

ANOINTED PRIEST
PART I
OLD COVENANT PRIESTHOOD

By

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All Scriptural Quotations are taken from the New American Bible (1970 Version), with Revised Translations of Psalms (1991).

- *(Parenthetic Italics) Imbedded within Bible Quotes are Author's Comments.*
- **Bold** and Underlined Text are Author's Emphasis.

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Introduction

There are Two Exclusive Functions Assigned to the Office of Priest:

1. Officially Intercede to God for Man, and
2. Officially Offer Sacrifices to God for the Atonement of Sin.

A. Concept of Priestly Function

1. **Background**

- a. God Created Adam & Eve Gen. 1:26 – 2:25
 - 1) Gives Adam Dominion Over the Earth
 - 2) Commands Them to Reproduce & Populate Earth
 - 3) Places Them in an Idyllic Garden
 - 4) Warns Them of Disobedience & Sin
 - a) “You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die.” (*Gen. 2:16-17*)
- b. Man’s Disobedience Gen. 3:1-13
 - 1) Serpent (Satan) Entices Eve to Eat from the Forbidden Tree
 - 2) Eve Entices Adam to Share the Forbidden Fruit
 - a) *By Yielding to Sin, Adam Abdicates His God Given Dominion to Satan*
 - 3) Adam & Eve Recognized Themselves as Being Naked (*Loss of Innocence*)
 - a) Afraid & Ashamed They Hide from God
 - 4) Lord God Appears in the Garden
 - a) Finds and Confronts Adam for His Disobedience (*Sin*)
 - Adam Blames His Sin on Eve
 - Eve Blames Her Sin on Serpent

2. **Concept of Priest Introduced to Adam & Eve**

Gen. 3:21

- a. Lord God's Judgment Gen. 3:14-19
Lord God Judges Adam & Eve, While Devising a Plan to Redeem Mankind.
 - 1) Curses Serpent for Allowing Satan to Use Him Gen. 3:14
 - 2) Curses Satan (*While Promising Redemption to Man*) Gen. 3:15
 - a) “I (*God*) will put enmity between you (*Satan*) and the woman, and between your offspring (*Followers of Satan / Sin*) and her's (*Woman's Offspring*); He will strike your head (*Mortal Wound*), while you strike at his heel (*Wound Temporarily Halting Her Offspring's Work/Walk*).”
 - 3) Curses Mankind
 - a) Curses Eve (*Representing All Women*) Gen. 3:16
 - Intense Pain in Childbirth
 (*Consequences in Fulfilling God's Command to Populate Earth*)
 - Submission to Her Husband (*Man to be Spiritual Head of Family*)
 (*Office of Priest to be Held by Men*)
 - b) Curses Adam (*All Mankind*) & Earth that was Under His Authority
 Gen. 3:17-19
 - Cursing the Earth/Ground

- Requires Man's Lifelong Labor for Sustenance
 - Competing with Nature (*Weather, Thorns, Insects, Germs, etc.*) for Resources
 - Cursing Mankind with Death (*Physical & Spiritual*)
 - ".....For you are dirt, and to dirt you shall return." (*Gen. 3:19*)
- b. God Expelled Adam & Eve from Garden (*His Presence*) – While Introducing the Method of Reconciliation Gen. 3:21-24
- 1) God Made Leather Garments to Cover their Shame (*Demonstrating & Establishing the Office of Priest*)
 - a) "For the man and his wife the LORD God made leather garments, with which he clothed them." (*Gen. 3:21*)
 - Blood Sacrifice of an Innocent Prescribed for the Atonement of Sin
 - Sacrifice Provided by the Hand of God
 - 2) God Banishes Man from Garden (*His Presence*) (*A Holy & Perfect God Can Not Look Upon or Associate with Sin*)
 - a) "The LORD God therefore banished him from the garden of Eden," (*Gen 3:23*)
 - Keeping Man from Partaking of the "Tree of Life" (*Eternal Life*) While in a Sinful Condition
 - b) Places an Impenetrable Barrier Keeping Man Outside the Garden
 - "When he (*God*) expelled the man,he stationed the cherubim and the fiery revolving sword, to guard the way to the tree of life." (*Gen. 3:24*)
3. Priesthood Practiced by Cain & Abel Gen. 4:1-16
Man's First Sacrificial Offerings Recorded in Scriptures
- a. Adam & Eve's First Born Son – Cain
 - 1) Cain Became a Tiller of Soil
 - b. Adam & Eve's Next Son – Abel
 - 1) Abel Became a Keeper of Flocks
 - c. Cain's & Abel's Offerings to Lord Gen. 4:3-7
 - 1) Cain Offers Produce from His Crops (*Offering of Works*)
 - a) ".....Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the soil"
 - 2) Abel Offers Best Firstlings of His Flock (*Blood Sacrifices*)
 - a) "..... Abel, for his part, brought one of the best firstlings of his flock."
 - 3) The Lord Accepts Abel's Offering, But Not Cain's
 - a) "The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not....."
 - d. Cain Becomes Jealous & Murders Abel Gen. 4:8-16
 - 1) The Lord Confronts Cain: "Where is your brother Abel?"
 - 2) Cain's Defiance: "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"
 - 3) Lord's Response: "What have you done! Listen: your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil!" (*Gen. 4:9-10*)
 - 4) Lord Expels Cain from Adam's Family

B. Pre-Law Priesthood - Family Head Serves as Priest for His Family

1. Noah Gen. 6 – 9
 - a. The Lord God Judges Mankind Gen. 6:5-8
 - 1) “When the LORD saw how great was man’s wickedness on earth, and how no desire that his heart conceived was ever anything but evil, he regretted that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was grieved.
 - 2) “So the LORD said: ‘I will wipe out from the earth the men whom I have created, and not only the men, but also the beasts and the creeping things and the birds of the air, for I am sorry that I made them.’
 - 3) “But Noah found favor with the LORD.”
 - b. Lord Warns Noah that He Will Send a Flood to Cleanse the Earth
 - 1) Instructs Noah to Build an Ark
 - a) Take His Household (Wife, Sons & Daughters-in-law) into Ark
 - b) Take 1 Pair (Male & Female) of Every Animal into Ark
 - c) Take 7 Pairs of Clean Animals into Ark (*Set Aside for Sacrifice*)
 - c. Lord Sends Great Flood Upon Earth
 - 1) All of the Earth’s Inhabitants Perish
 - 2) Noah, His Household & Animals Survive in Ark
 - 3) Flood Ends & They Disembark
 - d. Noah Builds an Altar & Offers Sacrifices to Lord Gen. 8:20-22
(*Interceding for His Descendants – The Entire Human Race*)
 - 1) “Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and choosing from every clean animal and every clean bird, he offered holocausts (*Whole Burnt Offerings*) on the altar.”
 - 2) The Lord Accepts Noah’s Sacrifice. “WHEN the LORD smelled the sweet odor (*Of Noah’s Holocausts*), he said to himself: ‘Never again will I doom the earth because of man, since the desires of man’s heart are evil from the start; nor will I ever again strike down all living beings, as I have done.....’”
 - e. Lord Establishes His Covenant with Noah Gen. 9:1-17
 - 1) “See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.” (*Gen. 9:9-11*)
 - a) Sign of Covenant is the Rainbow
2. Abraham Gen. 12 – 23
 - a. The Lord Announces His Covenant with Abram (Abraham) Gen. 12:1-3
 - 1) The Lord Calls Abram
 - a) Instructs Abram. “Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.”
 - b) Promises Abram
 - Father a Nation. “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
 - God’s Favor on His Nation. “I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you.
 - Blessing to All Mankind. “All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.”

- 2) Abram Migrates to Canaan (Promised Land) Gen. 12:4-5
 - a) Takes His Wife Sarai (Sarah)
 - b) Takes His Nephew Lot
 - c) Takes His Servants & All His Possessions
- 3) Abram Claims the Land for Lord & His People Gen. 12:6-9
 - a) Lord Appears to Abram at Shechem
 - Lord Declares it to be the Promise Land: “To your descendants I will give this land.” (*Gen. 12:7b*)
 - Abram Builds an Altar to the Lord Who Appeared to Him
 - b) Abram Travels in Promise Land
 - Builds an Altar, Between Bethel & Ai, Invoking Name of the Lord
 - c) Journeys to Negev
- 4) Abram Later Travels to Egypt to Survive Famine Gen. 12:10-20
(Leaving the Promise Land)
- 5) Abram Returns to Promise Land Gen. 13
 - a) Goes to Site Where He Built an Altar & Invoked Name of the Lord
 - b) Lord Reaffirms His Promises to Abram Gen. 13:14-18
 - Confirming the Promise Land. “Look about you, and from where you are, gaze to the north and south, east and west; all the land that you see I will give to you and your descendants forever.
 - A Great Nation. “I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth; if anyone could count the dust of the earth, your descendants too might be counted.
 - Discover the Promise Land. “Set forth and walk about in the land, through its length and breadth, for to you I will give it.”
 - c) Abram Settles in Hebron
 - Builds an Altar to the Lord

Comment. The primary purpose of an Altar is to offer sacrifices to the Lord. Although Abram builds these Altars in the Promise Land, there is no mention in Scripture of him offering sacrifices at this time. Perhaps they are promises of a future sacrifice.

- b. The Lord Seals His Covenant with Abram Gen. 15
 - 1) Abram Remains Childless and is Advanced in Years
 - a) Abram Complains to the Lord
 - 2) Lord Reassures Abram: “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so, shall your descendants be.” (*Gen. 15:5*)
 - a) “Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.” (*Gen. 15:6*)
 - 3) Lord Confirms His Promise: “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession.” (*Gen. 15:7*)
 - a) Abram Asks: “How am I to know that I shall possess it?” (*Gen. 15:8*)
 - 4) Lord’s Prescribed Sacrifice (***The Lord Demonstrates His Requirement of Blood Sacrifice to Execute & Put into Effect a Covenant with Him.***)
 - a) Instructs Abram to Bring Him:
 - 3 Year Old Heifer
 - 3 Year Old She-Goat
 - 3 Year Old Ram
 - A Turtle-Dove & Young Pigeon

- b) Abram Prepares the Sacrifice (*Priestly Function*)
 - Brings Prescribed Animals
 - Splits Heifer, She-Goat & Ram in Two
 - Does Not Split the Birds
 - Places their Halves Opposite Each Other
 - Birds of Prey Swoop Down on Carcasses
 - Abram Remains with His Sacrifice
- c) Abram Falls into Deep Trance When Sun is About to Set
 - Lord Prophesies the Establishment of Abram's Descendants into a Nation
- d) Sacrifice Consumed by Hand of the Lord. "When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking brazier and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces." (*Gen. 15:17*)
 - Lord Confirms His Covenant: "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River (the Euphrates), the land of the" (*Gen. 15:18-21*)

Note.

1. The Lord changes Abram's name to Abraham, and establishes circumcision as the sign of His Covenant. (*Gen. 17*)
2. Afterwards, Abraham fathers a son by his wife Sarah, named Isaac, who was born under the Covenant. (*Gen. 21:1-8*)

- c. Abraham's Ultimate Offering – His Son Isaac Gen. 22:1-19
 - 1) The Lord Commands Abraham: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust (*Whole Burnt Offering*) on a height that I will point out to you." (*Gen 22:2*)
 - 2) Abraham Obeys the Lord
 - a) Takes Isaac with 2 Servants & Goes to Land of Moriah
 - b) Takes Wood for Holocaust Offering
 - 3) Abraham Offers His Son Isaac
 - a) Abraham Sights the Place of Sacrifice on Third Day
 - Orders His Servants to Wait at a Distance
 - b) Abraham & Isaac Ascend Mount Moriah
 - Isaac Carries Wood on His Shoulders
 - Abraham Carries the Fire & Knife
 - c) Isaac Questions His Father: "Father!..... Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the holocaust?" (*Gen. 22:6-7*)
 - d) Abraham Answers: "God himself will provide the sheep for the holocaust." (*Gen. 22:8*)
 - e) Abraham Builds an Altar
 - Ties Up Isaac & Places Him on Wood of Altar
 - Raises the Knife to Sacrifice His Son
 - 4) The Lord's Intervention
 - a) Lord's Messenger Calls from Heaven: "Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." (*Gen. 22:12*)
 - b) Abraham Sees a Ram Caught by its Horns in a Thicket

- c) Abraham Sacrifices the Ram
- d) Abraham Names Place “Yahweh-Yireh”
 - “The Lord – Shall be Seen” / “The Lord - Shall Provide”
- e) Lord’s Messenger Calls from Heaven
(*Reiterates Lord’s Covenant with Abraham & Seals it by Oath*)
 - “I swear by myself (*Oath in Name of Lord God Almighty*), declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son (*Isaac*),
 - “I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and
 - “in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing— all this because you obeyed my command.” (*Gen. 22:16-18*)

3. Isaac

- a. The Lord Confirms His Covenant with Isaac Gen. 26:23-25
 - 1) Isaac Goes to Beer-Sheba (In Promise Land)
 - 2) Lord Appears to Isaac: “I am the God of your father Abraham. You have no need to fear, since I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.” (*Gen. 26:24*)
 - 3) Isaac Builds an Altar Invoking the Name of the Lord (*Yahweh*)
 - a) Settles in Beer-Sheba
 - b) Servants Dig a Well

4. Jacob

- a. Jacob’s Pact with Laban Gen. 31:45-54

Background. Jacob travels to his ancestral land to get a wife from among his kinsmen. He served his uncle Laban, married Laban’s daughters and had 12 children. After serving Laban for many years, Jacob took his family and his possessions, and returned to the Promise Land. Laban pursued Jacob accusing him of stealing. They meet and make a Pact with each other, setting up a memorial stone separating their respective territories. (Gen. 28 – 31)

- 1) Laban Sets the Conditions of the Pact
 - a) “May the LORD keep watch between you and me when we are out of each other’s sight. If you mistreat my daughters, or take other wives besides my daughters, remember that even though no one else is about, God will be witness between you and me.” (*Gen. 31:49-50*)
- 2) Laban Sets the Boundaries
 - a) Sets Up a Memorial Stone. “This mound shall be witness, and this memorial stone shall be witness, that, with hostile intent, neither may I pass beyond this mound into your territory, nor may you pass beyond it into mine.” (*Gen. 31:52*)
 - b) Swears an Oath: “May the God of Abraham and the god of Nahor (their ancestral deities) maintain justice between us!” (*Gen. 31:53a*)
- 3) Jacob Swears an Oath by the “Awesome One of Isaac”
 - a) Offers Sacrifice on that Mountain (When Entering Promise Land)
 - b) Invites Kinsmen to Share in the Sacrificial Meal

- b. The Lord Confirms His Covenant with Jacob Gen. 35:1-15
- 1) Lord Instructs Jacob: “Go up now to Bethel. Settle there and build an altar there to the God who appeared to you while you were fleeing from your brother Esau.” (*Gen. 35:1*)
 - 2) Jacob Purifies His Household
 - 3) Jacob & His Household Arrive at Bethel
 - a) Jacob Builds an Altar to Lord
 - b) Lord Confirms His Covenant with Jacob (*Gen. 35:10-12*)
 - Changes His Name to Israel. “You whose name is Jacob shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.”
 - Confirming Israel as His Chosen People. “I am God Almighty; be fruitful and multiply. A nation, indeed an assembly of nations, shall stem from you, and kings shall issue from your loins.”
 - Confirming Israel’s Promise Land. “The land I once gave to Abraham and Isaac I now give to you (*Israel*); And to your descendants after you will I give this land.”
 - c) Israel Reaffirms Bethel as a Sacred Site
- c. Israel’s Migration to Egypt Gen. 46:1-7
- 1) Jacob (Israel) & His Household Migrate to Egypt to Survive Famine
 - a) Jacob Stops at Beer-sheba Before Leaving Promise Land
 - b) Jacob Offers Sacrifices to Lord
 - c) Lord Appears to Jacob (Israel) in Night Vision: “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you a great nation. Not only will I go down to Egypt with you; I will also bring you back here, after Joseph has closed your eyes.” (*Gen. 46:3-4*)

C. The Mystical Priest

Background. A coalition of 4 Kings raided the Cities of the Plain taking hostages and booty. Among the hostages were Abram’s nephew Lot and his family. Abram musters his servants, pursues and defeats the coalition, rescuing the hostages and recovering their possessions. While returning from victory, he is met by a mysterious person, named Melchizedek, who is both “Priest of God Most High” and “King of Salem”. This is the first time the title of Priest is used in Scriptures. (*Gen. 14*)

1. Melchizedek - King of Salem & Priest of God Most High Gen. 14:17-20
 - a. Melchizedek Greets Abram (*Abraham*) Returning from Victory
 - 1) Offers Abram Bread & Wine
 - a) “Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine,
 - 2) Blesses Abram. “..... being a priest of God Most High, he blessed Abram with these words: ‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, the creator of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your foes into your hand’”
 - a) Confirming God’s Covenant Blessing on Abram
 - b. Abram Pays Tithes to Melchizedek
 - 1) “Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.”
 - a) Acknowledging Melchizedek’s Supremacy

D. Law of Moses - Establishes the Levitical Order as an Exclusive Perpetual Priesthood

Background. Jacob’s descendants lived in Egypt for centuries after their migration, where they were eventually enslaved. The Lord called and anointed Moses to deliver Israel from bondage, establish them as

a nation, and return them to the Promise Land. The Lord gave Moses Laws to implement and record for His Nation. These “Mosaic Laws” consist of Civil Laws, Moral Laws, and Religious Laws which included a consecrated Priesthood.

