

God's Appointed Priesthoods

From Pastor Kevin Lea's teaching on the Book of Hebrews, January – June 2023,
online at calvarypo.org/sermon-topic/heb/ and at [https://www.youtube.com/playlist \(Hebrews\)](https://www.youtube.com/playlist(Hebrews))

The Priesthood – The Way of Access to God

- God provided the way of access to Him, through His appointed priests who approached Him according to His instructions.
- No one – then or now – is able approach Him any other way than by His appointed way. God judged those who pridefully or rebelliously attempted to approach Him any other way. Examples: Korah (Numbers 16 and 17), Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-2), King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:16-23).
- Two times that God did not judge:
 - David. Because God was hinting at the fulfillment of Psalm 110, written by David, by Jesus, the Son of David. (Matthew 22:41-46)
 - Wore the ephod of the High Priest (Exodus 29:4-5; 1 Sam. 30:7-8; 2 Sam. 6:13-14; 1 Chron. 15:26-27)
 - Ate bread taken from the Table of Showbread in the Tabernacle (Lev. 24:5-9; 1 Sam. 21:4-6; Matt. 12:1-4).
 - Went before the Ark of the Covenant (2 Sam. 6:17-18, 7:18-29).
 - King Hezekiah. Because he came to God in humility. An example of all who come humbly to the Throne of Grace by faith in Jesus.
 - Approached the Lord (Ark of the Covenant) (2 Kings 19:14-15).

The Priesthood – Melchizedek to Jesus

	ca. 2000 B.C.	ca. A.D. 30	Forever
Melchizedek – A Great Priesthood	Aaronic / Levitical – A Lesser Priesthood	Jesus – The Supreme Priesthood	
A priesthood before the Mosaic Covenant.	The priesthood of the Mosaic Covenant (the Law) – Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.	The priesthood of the New Covenant. Jeremiah 31:31, Matthew 26:28.	
A priest of God most High (Genesis 14:18-20).	Tribe of Levi decreed by God to be priests (Exodus 28:1-4).	Decreed by God to be a priest after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5 – 7; Psalm 110:4).	
No (known) mother or father / genealogy. No (known) birth date or death date. As such, a type, “one made like the Son of God,” Jesus, Who remains a priest continually (Hebrews 7:3).	A man in the lineage of Levi / Aaron (Exodus 28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the tribe of Judah, not Levi, signifying a change in the priesthood (Hebrews 7:14-17). • Fulfilled Jacob’s prophecy in Genesis 49:10 and God’s promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) and to David (2 Samuel 7:8-11). • A priest forever (Hebrews 5:6, 6:20, 7:24). • Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, eternal (Colossians 1:15, Revelation 1:8) 	

Melchizedek – A Great Priesthood	Aaronic / Levitical – A Lesser Priesthood	Jesus – The Supreme Priesthood
Melchizedek means “King of Righteousness.”	The priest offered sacrifice for sin so that the people could be in a right relationship with God (Exodus 29:36 and elsewhere)	Jesus is our righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30)
Melchizedek was the actual King of Salem (Jerusalem) in Abraham’s day. Salem means peace (Genesis 14:18, Hebrews 7:1-3)	The priest offered peace offerings on behalf of the people (Leviticus 3:1-3 and elsewhere)	Jesus is our peace (Ephesians 2:14)
Greater than the Levitical priesthood because he blessed Abram (Abraham). The greater always blesses the lesser (Genesis 14:19-20a; Hebrews 7:1-3).	A lesser priesthood than Melchizedek’s because Abraham (and Levi in Abraham’s loins) paid tithes to him (Genesis 14:20b; Hebrews 7:4-9)	A superior priest because He fulfilled Psalm 110, becoming a priest <i>forever</i> according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:15-21).
	Moses sprinkled the water of purification upon the Levites to cleanse and inaugurate them for service as priests of the Mosaic (Old) Covenant (Exodus 40:12-15; Numbers 8:5-26).	John the Baptist, who was in the Aaronic line, baptized Jesus (Matthew 3). This pictured the transfer of the Aaronic priesthood to the new priesthood of Jesus after the order of Melchizedek and the inauguration of the New Covenant.
	Before Moses, Aaron, and his sons the priest entered the tabernacle, they washed their hands and feet in the water from the bronze laver, which was placed between the bronze altar and the door to the tabernacle (Exodus 40:30-32). The first time was when the tabernacle was first erected, “ <i>in the first month of the second year</i> (after the Exodus from Egypt), <i>on the first day of the month</i> ” [14 days before Passover] (Exodus 40:17).	At Jesus’s last Passover, He washed disciples’ feet (John 13). In this act, He cleansed them to begin their work as priests of the new covenant (Hebrews 8:7-13).
	Inspects for leprosy / diagnosis / decree of separation (Leviticus 13-14).	Cured leprosy (sin) / ends separation, physical and spiritual (Leprosy cured: Luke 5:12-13; Luke 17:11-19. Spiritual: Ephesians 2:14).
	Intercedes for himself, individuals, and the nation in the temple according to the procedures and schedule prescribed by the Law.	Intercedes for believers <i>continuously</i> (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25).

Melchizedek – A Great Priesthood	Aaronic / Levitical – A Lesser Priesthood	Jesus – The Supreme Priesthood
	Wore a seamless tunic. (Exodus 39:22-23; Josephus, Antiquities, Book 3, Chapter 7 Section 4.)	Wore a seamless tunic (John 19:23).
	Only the High Priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant was, and then only once per year, on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32).	Jesus entered the Presence behind the veil (in heaven), having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 9:23-24, 10:19-23).
	As a man, the priest can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness (Hebrews 5:2).	Jesus was tempted as we are yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15).
	Offers daily and yearly sacrifices, for himself, for the people, and for the nation (Leviticus, Hebrews 7:27).	Offered Himself as a lamb without blemish, a once-and-for all sacrifice for sin (John 1:29, Hebrews 7:26-27).
	Priest partakes of sacrifices except bull sacrifice for the High Priest and for the entire nation. On these occasions, the bull is taken outside the camp and burned entirely. Also, on the Day of Atonement, the sin sacrifice goat is burned outside the camp. On these occasions, the offering atoned for the entire nation. (Exodus 29:14, Leviticus 4:1-21, 9:1-11; 16:27).	Jesus was crucified “outside the camp,” offering Himself as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world (John 3:16, 1 Timothy 4:10, Hebrews 13:10-13, 1 John 2:2).