

The Priesthood of the Church Saint

David Roseland March 31, 2019

Sanctification in Israel, or the OT saint's communion with God, was mediated through the Levitical priesthood with its system of sacrifices and offerings. The priests were the representatives of the people to God, enabling the people to approach their Creator in worship and consecration to Him.

The sin offering would begin the person's approach, in which personal sins would be confessed and the animal would be sacrificed as though in payment for the sins committed. The whole burnt offering would follow, indicating whole consecration of the offerer and his house to God. An Israelite could also bring the grain offering of gratitude to God for His provision and the fellowship offering, portraying the enjoyment of fellowship with God.

All these sacrifices enabled the children of Israel to worship and enjoy fellowship with God, and they all required the ministry of the Levite priests.

But today there is a new order, and we do not have a special class of believers set aside to minister fellowship with God. We go directly to the Throne of Grace through our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The New Testament does not make a major emphasis of the believer's priesthood, but I want to trace out two key aspects of Church Age doctrine regarding our priesthood.

1. Our High Priest
2. Our Sacrifices

Our High Priest: The Lord Jesus Christ

Hebrews 6:19–20 — This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

7:1-3: Melchizedek Introduced

7:4-10: Melchizedek Greater than Levi

7:11-22: Jesus is the New High Priest

7:23-25: Perpetuity of the New High Priest

7:26-28: Perfection of the New High Priest

1. Jesus is the King-Priest in Psalm 110:4.
2. His priesthood has indeed superseded the Levitical Priesthood.
3. Our relationship to Him establishes us as priests within His priesthood (v19).

8:1-6: Heavenly vs. Earthly

8:7-12: OT statement of the New Covenant

8:13: Therefore the Old Covenant is obsolete.

9:1-5: The Earthly Tabernacle

9:6-10: The Levitical System of Sacrifices

9:11-14: The Eternal Sacrifice

9:15-22: The Blood of the Old Covenant vs. New Covenant

9:23-28: Christ Our Sacrifice

10:1-10: The Insufficiency of the Levitical Offerings vs. the Sufficiency of Christ's Sacrifice

10:11-18: The Completion of the Work of Christ

Our Sacrifices

Hebrews 10:19–25 — Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Hebrews 13:15–16 — Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Romans 12:1–3 — Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.