

Abounding Grace Christian Church

Seeing Christ in the Old Testament: A Study of the Types of Christ – Part 9

I. Seeing Christ in the Book of Exodus (continued).

A. A Look at the Priesthood

1. Aaron, the High Priest – A Type of Christ – Exodus 28:1-29:46; Leviticus 8:1-9:24; Hebrews 5:1-10:22.

- a. The office of the High Priest was established by God through Moses, with Aaron, the brother of Moses, being appointed as the first High Priest – cf. **Hebrews 5:1-4; Exodus 28:1**. After Aaron, the High Priest was to come from the tribe of Levi, specifically from the descendants of Aaron (**Exodus 29:9**).
- b. The High Priest had many duties, the most important and unique involved the performing of rituals, once per year, on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). On this day, the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies, the innermost part of the Tabernacle or Temple, to offer sacrifices for the atonement of the sins of the people. (cf. **Leviticus 16**).
- c. Other duties of the High Priest and Priests. David Schrock writes:

“The priests (1) stand to serve in God’s house, (2) guard God’s house and God’s people, (3) offer sacrifices on God’s altar, (4) teach God’s people, and (5) intercede for the people. These five actions are a composite of the priestly duties found in the law, and they support the definition of priesthood offered above, that priests are the consecrated mediators between God and his covenant people who stand to serve at God’s altar, sanctifying God’s Holy Place, sacrificing God’s offerings, speaking God’s covenant.”¹

- d. How was Aaron a Type (foreshadowing) of Christ? Christ fulfilled the qualifications and duties of a high priest in Israel. **Hebrews 5:1-4** gives us a short list of qualifications and functions of a Levitical priest.
 - 1) he had to be a man, “**taken from among men**” — not an angel, for example, but a man. Jesus became a partaker of flesh and blood (**Hebrews 2:14**) and “**...made like His brethren...**” (**Hebrews 2:17**)
 - 2) he had to be “**appointed**” (verse 1) and “**called by God, as Aaron was**” (verse 4). **Hebrews 5:5-6, 10** states that Jesus also was appointed by God.
 - 3) he had to “**offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins**” (verse 1). As High Priest, Jesus offered up Himself as a once and for all sacrifice for sins (**Hebrews 7:27; 9:7-14, 28; 20:1-25**).
 - 4) he had to “**have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness**” (verse 2). Jesus, though He never sinned, sympathizes with our weaknesses – **Hebrews 4:14-16**.
 - 5) In addition, we know that the High Priest was a mediator for the people which would include prayer or intercession for the people. Jesus is our one and only Mediator (cf. **Hebrews 7:25; 8:6; 9:15; 12:24**). The definition of a “**Mediator**” is: “**One that acts between two parties; a mediator, one who interposes to reconcile two adverse parties**”²

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,” - I Timothy 2:5

2. Aaron’s Sons – The Priests – A Type of all Believers – I Peter 2:4-9; Revelation 1:5-6.

Regarding this, Nancy Guthrie writes:

“John’s ‘revelation of Jesus Christ’ (Rev. 1:1) begins with his vision of Jesus ‘clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest’ (Rev. 1:13). This clothing, which is similar to the clothing the

¹ David S. Schrock, *The Royal Priesthood and the Glory of God*, ed. Dane C. Ortlund and Miles V. Van Pelt, Short Studies in Biblical Theology (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022), 65.

² William D. Mounce, *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 1209.

high priest in the Old Testament temple wore, tells us that into eternity Jesus remains our Great High Priest.

John praises him ‘who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father’ (Rev. 1:5–6). So we also immediately see that Jesus is not the only priest revealed in Revelation. Throughout Revelation we see that what God intended all along—for the people of God to be a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6) representing him and displaying his glory throughout all of his creation—has come to full fruition. All of those who have been purchased by the blood of Christ are priests in the eternal kingdom of God.”³

³ Nancy Guthrie, *The Lamb of God: Seeing Jesus in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012).