

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.

Priests After The Giving Of The Law Of Moses

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

Qualifications of Aaronic Priests

- Set apart. Exodus 29
- Could not be afflicted with bodily defilements. Leviticus 21-22
 - Serve in the strength of the whole man. Leviticus 21:18-20
- Live virtuous lives. Leviticus 21:9, 13-14

Responsibilities of Aaronic Priests

- Offer sacrifices for the people. Leviticus 1-4
- Maintain the sanctuary. Numbers 18:1,5,7; cf. 1 Chronicles 15:2,13
- Teach the law to the people. Leviticus 10:11; Malachi 2:7, "*For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth; for he is the messenger of Jehovah of hosts.*" cf. Deuteronomy 31:9ff

Punishment For Priestly Failure

- Personal calamity. 1 Samuel 2:12-36; Hosea 5:1-6; Zephaniah 3:4; cf. Malachi 1:13, cf. verses 6ff
- 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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New Testament Priesthood

- New High Priest. Hebrews 10:1-4; Psalms 110:1-4; Zechariah 6:12-13
- New Royal Priesthood. 1 Peter 2:5-9; Revelation 5:9-10

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Priesthood Of Christ Far Superior To That Of Aaron

- Melchizedek greater than Abraham. Hebrews 7:1-11
- Christ after the "*power of endless life*" not after "*law of carnal commandment*" Hebrews 7:16,23ff
- Christ's priesthood came by oath. Hebrews 7:21

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Priesthood Of Christ Far Superior To That Of Aaron

- Made the surety of a better covenant. Hebrews 7:22
- Continual High Priest. Hebrews 7:26-8:1
- Continual mediation. Hebrews 7:23-24
- Tabernacle pitched by the Lord himself. Hebrews 8:2
- Established on better promises. Hebrews 8:6

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YOU Are A Royal Priesthood

- New priesthood established. 1 Peter 2:5-9; Revelation 5:9-10
- All Christians are NT priests. We must be willing to accept the rites of consecration, qualifications, and accomplish the duties of priesthood.

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Qualifications of Christ's Order

- Keep himself from all defilements. James 1:27; Matthew 15:10-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1
- Must form virtuous habits. Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Timothy 4:12
- Must serve in the strength of the whole man. cf. Revelation 3:16; Romans 12:1-2
 - No place for weakness or compromise.

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Obligations of Christ's Order

- Offer Sacrifices. 1 Peter 2:5; Romans 12:1; cf. Revelation 2:10
- Maintain the Sanctuary. cf. Malachi 2:1-3; Ephesians 4:1-3
- Teach the Law of Christ. 2 Timothy 4:2-4
 - Edification – Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:14; Hebrews 5:12
 - Evangelism – 1 Timothy 3:15; cf. Mark 16:15

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Punishment For Priestly Failure

- Individual Consequences.
 - Condition of the priest who has not been faithful. 2 Peter 2:20-21; Hebrews 10:26ff; Revelation 20:12-15
- Collective Consequences.
 - Candlestick removed. cf. Revelation 2-3
 - Elders may lead others astray. Acts 20:29ff

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Eternal consequences for leading men in the wrong direction.

- 1 Timothy 1:3ff - strife and questions follow such teaching.
- Paul warned the Ephesian elders, "*And from among your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.*" (Acts 20:30)
- Those who taught the Gentiles to be circumcised were "*subverting your souls.*" (cf. Acts 15:24)

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Eternal consequences for leading men in the wrong direction.

- Hymenaeus and Philetus erred, "*saying that the resurrection is past already, and overthrow the faith of some.*" (2 Timothy 2:14-18)
- False teachers, "*And many shall follow their lascivious doings; by reason of whom the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of.*" (2 Peter 2:2)
- "*This I say, that no one may delude you with persuasiveness of speech.*" (Colossians 2:4)

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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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