
- Judah and Israel were many, like the grains of sand that are by the sea for multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing. (**1 Kings 4:20**)
- And Judah and Israel continued to dwell in security, everyone under his own vine and under his own fig tree, from Dan to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon. (**1 Kings 4:25**)

· Pagan Priests

- The ancient nations had **priests** through whom they made approach to their gods. These men were revered by the people and always wielded great influence, generally being among the ruling class, or being close advisers to the rulers.
- The **priesthood** was the most educated class and generally held the people in ignorance. In this way they were able to prey on the superstition of the people and their fear of the unknown.

- In Egypt, for example, the people were led to worship the Nile River as a god, viewing their **priests** as possessing divine control over its seasonal overflow, on which their crops depended.
- This encouragement of superstitious ignorance was in direct contrast to Israel's **priests**, who constantly read and taught the Law to the entire nation. Each man was to know God and his law.
- Now these are the commandment, the regulations and the judicial decisions that Yehowah your God has commanded to teach you, so as to do them in the land to which you are passing over there to take possession of it. (**Deuteronomy 6:1**)
- In order, that you may fear Yehowah your God so as to keep all his statutes and his commandments that I am commanding you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and in order, that your days may prove long. (**Deuteronomy 6:2**)
- And you must listen, O Israel, and take care to do them, that it may go well with you and that you may become very many, just as Yehowah the God of your forefathers has promised you, as respects the land flowing with milk and honey. (**Deuteronomy 6:3**)
- The people themselves were able to read and write, being commanded by Yehowah to read and teach his Law to their children.
- Listen, O Israel; Yehowah our God is one Yehowah. (**Deuteronomy 6:4**)
- And you must love Yehowah your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your vital force. (**Deuteronomy 6:5**)
- And these words that I am commanding you today must prove to be on your heart. (**Deuteronomy 6:6**)
- And you must inculcate them in your son and speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up. (**Deuteronomy 6:7**)
- And you must tie them as a sign upon your hand, and they must serve as a frontlet band between your eyes. (**Deuteronomy 6:8**)
- And you must write them upon the doorposts of your house and

on your gates. ([Deuteronomy 6:9](#))

· Not The Pattern For Israel's Priesthood

- In spite of these facts, there are some who claim that the **priesthood** of Israel and the formulation of many of its regulations were patterned after those of Egypt.
- They argue that Moses, the mediator of the Law covenant, was deeply influenced by his life in Egypt, his training in the court of Pharaoh, and his instruction in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.
- Consequently Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. In fact, he was powerful in his words and deeds. ([Acts of Apostles 7:22](#))
- Their line of argument, however, ignores the fact that Moses, though used to deliver the Law to Israel, was in no sense the lawmaker. Israel's Lawgiver was Yehowah God.
- For Yehowah is our Judge, Yehowah is our Statute-giver, Yehowah is our King. He himself will save us. ([Isaiah 33:22](#))
- Who used angels to transmit the Law by the hand of the mediator Moses.
- Why, then, the Law? It was added to make transgressions manifest, until the seed should arrive to whom the promise had been made, and it was transmitted through angels by the hand of a mediator. ([Galatians 3:19](#))
- Every detail of Israel's worship was outlined by God. The plans for the tent of meeting were given to Moses
- And you must set up the tabernacle according to the plan of it that you have been shown in the mountain. ([Exodus 26:30](#))
- And it is written that he was commanded; See that you make all things after their pattern that was shown to you in the mountain.
- But which men are rendering sacred service in a typical representation and a shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses, when about to make the tent in completion, was given the divine command; For says he; See that you make all things

after their pattern that was shown to you in the mountain.
([Hebrews 8:5](#))