1. Office of Priest

- a. God’s Chosen Nation – Israel Ex. 19 – 20
(Israel Arrives at Mount Sinai on 1st Day of 3rd Month After Leaving Egypt)
- 1) Lord’s Intention for His Nation Ex. 19:1-15
 - a) Moses Ascends Mount Sinai
 - Lord Speaks to Moses: “Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob;
 - “.....You have seen for yourselves how I treated the Egyptians and how I bore you up on eagle wings and brought you here to myself.
 - “Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant (*i.e.* “Mosaic Law”), you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine.
 - “You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.....” (*Ex. 19:3c-6*) (***The Lord’s Intention is for Israel to be His Kingdom of Priests on Earth***)
 - b) Moses Returns from the Mountain & Summons the Elders
 - Relates the Word of the Lord
 - People Respond: “Everything the LORD has said, we will do.” (*Ex. 19:8b*)
 - c) Moses Reports Israel’s Answer to the Lord
 - d) Lord Instructs Moses: “Go to the people and have them sanctify themselves today and tomorrow. Make them wash their garments and be ready for the third day; for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai before the eyes of all the people.....” (*Ex. 19:10-13*)
 - e) Moses Prepares People as Lord Instructed
- 2) The Lord’s Visitation Ex. 19:16 – 20:17
 - a) On 3rd Day, Heavy Cloud Appeared Over Mount Sinai with Thunder & Lightning Accompanied by Loud Trumpet Blasts
 - Moses Leads People Out of their Camp to Meet the Lord
 - Stations Them at Foot of the Mountain
 - b) Mount Sinai Wrapped in Smoke & Trembled as the Lord Descends in Fire
 - Moses Speaks & Lord Answers with Thunder
 - c) Lord Delivers His 10 Commandments Ex. 20:1-17
 - “I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves”
- 3) Israel’s Reaction Ex. 20:18-26
 - a) People Become Afraid & Ask Moses: “You speak to us, and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we shall die.” (*Ex. 10:19*) (***Israel’s Request Sets the Premise for an Intercessory Priesthood***)
 - b) Moses Approaches Cloud Where God Was
 - Lord Tells Moses: “Thus shall you speak to the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven.
 - The Lord’s Supremacy. “Do not make anything to rank with me; neither gods of silver nor gods of gold shall you make for

- yourselves.”
- Requirement of Sacrifice. “An altar of earth you shall make for me, and upon it you shall sacrifice your holocausts and peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In whatever place I choose for the remembrance of my name I will come to you and bless you.....” (*Ex. 20:23-24*)
- b. Lord Establishes & Specifies Israel’s Priesthood
- 1) Moses Ascends Mount Sinai Ex. 24:12-18
 - a) The Cloud (*Presence of Lord*) Covers the Mountain
 - b) Moses Passes into Midst of Cloud
 - c) Moses Stays on Mountain 40 Days & 40 Nights
 - 2) Lord Specifies the Tabernacle & its Furnishings Ex. 25 – 27 & Ex. 30
(See “*Tabernacle & Temple – Part I*” Study)
 - a) God’s Dwelling Place on Earth
 - b) Place Where Priests are to Officiate Before the Lord
 - c) Israel’s Central Place of Worship
 - d) General Overview of Tabernacle with Priests’ Service
 - (1) Outer Court (People Gather - Present Offerings to Priests)
 - Altar of Sacrifice
 - Priests Sacrifice the Offerings
 - Laver
 - Priests Cleanse Themselves Before Entering Holy Place
 - (2) Holy Place (Also Referred to as “Inner Court” or “Meeting Tent”) (Restricted to Priests, Who Minister there Daily)
 - Table of Showbread
(12 Loaves of Bread – 1 for Each Tribe of Israel)
 - Priests Daily Replace Loaves with Fresh Bread
 - Lampstand (Menorah)
 - Priests Daily Replenish the Oil Keeping Lamps Burning
 - Incense Altar
 - Priests Daily Offer Incense Before Holy of Holies
Interceding for God’s People
 - Veil Separating Holy Place from Holy of Holies
 - (3) Holy of Holies (Also Referred to as “Most Holy Place”) (Restricted to High Priest Who Enters Only on Day of Atonement)
 - Ark of the Covenant (Containing God’s Law)
(Prescribed Place Where God Meets with Man!)
 - 3) Lord Designates Moses’ Brother Aaron & His Sons as Priests Ex. 28 - 29
(See *Sections D.2 - D.4 Below*)
- c. Moses Intercedes for Israel Ex. 32
- 1) Israel Rebels Against the Lord Ex. 32:1-6
(*Violates the First & Foremost Commandments*)
 - a) People Impatient Waiting for Moses to Come Down from Mountain
 - b) People Have Aaron Make them a Golden Calf
 - People Declare: “This is your God, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.” (*Ex. 32:4b*)
 - c) Aaron Builds an Altar Before Calf & Declares a Feast
 - People Bring Sacrifices & Offerings

- People Eat, Drink & Revel
- 2) The Lord Expresses His Anger to Moses Ex. 32:7-10
 - a) Cites Israel's Sin: "Go down at once to your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, for they have become depraved. They have soon turned aside from the way I pointed out to them, making for themselves a molten calf and worshiping it, sacrificing to it and crying out, 'This is your God, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt!'"
 - b) Sentences Israel to Destruction: "Let me alone, then, that my wrath may blaze up against them to consume them. Then I will make of you (Moses) a great nation."
 - 3) Moses Intercedes for Israel (*Role of a Priest*) Ex. 32:11-14
 - a) Pleas for Lord's Mercy: "Why, O LORD, should your wrath blaze up against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with such great power and with so strong a hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent he brought them out, that he might kill them in the mountains and exterminate them from the face of the earth'? Let your blazing wrath die down; relent in punishing your people."
 - b) Reminds Lord of His Covenant Promises: "Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, and how you swore to them by your own self, saying, 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; and all this land that I promised, I will give your descendants as their perpetual heritage.'"
 - c) The Lord Relents
 - 4) Moses Returns to Israel's Camp Ex. 32:15-29
 - a) Destroys the Golden Calf
 - b) Chastises Aaron
 - c) Cries Out to the Crowd: "Whoever is for the LORD, let him come to me!" (*Ex. 32:26*)
 - All Levites Rally to Him (*Moses was from Tribe of Levi. Ex. 2:1-10*)
 - d) Commands Levites to Slay the Idolaters
 - Levites Go through Camp & Slay 3,000 Israelites
 - e) Dedicates the Levites to Lord's Service: "Today you have been dedicated to the LORD, for you were against your own sons and kinsmen, to bring a blessing upon yourselves this day." (*Ex. 32:29*) (*Levites to Serve as the Lord's Religious Order*)
 - 5) Moses Makes Atonement for Israel Ex. 32:30-35
 - a) Addresses the Israelites: "You have committed a grave sin. I will go up to the LORD, then; perhaps I may be able to make atonement for your sin." (*Responsibility of a High Priest.*)
 - b) Goes Back Up the Mountain to the Lord
 - Moses Implores the Lord: "Ah, this people has indeed committed a grave sin in making a god of gold for themselves! If you would only forgive their sin! If you will not, then strike me out of the book that you have written." (*Offering Himself for Israel's Atonement*)
 - The LORD Answers: "Him only who has sinned against me will I strike out of my book. Now, go and lead the people whither I have told you. My angel will go before you. When it is time for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin."

2. Order of Priests & Religious

a. Lord Designates House of Aaron as His Priests

- 1) Lord Instructs Moses: “From among the Israelites have your brother Aaron, together with his sons Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, brought to you, that they may be my priests.” Ex. 28:1
- 2) Priestly Order of Aaron
 - a) Lord’s Perpetual Priesthood. “..... Thus shall the priesthood be theirs by perpetual law, and thus shall you ordain Aaron and his sons.” Ex. 29:9
 - b) Lord’s Exclusive Priesthood. “But only Aaron and his descendants shall you appoint to have charge of the priestly functions. Any layman who comes near shall be put to death.” Num. 3:10
- 3) The Levitical Order. “The LORD said to Aaron,
 - a) ‘You and your sons as well as the other members of your ancestral house (*i.e. Levites*) shall be responsible for the sanctuary; but the responsibility of the priesthood shall rest on you and your sons alone’.
 - b) ‘Bring with you also your other kinsmen of the tribe of Levi, your ancestral tribe, as your associates and assistants, while you and your sons are in front of the tent of the commandments. They shall look after your persons and the whole tent (*Tabernacle*); As your associates they shall have charge of all the work connected with the meeting tent. But no layman shall come near you.’
 - c) ‘You shall have charge of the sanctuary and of the altar, that wrath may not fall again upon the Israelites. Remember, it is I who have taken your kinsmen, the Levites, from the body of the Israelites; they are a gift to you, dedicated to the LORD for the service of the meeting tent.’
 - d) ‘But only you and your sons are to have charge of performing the priestly functions in whatever concerns the altar and the room within the veil. I give you the priesthood as a gift. Any layman who draws near shall be put to death.’” Num 18:1-7

b. Lord Designates Tribe of Levi as His Religious

Num. 3:5-13

- 1) Assistants & Attendants to Priests. “Now the LORD said to Moses: ‘Summon the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest, as his assistants. They shall discharge his obligations and those of the whole community before the meeting tent by serving at the Dwelling.....’ (*Num 3:5-8*)
- 2) Levites Dedicated to Lord.
 - a) ‘You shall give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they have been set aside from among the Israelites as dedicated to me.’” (*Num. 3:9*)
 - b) “..... the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to be in attendance before the LORD and minister to him, and to give blessings in his name” Deut. 10:8
- 3) Levites Belong to Lord. “The LORD said to Moses, ‘It is I who have chosen the Levites from the Israelites in place of every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites. The Levites, therefore, are mine, because every first-born is mine..... They belong to me; I am the LORD.’” (*Num 3:11-13*)
 - a) Levites Substituted for Israel’s First Born Num. 3:40-51
Levites Serve the Lord in Place of Israel’s First Born Males Who are Consecrated to Lord.

- Israel's First Born Males Consecrated to Lord Ex. 13:1-16
 - Lord Instructs Moses: "Take a census of all the first-born males of the Israelites a month old or more, and compute their total number. Then assign the Levites to me, the LORD, in place of all the first-born of the Israelites, as well as their cattle in place of all the first-born among the cattle of the Israelites." (*Num. 3:40-41*)
 - Moses Takes the Census
 - Israelites Total 22,273 First Born Males
 - Levites Total 22,000
 - Ransom Paid to Aaron (Priests) for the Shortfall of 273 Levites
- c. Rebellion & Contest to Lord's Anointed Priesthood Num 16 - 17
- 1) Israel's Rebellion Against Moses & Aaron Num. 16:1 – 17:5
[KJV Num. 16:1-40]
- a) Korah Leads 250 Levites Against Aaronic Priesthood
- Conspiring with Dathan & Abiram (Laymen) Against Moses
- b) Rebels Confront Moses: "Enough from you! The whole community, all of them, are holy; the LORD is in their midst. Why then should you set yourselves over the LORD'S congregation?" (*Num. 16:3*)
- Moses Falls Prostrate Before Lord
- c) Moses Confronts Korah & Levite Rebels
- Prove the Lord's Anointing. "May the LORD make known tomorrow morning who belongs to him and who is the holy one and whom he will have draw near to him! Whom he chooses, he will have draw near him. Do this: take your censers (Korah and all his band) and put fire in them and place incense in them before the LORD tomorrow. He whom the LORD then chooses is the holy one....." (*Num 16:5-7*)
 - Reprimands Levite Rebels. "..... Is it too little for you that the God of Israel has singled you out from the community of Israel, to have you draw near him for the service of the LORD'S Dwelling and to stand before the community to minister for them? He has allowed you and your kinsmen, the descendants of Levi, to approach him, and yet you now seek the priesthood too. It is therefore against the LORD that you and all your band are conspiring. For what has Aaron done that you should grumble against him?" (*Num. 16:8-11*)
- d) Moses Summons Dathan & Abiram
- They Refuse to Attend, Complaining Against Moses
- e) The Lord's Judgment
- Moses Sets Up a Contest Between Levite Rebels & Aaron
 - Each Offer Incense Before the Lord
 - Korah & Rebellious Levites Fill their Censers with Incense
 - Set Fire to their Incense & Stand at Entrance of Meeting Tent
 - Glory of Lord Appears Before Entire Community
 - Lord Says to Moses & Aaron: "Stand apart from this band, that I may consume them at once."
 - Moses & Aaron Cry Out: "O God, God of the spirits of all mankind, will one man's sin make you angry with the whole community?"
 - Lord Answers Moses: "Speak to the community and tell them:

- Withdraw from the space around the Dwelling” (*Num. 16:21-24*)
- Moses & Elders Go to Dathan & Abiram
 - Moses Warns People to Stay Away from Dathan & Abiram
 - Dathan & Abiram Stand in Front of their Tents with Families
 - Moses’ Pronouncement: “This is how you shall know that it was the LORD who sent me to do all I have done, and that it was not I who planned it: if these men die an ordinary death, merely suffering the fate common to all mankind, then it was not the LORD who sent me. But if the LORD does something entirely new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them alive down into the nether world, with all belonging to them, then you will know that these men have defied the LORD” (*Num 16:28-30*)
 - Earth Immediately Splits Open & Swallows Rebels
 - Lord Sends Fire Consuming 250 Levite Rebels Offering Incense
- f) Lord Affirms Sanctity of Priesthood
- Lord Orders Moses
 - “Tell Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, to remove the censers from the embers; and scatter the fire some distance away, for these sinners have consecrated the censers at the cost of their lives.
 - “Have them hammered into plates to cover the altar, because in being presented before the LORD they have become sacred. In this way they shall serve as a sign to the Israelites.” (*Num. 17:2-3*)
 - Eleazar Obeys Word of the Lord
 - Reminder of Lord’s Exclusive Priesthood. “This cover was to be a reminder to the Israelites that no layman, no one who was not a descendant of Aaron, should approach the altar to offer incense before the LORD, lest he meet the fate of Korah and his band.” (*Num. 17:5*)
- 2) Lord Confirms His Anointed Priesthood Num. 17:6-28
 [KJV Num. 16:41 – 17:13]
- a) Next Day, Whole Community Grumbles Against Moses & Aaron (*Lord’s Anointed*)
- Blaming Them for Death of Rebels
- b) Glory of Lord Appears at Tabernacle
- Lord Says to Moses & Aaron: “Depart from this community, that I may consume them at once.” (*Num. 17:10a*)
 - Moses & Aaron Fall Prostrate Before Lord
- c) Moses Instructs Aaron: “Take your censer, put fire from the altar in it, lay incense on it, and bring it quickly to the community to make atonement for them; for wrath has come forth from the LORD and the blow (*Plague*) is falling.” (*Num. 17:11*)
- d) Aaron Obeys Moses
- Runs through the Community with Censer as Plague is Falling
 - Offers Incense to Make Atonement for People
 - Standing Between Living & Dead
 - Plague Stops After 14,700 Israelis had Died
- e) Lord Instructs Moses
- “Speak to the Israelites and get one staff from them for each ancestral

house, twelve staffs in all, one from each of their tribal princes. Mark each man's name on his staff; and mark Aaron's name on Levi's staff, for the head of Levi's ancestral house shall also have a staff.

