

## Priestly Qualifications and Responsibilities

1 Peter 2:1-5

### Priests Before The Law Of Moses

- ▶ No specific priesthood. Genesis 4:4; Genesis 8:20; Genesis 12:7; 13:18; Genesis 26:25
- ▶ First official recognition of “office” of priest. Genesis 14:18; cf. Psalms 110:1-4; Hebrews 5:4-6; 7:15-17
- ▶ Sometimes the head of the family/nation served as priest.
  - No specific priests, no specific place of sacrifice. Note: Exodus 3:1 (Jethro)

### The Law Of Moses – Aaronic Priests

- ▶ Specific priesthood named.
  - Tribe of Levi – Numbers 1:49-50
  - Family of Aaron – Exodus 28:1; Numbers 3:6
  - No others could accomplish their function. 2 Chronicles 26:16-21

### Qualifications of Aaronic Priests

- ▶ Set apart. Exodus 29
- ▶ Could not be afflicted with bodily defilements. Leviticus 21-22
- ▶ Live virtuous lives. Leviticus 21:8-9; cf. Deuteronomy 22:21
- ▶ Serve in the strength of the whole man. Leviticus 21:18-20

### Responsibilities of Aaronic Priests

- ▶ Offer sacrifices for the people. Leviticus 1-4
- ▶ Maintain the sanctuary. Numbers 18:1,5,7
- ▶ Teach the law to the people. Leviticus 10:9-11; Deuteronomy 31:9-13 (Law to be read by the priests every 7 years); Malachi 2:7-9

### Punishment For Priestly Failure

- ▶ Personal calamity. 1 Samuel 2:12-36; Hosea 5:1-6; Zephaniah 3:4; cf. Malachi 1:13, cf. verse 8
- ▶ Punishment on the whole land of Israel. Micah 3:11-12; 2 Chronicles 36:14-21

## New Testament Priesthood

Romans 15:4

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope.”

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## Conclusion:

- ▶ We must ever strive to hold to the path mapped out by our great High Priest, and beware lest any man lead us into the forbidden ways of death and destruction.

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