

What is a Priest? In modern terms the word Priest, has come to mean someone 'ordained' by a Church, to officiate the ceremonies of that Church. They act as 'middle men' between God and the people. In the broadest sense, priests are special people for a special role. Priests in the Bible had three main roles;

1. Sacrificing Offerings to God to atone for sin. (Today Roman Catholics call their ministers, priests, as the Mass is considered to be a repeating sacrifice.)
2. Sanctifying Making things holy, which means 'setting apart'.
3. Speaking. This involves both praying to God for the people, and teaching them God's word.



Biblical Priests In the Old Testament times, there were priests from the very beginning.

Adam was in one sense a priest, as he was given a role by God Genesis 2:15. Eden was the first 'sanctuary', where God and Man could commune. There is also a strong link in the Bible between the role of a Priest and a King. Adam was to rule over the Earth (Kingly role) and serve God (Priestly one). Christians regain this role, as part of being a 'Royal Priesthood' 1 Peter 2:9

Melchizedek Genesis 14:18-20 Melchizedek is the first named priest in the Bible, again he combines the role of priest and king. His name means 'King of Righteousness', as the King of Salem, he was the 'King of Peace'. By the time of King David people looked back to Melchizedek as a shadow of the coming messiah Psalm 110. The Book of Hebrews Ch 7, shows us Melchizedek is a 'type' of Jesus.

Melchizedek
 No earthly parents mentioned
 Brought bread and wine
 Tithes given to him as gratitude for blessings
 He was the king of Righteousness and Peace
 He combined the Priest and King roles



Jesus Virgin birth
 Bread and wine are symbols of himself
 We give & serve Jesus for what he did for us.
 He was the king of Righteousness & Peace
 He combined the Priest and King roles

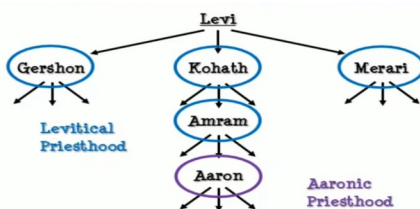
Questions

From what he have seen so far, how are you a priest?

Levitical Priests After the Exodus priests weren't appointed, they were born into the role, from the tribe of Levi, Exodus 32:26-29, Deuteronomy 33:8+.



direct descendants of Aaron, were part of the Aaronic priesthood



and could become a High Priest.

Ordinary priests wore a white robe, mitre & belt. Aaronic priests conducted the sacrifices and could enter the Holy Place.

The Levitical priests worked in the outer courts, Numbers

3:5-12 and were involved in the moving of the tabernacle. Leviticus 8 outlines how Priests, became priests. The Levites had no inheritance Numbers 18:20-24 others had to support them. Their main tasks were to function between God and the people. Here are some examples, as well as sacrifices and offerings:

- a) Teachers Leviticus 10:10-11, 2 Chronicles 35:2-3
- b) Judges & Inspectors Deuteronomy 17:8-9, Leviticus 27:8, Leviticus
- c) Worshippers Many were involved in music 1 Chronicles 6:31, 2 Chronicles 31:2
- d) Treasurers 1 Chronicles 26:20 e) Cleaners 2 Chronicles 29:16
- f) Guards & Gatekeepers. The Levites camped immediately around the tabernacle 1 Chronicles 9:26

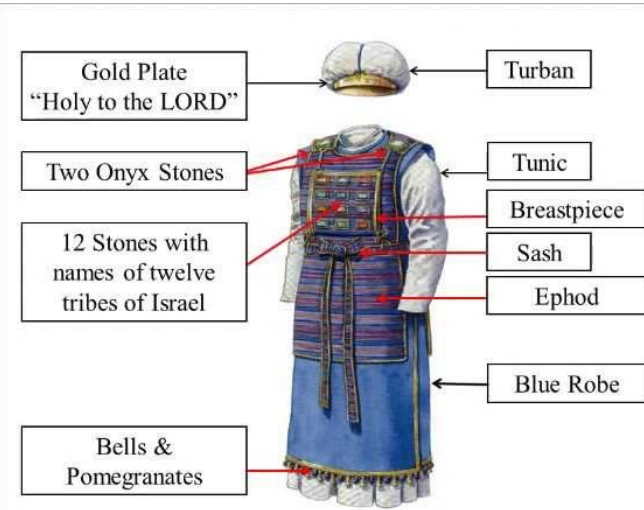


We don't travel this way anymore, but still travel along the same lines.