- “Then lay them down in the meeting tent, in front of the commandments, where I meet you.
 - “There the staff of the man of my choice shall sprout. Thus will I suppress from my presence the Israelites' grumbling against you.”
(*Num. 17:17-20*)
- f) Moses Collects a Staff from Each of the Tribal Princes & Aaron
(*Staff is a Symbol of Authority*)
- Lays Staffs Before Lord in Tent of Commandments
- g) Next Day, Moses Retrieves Staffs
- Aaron's Staff Sprouted Shoots with Blossoms & Ripe Almonds
 - Other Staffs Remain Unchanged
 - Aaron Returns those Staffs to Tribal Princes
- h) Lord Commands Moses: “Put back Aaron's staff in front of the commandments, to be kept there as a warning to the rebellious, so that their grumbling may cease before me; if it does not, they will die.”
(*Num. 17:25*)
- i) Israel Repents, Accepting Sanctity of Priesthood

3. Priestly Vestments

Ex. 28

(*See Figure 1 at the End of this Document for a Sketch of High Priest's Vestments.*)

a. Lord Specifies High Priest's Vestments to Moses

Ex. 28:1-5

1) Priesthood from the House of Aaron

- a) “From among the Israelites have your brother Aaron, together with his sons Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, brought to you, that they may be my priests.”

2) High Priest to be Adorned with Sacred Vestments

- a) “For the glorious adornment of your brother Aaron (*High Priest*) you shall have sacred vestments made.....”

3) Vestments that are to be Worn in Lord's Service

- a) “These are the vestments they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a brocaded tunic, a miter and a sash.
- b) “In making these sacred vestments which your brother Aaron and his sons are to wear in serving as my priests they shall use gold, violet, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen.”
- Gold & Golden Thread (*Symbolizes Deity*)
 - Violet & Purple Yarn (*Symbolizes Royalty*)
 - Scarlet Yarn (*Symbolizes Sacrifice / Blood*)
 - Fine Linen (*Symbolizes Purity*)

b. The Ephod (Apron Like Garment)

Ex. 28:6-14

1) Apron Like Garment

- a) “The ephod they shall make of gold thread and of violet, purple and scarlet yarn, embroidered on cloth of fine linen twined.”

2) Pair of Shoulder Straps

- a) “It shall have a pair of shoulder straps joined to its two upper ends.”

- 3) Belt / Sash
 - a) “The embroidered belt of the ephod shall extend out from it and, like it, be made of gold thread, of violet, purple and scarlet yarn, and of fine linen twined.”
 - b) “The sash shall be of variegated work.” Ex. 28:39c
- 4) Memorial Stone on Each Shoulder Strap for Sons of Israel
 - a) “Get two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel: six of their names on one stone, and the other six on the other stone, in the order of their birth..... mounted in gold filigree work.
 - b) “Set these two stones on the shoulder straps of the ephod as memorial stones of the sons of Israel. Thus Aaron shall bear their names on his shoulders as a reminder before the LORD.
 - c) “Make filigree rosettes of gold, as well as two chains of pure gold, twisted like cords, and fasten the cordlike chains to the filigree rosettes.”
- c. The Breastplate of Decision Ex. 28:15-30
 - 1) Breastplate with 12 Precious Stones for Tribes of Israel
 - a) “The breastpiece of decision you shall also have made, embroidered like the ephod with gold thread and violet, purple and scarlet yarn on cloth of fine linen twined. It is to be square when folded double, a span high and a span wide.
 - b) “On it you shall mount four rows of precious stones: in the first row, a carnelian, a topaz and an emerald; in the second row, a garnet, a sapphire and a beryl; in the third row, a jacinth, an agate and an amethyst; in the fourth row, a chrysolite, an onyx and a jasper. These stones are to be mounted in gold filigree work, twelve of them to match the names of the sons of Israel, each stone engraved like a seal with the name of one of the twelve tribes”
 - 2) Breastplate Mounted by Golden Rings
 - a) “When the chains of pure gold, twisted like cords, have been made for the breastpiece, you shall then make two rings of gold for it and fasten them to the two upper ends of the breastpiece
 - b) “The gold cords are then to be fastened to the two rings at the upper ends of the breastpiece, the other two ends of the cords being fastened in front to the two filigree rosettes which are attached to the shoulder straps of the ephod.
 - c) “Make two other rings of gold and put them on the two lower ends of the breastpiece, on its edge that faces the ephod. Then make two more rings of gold and fasten them to the bottom of the shoulder straps next to where they join the ephod in front, just above its embroidered belt.
 - d) “Violet ribbons shall bind the rings of the breastpiece to the rings of the ephod, so that the breastpiece will stay right above the embroidered belt of the ephod and not swing loose from it.
 - e) “Whenever Aaron enters the sanctuary, he will thus bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastpiece of decision over his heart as a constant reminder before the LORD.”
 - 3) Urim & Thummim Over Aaron’s Heart
 - a) “In this breastpiece of decision you shall put the Urim and Thummim, that they may be over Aaron’s heart whenever he enters the presence of the LORD. Thus he shall always bear the decisions for the Israelites over his

heart in the LORD'S presence.”

- Urim & Thummim are Sacred Lots Used by High Priest to Determine Lord's Decisions (*'Urim & Thummim' Mean 'Lights & Perfections'*)

- d. The Robe Ex. 28:31-35
- 1) Robe Made of Violet Material
 - a) “The robe of the ephod you shall make entirely of violet material.”
 - 2) Robe Woven Out of a Single Piece of Material
 - a) “It shall have an opening for the head in the center, and around this opening there shall be a selvage, woven as at the opening of a shirt, to keep it from being torn.”
 - 3) Hem of Pomegranates & Bells
 - a) “All around the hem at the bottom you shall make pomegranates, woven of violet, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen twined, with gold bells between them; alternating all around the hem of the robe.
 - b) “Aaron shall wear it when ministering, that its tinkling may be heard as he enters and leaves the LORD'S presence in the sanctuary; else he will die.”
- e. The Miter Ex. 28:36-38
- 1) Golden Seal Worn Over High Priest's Forehead
 - a) “You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, as on a seal engraving, ‘Sacred to the LORD.’”
 - b) “This plate is to be tied over the miter with a violet ribbon in such a way that it rests on the front of the miter, over Aaron's forehead.”
 - c) “Since Aaron bears whatever guilt the Israelites may incur in consecrating any of their sacred gifts, this plate must always be over his forehead, so that they may find favor with the LORD.”
 - 2) Miter Made of Linen
 - a) “The miter shall be made of fine linen.” Ex. 28:39b
- f. The Tunic Ex. 28:39a
- 1) Tunic Made of Fine Linen Material
 - a) “The tunic of fine linen shall be brocaded.....”
- g. Attire for Priests' Daily Service Ex. 28:40-43
- 1) “Likewise, for the glorious adornment of Aaron's sons you shall have tunics and sashes and turbans made.
 - 2) “With these you shall clothe your brother Aaron and his sons. Anoint and ordain them, consecrating them as my priests.
 - 3) “You must also make linen drawers for them, to cover their naked flesh from their loins to their thighs.
 - 4) “Aaron and his sons shall wear them whenever they go into the meeting tent or approach the altar to minister in the sanctuary, lest they incur guilt and die. This shall be a perpetual ordinance for him and for his descendants.”

4. Consecration & Ordination of Priests

- a. Lord Prescribes Consecration & Ordination of His Priests Ex. 29
- 1) Consecration of Priests Ex. 29:1-9
(*To Consecrate is to Set Apart for / Devote to the Lord*)
 - a) Lord Instructs Moses
 - “This is the rite you shall perform in consecrating them (*Aaron & His Sons*) as my priests.”

- b) Consecrate Ordination Sacrifices
 - Animal (Blood) Offerings
 - “Procure a young bull and two unblemished rams.”
 - Cereal Offerings
 - “With fine wheat flour make unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers spread with oil, and put them in a basket.”
 - c) Wash (Cleanse / Purify) Priests
 - “Aaron and his sons you shall also bring to the entrance of the meeting tent, and there wash them with water.”
 - d) Clothe Aaron in High Priest’s Vestments
 - “Take the vestments and clothe Aaron with the tunic, the robe of the ephod, the ephod itself, and the breastpiece, fastening the embroidered belt of the ephod around him. Put the miter on his head, the sacred diadem on the miter.”
 - e) Anoint High Priest with Oil
 - “Then take the anointing oil and anoint him with it, pouring it on his head.”
 - f) Clothe Aaron’s Sons in Priestly Attire
 - “Bring forward his sons also and clothe them with the tunics, gird them with the sashes, and tie the turbans on them.”
 - g) Consecration of Lord’s Perpetual Priesthood
 - “Thus shall the priesthood be theirs by perpetual law, and thus shall you ordain Aaron and his sons.”
- 2) Ordination Sacrifices Ex. 29:10-25
- a) Sacrifice the Bullock as a Sin Offering (*Atonement for Priests’ Sins*)
 - Aaron & His Sons Lay Hands on Bullock’s Head
 - Slaughter the Bullock
 - Put Some Blood on Horns of Altar
 - Pour Rest of Blood at Base of Altar
 - Burn Internal Organs on Altar
 - Burn Flesh, Hide & Offal Outside the Camp
 - b) Sacrifice the First Ram as a Holocaust (Whole Burt Offering)
 - Aaron & His Sons Lay Hands on Ram’s Head
 - Slaughter the Ram
 - Splash Blood on Sides of Altar
 - Wash Internal Organs & Shanks
 - Burn Washed Items & Entire Ram on Altar. “.....a sweet-smelling oblation to the LORD.” (*Ex. 29:18*)
 - c) Sacrifice the Second Ram as the Ordination Ram
 - Aaron & His Sons Lay Hands on Ram’s Head
 - Slaughter the Ram
 - Put Blood on Tip of Right Ears of Aaron & His Sons (*Sanctifying Priests to Hear the Lord*)
 - Put Blood on Thumb of Right Hands of Aaron & His Sons (*Sanctifying Priests to Serve the Lord*)
 - Put Blood on Great Toe of Right Feet of Aaron & His Sons (*Sanctifying Priests to Walk the Way of the Lord*)
 - Splash Rest of the Blood on Sides of Altar

- Take Blood from Altar, Sprinkle with Anointing Oil on the Vestments of Aaron & His Sons (*Sanctifying the Office of Priest*)
 - Put Ram's Internal Organs & Right Thigh into the Hands of Aaron & His Sons
 - Take One of the Unleavened Loaves, One of the Cakes & One of the Wafers from Cereal Offering & Put into the Hands of Aaron & His Sons
 - Aaron & His Sons are to Wave the Items in their Hands Before the Lord as a Wave Offering
 - Burn Wave Offering On Top of Holocaust on Altar. ".....as a sweet-smelling oblation to the LORD." (*Ex. 29:25*)
- 3) Sanctification of the Priests Ex. 29:26-34
- a) Aaron's Portion of Sacrifice
- Take Breast of Ordination Ram & Wave Before Lord as a Wave Offering. ".....this is to be your own portion" (*Ex. 29:26*)
 - Set Aside Ordination Ram's Breast, Thigh & Wave Offering
 - They Belong to Aaron & His Sons
 - "Such things are due to Aaron and his sons from the Israelites by a perpetual ordinance as a contribution....." (*Ex. 29:28*)
- b) High Priest's Sacred Vestments
- "The sacred vestments of Aaron shall be passed down to his descendants, that in them they may be anointed and ordained.
 - "The descendant who succeeds him as priest and who is to enter the meeting tent to minister in the sanctuary shall be clothed with them for seven days (*During Ordination*)."
(*Ex. 29:29-30*)
- c) Aaron & His Sons Shall Eat their Portion of Sacrifice (*Sacred Food*)
- Aaron Boils Priest's Portion of Ordination Ram in a Holy Place
 - Aaron & His Sons Eat Ram's Flesh & Bread from Cereal Offering at Entrance of Tabernacle
 - "They themselves are to eat of these things by which atonement was made at their ordination and consecration; but no layman may eat of them, since they are sacred." (*Ex. 29:33*)
 - Any Left-Over Flesh & Bread Must be Burned Up
 - "..... it is not to be eaten, since it is sacred." (*Ex. 29:34*)
- 4) Seven Days to Consecrate & Sanctify the Priests Ex. 29:35-42
- a) Lord Continues Instructing Moses: "..... 'Seven days you shall spend in ordaining them.....'" (*Ex. 29:35*)
- b) Sacrifice a Bullock Each Day as a Sin Offering to Make Atonement
- c) Purge the Altar to Make Atonement for It
- Anoint the Altar to Consecrate It
 - Repeat for 7 Days. "..... Then the altar will be most sacred, and whatever touches it will become sacred." (*Ex. 29:37*)
- d) Offer on the Altar: 2 Yearling Lambs, Cereal Offering of Fine Flour Mixed with Olive Oil & Wine as a Libation
- Offer One Every Morning
 - Offer One Every Evening at Twilight
 - "You shall offer this as a sweet-smelling oblation to the LORD."
(*Ex. 29:41b*)

