

1 Peter Series

Lesson #061

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Dean Bible Ministries

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PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

1 PETER 2:9–10



1ST PETER

LIVING IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

1 Pet. 2:10, “who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

**** Interpretive principle: New Testament writers under inspiration of the Holy Spirit would take Old Testament passages and apply them to the Church.**

Hos. 1:8, “Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son.

Hos. 1:9, “Then God said: ‘Call his name Lo-Amami, for you are not My people, and I will not be your God.

Hos. 1:10, “ ‘Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, “You are not My people,” there it shall be said to them, “You are sons of the living God.” ’ ”

Hos. 2:23, “Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, and I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; then I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they shall say, ‘You are my God!’ ”

The Doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer

1. General Definition:

A priest is a religious leader who represents people to God.

In Israel this had a more distinct function, but priests existed prior to and after the Mosaic Law. Priests were primarily defined by their intercessory role for the people.

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Due to the failure of the early church to distinguish between Israel and the Church, titles of Israel's priesthood were wrongly applied to Church leaders.

2. Background

- a. The patriarchal or family priest. This priesthood was operational among all families prior to the worldwide flood of Noah and continued after the flood as seen in Noah's offering to God on behalf of his family following their exit from the ark.**

Gen. 8:20, “Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.”

Gen. 12:6, “Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.

Gen. 12:7, “Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’ And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Gen. 12:8, “And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.”

b. Another type of priesthood, which is seen in Genesis, is the Melchizedekian priesthood

Gen. 14:18, “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High [*El Elyon*].

Gen. 14:19, “And he blessed him and said: ‘Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

Gen. 14:20, “ ‘And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And he gave him a tithe of all.”

3. The first mention of priests in Israel is in Exodus 19:6.

Ex. 19:6, “ ‘And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

Isa. 2:2, “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.

Isa. 2:3, “Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. [cf., Mic. 4:1–3; Zech. 8:20–23]

4. Priests in Israel were limited to the tribe of Levi and the descendants of Aaron. Only priests in the direct line from Aaron through Eleazer could qualify for High Priests (HP). The HP was the spiritual head of Israel and performed specific, unique functions such as entering into the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, *yom kippur*.

**5. Responsibilities in Israel included:
Service in the tabernacle or Temple.**

Emphasis was on the performance of the sacrifices, maintenance of the tabernacle or temple, spiritual education of the people.

6. The Levites were the smallest of the tribes, and were not given an allotment or inheritance in the promised land, their inheritance was to be the Lord.

7. Two central passage in the Old Testament on the Levitical priesthood are in Leviticus 21–22 and Numbers 18.

Requirements were genealogical and physical, not spiritual.

Num. 18:6, “Behold, I Myself have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel; they are a gift to you, given by the LORD, to do the work of the tabernacle of meeting.

Num. 18:7, “Therefore you and your sons with you shall attend to your priesthood for everything at the altar and behind the veil; and you shall serve. I give your priesthood to you as a gift for service, but the outsider who comes near shall be put to death.”

8. The next significant priesthood in the New Testament is the HP of Jesus Christ.

Heb. 2:17, “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Heb. 2:18, “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Heb. 3:1, “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

Heb. 5:5, “So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’ (Psa. 110:1)

Heb. 5:6, “As He also says in another place: ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek’; (Psa. 110:4)

Heb. 5:7, “who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,”

Heb. 5:8, “though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

Heb. 5:9, “And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

Heb. 5:10, “called by God as High Priest ‘according to the order of Melchizedek,’ ”

Heb. 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.

Heb. 4:15, “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Heb. 4:16, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb. 5:1, “For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.”

9. As priests we are to:

a. Bring sacrifices

1 Pet. 2:5, “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

b. Serve Him

Rom. 12:1, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

Rom. 8:9, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

Col. 1:27, “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

1 Cor. 3:16, “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

1 Cor. 6:19, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

Rev. 1:6, “and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Rev. 5:10, “And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

Rev. 20:6, “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”