- And see that you make them after their pattern that was shown to you in the mountain. ([Exodus 25:40](#))
- All the service at the sanctuary was of Yehowah's origination and direction. The record repeatedly assures us of this by saying that Moses and the sons of Israel kept doing according to all that Yehowah had commanded Moses.
- They did just so. According to all that Yehowah had commanded Moses, that was the way the sons of Israel did all the service. And Moses got to see all the work, and, look! They had done it just as Yehowah had commanded.
- That was the way they had done. And Moses proceeded to do according to all that Yehowah had commanded him. He did just so.
- So the work for the tabernacle of the tent of meeting all came to its completion, in that the sons of Israel kept doing according to all that Yehowah had commanded Moses. They did just so. ([Exodus 39:32](#))
- According to all that Yehowah had commanded Moses, that was the way the sons of Israel did all the service. ([Exodus 39:42](#))
- And Moses got to see all the work, and, look! They had done it just as Yehowah had commanded. That was the way they had done. Consequently Moses blessed them. ([Exodus 39:43](#))
- And Moses proceeded to do according to all that Yehowah had commanded him. He did just so. ([Exodus 40:16](#))
- According to Egyptologists, some things in the dress of the Egyptian **priests** was similar to that of the priests of Israel, such as their use of linen, there was a shaving of the bodies of the Egyptian priests, as with the Levites, though the priests of Israel did not.
- And this is what you should do to them to cleanse them. Spatter sin-cleansing water upon them, and they must have a razor pass over all their flesh and must wash their garments and cleanse themselves. ([Numbers 8:7](#))

- There were washings. But do these few similarities prove that they had the same origin, or that one came from the other? Similar materials and methods are used worldwide in making clothing, houses, and buildings and in performing daily duties, such as washing, but there is great divergence also in style and methods.
- We do not say that one came from the other, or that the dress or the act has the same religious or symbolic significance.
- In most features of their dress and functions there was no similarity whatsoever between the Israelite and the Egyptian **priests**. For example, while the Israelite **priests** served barefoot, the Egyptian priests wore sandals.
- The robes of the Egyptian **priests** were entirely different in design, and their dress and appurtenances bore symbols of the worship of their false gods. They shaved their heads, which Israel's **priests** did not do.
- They should not produce baldness upon their heads, and the extremity of their beard they should not shave, and on their flesh they should not make an incision. (**Leviticus 21:5**)
- And used wigs or wore headgear totally unlike that of Israel's **priests**, according to inscriptions found on monuments in Egypt. Furthermore, Yehowah made it clear that Israel was not to adopt any of the practices of Egypt or the other nations, either in worship or in judicial practice.
- You must not walk after other gods, any gods of the peoples who are all around you. (**Deuteronomy 6:14**)
- And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (**Leviticus 18:1**)
- Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them, I am Yehowah your God. (**Leviticus 18:2**)
- The way the land of Egypt does, in which you dwelt, you must not do, and the way the land of Canaan does, into which I am bringing you, you must not do, and in their statutes you must not walk. (**Leviticus 18:3**)

- My judicial decisions you should carry out, and my statutes you should keep so as to walk in them. I am Yehowah your God. **(Leviticus 18:4)**
- When Yehowah your God at last brings you into the land to which you are going so as to take possession of it, he must also clear away populous nations from before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations more populous and mighty than you are. **(Deuteronomy 7:1)**
- And Yehowah your God will certainly abandon them to you, and you must defeat them. You should without fail devote them to destruction. You must conclude no covenant with them nor show them any favor. **(Deuteronomy 7:2)**
- And you must form no marriage alliance with them. Your daughter you must not give to his son, and his daughter you must not take for your son. **(Deuteronomy 7:3)**
- For he will turn your son from following me, and they will certainly serve other gods, and Yehowah's anger will indeed blaze against you, and he will certainly annihilate you in a hurry. **(Deuteronomy 7:4)**
- On the other hand, this is what you should do to them. Their altars you should pull down, and their sacred pillars you should break down, and their sacred poles you should cut down, and their graven images you should burn with fire. **(Deuteronomy 7:5)**
- For you are a holy people to Yehowah your God. It is you Yehowah your God has chosen to become his people, a special property, out of all the peoples that are on the surface of the ground. **(Deuteronomy 7:6)**
- The argument made by supporters of the theory that Israel's **priesthood** borrowed from Egypt has, therefore, no foundation. We must remember that the idea of sacrifice and **priesthood** came originally from God and, from the beginning, was expressed by faithful men such as Abel and Noah, in patriarchal society it was carried out by Abraham and others.