- e) “Throughout your generations this established holocaust shall be offered before the LORD at the entrance of the meeting tent, where I will meet you and speak to you.” (*Ex. 29:42*)
- 5) Israel and the Lord their God Ex. 29:43-46
- a) “There, at the altar (*Place of Sacrifice*), I (*Lord God*) will meet the Israelites; hence, it will be made sacred by my glory.
- b) “Thus I will consecrate the meeting tent and the altar, just as I also consecrate Aaron and his sons to be my priests.
- c) “I will dwell in the midst of the Israelites and will be their God.
- d) “They shall know that I, the LORD, am their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, so that I, the LORD, their God, might dwell among them.”
- b. Moses Ordains Israel’s Priests Lev. 8
- 1) Lord Commands Moses to Ordain His Priests Lev. 8:1-5
- a) “Take Aaron and his sons, together with the vestments, the anointing oil, the bullock for a sin offering, the two rams, and the basket of unleavened food. (*Lev. 8:2*)
- b) “Then assemble the whole community at the entrance of the meeting tent.” (*Lev. 8:3*)
- c) Moses Obeys the Lord
- Assembles People Telling Them What Lord Commanded
- 2) Moses Consecrates the Priests as Prescribed by Lord Lev. 8:6-13
- a) Washes Aaron & His Sons
- b) Clothes Aaron in High Priest’s Vestments
- c) Anoints & Consecrates the Tabernacle
- “Taking the anointing oil, Moses anointed and consecrated the Dwelling, with all that was in it.
 - “Then he sprinkled some of this oil seven times on the altar, and anointed the altar, with all its appurtenances, and the laver, with its base, thus consecrating them. (*Lev. 8:10-11*)
- d) Anoints & Consecrates Aaron
- “He also poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron’s head, thus consecrating him.” (*Lev. 8:12*)
- e) Clothes Aaron’s Sons in Priestly Attire
- 3) Moses Offers Sacrifices as Prescribed by Lord Lev. 8:14-30
- a) Sacrifices the Bullock as a Sin Offering
- b) Sacrifices the Holocaust Ram
- c) Sacrifices the Ordination Ram & Cereal Offering
- Moses Puts Blood on Priests’ Right Ear, Thumb & Toe
 - Priests Wave Specified Offerings Before Lord
 - Retain Designated Portions as Sacred Food
 - Moses Anoints Priests & Their Vestments with Blood & Oil
- 4) Seven Day Sanctification of Israel’s Priests, as Prescribed by Lord Lev. 8:31-36 (*Seven is the Number of Perfect Completion*)
- a) Moses Instructs Aaron & His Sons
- Prepare & Eat their Portion of Ordination & Daily Sacrifices
 - Remain at Entrance of Tabernacle 7 Days
 - “The LORD has commanded that what has been done today be done

to make atonement for you. Hence you must remain at the entrance of the meeting tent day and night for seven days, carrying out the prescriptions of the LORD; otherwise, you shall die; for this is the command I have received." (Lev. 8:34-35)

- b) Aaron & His Sons Obey Moses as Commanded by Lord
- c. The Lord Reveals Himself to Israel on Eighth Day Lev. 9
(*Eight is the Number of New Beginnings*)
 - 1) Moses Announces the Lord's Revelation Lev. 9:1-7
 - a) Moses Summons Priests & Elders of Israel
 - Instructs Aaron: "Take a calf for a sin offering and a ram for a holocaust, both without blemish, and offer them before the LORD."
 - Instructs the Elders: "Take a he-goat for a sin offering, a calf and a lamb, both unblemished yearlings, for a holocaust, and an ox and a ram for a peace offering, to sacrifice them before the LORD, along with a cereal offering mixed with oil; for today the LORD will reveal himself to you."
 - b) Aaron & Elders Bring Offerings Requested by Moses
 - c) Whole Israelite Community Assembles Before Lord
 - Moses Says: "This is what the LORD orders you to do, that the glory of the LORD may be revealed to you."
 - Moses Instructs Aaron: "Come up to the altar, and offer your sin offering and your holocaust in atonement for yourself and for your family; then present the offering of the people in atonement for them, as the LORD has commanded."
 - 2) Aaron Offers His Sacrifices Lev. 9:8-14
 - a) Sacrifices the Calf as His & His Family's Sin Offering
 - b) Sacrifices the Ram as a Holocaust Offering
 - 3) People Present their Offerings to Aaron Lev. 9:15-21
 - a) Aaron Sacrifices the Goat as Peoples' Sin Offering
 - b) Aaron Sacrifices the Calf & Lamb as Holocaust Offerings
 - c) Aaron Burns Cereal Offering on Altar
 - d) Aaron Sacrifices the Ox & Ram as People's Peace Offering
 - Waving the Prescribed Portions Before Lord
 - 4) Revelation of Lord's Glory Lev. 9:22-24
 - a) Aaron Leaves the Altar of Sacrifice
 - Raises His Hands Over People Blessing Them
 - b) Moses & Aaron Go Into Holy Place of Tabernacle
 - Bless the People When they Return
 - c) Fire from Lord's Presence Consumes the Sacrifices.
 - "Then the glory of the LORD was revealed to all the people. Fire came forth from the LORD'S presence and consumed the holocaust and the remnants of the fat on the altar."
 - "Seeing this, all the people cried out and fell prostrate."
- d. Purification of the Levites Num. 8:5-22
 - 1) Lord Instructs Moses: "Take the Levites from among the Israelites and purify them." (Num. 8:6)
 - 2) Cleansing the Levites
 - a) Moses Sprinkles Levites with Water of Redemption

- b) Levites Shave their Whole Bodies
- c) Levites Wash their Clothes
- 3) Purification Sacrifices
 - a) The Offerings
 - Young Bull
 - Cereal Offering of Fine Flour Mixed with Oil
 - Another Young Bull as Sin Offerings
 - b) Levites Presented Before Tabernacle
 - Whole Community of Israel Assembles
 - Israelites Lay Hands on Levites
 - c) Aaron Presents Levites Before Lord as Wave Offering from Israelites
 - “..... thus devoting them to the service of the LORD.” (*Num. 8:11*)
 - d) Levites Lay Hands on Heads of Bullocks
 - e) Aaron Sacrifices the Bullocks
 - One as a Sin Offerings
 - One as Holocaust to Make Atonement for Levites
 - f) Levites Dedicated to Lord
 - “..... thus shall you set aside the Levites from the rest of the Israelites, that they may be mine.” (*Num. 8:14*)
- 4) Levites Serve Lord Only After they are Purified
 - a) “Only then shall the Levites enter upon their service in the meeting tent. You shall purify them and offer them as a wave offering; because they, among the Israelites, are strictly dedicated to me; I have taken them for myself in place of every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites.” (*Num 8:15-16*)

5. Responsibilities & Duties of Priests

- a. Priests Intercede to God for Israel
 - 1) Priests are to Intercede Between Israel & the Lord their God
 - 2) Examples of Aaron’s Intercession
 - a) Israel Grumbles Against the Lord After He Destroys a Rebellion Against His Priests (*See Above*) Num. 17:6-15
 - Lord Says to Moses & Aaron: “Depart from this community, that I may consume them at once.” (*Num. 17:10a*)
 - Moses & Aaron Fall Prostrate Before Lord
(*Humbly Interceding for Israel*)
 - Moses Instructs Aaron: “Take your (*Priest’s*) censer, put fire from the altar in it, lay incense on it, and bring it quickly to the community to make atonement for them; for wrath has come forth from the LORD and the blow (*Plague*) is falling.” (*Num. 17:11*)
 - Aaron Obeys & the Plague Stops
 - b) Aaron Offers Sacrifices Interceding for Israelite People Lev. 9:15-21
 - People Present their Offerings to High Priest Aaron
 - Aaron Sacrifices Sin Offerings in Behalf of People
 - Aaron Sacrifices Holocausts in Behalf of People
 - Aaron Burns Cereal Offerings in Behalf of People
 - Aaron Sacrifices Peace Offerings in Behalf of People

- b. Priests Offer Sacrifices to God Lev. 1 – 7
 (See “Sacrifices & Offerings – Part I” Study)
- 1) Sacrifices & Offerings Prescribed by Lord
- a) Holocausts (Whole Burnt Offerings) Lev. 1
- Animal Sacrifice for the Atonement of Sin
 - Gives Praise & Glory to God
- b) Cereal Offerings Lev. 2
- Flour/Unleavened Bread (*Leaven Represents Sin*)
 - Offerings of Thanksgiving
- c) Peace Offerings Lev. 3
- Animal Sacrifice to Fulfill a Vow
- d) Sin Offerings Lev. 4:1 – 5:13
- Animal Sacrifice for Forgiveness of Sin and/or Cleansing of Ritual Uncleaness
 - Offered for Israel’s Priests
 - Offered for the Whole Israelite Community
 - Offered for Israel’s Princes
 - Offered for Private Persons
 - Offered for Special Cases
- e) Guilt Offerings Lev. 5:14-26
- Animal Sacrifice to Absolve Guilt of Sin, or Transgression Against the Law.
- 2) Typical Sacrificial Practices
 (Each Type of Sacrifice has Specific Requirements.)
- a) Offeror Purchases Sacrificial Animal
- Animal Without Spot, Wrinkle or Blemish
- b) Offeror Brings Sacrificial Animal to Entrance of Tabernacle
- Lays Hands on its Head
 - Confessing Their Sins
 - Slaughters Animal Before the Lord & His Priests
- c) Priest Offers Sacrifice to the Lord
- Applies Blood to the Altar
 - Holy Libation Unto the Lord
 - Purification of the Altar
 - Prepares Slain Animal for Sacrifice
 - Places Embers & Wood on Altar
 - Burns Animal on Altar
 - A Sweet-Smelling Oblation to the Lord
- d) Example of a Blood Sacrifice – Holocaust Offering Lev. 1:1-9
- Offeror’s Responsibility
 - “..... When any one of you (*Israelites*) wishes to bring an animal offering to the LORD, such an offering must be from the herd or from the flock. If his holocaust offering is from the herd, it must be a male without blemish.
 - “To find favor with the LORD, he shall bring it to the entrance of the meeting tent and there lay his hand on the head of the holocaust, so that it may be acceptable to make atonement for him.

- “He shall then slaughter the bull before the LORD”
- Priests’ Responsibility
 - “..... Aaron’s sons, the priests, shall offer up its blood by splashing it on the sides of the altar”
 - “Then he shall skin the holocaust and cut it up into pieces.”
 - “After Aaron’s sons, the priests, have put some burning embers on the altar and laid some wood on them, they shall lay the pieces of meat, together with the head and the suet, on top of the wood and embers on the altar.”
 - “The inner organs and the shanks, however, the offerer shall first wash with water.”
 - “The priest shall then burn the whole offering on the altar as a holocaust, a sweet-smelling oblation to the LORD.”
- e) Example of a Cereal Offering Lev. 2:1-3
 - Offeror’s Responsibility. “When anyone wishes to bring a cereal offering to the LORD, his offering must consist of fine flour. He shall pour oil on it and put frankincense over it.”
 - Priests’ Responsibility. “When he has brought it to Aaron’s sons, the priests, one of them shall take a handful of this fine flour and oil, together with all the frankincense, and this he shall burn on the altar as a token offering, a sweet-smelling oblation to the LORD.”
- 3) Rituals Concerning Sacrifices & Offerings Lev. 6 & 7
(With Examples of Holocausts & Cereal Offerings)
 - a) Ritual for Daily Holocausts Lev. 6:1-6
 - “.....This is the ritual for holocausts. The holocaust is to remain on the hearth of the altar all night until the next morning, and the fire is to be kept burning on the altar.
 - “The priest, clothed in his linen robe and wearing linen drawers on his body, shall take away the ashes to which the fire has reduced the holocaust on the altar, and lay them at the side of the altar.
 - “Then, having taken off these garments and put on other garments, he shall carry the ashes to a clean place outside the camp.
 - “The fire on the altar is to be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest shall put firewood on it. On this he shall lay out the holocaust and burn the fat of the peace offerings. The fire is to be kept burning continuously on the altar; it must not go out.”
 - b) Ritual for Daily Cereal Offerings Lev. 6:7-16
 - “This is the ritual of the cereal offering. One of Aaron’s sons shall first present it before the LORD, in front of the altar.
 - “Then he shall take from it a handful of its fine flour and oil, together with all the frankincense that is on it, and this he shall burn on the altar as its token offering, a sweet-smelling oblation to the LORD.
 - “The rest of it Aaron and his sons may eat; but it must be eaten in the form of unleavened cakes and in a sacred place: in the court of the meeting tent they shall eat it
 - “It shall not be baked with leaven. I have given it to them as their portion from the oblations of the LORD; it is most sacred”
(Lev. 6:7-10)

- c) Ritual for Sin Offerings Lev. 6:17-23
- d) Ritual for Guilt Offerings Lev. 7:1-10
- e) Ritual for Peace Offerings Lev. 7:11-21
- 4) Prohibition Against Eating Fat & Blood Lev. 7:22-27
- a) “If anyone eats the fat of an animal from which an oblation (*Sacrifice*) is made to the LORD, such a one shall be cut off from his people.
- b) “..... you shall not partake of any blood, be it of bird or of animal. Every person who partakes of any blood shall be cut off from his people.”
(Lev. 7:25-27)
- 5) Priests’ Portion of Sacrifices (*Sacred Food*)
- a) Lord Allots the Priests a Share of Certain Sacrifices Lev. 7:28-36
- “..... He who presents a peace offering to the LORD shall bring a part of it as his special offering to him, carrying in with his own hands the oblations to the LORD. The fat is to be brought in, together with the breast, which is to be waved as a wave offering before the LORD.
 - “The priest shall burn the fat on the altar, but the breast belongs to Aaron and his sons.
 - “Moreover, from your peace offering you shall give to the priest the right leg as a raised offering.
 - “The descendant of Aaron who offers up the blood and fat of the peace offering shall have the right leg as his portion, for from the peace offerings of the Israelites I have taken the breast that is waved and the leg that is raised up, and I have given them to Aaron, the priest, and to his sons by a perpetual ordinance as a contribution from the Israelites.
 - “This is the priestly share from the oblations of the LORD, allotted to Aaron and his sons.....”
- b) Priests Shall Treat their Allotted Portions as Sacred Num. 18:8-10
- “The LORD said to Aaron, ‘I myself have given you charge of the contributions made to me in the various sacred offerings of the Israelites; by perpetual ordinance I have assigned them to you and to your sons as your priestly share. You shall have the right to share in the oblations that are most sacred, in whatever they offer me as cereal offerings or sin offerings or guilt offerings; these shares shall accrue to you and to your sons.’
 - “In eating them you shall treat them as most sacred; every male among you may partake of them. As sacred, they belong to you.”
- c) Lord Allots Other Offerings to Priests Num. 18:11-19
- “You shall also have what is removed from the gift in every wave offering of the Israelites; by perpetual ordinance I have assigned it to you and to your sons and daughters. All in your family who are clean may partake of it.” (Num. 18:11)
 - “I have also assigned to you all the best of the new oil and of the new wine and grain that they give to the LORD as their first fruits; and likewise, of whatever grows on their land, the first products that they bring in to the LORD shall be yours; all of your family who are clean may partake of them.” (Num. 18:12-13)

