

THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUBJECT

961 times priest or priests mentioned in Scripture

This was God's first plan for the nation of Israel.

*Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a **kingdom of priests** and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." - Ex 19:3-6*

*Also let the **priests** who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them." Ex 19:22*

God chose Aaron's family and descendants to be the priests for Israel

And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. - Ex 28:1

They were to be dressed beautifully.

And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a brodered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. - Ex 28:4

And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.

Ex 28:2

Why? Because God is worthy of the glory and the beauty.

And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."
Rev 4:8-11

They were to be consecrated to God - their focus was to be on God

And you shall put them on Aaron your brother, and on his sons with him, and shall anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them, that they may serve me as priests. Exodus 28:41.

They could go into His Presence because they were holy

But let none come into the house of the Lord, save the priests, and they that minister of the Levites; they shall go in, for they are holy: but all the people shall keep the watch of the Lord. -2 Chron 23:6

They were to bring the peoples' offerings and present them to God

And he shall kill the bullock before the Lord: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. - Lev 1:5

...and when it is presented unto the priest, he shall bring it unto the altar. Lev 2:8

In this way, the priest makes atonement for the person for his sins.

and the priest shall burn it upon the altar for a sweet savor unto the Lord; and the priest shall make an atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him. Lev 4:31

The priesthood was given to Aaron and his sons as a gift from God.

I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift. - Num 18:7

They carried the ark of the Lord

And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. And they brought up the ark of the Lord, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, even those did the priests and the Levites bring up. -1 Kings 8:3-4

They even led the music in the service

and the Levites and the priests praised the Lord day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the Lord. -2 Chron 30:21

It was the greatest privilege given to Israel.

But the Levites have no part among you; for the priesthood of the Lord is their inheritance: Joshua 18:7

A NEW DAY WAS COMING

But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: Isaiah 61:6

The old line of priests went bad

And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; Luke 22:2

But God will always have priests to minister to Him (no matter how hard the enemy tries to kill them off or shut them down)

For thus saith the Lord; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel; Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually. Jeremiah 33:17-18

Now the priests of God are still clothed in beauty.

Now therefore arise, O Lord God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness. -2 Chron 6:41

THE NEW DAY IS HERE - all are called to minister unto God

The veil is torn - Christ is the door.

Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy. Psalm 132:9

I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy. Psalm 132:16

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 2:5

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

Paul states what a priest should be on earth

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. - Rev 1:6

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. - Rev 5:10

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. - Rev 20:6