

Lesson Nine the Only Priest You Will Ever Need (High Priest)

Text: Hebrews 5:1-10;

Introduction:

I. The Ministry of the High Priest - The priesthood was for the maintaining, not securing, their relationship (FELLOWSHIP) with Jehovah.

A. First, let us mark and admire the lovely grace of God which is brought out in the type before us. This is seen in the choice that He made.

Exodus 28:1 “Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests—Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.” (ESV) Not Moses, but Aaron - Genesis 49:5-7;

B. Second, let us now consider the significance of his name. "Aaron" means "very high." Acts 5:31; Hebrews 4:14; Nadab means "willing"; Abihu, "my Father is He"; Eleazer, "help of God"; Ithamar, "land of palm."

C. Third, let us dwell upon the significance of the singular pronoun in Exodus 28:1: "Take unto thee Aaron, and his sons with him, that he may minister."

II. The Duration of the (Earthly) High Priest - Hebrews 9:9; 9:24; 10:1;

Sacerdotalism - religious belief emphasizing the powers of priests as essential mediators between God and humankind.

A. Judaism ceased, and Christianity was introduced. Two symbolic actions gave plain intimation of this.

1. First, in Matthew 26:65 we are told, "the high priest rent his clothes," which was expressly forbidden by the law, see Leviticus 21:10.

2. Second, the rending of the veil (Matthew 27:51): the barrier into God's presence no longer existed for His people.

B. In Hebrews 5 and 7 the Holy Spirit has carefully called attention to a number of contrasts between the priesthood of Aaron and that of Christ.

1. Hebrews 5:2 – “...since he himself is beset with weakness.” (ESV)

2. Hebrews 5:3 – “...he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins...”

3. Hebrews 7:21 – “but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, ‘You are a priest forever.’” (ESV)

Conclusion: 1 Peter 2:5, 9 affirms that all believers are now "priests," and that all of God's people enjoy liberty of access into the Holiest (Heb. 10:19, 22).