- d) Priests Forbidden to Eat Sacred Food While Unclean Lev. 22:4-8
(See Section 5.e, Lev. 11 – 15, for Uncleaness)
- “No descendant of Aaron who is stricken with leprosy, or who suffers from a flow, may eat of these sacred offerings, unless he again becomes clean.” (Lev. 22:4a)
- e) Laity Forbidden to Eat Sacred Food Lev. 22:10-14
- “Neither a lay person nor a priest’s tenant or hired servant may eat of any sacred offering.” (Lev. 22:10)
- 6) Sanctity of Offerings to Lord Lev. 22:15-16
- a) “The sacred offerings which the Israelites contribute to the LORD the priests shall not allow to be profaned nor in the eating of the sacred offering shall they bring down guilt that must be punished; it is I, the LORD, who make them sacred.”
- c. Priests Call Israel to Assemble Num 10:1-10
- 1) Silver Trumpets
- a) The Lord Instructs Moses: “Make two trumpets of beaten silver, which you shall use in assembling the community and in breaking camp.
- “When both are blown, the whole community shall gather round you at the entrance of the meeting tent;
 - “... when one of them is blown, only the princes, the chiefs of the troops of Israel, shall gather round you.” (Num. 10:2-4)
- b) Priests’ (*Israel’s Intercessors*) Responsible for Blowing Trumpets
- “It is the sons of Aaron, the priests, who shall blow the trumpets; and the use of them is prescribed by perpetual statute for you and your descendants” (Num. 10:8)
- c) Purposes for Blowing Trumpets
- To Invoke the Lord’s Protection. “When in your own land you go to war against an enemy that is attacking you, you shall sound the alarm on the trumpets, and the LORD, your God, will remember you and save you from your foes.” (Num. 10:9)
 - To Celebrate the Lord. “On your days of celebration, your festivals, and your new-moon feasts, you shall blow the trumpets over your holocausts and your peace offerings; this will serve as a reminder of you before your God. I, the LORD, am your God.” (Num. 10:10)
- d. Priests Officiate at Religious Ceremonies & Festivals Lev. 23; Num. 28 & 29
(See “*Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts – Part I*” Study)
- 1) Daily Sacrifices Num. 28:1-8
- a) Priests Offer Established Daily Holocausts
- (1) Two Unblemished Yearling Lambs
 - One in Morning
 - One During Evening Twilight
 - (2) Cereal Offering with Each Lamb
 - Fine Flour Mixed with Oil Crushed from Olives
 - (3) Libation of Wine Poured Out in Sanctuary for Each Sacrifice
- 2) The Sabbath (7th Day of Week) (“*Shabbat*”) Lev. 23:1-3; Num. 28:9-10
- a) Holy Day of Rest Ordained by God Ex. 20:8-11
- (1) Commemorates God’s Rest After Creation Gen. 2:1-3
 - (2) Acknowledges Lord God of Israel as Creator

- b) Priests Offer Established Daily Holocausts
- c) Priests Offer an Additional Sabbath Holocaust & Libation
- 3) New Moon Offerings (1st Day of Each Month) Num. 28:11-15
(*Jewish Calendar is Based on Lunar Cycles*)
 - a) Priests Sacrifice Holocausts Offerings in Addition to Daily Sacrifices
 - (1) 2 Bulls
 - (2) One Ram
 - (3) 7 Unblemished Yearling Lambs
 - b) Cereal Offering with Each Sacrifice
 - (1) Fine Flour Mixed with Oil Crushed from Olives
 - c) Priests Pour Out Libations of Wine with Each Sacrifice
 - d) Priests Sacrifice One Goat as Sin Offering
- 4) The Passover Festival Lev. 23:4-14
 - a) Three Feasts Celebrated in First Month of Jewish Calendar
 - (1) Jewish Day Begins at Sundown
 - b) Commemorates Lord's Deliverance of Israel from Bondage in Egypt
(1) *Historical Background* Ex. 11 – 13
 - (a) *Israel Enslaved in Egypt*
 - (b) *The Lord Sends 10 Plagues on Egypt by Moses' Hand*
 - 10th Plague is Death of First Born
 - (c) *Passover Festival Given to Moses*
 - *Each Israelite Household Procures a Lamb*
 - *Lamb to be Year Old Male Without Blemish*
 - *Lamb Procured on 10th Day of First Month*
 - *Lamb Examined 4 Days*
 - (d) *Paschal Lambs Slaughtered at Evening Twilight*
 - 14th Day of the First Month
 - (e) *Lambs' Blood Spread on Doorposts & Lintels of Israelite Dwellings*
 - (f) *Israel Celebrates Passover Supper in their Homes*
 - (g) *The Lord Sends Angel of Death to Execute 10th Plague*
 - *Egypt's First Born (Human & Animal) Die*
 - *Seeing the Blood, Death "Passes Over" Israel's Dwellings*
 - (h) *Pharaoh Releases Israel from Slavery & Expels them from Egypt*
 - c) The Feast of Passover Lev. 23:4-8; Num. 28:16-25
 - (1) Feast Celebrated on 14th Day of First Month
 - Israel Celebrates Passover Supper
 - Paschal Lamb Sacrificed
 - d) The Feast of Unleavened Bread Lev. 23:4-8; Num. 28:16-25
 - (1) 7 Days Preceding Feasts
 - Priests Call a Sacred Assembly on 1st Day
 - Israel Eats Unleavened Bread in Preparation for Passover
 - Cleanse their Households of Leaven
 - Priests Offer Prescribed Sacrifices for 7 Days Num. 28:19-22
 - "On each of the seven days you shall offer an oblation to the LORD." (*Lev. 23:8a*)
 - Priests Call a Sacred Assembly on 7th Day
 - (2) Feast Celebrated on 15th Day of First Month

- e) The Feast of First Fruits Lev. 23:9-14
- (1) Feast Celebrated on Day Following Passover Sabbath (*i.e. Sunday*)
 - (2) Commemorates Israel's First Harvest in Promise Land
 - Israelites Bring a Sheaf from First Fruits of their 1st Spring Harvest to Priest
 - Priest Waves Sheaf Before the Lord
 - Holocaust Offering. "..... you shall offer to the LORD for a holocaust an unblemished yearling lamb" (*Lev. 23:12*)
 - Cereal & Wine Offerings. "Its cereal offering shall be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, as a sweet-smelling oblation to the LORD; and its libation shall be a fourth of a hin of wine." (*Lev. 23:13*)
- 5) Feast of Pentecost ("Feast of Weeks") ("Shavuot")
Lev. 23:15-22; Num. 28:26-31
- a) Feast Celebrated 7 Weeks + 1 Day (50th Day) from Feast of First Fruits
 - b) Commemorates Lord Giving Moses the Law on Mount Sinai Ex. 19 – 31
 - c) Celebration of Feast of Pentecost
 - (1) Israelites Present New Cereal Offerings
 - First Fruits from Latter Spring Harvest
 - (2) Priest Waves 2 Loaves of Bread Before Lord
 - Bread Baked with Leavening
 - (3) Priests Sacrifice Prescribed Holocaust Offerings
Lev. 23:18; Num. 28:27-29
 - (4) Priests Sacrifice One Male Goat as a Sin Offering
 - (5) Priests Sacrifice 2 Unblemished Yearling Lambs as Peace Offering
 - (6) Priest Wave Offerings Before Lord
 - Bread from First Fruits
 - 2 Lambs from Peace Offerings
 - Priests' Portion as Sacred Food
 - (7) Priests Call a Sacred Assembly
- 6) Festival of Booths / Tabernacles Lev. 23:23-32
- a) Three Feasts Celebrated in the Seventh Month of Jewish Calendar
 - b) Celebrates Israel in Promise Land as the Lord's Chosen Nation
 - (1) *After Wandering 40 Years in the Wilderness Following their Exodus from Egypt*
 - c) New Years Day ("Feast of Trumpets") ("Rosh Hashanah")
Lev. 23:23-25; Num. 29:1-6
 - (1) Feast Celebrated on 1st Day of 7th Month
 - Priests Call a Sacred Assembly
 - Trumpets ("Shofar" / Rams' Horns) are Blown
 - Sabbath Rest Observed
 - Priests Sacrifice Prescribed Holocaust Offerings Num. 29:2-4
 - Priests Sacrifice One Male Goat as a Sin Offering
 - Priests Also Offer Ordinary New Moon Holocausts
 - d) Day of Atonement ("Yom Kippur") Lev. 23:26-32; Num. 29:7-11
 - (1) Feast Celebrated on 10th Day of 7th Month
 - Priests Call a Sacred Assembly
 - Israelites Do Not Work, Fast & Mortify Themselves (*Repentance*)

- High Priest Performs the Special “Day of Atonement” Ritual Prescribed by the Lord Lev. 16
[See Section 5.d. 7) “Day of Atonement Ritual” Below.]
 - Priests Offer the Prescribed Sacrifices Num. 29:8-11
- e) Feast of Booths (“Feast of Tabernacles”) (“Sakkot”)
Lev. 23:33-43; Num. 29:12-39
- (1) Celebration Starts on 15th Day of 7th Month & Continues 7 Days
- First Day (Opening Day)
 - Priests Call a Sacred Assembly
 - People Gather Materials (Foliage from Trees, Palm Branches, etc.) & Build Temporary Shelters (“Booths”)
 - Seven Day (Week) Celebration
 - People Dwell in Booths (“Tabernacles”)
 - Priests Offer Sacrifices Prescribed for Each of the 7 Days
Num. 29:13-34
 - People Rejoice & Make Merry Before Lord
 - Eighth Day (Closing Day)
 - Priests Call a Sacred Assembly
 - Priests Offer Sacrifices Prescribed for 8th Day
Num. 29:35-38
- (2) Feast Recalls Lord’s Deliverance of Israel from Bondage in Egypt
- Where the Lord Provided Shelter for His People in Wilderness
- 7) Day of Atonement Ritual (“Yom Kippur”) Lev. 16
High Priest Makes Atonement for Israel’s Sins Before the Presence of Lord. No One is Allowed to Enter the Holy of Holies (Lord’s Presence) in the Tabernacle, Except the High Priest Once a Year on the Day of Atonement to Perform its Prescribed Rituals.
- a) Prohibition Against Entering Holy of Holies
- (1) “Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he pleases into the sanctuary, inside the veil, in front of the propitiatory on the ark; otherwise, when I reveal myself in a cloud above the propitiatory, he will die.” (Lev. 16:2)
- *Propitiatory is the Lid of the Ark of the Covenant – Place of the Lord’s “Mercy Seat”, Where He Meets with His Priest in the Tabernacle.*
Ex. 25:10-22
- b) High Priest’s Preparations to Enter Lord’s Presence on Day of Atonement
- (1) He Must Bathe Himself
 - (2) He Must Clothe Himself with High Priest’s Sacred Vestments
 - (3) He Must Bring Bullock as Sin Offering & Ram as Holocaust
 - (4) He Receives 2 Male Goats as Sin Offering & Ram as Holocaust from Israelite Community
- c) High Priest Makes Atonement for Himself & His Family
- (1) Slaughters Bullock as Sin Offering for Himself & His Household
 - (2) Enters into Lord’s Presence within the Holy of Holies
 - Taking Some of the Blood from Bullock Sacrifice
 - Taking Censer of Glowing Embers from Altar of Sacrifice
 - Taking a Double Handful of Fragrant Incense
 - (3) Offers Incense on Fire in Incense Altar Before Propitiatory

- Cloud from Burning Incense Covers Lord's Presence
- (4) Sprinkles Blood with His Finger 7 Times in Front of Propitiatory
- d) High Priest Makes Atonement for Israel
 - (1) Casts Lots Over the 2 Male Goats Received from Community
 - (2) Slaughters One of the Goats as Sin Offering for Israelites
 - (3) Enters into Lord's Presence within the Holy of Holies with Blood from Sacrificed Goat
 - Sprinkles Blood on Propitiatory
 - (4) Makes Atonement for Tabernacle by Sprinkling Blood
 - "Thus he shall make atonement for the sanctuary because of all the sinful defilements and faults of the Israelites. He shall do the same for the meeting tent, which is set up among them in the midst of their uncleanness." (*Lev. 16:16*)
 - "No one else may be in the meeting tent from the time he enters the sanctuary to make atonement until he departs." (*Lev. 16:17a*)
 - (5) Makes Atonement for the Altar by Sprinkling Blood
 - "Thus he shall render it clean and holy, purged of the defilements of the Israelites." (*Lev. 16:19b*)
 - (6) Lays Both Hands on Live Goat ("Scapegoat")
 - Confessing All Sins, Faults & Transgression of Israelites
 - Places Sins on Goat's Head
 - Goat Led into Desert & Released to Carry Off their Iniquities
- e) High Priest Concludes Rite of Atonement
 - (1) Changes His Vestments
 - Leaves Sacred Vestments in Sanctuary
 - Bathes & Clothes Himself with His Own Vestments
 - (2) Sacrifices His & People's Holocaust & Sin Offerings
 - Making Atonement for Himself & Community
- f) Duties of Man Who Led the Scapegoat into Desert
 - (1) Takes Remainder of Sin-Offered Bullock & Goat Outside Camp
 - Burns Them Up with Fire
 - (2) Washes His Garments & Bathes
 - (3) Returns to the Camp
- e. Priests Govern the Laws of Purity Lev. 11 – 15
 - 1) Dietary Laws Lev. 11
 - a) Moses & Aaron Responsible for Informing Israel of Lord's Dietary Laws
 - (1) Differentiating Between Clean & Unclean Animals
 - (2) Contamination from Unclean Animals & Remedies
 - b) "For I, the LORD, am your God; and you shall make and keep yourselves holy, because I am holy." (*Lev. 11:44*)
 - 2) Uncleanness from Childbirth Lev. 12
 - a) Women Considered Unclean After Childbirth
 - (1) Unclean 7 Days for Birth of Son & 14 Days for Daughter
 - (2) Boy Circumcised on 8th Day
 - (3) Waiting Period for Her Blood to Purify
 - 33 Days for Son & 66 Days for Daughter
 - b) After Purification Period
 - (1) Mother Brings Holocaust & Sin Offering to Priest

- (2) Priest Makes Atonement by Sacrificing Offerings
 - Mother Becomes Clean After Her Blood Flow
- 3) Leprosy Lev. 13 - 14
 - a) Priests Examine & Diagnose Leprosy Lev. 13
 - (1) Person Suspected of Leprosy Brought Before Priests
 - (2) Priest Examines Afflicted Person & Diagnoses Disease
 - Declares Person Clean if it's Eczema, etc.
 - Declares Person Unclean if it's Leprosy
 - (3) Lepers are Separated from Community
 - Must Rent Garments & Cry Out "Unclean, unclean!"
 - Must Live Outside Camp
 - (4) Priests Examine Garments Suspected of Contamination
 - Infected Garments Destroyed by Fire
 - Uninfected Garments Washed & Declared Clean
 - b) Purification of Healed Lepers Lev. 14
 - (1) Priest Examines Lepers Claiming to be Healed
 - If Healed, Priest Orders Man to be Purified
 - (2) Purification Rite
 - Man Gets 2 Live Birds, Cedar Wood, Scarlet Yarn & Hyssop
 - Priest Orders Man to Slay One Bird Over an Earthen Vessel Containing Water
 - Priest Takes Live Bird with Cedar Wood, Scarlet Yarn & Hyssop
 - Dips Items into Blood of Slain Bird
 - Sprinkles Man 7 Times
 - Releases Live Bird to Fly Away
 - Man Washes His Garments, Shaves All His Hair & Bathes
 - He is Free to Enter the Camp
 - He Must Remain Outside His House for 7 Days
 - 7th Day Man Shaves His Head, Beard, Eyebrows & Body
 - Washes His Garments & Bathes
 - (3) Purification Sacrifices Offered on 8th Day
 - Healed Leper Brings Offerings to Priest
 - 2 Unblemished Male Lambs
 - One Unblemished Yearling Ewe Lamb
 - Cereal Offering of Flour Mixed with Oil
 - Container of Oil
 - Priest Sacrifices One of the Lambs as Guilt Offering
 - Waves Lamb & Oil Before the Lord
 - Priest Takes Some of the Blood from Guilt Offering
 - Puts Blood on Man's Right Ear, Thumb of His Right Hand & Big Toe of His Right Foot
 - Priest Pours Some of Oil into His Left Hand
 - Sprinkles Oil 7 Times Before Lord
 - Puts Oil on Man's Right Ear, Thumb of His Right Hand & Big Toe of His Right Foot, Over Blood of Guilt Offering
 - Pours Rest of Oil Over Man's Head
 - Priest Makes Atonement for Man's Uncleanness
 - Sacrifices the Sin Offering

