

Do You Want To Be A Priest?

by Casey Head

We find priests mentioned throughout the entire Bible, not only in the Old Testament, but also in the New. Several points can be made as we strive to further our understanding of priesthood in the Bible, and as we go through the lesson, consider the question, “Do you want to be a priest?”

Under the law of Moses, an official priesthood was organized by the Lord. In order to be a priest under this Old Testament law, one had to be of the tribe of Levi (Numbers 3:3, 12-13). These men were set apart by God to minister unto the tabernacle, and we find them handling the offerings and sacrifices of the people of Israel (Leviticus 1-9). The Levites were also the only ones who could bear the ark of the covenant (1 Chronicles 15:2), and the HIGH Priest would go into the Most Holy Place once a year to make atonement for the people (Exodus 30:10). With these few facts in mind concerning the Levitical priesthood of the Old Testament, let us now recognize the priesthood of the New Testament.

We are told in Hebrews 7:11-14, “If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? *For the priesthood being changed, there is made by necessity a change also of the law.* For He of whom these things are spoken *pertaineth to another tribe*, of which no man gave attendance at the alter. For it is evident that our Lord *sprang out of Judah*; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.” We find here that the Levitical priesthood has been replaced by the priesthood of Jesus, a man who sprang from the tribe of Judah. Because the priesthood has been changed, so also has the law! Later on in Hebrews 7, verse 23-26, the message continues: “And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death; but *this man*, because He continueth ever, hath an *unchangeable priesthood*. Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an *High Priest* became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself.” Jesus serves us our High Priest, and He has offered His own blood as an atonement for our sins. He serves as our intercessor today!

We also find in 1 Peter 2:5, 9 that ALL Christians serve as priests under Jesus Christ, the High Priest. It says in verse 5, “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, *an holy priesthood*, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. And again in Revelation 1:6, “And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father.” The Catholics have got it all wrong when they ordain only certain men as priests. According to the Bible, if you are a Christian, then by necessity you are also a priest who offers up spiritual sacrifices through Christ.

Do you want to be a priest? If so, then you must follow the steps to become a Christian. Recognize that God has freely bestowed His grace upon you (Romans 3:24) and has sent His only Son to die for your sins (Romans 5:8-9). In response to the love and mercy of God, you must believe that Jesus is the Son of God, repent of your sins (Luke 13:3), confess that He is Lord (Romans 10:9) and be baptized to have your sins washed away (Acts 22:16). If you follow these simple steps, you will be granted access into the kingdom of Christ (Acts 2:47) where you will serve as a priest under the authority of Jesus. Are you willing to make the necessary changes?