

B. The Expression of Holiness in the Priesthood...Leviticus 8-10, et al

1. Introductory notes:

Holiness is founded on sacrifice and then is expressed in priesthood (lives set apart for the service of God), habits of living, appointments of the year, and care for the company of God's people. These are all rather general as I state them now but they will be particularized in our study of Leviticus as we procede

The importance of the institution lies in the fact that it is the very heart of the expression of Israel's history and faith. It is, to the people, the living expression of the law of God. As we see it in this book it is delineated by tribe and discussed in great detail. Failure of the priestly office to function correctly was often the cause of Israel's national sin according to the expressions of the Old Testament. Israel's successes, on the other hand, were often directly attributable to a godly priest. The priest is one of the anointed persons in the Old Testament and had the spiritual welfare of the people in his hands, so to speak. His ministry overlapped that of the prophet in some segments and sometimes the prophets were of the priestly line (as with Jeremiah) and often the priests prophesied. This course touches only on the higher aspect of the priestly office as seen in the selected passage in Leviticus after a cursory perusal of the background.

2. Background materials:

a. The idea

The idea in priesthood is to have a person or a class of persons whose lives are set apart to the service of God. It was the Divine desire for the entire nation (Exodus 19:6) and the priesthood was to be exemplary and directional in its functions (Malachi 2).

b. Historic Background

- Noah
- Melchizadek
- Patriarchs
- Job
- Jethro

c. The Aaronic line

- selection (Exodus 28-29, Numbers 18:7, etc)
- Biblical reference: Ps 105:6, Heb. 5:4

d. Major function:

- intercessor
- explainer
- exhorter