

PROPHET, PRIEST, & KING

Part 4



Mar. 5, 2017

“The Old Testament Office of Priest”

Review

- The pattern of the Threefold Office is found in Genesis 1-2 as well as in God’s design for the nation of Israel as a whole (Ex. 19:5-6). Within the nation, however, the office was divided so that individuals served in the roles of prophet, priest, and king.
- The Old Testament prophet represented God to the people, proclaiming the Word of the Lord to them so that they could respond accordingly.

The Origin and Purpose of the Priesthood

- At Mt. Sinai Moses was given the laws which were to govern the life of Israel (Ex. 20-24). He was then given the specific design for the Tabernacle (Ex. 25-27).
- Ex. 28-29 describe the priest’s garments as well as the ceremonies that will be necessary to set apart Aaron and his family to serve as the priests in the Tabernacle.

Ex. 29:42-46 — 42 It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. 43 There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. 44 I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. 45 I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. 46 And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.

Key Observation: The work of the priests was done so that that God could _____ among His people!

- The book of Exodus ends with the joy of the Tabernacle being completed, but a significant problem occurs when God’s glory descends upon it.

Ex. 40:34-35 — 34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

- Exodus concludes with the question of how a holy God can dwell in the midst of a sinful people. The book of _____ is the answer to this major problem.



Torah

The Day of Atonement: Leviticus 16

1. God's presence was _____ in the Most Holy Place in a unique way.

Lev. 16:2-3 — 2 and the Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.

2. Aaron (the High Priest) was to enter the Most Holy Place in a specific _____.

Lev. 16:3-5 — 3 But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. 4 He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on. 5 And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

3. Aaron (the High Priest) had to first sacrifice a bull on behalf of _____ and the rest of the _____.

Lev. 16:6 — "Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house."

4. Aaron (the High Priest) was to sacrifice the first goat to atone for the sins of _____.

Lev. 16:15 — "Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat."

5. Aaron (the High Priest) was to _____ the sins of the people over the second goat who would carry them away.

Lev. 16:21-22 — 21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. 22 The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.

6. The result of the High Priest's work would be to _____ Israel from their sin.

Lev. 16:30-31 — 30 For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the Lord from all your sins. 31 It is a Sabbath of solemn rest to you, and you shall afflict yourselves; it is a statute forever.

Significant Imagery

- It is once again emphasized that this atoning work is accomplished by a single individual. (16:32)
- Notice that atonement is made for the sanctuary, the tent of meeting, and the altar. These areas of the Tabernacle were symbolic of the earth and the visible heavens (Lev. 16:33a)
 - ⇒ This showed that creation itself was defiled by sin and needed to be _____!
- Notice once again that atonement is made for all of the people, including the priests. (Lev. 16:33b-34)
 - ⇒ This demonstrated that all were sinners who were unable to atone for their own sin. Only the work of a _____ could accomplish this on their behalf.

For the people of Israel, the Torah was their Law, their History, and their Wisdom. The significance of Leviticus 16 is that it demonstrates that at the heart of all of these things was the work of substitutionary atonement!

The Need For a Great High Priest

We needed someone who could serve as a Mediator between us and a Holy God! (Heb. 2:14)

We needed someone who could fully accomplish the work of atonement! (Heb. 10:10)

We needed to be cleansed inwardly and spiritually, not just outwardly! (Heb. 9:6-10)

We needed to be able to dwell in God's presence! (Heb. 12:18-24)