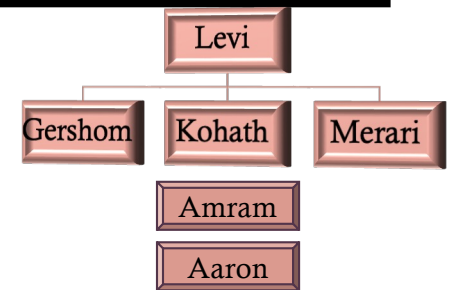


# JESUS OUR GREAT PRIEST (2)



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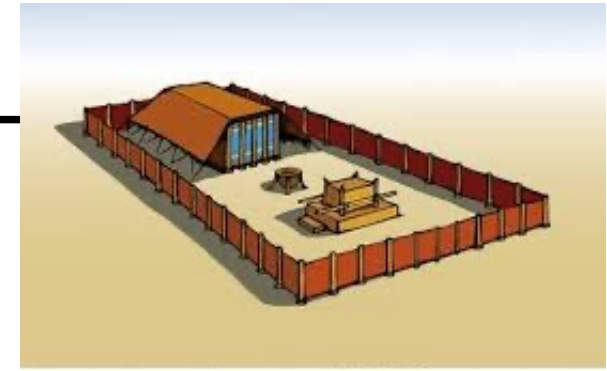
# PRIESTS IN THE BIBLE



- Levites
    - Descended from Levi. They Didn't receive land; their inheritance was serving God directly.
    - Set apart for religious service (caring of the Tabernacle), teaching, judging, and supporting priests.
  - Priests
    - For the LORD your God has chosen them and their descendants out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the LORD's name always (Deuteronomy 18:5).
    - Selected from the tribe of Levi, specifically Aaron's descendants.
    - Mediators between God and Israel, performing sacrifices and rituals in the Tabernacle/Temple.
  - High Priest
    - The chief among the priests, always from Aaron's line (e.g., Zadok, Eli).
    - Entering the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) to atone for Israel's sins.
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# THE ROLES OF PRIESTS



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- The LORD said to Moses;
    - They are to take care of all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, fulfilling the obligations of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle. Give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to him. Appoint Aaron and his sons to serve as priests; anyone else who approaches the sanctuary is to be put to death (Numbers 3:8-10).
  - The roles of priests
    - Acted as mediators, bridging the gap between a holy God and sinful Israel.
    - Offered specific sacrifices (burnt, grain, sin, etc.) for the people's sins, as detailed in Leviticus.
    - Maintained the Tabernacle/Temple and its sacred duties.
    - Instructed people in God's Law (Torah).
    - They diagnose and declare people free from skin diseases.
    - Pronouncing God's blessings on the people (The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace, Numbers 6:24-26).
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# JESUS IS CONSIDERED A PRIEST

- He teaches
    - Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39); Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-21); Seeking the Kingdom of God first (Matthew 6:33); the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31).
  - His ministry of healing is a priestly activity
    - The people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all (Luke 6:19).
    - Jesus went through all the towns and villages... healing every disease and sickness (Matthew 9:35).
  - Jesus purifies the temple
    - It is written...My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a den of robbers (Matthew 21:13).
  - Jesus' authority to forgive sin demonstrates his priesthood
    - The Son of Man has authority to forgive sins...I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home (Mark 2:10-11).
  - Jesus prays for His people
    - I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word (John 17:6).
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# JESUS VS. THE LEVITICAL PRIESTS (1)

- Number & Duration
    - There were **many** priests under the old system, for death prevented them from remaining in office. But because Jesus lives forever, **his priesthood** lasts forever (Hebrews 7:23-24, NLT).
    - Many, temporary vs. Only Priest, permanent
  - Quality, Frequency, Focus
    - Such **a high priest** truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the **other high priests**, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself (Hebrews 7:26-27).
    - Quality: Sinful sinners vs. Holy, innocent, unstained
    - Frequency: Sacrificed daily vs. Sacrificed once for all
    - Focus: Offered sacrifices also for themselves vs. Offered sacrifices only for others
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# JESUS VS. THE LEVITICAL PRIESTS (2)

- Object
    - He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself (Hebrews 7:27b)
    - Offered sacrificial animals vs. Offered up Himself
  - Reality & Means
    - But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:11-12).
    - Reality: Entered a man-made tent vs. Entered a greater and more perfect tent
    - Means: Entered by means of the blood of goats and calves vs. Entered by means of His own blood
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# JESUS VS. THE LEVITICAL HIGH PRIESTS (3)

## The Levitical Priests

- **Human & Mortal:**
  - They are mortal men, subject to sin and death, requiring succession.
- **Mediators:**
  - They stand between God and people, performing rituals (sacrifices, sacraments) on behalf of others.
- **Imperfect:**
  - They must offer sacrifices for their own sins before ministering for others (Levitical priests).
- **Temporary Work:**
  - Their duties (like animal sacrifices) were temporary and pointed to Christ's ultimate work.

## Jesus Priesthood

- **Divine & Eternal:**
  - Jesus makes His priesthood eternal and superior to any earthly lineage (Hebrews 7).
- **Perfect Sacrifice:**
  - He offered Himself, a sinless life, once for all sins, making further sacrifices unnecessary.
- **Complete Atonement:**
  - His sacrifice is effective forever, securing complete forgiveness.
- **Sympathetic:**
  - He understands human weakness and can sympathize (Hebrews 4:15).
- **Ascended:**
  - He sits at God's right hand, eternally interceding for believers.

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# JESUS IS OUR PROPITIATION



- What Propitiation Means
    - Jesus whom God set forth as a **propitiation** by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness...(Romans 3:25, NKJV).
    - Averting wrath: the act of appeasing or satisfying the anger of another, turning away wrath.
    - Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross satisfied God's just wrath against human sin, appeasing divine anger and making it possible for God to justly forgive and reconcile sinners.
    - Jesus is the **atoning sacrifice** for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).
  - Jesus as our Propitiation
    - God, in His love, provided Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice to meet the demands of His justice. Jesus bore the punishment for sin in our place, acting as our substitute. His sacrifice is sufficient for all humanity, covering sins of everyone, not just believers, though its benefits are received by faith.
  - Redemption
    - The cross is our redemption (All are justified freely...by Christ Jesus, Romans 3:24).
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# JESUS, OUR GREAT PRIEST

- **Why This Matters:**

- Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16).

- **What We Should Do:**

- We can approach God's throne with confidence in our times of need, as He understands our weaknesses.
  - We must remain steadfast in faith we profess, even in suffering, knowing our High Priest sympathizes with us.
  - Offer your body, love as spiritual sacrifices, living out your identity in Christ and serving others as He served.
  - Follow His example of humility, like washing feet, understanding that His divine strength was shown in His service to us.
  - Accept the purification He offers and trust Him as our eternal advocate who pleads our case before God, securing our forgiveness.
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# PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

- All Christians are priests
    - But you are a chosen people, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).
    - Christians have direct access to God through Jesus Christ, their ultimate High Priest, to offer spiritual sacrifices, intercede, and proclaim His praise, fulfilling prophecies from the Old Testament.
  - What it means
    - No human mediator is needed; Christians approach God directly through Jesus.
    - Christians offer lives of worship, service, and love as living sacrifices: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship (Romans 12:1).
    - Christians pray for others and sharing the Gospel, acting as messengers of God.
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