- All nations therefore had an inheritance of this knowledge, though it was distorted into many forms because they forsook the true God and pure worship.
- Having the inborn desire to worship but lacking the guidance of Yehowah, the pagan nations developed many unrighteous and even degrading rites, all of which brought them into opposition to true worship.

· Disgusting Practices Of Pagan Priests

- The Egyptian **priests** of Moses day opposed Moses before Pharaoh, trying to discredit Moses and his God Yehowah by the practice of magic.
- However, Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers, and the **magic-practicing priests** of Egypt themselves also proceeded to do the same thing with their magic arts. (**Exodus 7:11**)
- So they threw down each one his rod, and they became big snakes, but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. (**Exodus 7:12**)
- Still, Pharaoh's heart became obstinate, and he did not listen to them, just as Yehowah had spoken. (**Exodus 7:13**)
- Nevertheless, the magic-practicing priests of Egypt proceeded to do the same thing with their secret arts, so that Pharaoh's heart continued to be obstinate, and he did not listen to them, just as Yehowah had spoken. (**Exodus 7:22**)
- However, the **magic-practicing priests** did the same thing by their secret arts and made the frogs come up over the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 8:7**)
- Now in the way that Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so these also go on resisting the truth, men completely corrupted in mind, disapproved as regards the faith. (**2 Timothy 3:8**)
- But they were forced to bow in defeat and humiliation.
- And the **magic-practicing priests** tried to do the same by their secret arts, in order to bring forth gnats, but they were unable. And the gnats came to be on man and beast. (**Exodus 8:18**)

- Hence the magic-practicing **priests** said to Pharaoh; It is the finger of God! But Pharaoh's heart continued to be obstinate, and he did not listen to them, just as Yehowah had spoken. (**Exodus 8:19**)
- And the **magic-practicing priests** were unable to stand before Moses as a result of the boils, because the boils had developed on the **magic-practicing priests** and on all the Egyptians. (**Exodus 9:11**)
- The worshipers of Molech of Ammon sacrificed their sons and daughters by burning them in the fire.
- And Solomon began going after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the disgusting thing of the Ammonites. (**1 Kings 11:5**)
- And he made unfit for worship Topheth, which is in the valley of the sons of Hinnom, that no one might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech. (**2 Kings 23:10**)
- And you must not allow the devoting of any of your offspring to Molech. You must not profane the name of your God that way. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 18:21**)
- You are to say to the sons of Israel; Any man of the sons of Israel, and any alien resident who resides as an alien in Israel, who gives any of his offspring to Molech, should be put to death without fail. The people of the land should pelt him to death with stones. (**Leviticus 20:2**)
- And as for me, I shall set my face against that man, and I will cut him off from among his people, because he has given some of his offspring to Molech for the purpose of defiling my holy place and to profane my holy name. (**Leviticus 20:3**)
- And if the people of the land should deliberately hide their eyes from that man when he gives any of his offspring to Molech by not putting him to death. (**Leviticus 20:4**)
- Then I, for my part, shall certainly fix my face against that man and his family, and I shall indeed cut him and all those who have immoral intercourse along with him in having immoral

intercourse with Molech off from among their people. (**Leviticus 20:5**)