*Same tribe, but with different roles and responsibilities, depending on talents and abilities.

The High Priest. The High Priest had to offer a sin offering not only for the sins of the whole congregation, but also for himself Leviticus 4:3-21. On the Day of Atonement, he was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place behind the veil to stand before God. Having made a sacrifice for himself and for the people, he then brought the blood into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled it on the mercy seat, God's "throne" Leviticus 16:14-15. That day was the one day, in which he wore just the white robe. He went in looking just a regular priest, to seek cleansing of sins. By the time of the 2nd Temple, the High Priest, had a ruling role too. He was responsible for collecting taxes and temple administration. He would both lead and pray for the people.



Exodus 28:2-5 'Glory' and 'Beauty'
 28:8 Same colours as inside the tabernacle.
 28:9-10 Names of the people on his shoulders.
 28:15-21 Carried names Shows his purpose
 28:36-38 Plate of gold Has to bear guilt



Jesus is shown as a High Priest in Revelation 1:10-11 His shoulders carry our weight, we are worn close to his heart.

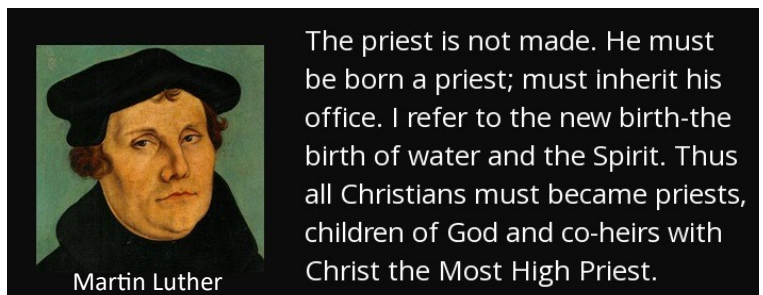
Jesus is our High Priest Hebrews 4:14-5;6 The Book of Hebrews calls Jesus our High Priest 15x.

Hebrews 9:23-28 Jesus was both the High Priest and the sacrifice.

Aaron's ordination was different from other priests in Leviticus 8. It matched the order of events of Jesus
 Washing → Anointing → Blood Other priests Washing → Blood → Anointing

Questions What does it mean for us, that Jesus is our High Priest?

We are Priests There is nothing in the Bible to support the idea, there are two categories of believers, priests and laity. In fact the Bible is clear, all Christians are Priests. In Exodus 19:6 the Jews too, in the broadest sense were intended to be a "kingdom of priests".



In the New Testament era, we are all priests of God in the World, the same tribe, but with different roles and responsibilities. 1 Peter 2:5. Revelation 20:6.

Spiritual Gifts in the Bible

Romans 12:6-8 14. Encouragement 15. Giving 16. Leadership 17. Mercy 21. Prophecy 8. Service 11. Teaching	1 Corinthians 12 9. Administration 6. Discernment 4. Healing 19. Tongues 20. Interpretation 21. Prophecy 1. Wisdom 7. Apostle 2. Faith 13. Helps 3. Knowledge 5. Miracles 11. Teaching	Ephesians 4:7-11 4. Apostle 12. Pastor 11. Teaching 10. Evangelism 21. Prophecy	1 Peter 4:10 18. Hospitality 8. Serving 11. Teaching
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Plus more??

Italics used for gifts on more than one list.

Just as the jewels representing the people, were set in the right place in the gold of the High Priest's breastplate, we are set into His church 1 Corinthians 12:18. N.B. Jewels don't normally fall out of a ring unless the workmanship was at fault. God doesn't let us fall out of his hand, he knows the right place to set us. We are his workmanship Ephesians 2:10. We are set in his body and in him Colossians 3:3.

Q. Do we have to sacrifice, sanctify or speak?

A. We have only one life, that will soon be past, only that done for Christ will last.

Questions Any Questions or Comments? Next time - The Nature of Man