

# THE PRIESTLY MINISTRY (PART II)

1/25/2018

*(A progression from righteousness to holiness)*

**ALL SAINTS PRAYER MONTH**

**17/1/2018**

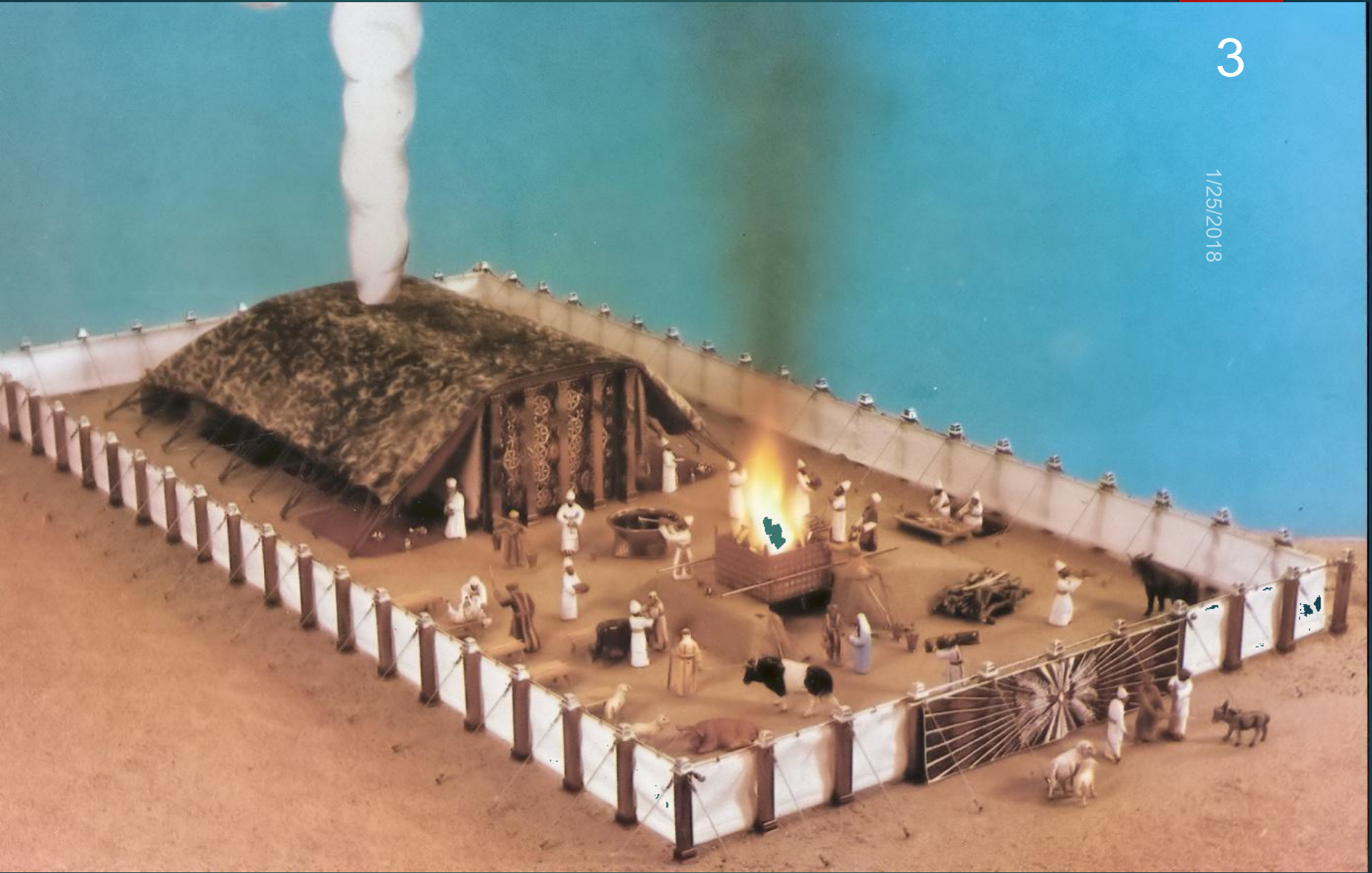
**PRESENTED BY  
NYESIGYE TOM ONESIMUS**

# OVERVIEW

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- The Two Foreshadows - The law & the Levitical priesthood
- Requirements for Biblical Priesthood
- Disqualifications for Biblical Priesthood

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# THE TWO FORESHADOWS

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a) - Levitical Priesthood as a foreshadow – **Heb.8:5-6.**