- **Baal worshipers of the Canaanites followed the same detestable practice, also performing self-laceration and lewd, disgusting, immoral rites.**
- **Now Israel was dwelling in Shittim. Then the people started to have immoral relations with the daughters of Moab. (**Numbers 25:1**)**
- **And the women came calling the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people began to eat and to bow down to their gods. (**Numbers 25:2**)**
- **So Israel attached itself to the Baal of Peor, and the anger of Yehowah began to blaze against Israel. (**Numbers 25:3**)**
- **Elijah now said to the prophets of Baal; Choose for yourselves one young bull and dress it first, because you are the majority, and call upon the name of your god, but you must not put fire to it. (**1 Kings 18:25**)**
- **Accordingly they took the young bull that he gave them. Then they dressed it, and they kept calling upon the name of Baal from morning till noon, saying; O Baal, answer us! But there was no voice, and there was no one answering. And they kept limping around the altar that they had made. (**1 Kings 18:26**)**
- **And it came about at noon that Elijah began to mock them and say; Call at the top of your voice, for he is a god, for he must be concerned with a matter, and he has excrement and has to go to the privy. Or maybe he is asleep and ought to wake up! (**1 Kings 18:27**)**
- **And they began calling at the top of their voice and cutting themselves according to their custom with daggers and with lances, until they caused blood to flow out upon them. (**1 Kings 18:28**)**
- **And they built the high places of the Baal in order to burn their sons in the fire as whole burnt offerings to the Baal, something that I had not commanded or spoken of, and that had not come up into my heart. (**Jeremiah 19:5**)**

- **The **priests** of the Philistine god Dagon and the Babylonian priests of Marduk, Bel, and Ishtar practiced magic and divination.**
- **And the Philistines proceeded to call the **priests** and the diviners, saying; What shall we do with the ark of Yehowah? Let us know with what we should send it away to its place. (1 Samuel 6:2)**
- **To this they said; If you are sending the ark of the God of Israel away, do not send it away without an offering, for you should by all means return to him a guilt offering. Then it is that you will be healed, and it must become known to you why his hand would not turn away from you. (1 Samuel 6:3)**
- **At this they said; What is the guilt offering that we ought to return to him? Then they said; According to the number of the axis lords of the Philistines, five golden piles and five golden jerboas, for every one of you and your axis lords have the same scourge. (1 Samuel 6:4)**
- **And you must make images of your piles and images of your jerboas that are bringing the land to ruin, and you must give glory to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you and your god and your land. (1 Samuel 6:5)**
- **Also, why should you make your heart unresponsive just the way Egypt and Pharaoh made their heart unresponsive? Was it not as soon as He dealt severely with them that they proceeded to send them away, and they went their way? (1 Samuel 6:6)**
- **And now take and make a new wagon, and two cows that are giving suck, upon which no yoke has come up, and you must hitch the cows to the wagon, and you must make their young ones go back home from following them. (1 Samuel 6:7)**
- **And you must take the ark of Yehowah and place it on the wagon, and the golden articles that you must return to him as a guilt offering you should put into a box at the side of it. And you must send it away, and it must go. (1 Samuel 6:8)**
- **And you must look, if it is the road to its territory that it goes up, to Beth-shemesh, it is he that has done to us this great evil, but if not, we must know that it was not his hand that touched us, an accident it was that happened to us. (1 Samuel 6:9)**

- For the king of Babylon stood still at the cross-ways, at the head of the two ways, in order to resort to divination. He has shaken the arrows. He has asked by means of the teraphim. He has looked into the liver. ([Ezekiel 21:21](#))
- So the king said to call the **magic-practicing priests** and the conjurers and the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. And they proceeded to come in and to stand before the king. ([Daniel 2:2](#))
- Daniel was answering before the king and saying; The secret that the king himself is asking, the wise men, the conjurers, the **magic-practicing priests** and the astrologers themselves are unable to show to the king. ([Daniel 2:27](#))
- At that time the **magic-practicing priests**, the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the astrologers were entering, and I was saying before them what the dream was, but its interpretation they were not making known to me. ([Daniel 4:7](#))
- O Belteshazzar the chief of the **magic-practicing priests**, because I myself well know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that there is no secret at all that is troubling you, tell me the visions of my dream that I have beheld and its interpretation. ([Daniel 4:9](#))
- All of them worshiped images made of wood, stone, and metal. Even King Jeroboam of the ten-tribe kingdom of Israel set up **priests** to direct the worship of golden calves and goat-shaped demons to prevent the people from engaging in true worship at Jerusalem.
- And he proceeded to put in office for himself **priests** for the high places and for the goat-shaped demons and for the calves that he had made. ([2 Chronicles 11:15](#))
- Have you not driven out Yehowah's **priests**, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and do you not keep making priests for yourselves like the peoples of the lands? As for anyone that came and filled his hand with power by means of a young bull and seven rams, he became a priest of what are no gods. ([2 Chronicles 13:9](#))

