

4. Excursus on the Priestly Line

Our material for this section is taken from various portions of Leviticus..portions that touch on the priesthood and it seems good to put them together at this point. We will not comment at length on these sections later in the course...unless I get carried away by accident.

a. Qualifications: (the Aaronic line)

(1) Physical, Lev. 21:16-24

--from a human point of view the priest or one so serving is to mirror the creation perfection of God.

(2) Spiritual, Lev. 22:1-9

--yieldedness to God and holy devotion are to mark all the facets of priestly character and life.

(3) Public, Lev. 21

--practice 21:1-4

--appearance 21:5-6

--moral performance 21:7-15

It is true that God looks on the heart but it is also instructive that He is concerned with the outward appearance when it is one of His servants and the Divine testimony is an issue. Probably He is concerned with the outward appearance at other times, too. The heart concept is that we may forget it in the rash of externalisms but the externalisms have an important part to play. The big thrust is that those who are the Lord's are wholly the Lord's.

b. Priestly service:

(1) sanctuary ministry

(2) giving (explaining) legislation

(3) performing intercessory work...and this is a form of intercession that goes both ways.

c. The Levitical service: all priests are Levites but not all Levites are priests!

(1) Designation: Numbers 3:6-13 and Numbers 8

(2) Function:Numbers 3

(3) Qualifications: Numbers 4

(4) Relationship with priests and tabernacle servants

(5) Maintenance: by the Lord and His people

d. The Nazarite service (Numbers 6)

e. Priesthood in the New Testament: a further excursus.