

Priestly Qualifications and Responsibilities...

Priests Before The Law Of Moses

- No specific priesthood. Gen. 4:4; Gen. 8:20; Gen. 12:7; 13:18; Gen. 26:25
- First official recognition of "office" of priest. Gen. 14:18; cf. Ps. 110:1-4; Heb. 5:4-6; 7:15-17
- Sometimes the head of the family/nation served as priest.
 - No specific priests, no specific place of sacrifice.

Priests After The Giving Of The Law Of Moses

- Specific priesthood named.
 - Tribe of Levi – Num. 1:49; 3:6
 - Family of Aaron – Ex. 28:1
 - No others could accomplish their function. 2 Chron. 26:16ff

Qualifications of Aaronic Priests

- Set apart. Ex. 29
- Could not be afflicted with bodily defilements. Lev. 21-22
- Live virtuous lives. Lev. 21:8-9; cf. Deut. 22:21
- Serve in the strength of the whole man. Lev. 21:18-20

Responsibilities of Aaronic Priests

- Offer sacrifices for the people. Lev. 1-4
- Maintain the sanctuary. Num. 18:1,5,7
- Teach the law to the people. Lev. 10:9-11; Mal. 2:7; Deut. 31:9-13

Punishment For Priestly Failure

- Personal calamity. 1 Sam. 2:12-36; Hos. 5:1-7; Zeph. 3:4; cf. Mal. 1:13-2:2, cf. verse 8
- Punishment on the whole land of Israel. Micah 3:11-12; 2 Chron. 36:14-21

New Testament Priesthood

Romans 15:4

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope.”

Conclusion:

- We must ever strive to hold to the path mapped out by our great High Priest, and beware lest any man lead us into the forbidden ways of death and destruction.