Tabernacle hindered the priests from accessing God – Outer courts, inner courts & Holy of Holies. Veil rent when Jesus died – **Mat.27:51, Heb.6:19, 9:3, 10:20, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor.3:4-18**

b) - The law as a foreshadow – **Heb.9:1-10; Heb.10:1-22,**

How is a shadow formed? Object on the way of light! The Lord is our source of light – **Ps.27:1-4; Ps.84:11; Mal.4:2; John 1:4-5**

**NB: The LAW & the PRIESTHOOD stood in the way of light so the people were not able to access God – 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor.3:1-18**

What are the lessons that can be learned from the shadow? – **1<sup>st</sup> Cor.15:55-57, Rom.8:1-4, Gal.3:24, Rom 10:4**

Jesus' death imputed righteousness on us who trust in Jesus the only savior. Then we are expected to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, walking and expressing our faith through works of righteousness. (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor.5:21, Phil.2:12, James 2:18-20; 26)

# REQUIREMENTS- Lev.21:1-8

## Old Testament

Vs.1 - Priesthood was by birth and heritage i.e., house of Levi. The priest had to be born into the family of Aaron and had to be a son.

## New Testament

Priesthood is also by birth (Jo. 3:3-5). You must be born again-sons/children of God. (Jo.1:11-13, 1<sup>st</sup> Pet.1:17-23, Rev.1:4-6, 5:5-10)

**Male/Sons**

No gender distinction. Gal. 3:26<sup>1/25/2018</sup>29.  
We are all sons of God through faith in  
Christ Jesus (vs.26). Rom.8:15,  
Gal.4:4-6, Heb.7:25-28

**Not allowed to touch death  
(sin) Vs 2**

The wages of sin is death. (Rom.6:23,  
1<sup>st</sup>Cor.15:55-56, Hos.13:14)  
✓ The issue of sin should be taken  
seriously. “Be holy because I am holy”.  
✓ Beware of dead works - anything we  
do that God has not called us to do -  
Heb.9:13-14



## Reference to Pagan Practices vs. 5-6

The Bible warns us of idolatrous practices and rituals. We need to beware of all cultural practices with satanic foundations. Make a clear distinction as priests. (Acts 15:29) food sacrificed to idols, eating/drinking blood is prohibited- The church at Pergamum and Thyatira. (Rev 2:12-15)

- Marriage practices
- Issues of death
- Naming at childbirth

**Vs.7-8 - Sexual Purity**

**Lev.18 - sexual immorality issues**

The challenge to priesthood is living sexually pure lives.

1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 6:12-20. The body was not made for sexual immorality. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. God calls us as priests to live pure/holy lives.

- Morality standard raised!!

\*Jesus quoted (Exo.20:14 & Deut.5:18) in Math.5:27-32 \*- Read together!

# DISQUALIFICATIONS - Lev. 21:16-24

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*Defects/blemishes/deficiencies –*

Things that limit our effectiveness as priests. They speak of our character, our inner person. These affect our effectiveness in the priestly office.

**1. Blind Vs. 18** - being unable to see as God sees, spiritually blind. e.g. The church in Laodicea in (Rev. 3:14-19). God declared that without a vision the people perish. (Prov.29:18, Eph.1:18, Jer.1:11-13, Zech.4:1-7) – The eyes of the lamb are the seven spirits of God sent into the world - Rev.5:6, Isa.11:1-2.

The salve in the eye is the anointing of the Holy Spirit!

NB: Zechariah was able to see an angel during the time of sacrifice, but not those outside the veil – Luk.1:10



- NB: Being Blind is equivalent to Prejudices, that is, seeing things through prejudice (tribal eyes, racial, academic, social status, denomination, etc). These will always limit our effectiveness as priests. We need to rise above our prejudices and attitudes. In this season of restoration, we need to cry out to God to open our eyes to see what He's seeing! - (Isa.56:10, 61:) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor.3:1-18 - the veil of the law which blinds spiritually.

**2. Lame - Vrs. 18** - Means cannot walk at God's pace, unsteady, unstable and needs support all the time.

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Their faith walk is irregular, characterized by ups and downs and unsteady - Prov.26:7 - compared to a parable in the mouth of a fool.

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They are weak believers who don't know how to conduct themselves according to God's counsel -

**Jer. 6:16-17** - You begin to walk towards what you see -

Walk - conduct yourself, develop behavioral patterns and habits according to the counsel. Discipline (restrain) yourself based on the direction you are taking. It is not convenient to restrain especially when everything in you is shouting otherwise, but it must be done.