See Also MICAH 1

· Unauthorized Priesthoods Condemned By God

- **Yehowah was unalterably opposed to all these forms and practices, which actually constituted the worship of demons.**
- **No, but I say that the things which the nations sacrifice they sacrifice to demons, and not to God. And I do not want you to become sharers with the demons. (1 Corinthians 10:20)**
- **When you are entered into the land that Yehowah your God is giving you, you must not learn to do according to the detestable things of those nations. (Deuteronomy 18:9)**
- **There should not be found in you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, anyone who employs divination, a practicer of magic or anyone who looks for omens or a sorcerer. (Deuteronomy 18:10)**
- **Or one who binds others with a spell or anyone who consults a spirit medium or a professional foreteller of events or anyone who inquires of the dead. (Deuteronomy 18:11)**
- **For everybody doing these things is something detestable to Yehowah, and on account of these detestable things Yehowah your God is driving them away from before you. (Deuteronomy 18:12)**
- **You should prove yourself faultless with Yehowah your God. (Deuteronomy 18:13)**
- **And in case they should say to you people; Apply to the spiritistic mediums or to those having a spirit of prediction who are chirping and making utterances in low tones, is it not to its God that any people should apply? Should there be application to dead persons in behalf of living persons? (Isaiah 8:19)**
- **Outside are the dogs and those who practice spiritism and the fornicators and the murderers and the idolaters and everyone liking and carrying on a lie. (Revelation 22:15)**
- **Whenever these gods or the **priesthood** representing them came into open defiance of Yehowah they were humiliated.**

- **As for the Philistines, they took the ark of the true God and then brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. (1 Samuel 5:1)**
- **And the Philistines proceeded to take the ark of the true God and bring it into the house of Dagon and station it beside Dagon. (1 Samuel 5:2)**
- **Then the Ashdodites got up early the very next day, and there Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of Yehowah. So they took Dagon and returned him to his place. (1 Samuel 5:3)**
- **When they got up early in the morning the very day after, there Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of Yehowah, with the head of Dagon and the palms of both his hands cut off, to the threshold. Only the fish part had been left upon him. (1 Samuel 5:4)**
- **That is why the **priests** of Dagon and all those going into the house of Dagon do not tread upon the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod down to this day. (1 Samuel 5:5)**
- **So the king said to call the **magic-practicing priests** and the conjurers and the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. And they proceeded to come in and to stand before the king. (Daniel 2:2)**
- **They answered a second time and were saying; Let the king say what the dream is to his servants, and we shall show its very interpretation. (Daniel 2:7)**
- **The king was answering and saying; For a fact, I am aware that time is what you men are trying to gain, forasmuch as you have perceived that the word is being promulgated by me. (Daniel 2:8)**
- **For if you do not make known to me the very dream, this one and only sentence is upon you. But it is a lying and wrong word that you have agreed to say before me, until the time itself is changed. Therefore tell me the very dream, and I shall know that you can show the very interpretation of it. (Daniel 2:9)**
- **The Chaldeans answered before the king, and they were saying; There does not exist a man on the dry land that is able to show**