- Sacrifices Holocaust & Cereal Offerings
 - Priest Declares Man Clean
 - (4) Provisions for Poor Man Healed of Leprosy
 - Similar Ritual with Less Expensive Offerings
 - (5) Houses Contaminated by Leprosy
 - Owner of House Reports to Priest
 - “It looks to me as if my house were infected.” (*Lev. 14:35b*)
 - Priest Orders House Cleared of All Household Articles
 - Priest Examines the House
 - Quarantines House for 7 Days if Walls are Infected
 - Priest Reexamines House on 7th Day
 - Orders Infected Stones Removed & Dumped Outside City
 - Orders Whole House Scraped & New Stones Installed
 - Priest Reexamines House Again
 - If Infection Returns, Priest Orders House Torn Down
 - If Not Infected Priest Declares House Clean
 - Priest Performs Purification Rite – Making Atonement for House
 - Takes 2 Birds, Cedar Wood, Scarlet Yarn & Hyssop
 - Slays One Bird Over an Earthen Vessel Containing Water
 - Dips Cedar Wood, Hyssop, Scarlet Yarn & Live Bird into Blood, and Sprinkles on House 7 Times
 - Releases Live Bird to Fly Away
- 4) Personal Uncleanness Lev. 15
- a) Lord Instructs Moses & Aaron to Inform People of Conditions Causing Uncleanness with Sanitary Practices
 - b) Man Afflicted with a Chronic Blood Flow
 - (1) Once Healed, Man Waits 7 Days to be Purified
 - Washes His Garments & Bathes
 - (2) 8th Day Man Presents Offerings to Priest
 - 2 Turtledoves or Pigeons
 - (3) Priest Makes Atonement for Man’s Disease
 - Sacrifices One Bird as Sin Offering
 - Sacrifices Other Bird as Holocaust
 - c) Woman Afflicted with Unnatural Blood Flow
 - (1) Once Healed, Woman Waits 7 Days to be Purified
 - (2) 8th Day Woman Presents Offerings to Priest
 - 2 Turtledoves or Pigeons
 - (3) Priest Makes Atonement for Woman’s Disease
 - Sacrifices One Bird as Sin Offering
 - Sacrifices Other Bird as Holocaust
 - d) “You shall warn the Israelites of their uncleanness, lest by defiling my Dwelling, which is in their midst, their uncleanness be the cause of their death.” (*Lev. 15:31*)
- f. Holiness of Priests Lev. 21
- 1) Priests to be Kept Sacred Before Lord Lev. 21:1-9
(*Sacred Intercessors Between Lord God & His Chosen People.*)
 - a) Priests to be Clean & Undeiled
 - “Speak to Aaron’s sons, the priests, and tell them: None of you shall

make himself unclean for any dead person among his people, except for his nearest relatives.....” (*Lev. 21:1-4*)

- “..... Tell Aaron and his sons to respect the sacred offerings which the Israelites consecrate to me; else they will profane my holy name. I am the LORD. Tell them: If any one of you, or of your descendants in any future generation, dares, while he is in a state of uncleanness, to draw near the sacred offerings which the Israelites consecrate to the LORD, such a one shall be cut off from my presence. I am the LORD.”
Lev. 22:1-3
- b) Priests to be Holy Before the Lord
- “The priests shall not make bare the crown of the head, nor shave the edges of the beard, nor lacerate the body. (*Practices of Pagan Priests*)
 - “To their God they shall be sacred, and not profane his name; since they offer up the oblations of the LORD, the food of their God, they must be holy.” (*Lev. 21:5-6*)
- c) Priests to be Honorable
- Honorable in Marriage. “A priest shall not marry a woman who has been a prostitute or has lost her honor, nor a woman who has been divorced by her husband; for the priest is sacred to his God. (*Lev. 21:7*)
 - Honored & Respected by Community. “Honor him as sacred who offers up the food of your God; treat him as sacred, because I, the LORD, who have consecrated him, am sacred. (*Lev. 21:8*)
 - Honorable Family. “A priest’s daughter who loses her honor by committing fornication and thereby dishonors her father also, shall be burned to death.” (*Lev. 21:9*)
- 2) High Priest Kept to a Higher Standard Lev. 21:10-15
- a) Office of High Priest to be Pure & undefiled
- “The most exalted of the priests, upon whose head the anointing oil has been poured and who has been ordained to wear the special vestments, shall not bare his head or rend his garments,
 - “nor shall he go near any dead person. Not even for his father or mother may he thus become unclean
 - “or leave the sanctuary; otherwise he will profane the sanctuary of his God, for with the anointing oil upon him, he is dedicated to his God, to me, the LORD.”
- b) High Priest’s Purebred Marriage & Family
- “The priest shall marry a virgin. Not a widow or a woman who has been divorced or a woman who has lost her honor as a prostitute, but a virgin, taken from his own people (*Tribe of Levi*), shall he marry; otherwise he will have base offspring among his people. I, the LORD, have made him sacred.”
- 3) Priests Must be Without Physical Defect Lev. 21:16-24
- a) Disabled Sons Forbidden to Serve as Priests
- “Speak to Aaron and tell him: None of your descendants, of whatever generation, who has any defect shall come forward to offer up the food of his God.” (*Lev. 21:17*)
 - Blind, Lame, Disfigured, Skin Diseases, Hernia, etc.

- “No descendant of Aaron the priest who has any such defect may draw near to offer up the oblations of the LORD; on account of his defect he may not draw near to offer up the food of his God.”
(*Lev. 21:21*)
- b) Disabled Sons Allowed to Partake Sacred Food
(*As Legitimate Offspring, they are Inheritors of the Priestly Heritage.*)
 - “He may, however, partake of the food of his God: of what is most sacred as well as of what is sacred.
 - “Only, he may not approach the veil nor go up to the altar on account of his defect; he shall not profane these things that are sacred to me, for it is I, the LORD, who make them sacred.” (*Lev. 21:22-23*)
- g. Priests to Bestow Lord’s Blessing on People Num. 6:22-27
 - 1) Lord Instructs Moses: “Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them:
 - a) ‘The LORD bless you and keep you!
 - b) ‘The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!
 - c) ‘The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!’
 - 2) “So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them.”
- h. Levites’ Responsibilities & Duties Num. 3 & 4; Num. 18:1-7
 - 1) Levites Assist the Priests
 - a) Priests Aaron & His Sons Eleazar & Ithamar Num. 3:1-4
 - b) Lord Instructs Moses: “Summon the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest, as his assistants. (*Num. 3:6*)
 - c) Lord Instructs Aaron: “Bring with you also your other kinsmen of the tribe of Levi, your ancestral tribe, as your associates and assistants, while you and your sons are in front of the tent of the commandments. They shall look after your persons and the whole tent.....” (*Num. 18:2-3*)
 - 2) Levites Responsible for Taking Care of the Tabernacle
 - a) General Description of Work
 - “They (*Levites*) shall discharge his obligations and those of the whole community before the meeting tent by serving at the Dwelling. They shall have custody of all the furnishings of the meeting tent and discharge the duties of the Israelites in the service of the Dwelling.” (*Num 3:7-8*)
 - “As your associates they shall have charge of all the work connected with the meeting tent.....” (*Num. 18:4*)
 - b) Work Descriptions by Clan (*Descendants of Sons of Levi*)
 - Duties of Gershon Clans Num. 3:21-26
 - “At the meeting tent they had charge of whatever pertained to the Dwelling, the tent and its covering, the curtain at the entrance of the meeting tent, the hangings of the court, the curtain at the entrance of the court enclosing both the Dwelling and the altar, and the ropes.” (*Num. 3:25-26*)
 - Duties More Specifically Defined Num. 4:21-28
 - Duties of Kohath Clans Num. 3:27-32
 - “They had charge of whatever pertained to the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the utensils with which the ministry of the sanctuary was exercised, and the veil.” (*Num. 3:31*)

- Duties More Specifically Defined Num. 4:1-20
 - Duties of Merari Clans Num. 3:33-38
 - “The Merarites were charged with the care of whatever pertained to the boards of the Dwelling, its bars, columns, pedestals, and all its fittings, as well as the columns of the surrounding court with their pedestals, pegs and ropes.” (Num. 3:36-37)
 - Duties More Specifically Defined Num. 4:29-34
 - 3) Complement of Levites Serving at Tabernacle Num. 4:34-49
 - a) All Levite Males Between 30 & 50 Years of Age
 - Initially Totaling 8,580
6. Supremacy of Priestly Order Num. 18:20-32
- Basic Principles of Covenant Tithing:*
- 1) *Ten Percent (Tithe) of Everyone’s Gross Income Belongs to the Lord.*
 - 2) *Tithes & Offerings (i.e. Gifts Greater than 10% Tithe) Must be the Best Quality.*
 - 3) *The Lesser Pays Tithes to the Greater.*
- a. The Lord is Aaron’s (Priests’) Heritage
 - 1) “Then the LORD said to Aaron, ‘You shall not have any heritage (*Property, Vineyards, etc.*) in the land of the Israelites nor hold any portion among them; I will be your portion and your heritage among them.” (Num. 18:20)
 - b. All Israel Pays Tithes to Levites
 - 1) “To the Levites, however, I hereby assign all tithes in Israel as their heritage in recompense for the service they perform in the meeting tent.” (Num. 18:21)
 - 2) Levites Have No Heritage Among Israelites
 - a) “The Levites, therefore, shall not have any heritage among the Israelites, for I have assigned to them as their heritage the tithes which the Israelites give as a contribution to the LORD.....” (Num. 18:23c-24)
 - c. Levites Pay Tithes to Priests
 - 1) “Give the Levites these instructions: When you receive from the Israelites the tithes I have assigned you from them as your heritage, you are to make a contribution from them to the LORD, a tithe of the tithes; (Num. 18:26)
 - 2) “Thus you too shall make a contribution from all the tithes you receive from the Israelites, handing over to Aaron the priest the part to be contributed to the LORD.” (Num. 18:28)
 - d. Levites Portion of Tithes Num. 18:30-32
 - 1) “Tell them (*Levites*) also: Once you have made your contribution from the best part, the rest of the tithes will be credited to you Levites as if it were produce of the threshing floor or of the winepress.
 - 2) “Your families, as well as you, may eat them anywhere, since they are your recompense for service at the meeting tent.
 - 3) “You will incur no guilt so long as you make a contribution of the best part....”

Notes. Putting the Law of Tithing into a modern perspective:

1. According to the census of Israelites, one year after their exodus from Egypt (Num. 1), the population of men 20 years of age and older fit for military service was 603,550, excluding the Levites. Assuming that the average annual income of each man was \$25,000, the combined annual amount would be \$15,088,750,000; of which \$1,508,875,000 would be paid in tithes to the Levites.
2. At that time, there were 8,580 Levite males between 30 and 50 years of age serving at the Tabernacle (Num. 4:34-49). Each such male and their families would receive an annual average revenue of

\$175,860; of which each family would pay \$17,586 to the Priests, amounting to a annual total tithe of \$150,887,500.

3. At that time there were 3 Priests, Aaron the High Priest and his 2 remaining sons Eleazar and Ithamar (Num. 3:1-4). Each Priest and their families would receive an average annual revenue of \$50,295,833 from tithes paid by the Levites.

7. Priestly / Levite Allotments & Inheritance Num. 35:1-8; Deut. 10:8-9; Deut. 18:1-8

a. *Israel's Inheritance in the Promise Land*

1) *The Promise Land Belongs to the Lord*

Lev. 25:23

a) *“The land shall not be sold in perpetuity; for the land is mine, and you (Israelites) are but aliens who have become my tenants”*

2) *After Israel Returned to the Promise Land from Egypt, the Lord Allotted Specific Land Grants to Each Tribe, Excluding Levi*

Joshua 13 - 19

3) *The Lord Establishes Himself as the Inheritance of the Tribe of Levi*
Num. 18:20-26

b. The Lord is the Inheritance of Priests (*Sons of Aaron from Tribe of Levi*)

1) *“Then the LORD said to Aaron, ‘You shall not have any heritage in the land of the Israelites nor hold any portion among them; I will be your portion and your heritage among them.”*

Num. 18:20

2) *“The whole priestly tribe of Levi (House of Aaron) shall have no share in the heritage with Israel; they shall live on the oblations of the LORD and the portions due to him.”*

Deut. 18:1

c. The Lord is the Inheritance of the Levites

1) *“..... the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to be in attendance before the LORD and minister to him, and to give blessings in his name, For this reason, Levi has no share in the heritage with his brothers; the LORD himself is his heritage, as the LORD, your God, has told him.”*

Deut. 10:8-9

2) *“Levi shall have no heritage among his brothers; the LORD himself is his heritage, as he has told him.”*

Deut. 18:2

d. The Lord Assigns Cities to Levites

1) Lord Instructs Moses:

Num. 35:1-15

a) Assign Cities Scattered Throughout Israel to Levites

- *“Tell the Israelites that out of their hereditary property they shall give the Levites cities for homes, as well as pasture lands around the cities. The cities shall serve them to dwell in, and the pasture lands shall serve their herds and flocks and other animals.” (Num. 35:2-3)*
- *“Now these are the cities you shall give to the Levites: the six cities of asylum (Refuge) which you must establish as places where a homicide can take refuge, and in addition forty-two other cities—a total of forty-eight cities with their pasture lands to be assigned the Levites.” (Num. 35:6-7)*

b) Cities of Refuge

- *“..... select for yourselves cities to serve as cities of asylum, where a homicide who has killed someone unintentionally may take refuge. These cities shall serve you as places of asylum from the avenger of blood, so that a homicide shall not be put to death unless he is first tried before the community.” (Num. 35:10-12)*

- 2) The Levite Cities Joshua 21
- a) 13 Cities for Aaron & His Descendants
 - Within Tribal Lands of Judah, Simeon & Benjamin
 - b) 10 Cities for Levite Clan of Kohath
 - Within Tribal Lands of Ephraim, Dan & ½ Manasseh
 - c) 13 Cities for Levite Clan of Gershon
 - Within Tribal Lands of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali & ½ Manasseh
 - d) 12 Cities for Levite Clan of Merar
 - Within Tribal Lands of Reuben, Gad & Zebulun

E. Notable Priests Throughout History of Israel & Judah

Sampling of Priests Throughout the History of Israel & Judah, Selected for this Study.