### 3. *Disfigured/Flat nose - Vs 18*

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This speaks of Discernment. A nose is used to smell. Spiritually speaking, a flat nose is a sign of the lack of sensitivity or discernment, implying that one can easily be deceived. Heb.5:13-14.

## 4. Deformed/Superfluous - Vs.18

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This speaks of Uneven or One-Sided Growth, without balance or sound knowledge of the grace of God – 2<sup>nd</sup> Pet.3:18.

Therefore, we need to listen to the whole counsel of God. As priests, we need to be growing up in all ways. We need to receive the whole truth. There is need to embrace the 5-fold ministry - it releases the required even growth - (Eph.4:11-13).



## 5. Crippled /Broken Foot/Hand – Vs. 19

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This speaks of one who is unable to walk, a broken person that needs healing. When you minister with a wounded heart, you cannot minister properly e.g. when a hand is broken, it is unable to protect, feed, clean or minister to the body; it is unable to work.

## 6. **Hunchbacked – Vs.20** - not straight in your dealings/crooked/bent/not upright.

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Someone who seems to be carrying a *Strange Burden* - generation sins & curses. This area of the body also speaks to us concerning stability, strength, and uprightness. (Job.1:8; 2:3 – God testifies of Job's uprightness)

## 7. Dwarfed – Vs.20 - stunted growth.

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The difference between a priest of the Lord and a child of God is in development and maturity into the deeper things of God (Heb.5:12-14). A priest of the Lord must be fully equipped for every good work.

## 8. Blemish in the Eye – Vs.20

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They are people who have the ability to see, but it is in limited form. They lack clarity & are not able to see the entire picture that is before them, therefore their judgment is clouded and distorted. To have partial/clouded vision is to be lacking in understanding and knowledge (Prov.4:7, Hos.4:6, Acts 28:26, Mat.13:15, Eph.1:18, 2<sup>nd</sup>Pet.1:2-11).

NB: We must pray that the Lord makes us of quick understanding! It means to be able to interpret the facts and information available, making them relevant to the situations at hand. Lord remove the veil from our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit! – 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor.3:14

## 9. Festering or Running Sores – Vs.20

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**(Decay, rotten, decompose, corruption, degenerate)**

- ▶ This speaks of “Unhealed heart issues”; moving in Bitterness and unforgiveness. (Eph.4:26-27 – warns against allowing anger to rule US, Ps.37:8 – Cease from anger & forsake wrath, it only leads to evildoing!)
- ▶ NB: Priesthood is greatly affected if we fail to forgive and continue to harbor bitterness. (Heb.12:15)
- ▶ Jubilee promises a binding up & healing of broken hearts (Isa.61:1)
- ▶ Mat. 6:12 – Forgive us on condition that we forgive others!
- ▶ Mark 11:23-25 – Relationship is better than sacrifice!

NB: Eph.6:10 –Finally brethren....

(husband & wives, children & parents, brethren & brethren, servants & masters) – Husbands, how do you treat your wives? 1<sup>st</sup> Pet.3:1-7 & Mal.2:1-16

## 10. Damaged Testicles/broken stones – Vs.20

*(reproductive organ).*

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- ▶ Priesthood is by birth, the seed of the priest is necessary to perpetuate priesthood. (Jesus as seed - Gen.3:15 – John 12:24, 1<sup>st</sup> Cor.15:36 - resurrection) Math.13:38 – Good seed, children of the kingdom. You cannot bear fruit unless you are first a seed! (Luk.8:15). Seed preserves the DNA of a plant (Rom.9:29)
- ▶ This speaks of a person who is Unproductive.
- ▶ We must graduate from being perpetual students to maturity (Heb.5:12).
- ▶ God requires us to be productive. Being useful to other believers; sharing with others what we have learnt. Begin to take responsibility over your life, family, clan, tribe, church, nation. (2<sup>nd</sup>Pet.1:2-11)

# Conclusion

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- ▶ Therefore, we need to respond to this priestly call.
- ▶ God's Promise (Isa.56:3-7)  
Eunuch – castrated, separated unto God.
- ▶ God is challenging us to choose what pleases Him, and if we do, we shall find joy in the place of prayer and be effective in our priestly office. Many are called, but few are chosen (we are chosen based on the choices we make to consecrate ourselves.
- ▶ The restoration of a functional priesthood is in a season of Jubilee – Isa.61:6.