

**Solid Rock Christian Church  
Manassas, Virginia**

**Bible Study - January 19, 2020**

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Title: A Study of the High Priest of Israel and His Garments

**Part I - The Priesthood**

Scripture References: Exod. 4; 28-29; Num. 18:1-7; Heb. 4:14-16;  
Heb. 5:1-5; 8

**I. Introduction**

A. The subject of the Priesthood is a fascinating topic to explore and through the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit, prayerfully, our spiritual vision will be sharpened. The joy will be our ability to see and behold the greatness and splendor of the "Great High Priest of our Profession, Jesus Christ".

B. It is important that we begin this study with the priest of the Aaronic order. Aaron was from the Levitical tribe of Israel and the brother of Moses (Exodus 4:14).

C. There are three terms that we must differentiate between in this study. The terms are: "Priests", "High Priests", and "Great High Priest".

1. Priests - These were the members of the Aaronic family. The only claim for this office was sonship (Exodus 28:1). There were many priests, the number varied according to the size of the family.

2. High Priests - Aaron was the first. He was succeeded by his sons, and so on, generation after generation.

- a. Only one high priest held office at a time; however, according to Josephus (the Jewish historian), more than eighty men officiated in this capacity between Aaron and Christ, the only reason for the change being death.
3. **Great High Priest** - There was **One** and **One only**. He was the (and still is) the Lord Jesus Christ. Note the following from Heb. 7:11-17:
- a. Jesus did not come from the Aaronic order, nor the Tribe of Levi.
  - b. Jesus was a priest after the order of Melchisedec.
  - c. Jesus inherited His Priesthood from no one. He passed it on to none.
  - d. Jesus remains and He supersedes all others by reason of His endless life and therefore, His is a changeless ministry.

D. Another general reflection concerning the priesthood is that it was progressive. Here is what I mean - you can see the development of the priesthood throughout the Scriptures.

E. In the beginning, every individual man was his own priest and offered his own sacrifices, as did Adam, Cain, Abel, Noah, Abram, and others.

F. In the Book of Exodus, we find the head of the family officiating on behalf of all who were in his house.

"... In the tenth day of this month, they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house." (Exodus 12:3b)

G. A further step of progression designated one tribe as separated from the twelve tribes for holy service, and from this one man was chosen to be priest. His name was Aaron (Exodus 28:1a).

1. He was assisted by his sons (Ex. 28:1b-e) because of the magnitude of his ministry.

H. This Aaronic priesthood continued until the death of Christ in the days of Caiaphas, the High Priest. Then it ended, for Christ passed within the Veil and sat down at the right hand (Heb. 10:12) of the Majesty on High as the Great High Priest. He then took upon Himself the ministry of intercession for the whole Church of God.

**Comment:** The Church of God in this dispensation of Grace includes all of those who have confessed their sins, asked God for forgiveness, and received the Lord Jesus Christ into their hearts as Lord and Savior.

*period of time which God deals w/ man in relation to sin*

I. The progression of the priesthood is summarized as follows:

- A priest for himself
- A priest for a family
- A priest for a nation
- A priest for the Church

**Note:** We shall build upon this in Part II as we this study of The High Priests of Israel and His Garments and in doing so, we shall discover the beauty, splendor, and glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.