

Living Fruitfully:
Priest, Prophet and King

Old Testament Priests & Priesthood

- Definition: A priest is one authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion, especially a mediator between man and God." (Webster)
- The origin of dedicated priests is uncertain.
- Melchizedek, King of Salem was a priest of God (Gen. 14:18)
- Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, was priest of Midian. (Exodus 4:1)
- There were priests among the Israelites when they came out of Egypt. (Exodus 19:22, 24)
- There were false priests who served false gods:
 - Priest of Midian (Exodus 18:1)
 - Priests of On (Genesis 41:45)
 - Priests of Dagon (1 Samuel 5:5)
 - Priests of the high places (1 Kings 12:32)
 - Priests "of them that are no gods." (2 Chronicles 13:9)
- At Mount Sinai, God designated Aaron and his descendants to serve as priests. (Exodus 28:1, 44; 30:30; 40:13-15; Numbers 3:3)
- All priests were Levites, but not all Levites were priests.
- Only those designated could perform priestly duties.
 - Not other Levites (Numbers 16:1-3; 1-10; 10:1-3)
 - Not even Moses or his descendants (1 Chronicles 23:13)
 - Not anyone other than Aaron and his descendants (Numbers 16:40)
- QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRIESTLY SERVICE:
 - Must be a male (Exodus 28:1)
 - Must be a descendant of Aaron (Exodus 28:1) with a documented lineage.
 - Must be between 30 and 50 years old. (Numbers 4:3)
 - Must be unblemished (not lame or blond). (Lev. 21:16-23)
 - 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.
 - Must have no uncleanness (leprosy, etc.). (Lev. 22:3-9)



- Must have an untrimmed beard with well trimmed (but unshaved) hair. (Ezekiel 4:20; Leviticus 21:5)
- Must be properly dressed. (Exo. 28:1-4; Ezekiel 44:17-19)

■ DUTIES OF THE PRIEST

- Teach the people. (Leviticus 10:8-11)
- Serve as judges to resolve controversy. (Deut. 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 days journey. (Num. 4:5-15)
- Continue the sacred fire. (Leviticus 6:12-13)
- Blow the trumpets. (Numbers 10:1-10)

■ THE HIGH PRIESTS

- 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)
- The position of high priests continued through the time of Christ (Matthew 26:3 and apparently to the time of the destruction of the temple by the Romans in 70 A.D.)

■ DUTIES OF THE HIGH PRIEST

- Direct the work of the priests & Levites. (Numbers 3:4)
- Inquire of the Lord. (Judges 20:28)
- Consecration of the priests. (Exodus 29:1-37)
- Maintain the golden candlestand with its fire. (Lev. 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)

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A. Develop *Routines* In Our Spiritual Life

1 Peter 2:5 - you also, .. a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 - But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood

Joshua 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it *day* and *night*, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Daniel 6:10

Now when Daniel ... in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees *three times that day*, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

Hebrews 10:25

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Application: Can you think of developing one routine for your spiritual life?

THE PROPHETS

THE DOWNRIVER DISCIPLES PROJECT

MALACHI ZEPHANIAH JEREMIAH JOEL AMOS HAGAI

ZECHARIAH HAZKEL DANIEL JONAH

OBADIAH LAMENTATIONS NAHUM

PRAY often

Attend the temple

Keep the commandments

Read the Scriptures

Keep the Sabbath day holy

Follow the Savior, Jesus Christ

Pay tithing

Love one another

Be honest

Dress modestly

Share the gospel

Have family home evening

Attend church meetings

Repent!

Keep the word of wisdom

Forgive one another



The prophet Jeremiah tried to warn the people of Judah for 40 years that trouble was coming, but they chose to listen to false prophets instead.

B. Accept *Godly Counsel* to Stay on Track

Proverbs 19:20

Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be **wise** in your ***latter days***.

Proverbs 13:1

A wise son ***heeds*** his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 24:6

... In a multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

1 Thessalonians 5:14a

Now we exhort you, brethren, ***warn*** those who are unruly ...

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THE TRUE KING

LIFE PRINCIPLES FROM THE

Kings

OF THE
OLD TESTAMENT

WAYNE BARBER • EDDIE RASNAKE • RICHARD SHEPHERD

C. *Submit to the Authorities* to Enjoy Peace

Mark 12:17

And Jesus answered and said to them, "*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.*"

Romans 13:1

Let every soul *be subject to the governing authorities.* For there is *no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

1 Chronicles 16:22

"Do *not* touch My anointed ones" ...

1 Peter 2:13 & 17

Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme Honour all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

D. In Closing - *To Live Fruitfully*

PRIEST

Develop spiritual routines

PROPHET

Accept Godly Counsel

KING

Submit to the Authorities

Hebrews 4:14

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.

Matthew 21:11

So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Revelation 19:16

And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.

Romans 8:29

For whom He (*God the Father*) foreknew, He (*God the Father*) also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son (*Christ Our Lord*)

John 15:5

“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. **He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing.