

Seeking My King & His Kingdom

#45 Priests In The Millennium

God's Desire: Ex. 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. But this was never fulfilled! Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes. [The nation of Israel was in a downward spiral during the time of Eli; high priest] In I Sam. 2:27 an anonymous "man of God" appeared at Shiloh to declare the terms of God's judgment on Eli and his family.

1. He dealt with the PAST: Reminded Eli his position as high priest was a Gift Of God's Grace.

a. Being a high priest was a privilege to offer sacrifices, burn incense on the golden altar, wear sacred garments and eat of the holy offerings.

2. PRESENT: Eli was putting his sons ahead of the Lord and sharing in their sins.

a. Eli had the authority to discipline his sons, but he refused to do so. If he had been a man of God, concerned for the glory of God, he would have called them to repentance. If they refused, he would have replaced them.

3. The burden of the prophet's message was on the FUTURE. [Not good news!]

a. God had given the priesthood to Aaron and his descendants forever, and nobody could take this honor. However, God's servants cannot live any way they please and expect the Lord to honor them. [I Sam. 2:30: ...those who honor Me I will honor.]

b. The privilege of the priesthood would remain with the tribe of Levi and the house of Aaron, but God would take it away from Eli's branch of the family.

c. Eli's descendants would become weak and die off. There would be no more old men like Eli.

d. Eli's 2 sons would die on the same day.

e. Tabernacle would experience distress. [I Sam. 2:32-you will see an enemy in my habitation]

4. Prophecy Fulfilled:

- I Sam. 4 - Israel was camped at Ebenezer ; Philistines were camped at Aphek
- Philistines are victorious; Killed 4,000 Israelites
- I Sam. 4:3b Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that when it cometh among us, It May Save Us out of the hand of our enemies.
- Moving of the Ark of the Covenant from Shiloh where it had been for 305 years.
- 2nd Battle: Philistines win; Killed 30,000 Israelites!
- They captured the ark. Eli's sons are killed and Israel was defeated.

When Eli hears this news, he falls over and breaks his neck. [I Sam. 4:11-18]

Upon hearing of her husband's death, Eli's DIL goes into labor and gives birth to a son, Ichabod = "the glory of the Lord is departed from Israel." [I Sam. 4:19-22].

Thus, God's judgment against Eli's house is complete.

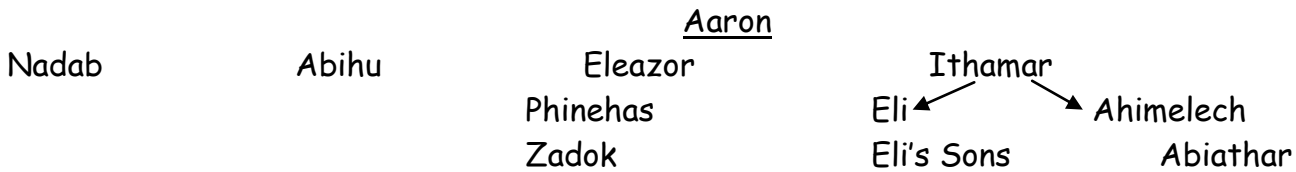
5. The future is not all bleak: At the close of the dark days of the judges, when Eli was high priest, a man of God came and delivered God's judgment.

I Sam. 2:35 "AND I WILL RAISE ME UP A FAITHFUL PRIEST that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind:

and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed forever."

Note: There are 2 choices left of Aaron's 4 sons. [Nadab and Abihu had been killed because of their "strange fire" offering.]

The Faithful Priest must come from the line of Eleazar or Ahimelech, the 2 remaining sons.



