

4. Priestly Services:

a. Broad view...

The priest is an intermediary between God and Man..He directs the attention of each to the care of the other. His particular expressions or functions in this role are not always well defined and the examples of Samuel (able to tell where the lost asses are), Eli (able to tell Hannah of God's intervention), etc., are typical of this broad aspect that is often not definitive.

b. Particular duties (narrow view)

(1) as per office High priest

Priest =

Levites =

We can speak of some of the duties of these and will say more of them when we look at some of the other institutions. There is order in the work of God and this diversity of priesthood and service is an indication of how pronounced and widespread it is.

(2) as special servants of God for particular causes:

--Ezekiel

--Jeremiah

--Hosea

20:10 5. The Scenario:

Aaron and His Son...on the Mount Num. 25:10

6. Summary:

The priests are often not the best persons but the office exists in spite of them and the challenge to all who come to it is to live up to the standard, not down to the level of some of the defectors. While religion is always of a personal sort, the office of priest was a necessary device to keep society on the whole from degenerating into an animistic economy. Of course that can happen with priests of an animistic sort but I am here speaking of Israel as a people chosen of God and blessed with His covenants.

We are challenged with our own priesthood today and can learn a lot from the expectations and fulfillments of the past.