

A note from Kathy

In this chapter we see God establishing the priesthood for Israel. The people were to serve God carefully and prayerfully. As we look at this chapter on the priesthood, we should also focus on our High Priest, Jesus Christ, who even though was tempted as we are, was without sin. The Bible says we can “come boldly to the throne of grace, that we obtain mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.”

Observation

1. Who did the Lord choose from among the Israelites to serve as priests and lead the nation spiritually? Do you recall what tribe these men were from? Exodus 4:14
2. Moses was to instruct “skilled men” to make the priests’ attire. How were the garments described in verse 2? What other facts could you deduct from this description of the garments?
3. In verse 3, where did these skilled craftsmen get their wisdom and talent in order to do their work? What does knowing this reveal about God?
4. Make a list of the priests’ clothing mentioned in verse 4? Label the drawing at the end of this study guide.
5. The ephod was the first garment described in verses 6-14. There were two onyx stones set in gold attached to the shoulders of the ephod. What was to be engraved on these stones?
6. Write the name of each stone in the box as they would appear on a priest’s breastplate. What was the measurement of the breastplate? Note how it was to be attached. Some translations differ concerning these stones. Do not fret over this, simply jot down the stones listed in your translation.

7. A span equaled approximately 9". What does that make the measurement of the breastplate when worn?
8. There are many theories today as to what the Urim and the Thummim actually were. We know they were some kind of objects because they were to be placed in the ephod next to Aaron's heart. What were they used for? Read Proverbs 16:33.
9. Describe the priest's robe.
10. Describe the turban.
11. What did the plate on the turban symbolize?
12. Describe the tunic.
13. Describe the sash.
14. Describe the undergarments.
15. How crucial was it for the priests to wear the proper attire when ministering?

Application

1. The Lord was establishing the priesthood and giving specific instructions. What does the Lord require of those in positions of spiritual leadership today?
1 Timothy 3:1-13 *Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Now the overseer must be above reproach,*

the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. 8 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. 11 In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. 12 A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. 13 Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

Like those of Acts 6:3-4, *Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.*

2. Make a list of a few of the character qualities of a spiritual leader?

3. Are you a spiritual leader to others? What was Jesus' prayer for all those who would follow Him? Read John 17: 13-19; do you recall what the word "sanctify" means? According to Matthew 28:19-20, what is our assignment?

4. In establishing the priesthood, what do you believe God wanted the people to recall? What did the priesthood point out concerning the Israelites?

5. What did the instructions for the priests tell you about what is involved in ministry on behalf of others?

6. Why do you believe God went to such lengths to establish the priesthood and to ordain them to serve him?

7. How might you act as a priest this week to others?
Hebrews 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our

weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

8. Since God was this interested in the details of the priests clothing, do you think he is interested in the details of our lives and our worship?