Fast Forward To King David: 2 High Priests [II Sam. 8:17; I Chron. 15:11]

I Chron. 15:11 David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

1. Zadok was related to Aaron through Aaron's third son Eleazar [I Chron. 6:1-8, 50-53].
2. Abiathar was related to Aaron through his 4th son, Ithamar.
 - a. Abiathar was a faithful servant to David for many years. He was with David at Nob when Doeg slaughtered 85 priests plus families and animals. Abiathar was the only priest to escape.
 - b. He adhered to David in his wanderings while pursued by Saul.
 - c. He was with him while he reigned in Hebron, and afterwards in Jerusalem.
 - d. He continued faithful to David in Absalom's rebellion.
 - e. Abiathar KNEW God had chosen Solomon as the next king of Israel, BUT...
 - f. Abiathar defected from David [God's anointed] and joined the party that promoted Adonijah as David's successor to the throne [I Kings 1].
 - g. This cost Abiathar and his descendants the priesthood.

I Kings 2:26-27 And unto Abiathar the priest said the king, *Get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own fields; for thou art worthy of death: but I will not at this time put thee to death, because thou barest the ark of the LORD God before David my father, and because thou hast been afflicted in all wherein my father was afflicted.*

[You stood with David when he was a fugitive. You consulted God with the ephod in David's name. You shared the priesthood responsibly with Zadok during David's reign.]

²⁷ So Solomon Thrust Out Abiathar From Being Priest Unto The LORD;

that he might fulfill the word of the LORD, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

- b. He was banished to Anathoth, about 3 miles outside of Jerusalem.
- c. This act fulfilled the prophecy [about 100 years later] given concerning Eli the high priest and his wicked sons. I Sam. 2:27-36 - Priesthood would pass to the seed of Zadok.

Question: Who is the faithful priest of the prophecy in I Sam. 2:35? Zadok

God established a new, faithful, priestly, everlasting lineage and gave the office of high priest to Zadok. *I will raise me up a faithful priest—One Who Will Be Loyal To My Throne Forever!* Zadok was a warrior who surrounded himself with men of character who were loyal to David and to God.

This confirms God's promise of an everlasting priesthood to Zadok's ancestor Phinehas. Num. 25:10-13 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹¹ Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. ¹² Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: ¹³ And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an Everlasting Priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

This also confirms God's promise of an everlasting priesthood to Phinehas' grandfather Aaron. Ex. 29:9 the priest's office shall be theirs for a perpetual statute: and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons.

Ex. 40:15 And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.

This promise of an everlasting priesthood was strongly confirmed by God through: Jeremiah 33:17-22 For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel; ¹⁸ Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually. ¹⁹ And the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, saying, ²⁰ Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers. ²² As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.

In view of these promises of God, confirmed again and again, it is highly significant that the Millennial Temple of Ezekiel will have the sons of Zadok as its priests! (40:46, 44:15). Three times we are told: the descendants of Zadok will be the priests [40:46, 43:19; 44:15].

The Lord's Portion Of The Land: Ezek. 45:1-5 Moreover, when ye shall divide by lot the land for inheritance, ye shall offer an oblation [offering; gift] unto the LORD, an holy portion of the land: the length shall be the length of five and twenty thousand reeds, and the breadth shall be ten thousand. [1 Reed = ~3.5 yards; 500 Reeds = 1 Mile; therefore, 50 miles x 20 miles] This shall be holy in all the borders thereof round about.

² Of this there shall be for the sanctuary five hundred in length, with five hundred in breadth, square round about; and fifty cubits round about for the suburbs thereof.

³ And of this measure shalt thou measure the length of five and twenty thousand, and the breadth of ten thousand: and in it shall be the sanctuary and the most holy place.

⁴ The holy portion of the land shall be for the priests the ministers of the sanctuary, which shall come near to minister unto the LORD: and it shall be a place for their houses, and an holy place for the sanctuary.

⁵ And the five and twenty thousand of length, and the ten thousand of breadth shall also the Levites, the ministers of the house, have for themselves, for a possession for twenty chambers.

Ezekiel 48:1-28 gives the order of Israel's tribal allotments for the Millennial Kingdom. Seven parcels of land appointed to 7 of the tribes of Israel will lie north of the mountain. Five of them will be south of it.

The mountain will be located in a position a little south of the exact center of the land.