1. Conquest of the Promise Land

a. *Background*

- 1) *Moses Led Israel through Wilderness 40 Years After their Exodus from Egypt*
- 2) *Moses Died Before Israel Entered Promise Land*
- 3) *Lord Appoints Joshua to Lead Israel Into & Occupy Promise Land*

b. Israel Crosses Jordan River into Promise Land Joshua 3 – 4

- 1) Lord Instructs Joshua
 - a) “Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know I am with you, as I was with Moses.
 - b) “Now command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant to come to a halt in the Jordan when they reach the edge of the waters.” (*Joshua 3:7-8*)
- 2) Joshua Commands Israel as Instructed by Lord
- 3) Priests Carry Ark of Covenant to River’s Bed
 - a) River Parts as Priests’ Feet Touch the Water
 - b) People Pass Over Jordan on Dry Ground
- 4) Joshua has 12 Memorial Stones Erected Where Priests Stand Holding Ark
 - a) One Stone for Each Tribe of Israel
- 5) Joshua Commands Priests to Leave River Bed
 - a) River Resumes its Course as Priests Leave

c. Battle of Jericho Joshua 6

- 1) Lord Instructs Joshua
 - a) “I have delivered Jericho and its king into your power.” (*Joshua 6:2*)
 - b) Gives Joshua Tactics for Victory
(*Israel Engaged in Spiritual Warfare as well as Physical*)
- 2) Joshua Commands Israel as Instructed by Lord
- 3) Priests Lead Israelites March Around City of Jericho
 - a) Order of March
 - Israel’s Picked Troops (*Honor Guard*)
 - 7 Priests Continually Blowing Ram’s Horns (*Shofars*)
 - Priests Carrying Ark of the Covenant
 - Soldiers as Rear Guard
 - Israelite People
 - b) Israel Marches Around City Once a Day for 6 Days
 - c) Israel Marches Around City 7 Times on 7th Day
 - On 7th Encirclement, Joshua Commands People: “Now shout, for the

LORD has given you the city and everything in it” (*Joshua 6:16c-17*)

- People Shout as Priests Blast their Horns
 - Walls of Jericho Collapse
- d) Israel Attacks, Conquers, Despoils & Destroys Jericho

2. Time of the Judges

a. Priest Eli

- 1) Eli was Both Priest & Judge (*God’s Governing Authority*) in Israel
 - a) Judges Israel for 40 Years 1 Sam. 4:18
- 2) Eli Raises Samuel 1 Sam. 1:1 – 2:26
 - a) Elkanah's (an Ephraimite) Pilgrimage to Shiloh (Site of Tabernacle)
 - Wife Hannah is Barren
 - She Prays to Lord at Tabernacle for a Son
 - Vows to Give Him to Lord as Nazirite (*Order Dedicated to Lord*)
 - Eli Witnesses Hannah & Questions Her
 - Hannah Expresses Her Deep Sorrow
 - Eli Blesses Her: “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.” (*1 Sam. 1:17*)
 - b) Hannah Conceives & Bears a Son
 - Names Him Samuel
 - c) Hannah Offers Samuel to Lord at Tabernacle - Fulfilling Her Vow
 - Brings Offerings of 3 Year Old Bull, Flour & Wine
 - Presents Samuel to Eli
 - Worships Lord in a Canticle 1 Sam. 2:1-10
 - d) Eli Raises Samuel in House of the Lord
 - e) Eli’s Own Sons Hophni & Phinehas are Wicked
 - Irreverent, Disobedient & Misuse Priestly Office
 - Disregard Eli’s Correction
 - f) Samuel Faithfully Serves the Lord as a Child Under Eli’s Direction
 - g) Eli Blesses Elkanah & Hannah: “May the LORD repay you with children from this woman for the gift she has made to the LORD!” (*1 Sam. 2:20b*)
 - Lord Favors Samuel's Parents with 3 Sons & 2 Daughters
- 3) Lord Sends “Man of God” to Confront Eli 1 Sam. 2:27-36
 - a) Reminds Eli of His Priestly Heritage (*House of Aaron - Tribe of Levi*)
 - Called & Ordained to be Lord's Priests
 - b) Rebukes Eli (*Priest & Judge*) for Tolerating His Sons’ Wickedness
 - c) Delivers the Lord’s Oracle to Eli 1 Sam. 2:30-36
 - House of Aaron will Not Continue in Perpetuity
 - Lord Judges House of Eli
 - “You shall have a sign in what will happen to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas: both shall die on the same day.” (*1 Sam. 2:30-34*)
 - Lord will Choose Faithful & Eternal High Priest from Another Tribe
 - “I will choose a faithful Priest who shall do what I have in heart and mind. I will establish a lasting house for him which shall function in the presence of my anointed forever.” (*1 Sam. 2:35*)
 - House of Aaron will be Subject to Lord's Faithful High Priest
 - “Then whoever is left of your family will come to grovel before

him for a piece of silver or a loaf of bread, and will say: Appoint me, I beg you, to a Priestly function, that I may have a morsel of bread to eat.” (1 Sam. 2:36)

- 4) Samuel Grows Up to Become First Prophet in All of Israel
 - a) Initiating the Office of Prophet in Israel
 - b) Judging Israel as the Lord’s Anointed Prophet
 - c) Establishing the Office of King in Israel
 - Anointing & Advising King Saul
 - Anointing David (“A Man After God’s Own Heart”) as King

3. The United Kingdom of Israel

a. Priest Ahimelech

- 1) David a Fugitive from King Saul’s Court
 - a) Saul is Jealous of David & Attempts to Murder Him
- 2) Ahimelech Supplies David 1 Sam. 21
 - a) David Flees to Priestly City of Nob
 - Requests Provisions for Himself & His Men from Ahimelech
 - b) Ahimelech Replies: “I have no ordinary bread on hand, only holy bread; if the men have abstained from women, you may eat some of that.”
(1 Sam. 21:5)
 - David Assures Ahimelech that His Men have been Segregated from Women, Being Consecrated for Service
 - c) Ahimelech Gives David the Holy Bread
(Probably Priests’ Portion of Cereal Offerings)
 - d) David Asks Ahimelech for Weapons
 - e) Ahimelech Gives Goliath’s Sword to David
 - Ahimelech was Custodian of Giant’s Sword Whom David had Killed
 - f) David Leaves Nob
- 3) King Saul’s Revenge 1 Sam. 22
 - a) Doeg, an Edomite, Betrays David & Ahimelech to King Saul
 - b) Saul Summons Ahimelech & His Family
 - Accuses Ahimelech of Conspiring Against Him, Providing David Provisions, and Consulting the Lord for David
 - c) Ahimelech Defends Himself & David
 - “And who among all your servants is as loyal as David, the king’s son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard, and honored in your own house? Is this the first time I have consulted God for him? No indeed!
 - “Let not the king accuse his servant or anyone in my family of such a thing. Your servant knows nothing at all, great or small, about the whole matter.” (1 Sam. 22:14-15)
 - d) King Saul Condemns Ahimelech: “You shall die, Ahimelech, with all your family.” (1 Sam. 22:16)
 - Orders His Soldiers to Kill the Priests Who Assisted David
 - e) Israelite Soldiers Refuse to Kill the Priests
 - f) Saul Orders Doeg the Edomite (Gentile) to Kill Priests
 - g) Doeg Kills 85 Priests that Day
 - h) Saul Puts the Entire City of Nob to Sword
 - Kills All Men, Women, Children & Livestock

- i) Ahimelech's Son Abiathar Escapes & Reports to David
 - David Protects Abiathar
- b. Priests Abiathar & Zadok
 - 1) Abiathar & Zadok were Priests in David's Royal Court
2 Sam. 8:15-18; 2 Sam. 20:23-26; 1 Chron. 18:14-17
 - a) Abiathar Descendant of Ithamar Son of Aaron 1 Chron. 24:1-4
 - b) Zadok Descendant of Eleazar Son of Aaron
 - 2) Absalom's Attempted Coup d'Etat 2 Sam. 15 - 19
 - a) Absalom King David's Son
 - b) Absalom Conspires to Overthrow King David
 - Builds His Forces & Alliances with Israelites
 - Convinces Ahithophel (David's Counselor) to Join Him
 - c) David Learns of Absalom's Plot & Flees Jerusalem
 - Loyalty of People Turning Toward Absalom
 - King, His Household, Servants & Troops Leave City
 - d) Zadok, Abiathar & Levites Leave City Carrying Ark of the Covenant
 - David Stops Zadok
 - "Take the ark of God back to the city. If I find favor with the LORD, he will bring me back and permit me to see it and its lodging. But if he should say, 'I am not pleased with you,' I am ready; let him do to me as he sees fit."
 - "See to it that you and Abiathar return to the city in peace, and both your sons with you I shall be waiting at the fords near the desert until I receive information from you" (2 Sam 15:25-28)
 - Zadok & Abiathar Take Ark Back into City
 - e) David Sends Hushai Back to Jerusalem
 - Offer Allegiance to Absalom
 - Spy & Undermined Ahithophel's Counsel
 - Report Palace News to Priests Zadok & Abiathar
 - Zadok & Abiathar will Send Intelligence Reports to David
 - f) Absalom Occupies Jerusalem
 - g) Absalom's Counselors
 - Ahithophel Advises Absalom
 - Pursue David Immediately & Kill Him
 - Hushai Advises Absalom
 - Gather Army from All Israel (*Giving David Time to Regroup*)
 - Absalom then Leads Army Against David
 - Absalom Accepts Hushai's Counsel
 - Ahithophel Hangs Himself
 - h) Hushai Informs Zadok & Abiathar of Absalom's Plans
 - Zadok & Abiathar Inform David
 - i) Battle Between Armies of King David & Absalom
 - Absalom's Army Defeated & Absalom Killed
 - j) David Mourns Death of His Son Absalom
 - k) David Restored to His Throne
 - l) David Reconciles with Rebellious Israelites
 - Asks Priests Zadok & Abiathar to Mediate Reconciliation with Elders

- 3) Solomon Anointed King of Israel 1 Kings 1 & 2
- a) King David Old & Bed-Ridden
 - b) David's Son Adonijah Attempts to Seize the Throne
 - Does Not Consult Nathan the Prophet
(*Kings to be Appointed by Lord & Anointed by Lord's Prophets*)
 - Supported by Priest Abiathar, General of Army & Other Officials
 - c) Bathsheba Reminds David of His Oath that Their Son Solomon will Reign After Him
 - Nathan the Prophet Confirms Bathsheba's Claim
 - d) David Orders Priest Zadok & Prophet Nathan
 - "Take with you the royal attendants. Mount my son Solomon upon my own mule and escort him down to Gihon. There Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet are to anoint him king of Israel, and you shall blow the horn and cry, 'Long live King Solomon!'"
 - "When you come back in his train, he is to go in and sit upon my throne and reign in my place. I designate him ruler of Israel and of Judah." (*1 Kings 1:33-35*)
 - e) Zadok & Nathan Anoint & Install Solomon as King
 - King Solomon Sits on David's Throne
 - f) King David Dies & Buried
 - g) King Solomon Secures His Kingdom
 - Orders Death of Adonijah After He Attempts to Undermine King
 - Deposes Abiathar from His Office & Banishes Him from Jerusalem (*Israel's Capital City Where Solomon Will Build Temple of Lord*)
 - "Go to your land in Anathoth. Though you deserve to die, I will not put you to death this time, because you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before my father David and shared in all the hardships my father endured." (*2 Kings 2:26*)

4. The Split Kingdoms of Israel & Judah

- a. Priest Jehoiada 2 Kings 11 & 12; 2 Chron. 22 – 24
 - 1) Athaliah Seizes Throne as Queen of Judah 2 Kings 11:1-3; 2 Chron. 22:10-12
 - a) After Her Son King Ahaziah is Assassinated
 - Ahaziah & Athaliah Practiced & Spread Idolatry
 - b) Athaliah Attempts to Destroy House of David
(*Legitimate Heirs to the Throne of Judah*)
 - Killing Off the Royal Family
(*Satan's Attempt to Annihilate Lineage of Promised Messiah*)
 - Jehosheba Rescues Ahaziah's Infant Son Joash
 - Jehosheba is King Ahaziah's Sister & Priest Jehoiada's Wife
 - c) Joash Hidden in Temple of Lord 6 Years
 - 2) Queen Athaliah Overthrown 2 Kings 11:4-16; 2 Chron. 23:1-15
 - a) Priest Jehoiada Leads a Revolt Against Athaliah
 - Reveals Joash (*Legitimate Heir to Throne*) to Guards
 - Strategically Stations Guards throughout Jerusalem
 - Armed Levites Surround & Protect Joash
 - b) Jehoiada Leads Joash Out of Temple
 - Crowns Joash King of Judah

- People Rejoice: “Long live the king!”
- c) Athaliah Confronts Jehoiada & People: “Treason, treason!”
 - Jehoiada Orders Athaliah’s Death
- 3) Priest Jehoiada’s Covenant 2 Kings 11:17-20; 2 Chron. 23:16-21
 - a) “Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD as one party and the king and the people as the other, by which they would be the LORD’S people;” (2 Kings 11:17)
 - b) People Demolish Pagan Temple & Altars, and Kill Pagan Priest
 - c) Jehoiada Leads Joash to Palace & Sits Him on Throne
 - Joash 7 Years Old
- 4) Reign of King Joash 2 Kings 12; 2 Chron. 24
 - a) Joash’s Rule Guided by Priest Jehoiada
 - Jehoiada Provides Joash with 2 Wives
 - Joash Fathers Sons (*Heirs to Throne*) & Daughters
 - Joash Remains Faithful to Lord During Jehoiada’s Lifetime
 - b) Joash Commissions Restoration of Temple
 - Athaliah had Plundered & Damaged Temple
 - Jehoiada Manages Funds Contributed by People to Restore Temple & Replace its Utensils
 - Priests Continually Offer Holocausts During Jehoiada’s Lifetime
 - c) Priest Jehoiada Dies & Buried in Jerusalem
 - Jehoiada Lived 130 Years
 - Joash Falls into Apostasy After Jehoiada’s Death
 - Jehoiada’s Son Zechariah Prophesies Against Judah
 - Zechariah Killed in Temple Courts at Joash’s Command
 - d) Legacy of Joash’s Apostasy (*Fulfilling Zechariah’s Prophecies*)
 - Judah Invaded & Jerusalem Despoiled by Arameans
 - Joash Assassinated by His Servants
 - Retribution for Murdering Jehoiada’s Son Zechariah
 - Succeeded by His Son Amaziah (*From House of David*)
- b. High Priest Hilkiyah 2 Kings 22:1 – 23:30; 2 Chron. 34 & 35
 - 1) State of Judah
 - a) Wickedness & Idolatry Prevailed in Judah
 - b) King Amon Assassinated by His Servants
 - c) Amon’s Son Josiah Installed as King of Judah
 - Josiah 8 Years Old

Comment. This is an excellent example to the 3 Messianic Offices (Prophet, Priest & King) working together to restore people back to God.