- the matter of the king, forasmuch as no grand king or governor has asked such a thing as this of any magic-practicing priest or conjurer or Chaldean. (**Daniel 2:10**)
- But the thing that the king himself is asking is difficult, and nobody else exists who can show it before the king except the gods, whose own dwelling does not exist with flesh at all. (**Daniel 2:11**)
 - Because of this the king himself became angry and got very furious, and he said to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. (**Daniel 2:12**)
 - As for you, O king, on your bed your own thoughts came up as regards what is to occur after this, and the One who is the Revealer of secrets has made known to you what is to occur. (**Daniel 2:29**)
 - And as for me, it is not through any wisdom that exists in me more than in any others alive that this secret is revealed to me, except to the intent that the interpretation may be made known to the king himself and that the thoughts of your heart you may know. (**Daniel 2:30**)
 - And now there have been brought in before me the wise men and the conjurers, that they may read this very writing, even to make known to me its interpretation, but they are not competent enough to show the very interpretation of the word. (**Daniel 5:15**)
 - Often their **priests** and prophets suffered death.
 - Then Elijah said to them; Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let a single one of them escape! At once they seized them, and Elijah then brought them down to the torrent valley of Kishon and slaughtered them there. (**1 Kings 18:40**)
 - So now call all the prophets of Baal, all his worshipers and all his **priests** to me. Do not let a single one be missing, because I have a great sacrifice for Baal. Anyone that is missing will not keep living. As for Jehu, he acted slyly, for the purpose of destroying the worshipers of Baal. (**2 Kings 10:19**)
 - And it came about that as soon as he finished rendering up the

- burnt offering, Jehu immediately said to the runners and the adjutants; Come in, strike them down! Do not let a single one go out. And the runners and the adjutants began to strike them down with the edge of the sword and to throw them out, and they kept going as far as the city of the house of Baal. (2 Kings 10:25)
- Then they brought out the sacred pillars of the house of Baal and burned each one. (2 Kings 10:26)
 - Further, they pulled down the sacred pillar of Baal and pulled down the house of Baal, and they kept it set aside for privies down to this day. (2 Kings 10:27)
 - Thus Jehu annihilated Baal out of Israel. (2 Kings 10:28)
 - After that all the people of the land came to the house of Baal and pulled down his altars, and his images they broke up thoroughly, and Mattan the **priest** of Baal they killed before the altars. And the priest proceeded to put overseers over the house of Yehowah. (2 Kings 11:18)
 - After that all the people came to the house of Baal and pulled it down, and his altars and his images they broke up, and Mattan the **priest** of Baal they killed before the altars. (2 Chronicles 23:17)
 - And since Yehowah recognized no **priesthood** aside from that of the house of Aaron during the existence of the Law covenant, it follows that what Aaron's office foreshadowed, namely, the priesthood of Jesus Christ, who is also the greater High Priest according to the manner of Melchizedek, is the only way of approach to Yehowah.
 - Furthermore, there is no salvation in anyone else, for there is not another name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must get saved. (Acts of Apostles 4:12)
 - Seeing, therefore, that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold onto our confessing of him. (Hebrews 4:14)
 - My little children, I am writing you these things that you may not commit a sin. And yet, if anyone does commit a sin, we have a helper with the Father, Jesus Christ, a righteous one. (1 John

2:1)

- **And he is a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins, yet not for ours only but also for the whole world's. (1 John 2:2)**
- **Any priesthood that opposes this God-ordained King-Priest and his underpriesthood is to be avoided by true worshipers of God.**
- **A prophet I shall raise up for them from the midst of their brothers, like you, and I shall indeed put my words in his mouth, and he will certainly speak to them all that I shall command him. (Deuteronomy 18:18)**
- **And it must occur that the man who will not listen to my words that he will speak in my name, I shall myself require an account from him. (Deuteronomy 18:19)**
- **In fact, Moses said; Yehowah God will raise up for you from among your brothers a prophet like me. You must listen to him according to all the things he speaks to you. (Acts of Apostles 3:22)**
- **Indeed, any soul that does not listen to that Prophet will be completely destroyed from among the people. (Acts of Apostles 3:23)**
- **And I heard another voice out of heaven say; Get out of her, my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues. (Revelation 18:4)**
- **Yes, in her was found the blood of prophets and of holy ones and of all those who have been slaughtered on the earth. (Revelation 18:24)**

See Also HIGH PRIEST