**POWER POINT**

**KOINONIA – SPIRITUAL EQUALITY – PART 2**

**THE NECESSITY OF PRIESTHOOD**

A. **Definition of a priest according to Hebrews**

1. **The word priest.**
2. The Hebrew word for priest is kohen
3. The Greek word for priest is hierus.
4. **Definition of a priest.**

A priest is one chosen by God to reconcile man to God: this he does by making sacrifices and teaching the people how to conduct themselves towards God.

**Hebrews 5:1-4**

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

**2** He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.

**3** Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sinsjust as he does for those of the people.

**4** Andno one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

**NOTE:**

**There has always been a need for a man to represent us to God and God represents himself through man since the days of Adam.**

**B. PRIESTHOOD BEFORE THE LEVITICAL ORDER**

1. **The concept of priesthood is seen years before the Levitical order**

i) Joseph’s wife was the daughter of an Egyptian priest   
 Genesis 41:45   
 Genesis 46:20

ii) Moses’s father-in-law was also a priest   
 Exodus 2:16   
 Exodus 18:1

1. **At first every man acted as his own priest and presented his own sacrifices to the Lord.**   
   i) Noah - Genesis 8 :20   
   ii) Abraham -Genesis 12:7  
   iii) Isaac - Genesis 26:25   
   iv) Jacob - Genesis 31:54   
   v) Job - Job 1:5

3. **The first time the word priest is used for an individual was in**

**reference to the Melchizedek   
Genesis 14:18**

**18** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High).

C. **THE PRIESTHOOD DURING THE LEVITICAL ORDER**

1. **God wanted to be represented in a better way than the practice of each man acting.**

**Exodus 28:1, 43**

"Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests—Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

**43** and they shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they go into the tent of meeting or when they come near the altar to minister in the Holy Place, lest they bear guilt and die. This shall be a statute forever for him and for his offspring after him.

**Exodus 30:30**

**30** You shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may serve me as priests.

**Ex 40:13-15**

**13** and put on Aaron the holy garments. And you shall anoint him and consecrate him, that he may serve me as priest.

**14** You shall bring his sons also and put coats on them,

**15** and anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may serve me as priests. And their anointing shall admit them to a perpetual priesthood throughout their generations."

**Numbers 3:3**

**3** These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whom he ordained to serve as priests.

2**. QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRIEST**

1. Must be a male – Exodus 28:1
2. Must be a descendant of Aaron – Exodus 28:1
3. Must be between 30 and 50 years old – Numbers 4:3
4. Must be unblemished (not lame or blond) – Leviticus 21:16-23
5. Must have a proper marriage – Leviticus 21:9, 14

Not married to a harlot; not married to a divorced woman;

Not married to a widow other than a priest’s widow. Ezekiel 44:22

The high priest must marry a virgin of his own people

1. Must have no uncleanliness (leprosy, etc.) – Leviticus 22:3-9
2. Must have an untrimmed beard with well-trimmed (but unshaved) hair – Ezekiel 4:20; Leviticus 21:5
3. Must be properly dressed – Exodus 28:1-4; Ezekiel 44:17-19
4. **DUTIES OF THE PRIEST**

* Teach the people – Leviticus 10:8-11
* Serve as judges to resolve controversy – Deuteronomy 21:5
* Offer sacrifices – Exodus 29;38-42
* Assess impurity – Leviticus 13-15
* Burn Incense – Exodus 30:7-8
* Bless the people – Numbers 6:22-27
* Bless God – Deuteronomy 10:8
* Keep the tabernacle – Numbers 3:38; 4:16
* Take care of the altar – Leviticus 6:8-13;

the lamps, and the showbread – Leviticus 24:1-9

* Prepare the holy things for each day’s journey – Numbers 4:5-15
* Continue the sacred fire – Leviticus 6:12-13
* Blow the trumpets – Numbers 10:1-10

1. **THE HIGH PRIEST**

* Also called the chief priest – 2 Chronicles 19:11
* God’s leader over the priests
* Aaron served as the first High Priest – Exodus 40:12-13
* Aaron’s son, Eleazer, replaced him as High Priest when he died – Numbers 20:26-28

1. **DUTIES OF THE HIGH PRIEST**

* Direct the work of the priests and Levite – Numbers 3:4
* Inquire of the Lord – Judges 20;28
* Consecration of the priest – Exodus 29:1-37
* Maintain the golden candlestands with its fire – Leviticus 24:1-4
* Burning incense daily – Exodus 30:7-8; and in a special way on the day of atonement – Leviticus 16:2, 12-13
* Offering sacrifices on the Day of Atonement – Hebrews 5:1; Leviticus 23:6, 11, 15, 20

D. **GOD HAS PUT TO AN END THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD**

1. **The position of high priesthood continued through the time of Christ and apparently to the time of the destruction of the temple by the Romans in 70 A.D**.

Matthew 26:3

3. **We needed a better priesthood than the ones listed in the Old Testament and God has given us one and His name is JESUS**

**Hebrews 7:23-28**

**23** The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,

**24** but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

**25** Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermostthose who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

**26** For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

**27** He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

**28** For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.