- 2) King Josiah Pleases the Lord Like His Forefather David
 - a) Purges Idolatry from His Kingdom
 - b) Orders Scribe Shaphan to have High Priest Hilkiyah Use & Manage Funds to Restore Temple of the Lord
 - c) Hilkiyah Restores the Temple
 - Finds Book of Law (*Books of Moses*) in Temple
 - Informs Shaphan: “I have found the book of the law in the temple of the LORD.” (2 Kings 22:8b)
 - Gives Book to Shaphan Who Read it

- 3) King Josiah & Book of Law
 - a) Shaphan Takes Book of Law to Josiah
 - “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” (2 Chron. 34:18b)
 - Reads Book to King
 - b) Josiah Repents for All of Judah
 - c) Josiah Commands Hilkiah: “Go, consult the LORD for me, for the people, for all Judah, about the stipulations of this book that has been found, for the anger of the LORD has been set furiously ablaze against us, because our fathers did not obey the stipulations of this book, nor fulfill our written obligations.” (2 Kings 22:13)
- 4) High Priest Hilkiah Consults Prophetess Huldah (*High Priest Properly Seeks the Word of the Lord from the Lord’s Prophet, as Prescribed in the Law*)
 - a) Huldah Prophesies Lord’s Judgment Against Judah
 - “..... I will bring upon this place and upon its inhabitants all the evil that is threatened in the book which the king of Judah has read.” (2 Kings 22:16)
 - Because of Judah’s Rejection of Lord & their Persistent Idolatry
 - b) Lord Will Spare Judah While King Josiah is Alive
 - Because of King’s Humility & Repentance
 - c) Word of Lord Reported to King Josiah
- 5) King Josiah Renews Laws of Moses
 - a) Calls an Assembly of People, Priests & Levites at Temple
 - Has Entire Book of Law Read Out Loud
 - b) Makes a Covenant with Lord to Keep Lord’s Commandments & Observe Book of the Law
 - Revives Lord’s Covenant with Moses
 - All Judah Commits to Lord’s Covenant
 - c) Commands Hilkiah to Cleanse Temple of All Pagan Objects, Priests, etc.
 - High Priest Hilkiah Becomes King’s Vicar
 - d) Cleanses All Judah of Idolatry
 - e) Cleanses Samaria of Idolatry
 - g) Honors Grave of “Man of God from Judah” Who Prophesied Josiah’s Reformation to Israel’s First Idolatrous King (Re: 1 Kings 13:1-6)
 - h) Executes All Pagan Priests
- 6) King Josiah Commands Judah to Celebrate Passover
 - a) King Reappoints Duties of Priests & Levites as Defined in Law
 - b) King Contributes Animals to People to Offer as Passover Sacrifices
 - c) Priests Slaughter Passover Sacrifices & Holocausts as Prescribed by Law
 - d) People Observe Feasts as Prescribed by Law

5. Israel’s Return from Exile

a. *Historical Background*

- 1) *Judah Eventually Fell Back into Idolatry After King Josiah’s Death*
- 2) *King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon Invaded & Conquered Judah*
2 Kings 25:9-26; 2 Chron. 36:15-21; Jer. 39:1-10; Jer. 52:1-30
 - a) *City of Jerusalem & its Temple Destroyed*
 - b) *People Taken Captive & Exiled to Babylon*
- 3) *Babylon Eventually Overthrown by Medo-Persia*

- 4) *Medo-Persian King Cyrus Issued a Decree Allowing Jews to Return to Jerusalem & Rebuild their Temple.* Ezra 1 - 6
- b. High Priest Jeshua
- 1) Jeshua Returns to Jerusalem from Babylon Ezra 2
 - a) With Zerubbabel (Appointed Governor of Judah) & Host of Jews
 - 2) Jeshua & Zerubbabel Lead Work to Restore Altar Ezra 3:1-6
 - a) Altar Rebuilt on its Original Foundation at Temple Site
 - Priests Offer Holocausts Consecrating Altar to Lord
 - b) Feast of Booths Celebrated with Prescribed Holocausts & Sacrifices
(*Feast Celebrates Israel in Promise Land*)
 - c) New Moon & Sacred Festivals Observed with Prescribed Sacrifices
 - d) Holocausts & Sacrifices Offered on Altar
 - Prior to Temple being Rebuilt
 - 3) Jeshua & Zerubbabel Rebuild Temple Ezra 3:7-13
 - a) Jeshua & Appointed Levites Supervise Work
 - b) Work Halted Because of Opposition by Local Peoples Ezra 4
 - c) Prophets Haggai & Zechariah Correct & Inspire Jews to Resume Building the Temple Ezra 5 – 6
 - Jeshua & Zerubbabel Restart the Building Effort
 - d) Jews Complete the Temple
 - Temple Dedicated & Consecrated to Lord
 - Sacrifices & Holocausts Offered to Lord
- c. Priest-Scribe Ezra
- 1) Ezra Leads a Later Migration from Babylon to Judah Ezra 7 - 8
(About 57 Years After Completion of Temple)
 - a) Ezra from Priestly House of Zadok & Lineage of Aaron
 - b) Ezra Well-Versed in Laws of Moses
 - c) King of Persia Decrees Ezra as His Envoy to Judah & Jerusalem
 - Escorting Remaining Jews in His Kingdom to Jerusalem
 - Those Who Wish to Return to Promise Land
 - Reestablish Laws of the Lord God of Israel
 - Carrying Contributions from King, His Officials & People
 - Ezra Authorized to Appoint Judges & Administer Justice in Judea
 - d) Ezra Assembles Israelite Families to Prepare for Journey
 - Fast & Pray for Safe Journey (King Did Not Provide Military Escort)
 - Takes an Accounting & Consigns Contributions to Priests
 - e) Ezra & Israelites Leave Babylon & Arrive Safely in Jerusalem
 - Takes an Accounting & Turns Contributions Over to Temple Priests
 - Returning Exiles Offer Sacrifices & Holocausts to Lord
 - Presents King's Orders to Israelite Officials
 - 2) Consecration of Israelites to Lord Ezra 9 – 10
 - a) Israelites Contaminated by Mixed Marriages
(*Gentile Wives Brought Idolatry into Israelite Families*)
 - Ezra Receives a Report
 - Israelite Men Intermarried with Gentile Women
 - Desecrating Lord's Holy Race
 - Ezra Mortifies Himself (*As a Sign of Blasphemy*)
 - Ezra Prays at Evening Sacrifices

- Interceding for People of God
- People Gather Around Ezra & Weep
- b) Israelite People Repent
 - Shecaniah's Proposal to Ezra
 - Acknowledges Israel's Guilt
 - Offers a Remedy. "..... Let us therefore enter into a covenant before our God to dismiss all our foreign wives and the children born of them, in keeping with what you, my lord, advise, and those who fear the commandments of our God. Let the law be observed!" (*Ezra 10:3*)
 - Encourages Ezra to Take Action
 - Ezra Gets Chief Priests, Levites & Officials to Swear an Oath Accepting the Proposal
 - Ezra Calls an Assembly of Israelite Men throughout Judea
 - Men Gather in Jerusalem Before House of Lord
 - Ezra Confronts Men: "Your unfaithfulness in taking foreign women as wives has added to Israel's guilt. But now, give praise to the LORD, the God of your fathers, and do his will: separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from these foreign women." (*Ezra 10:10-11*)
 - Men Agree: "Yes, it is our duty to do as you say!" (*Ezra 10:12*)
- c) Israelite Men Put Away their Foreign Wives & Children Born to Them (*Purging Idolatry from Judah*)
- 3) Proclamation of the Law Neh. 8 – 10
 - a) Ezra Reads Laws of Moses to People Neh. 8:1-12
 - Israelites Assemble in Jerusalem
 - 7th Month in Jewish Calendar
 - Ezra Stands on Platform & Reads Entire Book of Law Out Loud
 - Interpreting Laws So People Could Understand Them
 - People Weep when they Hear Law (*Convicted of their & their Fathers' Sins*)
 - Ezra Encourages People:
 - "Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep" (*Neh. 8:9c*)
 - "Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks,; for today is holy to our LORD. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!" (*Neh. 8:10*)
 - People Go Home Rejoicing in the Lord
 - b) Israelites Celebrate Feast of Booths Neh. 8:13-18
 - People Re-gather Around Ezra the Next Day
 - Examine Words of Law More Closely (*Feast of Booths Must be Celebrated in 7th Month*)
 - People Prepare & Celebrate Feast of Booths, as Prescribed by Law
 - c) Israelite People Repent Neh. 9
 - Israelites Gather Again Later that Month
 - Fasting, Wearing Sackcloth with Heads Covered in Ashes (*Sign of Great Sorrow & Repentance*)
 - Reading from Book of the Law

- Confessing their Sins & Guilt of their Fathers
- Calling Upon the Name of the Lord
- Ezra Prays to the Lord (*Interceding for Israel*)
 - Acknowledges Lord God as Creator of Heaven & Earth
 - Acknowledges Lord's Covenant with Abraham
 - Acknowledges Lord's Deliverance of Israel from Egypt
 - Acknowledges it was the Lord Who Gave Moses the Law
 - Acknowledges it was the Lord Who Sustained Israel in the Wilderness Bringing them Safely into Promise Land
 - Confesses Israel's Continual Disobedience & Rebellion
 - Acknowledges Lord's Patience & Longsuffering
 - Acknowledges Lord's Justice in Condemning His People
 - Appeals to Lord's Mercy to Forgive His People
- d) Israel's Pact with the Lord Neh. 10
 - Israel Prepares a Pact (Contract) with the Lord
 - Sealed Document Signed by Priests, Levites, Nehemiah (Governor) & Israelite Leaders
 - Israel Swears an Oath to Keep the Terms of the Pact
 - Basic Provisions of the Pact
 - To Observe the Laws that the Lord Gave to Moses
 - Not to Intermarry with Gentile Peoples
 - To Honor the Lord's Sabbaths & Holy Days
 - To Support & Maintain the Temple & its Operations
 - To Bring All First Fruits to the Lord
 - To Pay Tithes & Offerings to Lord

Comment. There is no record of the Jews practicing idolatry after returning to the Promise Land from Babylon, repenting of their sins and turning back to the Lord their God.

F. Messiah: King, Priest & Conquering Judge

1. King David's Messianic Psalm Psa. 110
 - a. Messiah - King & Son of God Psa. 110:1-3
 - 1) "The LORD (*Yahweh*) says to you, my lord (*Messiah*): 'Take your throne at my righthand, while I make your enemies your footstool.'
 - 2) "The scepter of your sovereign might the LORD will extend from Zion.
 - 3) "The LORD says: 'Rule over your enemies! Yours is princely power from the day of your birth. In holy splendor before the daystar, like the dew I (*Yahweh*) begot you (*Begotten Son of God*).'"
 - b. Messiah - High Priest Psa. 110:4
 - 1) "The LORD has sworn and will not waver: 'Like Melchizedek you are a priest forever.'"
 - c. Messiah - Conquering Judge Psa. 110:5-7
 - 1) "At your right hand is the Lord, who crushes kings on the day of wrath, Who, robed in splendor, judges nations, crushes heads across the wide earth, Who drinks from the brook by the wayside and thus holds high the head."

G. Heavenly Coronation of High Priest

1. Prophet Zechariah's Vision of Joshua the High Priest Zech. 3
 - a. Zechariah Sees Joshua Standing Before Angel of the Lord
(*Angel is God's Delegated Authority & Representative*)
 - 1) Satan Stands a Joshua's Right Hand
 - a) Accusing Him (*Sins of Israel & Judah*)
 - 2) Angel Rebukes Satan: "May the LORD rebuke you, Satan; may the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this man a brand snatched from the fire?"
(*Zech. 3:2*)
 - b. Joshua Clad in Filthy Garments
 - 1) Angel Instructs Those Standing Before Him
 - a) "Take off his filthy garments, and clothe him in festal garments."
(*Zech 3:4b*)
 - b) "Put a clean miter on his head (*Symbol of High Priest*)."
(*Zech. 3:5a*)
 - 2) They Put a Clean Miter on Joshua's Head & Clothed Him with Festal Garments (*Priestly Vestments*)
 - c) Angel of Lord Says: "See, I have taken away your guilt."
(*Zech. 3:5c*)
 - c. Angel Gives Joshua the Lord's Assurance
 - 1) Authority Given to Joshua Conditioned upon His Obedience
 - a) You Shall Judge My House (*Israel*)
 - b) You Shall Keep My Courts (*Lord's Sanctuary*)
 - c) I Will Give You Access Among These Standing Here (*Angelic Host*)
 - 2) Joshua's Entourage
 - a) You & Your Associates are Men of Good Omen
 - b) "Yes, I will bring my servant the Shoot."
(*Zech. 3:8c*)
(*Promise of Coming Messiah – Son of David*)
 - 3) Stone Placed Before Joshua – His Heritage
 - a) One Stone (*Covenant*) with Seven Facets (*All Ages of Mankind*)
 - b) I (*Lord*) Will Engrave Its Instructions (*Law of Lord*)
 - c) I (*Lord*) Will Take Away the Guilt of Land in One Day
 - d) "On that day, says the LORD of hosts, you will invite one another under your vines and fig trees (*Promise of Messianic Kingdom*)."
(*Zech. 3:10*)

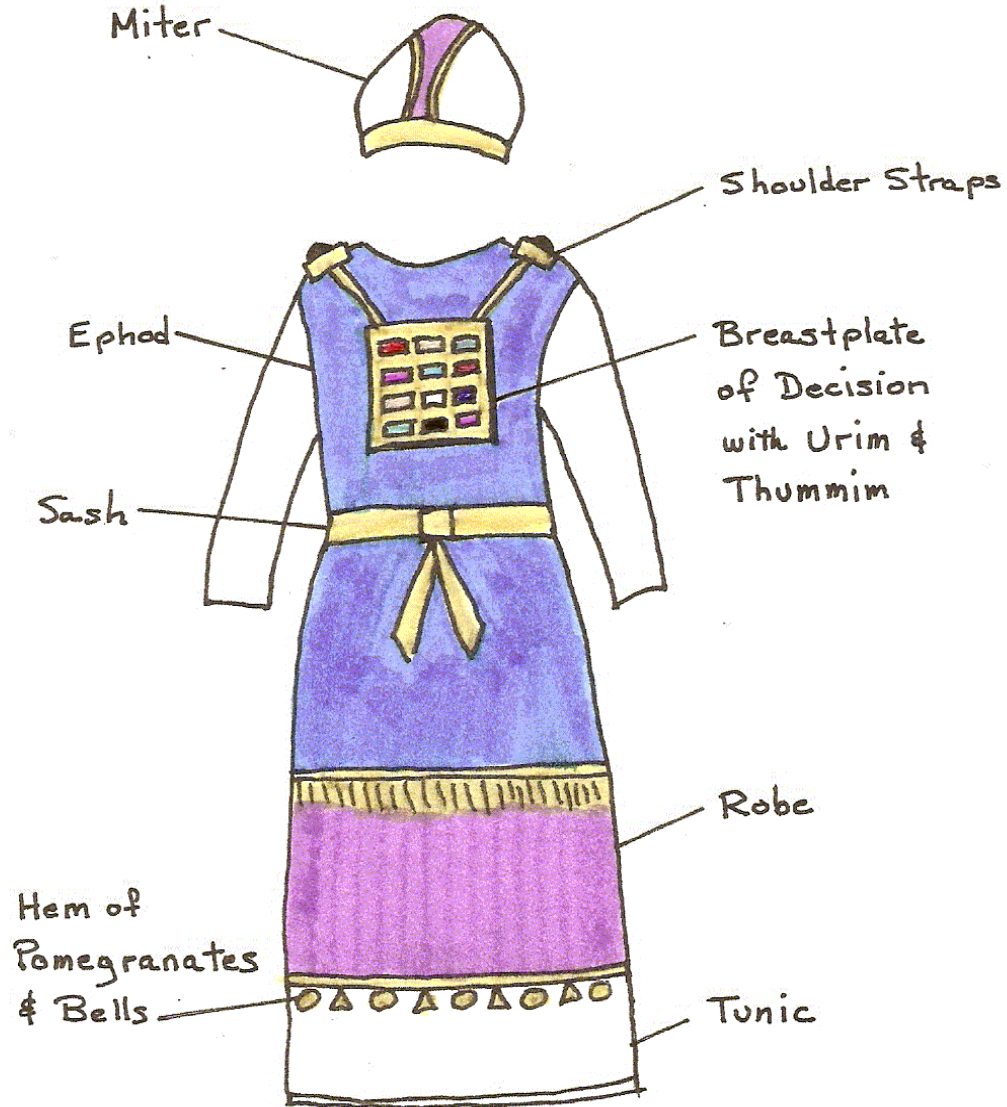
THE PRIESTLY BLESSING

"The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:

The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

(*Num. 6:24-26 KJV*)

Figure 1**HIGH PRIEST'S VESTMENTS**

Comment. This is a simple sketch showing the basic configuration of various garments. The actual High Priest Vestments are very ornate woven from expensive yarn with exquisite embroidering and the like. It must be kept in mind that some of the Israelites were skilled artisans who did work for the aristocracy, as well as the temples and royal courts of Egypt (Ex. 31:1-11).