Ezek. 48:8-12 And by the border of Judah, from the east side unto the west side, shall be the offering which ye shall offer of five and twenty thousand reeds in breadth, and in length as one of the other parts, from the east side unto the west side: and the sanctuary shall be in the midst of it.⁹ The oblation that ye shall offer unto the LORD shall be of five and twenty thousand in length, and of ten thousand in breadth.

¹⁰ And for them, Even For The Priests, shall be this holy oblation; toward the north five and twenty thousand in length, and toward the west ten thousand in breadth, and toward the east ten thousand in breadth, and toward the south five and twenty thousand in length: and the sanctuary of the LORD shall be in the midst thereof.

¹¹ It Shall Be For The Priests That Are Sanctified Of The Sons Of Zadok; which have kept my charge, which went not astray when the children of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray.¹² And this oblation of the land that is offered shall be unto them a thing most holy by the border of the Levites.

Requirements For Priests

Ezekiel 44:10-16 And the Levites that are gone away far from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray away from me after their idols; they shall even bear their iniquity.

¹¹ Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having charge at the gates of the house, and ministering to the house: they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister unto them.

¹² Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity; therefore have I lifted up mine hand against them, saith the Lord GOD, and they shall bear their iniquity.

¹³ And they shall not come near unto me, to do the office of a priest unto me, nor to come near to any of my holy things, in the most holy place: but they shall bear their shame, and their abominations which they have committed.

¹⁴ But I will make them keepers of the charge of the house, for all the service thereof, and for all that shall be done therein.

¹⁵ But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:

¹⁶ They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge.

1. The original line of Levitical priests who were once in charge of the worship in Solomon's Temple, will not approach the sanctuary because their forefathers did not remain faithful to the Lord when they were being conquered, but caved in to the religions of their enemies. Recall: The presence of God had departed because of Israel's and its priests' disobedience and unfaithfulness. The priest had not persevered in their faith, but caved into the belief of the conquering nations and hardened their hearts toward God and they were overtaken by the world. They soiled their garments by distancing themselves from the Lord. Consequently, they lost the presence of the Lord.

a. God's Mercy: He will allow them to be in charge of the maintenance of the Temple structure. [Ezek. 44:15-31] They will be allowed to kill the sacrifices, assist the worshippers, serve as gatekeepers and help in the temple, but they WILL NOT have priestly privileges.

b. God's Justice: He will choose the sons of Zadok to personally serve Him in the Millennial Temple because of their forefather's faithfulness in the past to stand strong for Him. They Will Receive Access To The Presence Of The Lord.

Ezek. 40:46 And the chamber whose prospect is toward the north is for the priests, the keepers of the charge of the altar: these are the sons of Zadok among the sons of Levi, which come near to the LORD to minister unto him.

Heb. 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and Holiness, Without Which No Man Shall See The Lord: [something to consider and meditate on...]

Note: There will be distinction in the Millennium - even in the priests.

Absolute holiness will be required to be a Zadok priest.

In like manner, we run the risk of becoming like the old Eli priests when we become unfaithful, disobedient and wear spotted garments. The Zadok priests put righteousness and faithfulness before everything else. When we become clothed with the "garments of righteousness" that righteousness will flow like a river to all with whom we come in contact.

"Spiritual" sons of Zadok quickly judge themselves so that God's Spirit will not be quenched or grieved. They are uncompromising, unspotted and unwrinkled believes. They live a separated life, and they desire to please only the Lord. Kindness and the fruit of the Spirit exude from their lives. They only operate in the power of God, not in the flesh. They keep themselves in constant communication with the Lord and keep their spiritual vessel clean.

The result is that God gets the glory - never for themselves.

The fear of the Lord overrides everything in their lives.

To be a "son of Zadok" will cost a person his life - his thoughts, his will and his emotions. These are gladly given, because in exchange, he will be clothed with the "beauty of Christ's holiness."

Temple = 1 Sq. Mile

EZEKIEL 45

50 Miles

25,000 Reeds

