

Leviticus 21:1-24 A Holy Priesthood

Is there a connection between the Priesthood of Aaron, the Priesthood of Melchizedek, and the Priesthood of Messiah?

The Aaronic Priesthood left no objection to those who were born in the family of Aaron. A Priest was born into the Priesthood and therefore subject to the service thereof per YeHoVaH's Instructions. In this portion of Leviticus, **further restrictions were given for all who were born into the Holy Priesthood.**

The term Levitical Priesthood is not found in the Old Testament, and it is used once in the New Testament.

Heb 7:11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need *was there* that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

All Priests were Levites.

All Levites were not Priests.

The Priests were the descendants of Aaron.

Before there were Priests, after the order of Aaron who served YeHoVaH, there was the order of Melchisedec.

Melchizedek is not a name, but a dual title of one who is King and Priest.

Hebrew

04442 מלְכִי־צֶדֶק Malkiy-Tsedeq {mal-kee-tseh'-dek} **Meaning:** Melchizedek = "my king is Sedek" 1) king of Salem and priest of the Most High God to whom Abram paid tithes after the battle he fought to free Lot; 'the order of Melchizedek' the order of the priesthood to which Christ belongs

Usage: AV - Melchizedek 2; 2

The Hebrew writer, in the Greek New Testament, said of Melchizedek:

Heb 7:1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

Heb 7:2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

Melchizedek was not called a High Priest which would indicate that he was not of the highest order of the Priesthood he was a part of.

The Priesthood of Aaron had a High Priest and Priests.

Lev 21:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto the priests the sons of Aaron, and say unto them, There shall none be defiled for the dead among his people:

YeHoVaH spoke, Moses spoke, and wrote:

The Priest could only be defiled for his immediate family -

mother, father, son, daughter, brother, and sister if she is a virgin and never married.

Lev 21:2 But for his kin, that is near unto him, *that is*, for his mother, and for his father, and for his son, and for his daughter, and for his brother,

Lev 21:3 And for his sister a virgin, that is nigh unto him, which hath had no husband; for her may he be defiled.

No baldness, cutting the corners of his beard or any cuttings in his flesh:

Lev 21:4 *But* he shall not defile himself, *being* a chief man among his people, to profane himself.

Lev 21:5 They shall not make baldness upon their head, neither shall they shave off the corner of their beard, nor make any cuttings in their flesh.

They were to be holy because they offer the bread of YeHoVaH.

Lev 21:6 They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire, *and* the bread of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy.

The “*and*” in italics in verse 6 is added. Other versions do not include the “*and*”.

Lev 21:6 They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire, *and* the bread of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy. **NIV**

Lev 21:6 They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God; for they offer the offerings made by fire to the Lord, the bread of their God; therefore they shall be holy. **AMP**

Lev 21:6 ‘They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God, for they present the offerings by fire to the LORD, the food of their God; so they shall be holy. **NASB**

Lev 21:6 ‘They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God, for they present the offerings by fire to the LORD, the food of their God; so they shall be holy. **ASV**

Lev 21:6 They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God; for they present Jehovah’s offerings by fire, the bread of their God; therefore shall they be holy. **Darby**

Lev 21:6 They shall be holy to their God, and not profane the name of their God; for they offer the LORD's offerings by fire, the food of their God; therefore they shall be holy. **RSV**

Lev 21:6 They shall be holy to their God, and not profane the name of their God; for they offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire, the bread of their God; therefore they shall be holy. **HNV**

The bread/food of YeHoVaH was the offerings made by fire. They could possibly include the shewbread in the Tabernacle based on the verse.

Regular Priests restrictions on marriage: No defiled woman or divorced woman.

Lev 21:7 They shall not take a wife *that is* a whore, or profane; neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband: for he *is* holy unto his God.

Whore – **02181** זָנָה *zanah* {zaw-naw'}

Meaning: 1) to commit fornication, be a harlot, play the harlot 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to be a harlot, act as a harlot, commit fornication 1a2) to commit adultery 1a3) to be a cult prostitute 1a4) to be

unfaithful (to God) (fig.) 1b) (Pual) to play the harlot 1c) (Hiphil) 1c1) to cause to commit adultery 1c2) to force into prostitution 1c3) to commit fornication

Usage: AV - ...harlot 36, go a whoring 19, ...whoredom 15, whore 11, commit fornication 3, whorish 3, harlot + 0802 2, commit 1, continually 1, great 1, whore's + 0802 1; 93

Profane – 02491 חָלַל {khaw-lawl'}

Meaning: n m 1) slain, fatally wounded, pierced 1a) pierced, fatally wounded 1b) slain adj 2) (CLBL) profaned 2a) defiled, profaned (by divorce)

Usage: AV - slay 78, wounded 10, profane 3, kill 2, slain man 1; 94

Put away – **01644** גָּרַשׁ {gaw-rash'}

Meaning: 1) to drive out, expel, cast out, drive away, divorce, put away, thrust away, trouble, cast up 1a) (Qal) to thrust out, cast out 1b) (Niphal) to be driven away, be tossed 1c) (Piel) to drive out, drive away 1d) (Pual) to be thrust out

Usage: AV - drive out 20, cast out 8, thrust out 6, drive away 2, put away 2, divorced 2, driven 1, expel 1, drive forth 1, surely 1, troubled 1, cast up 1, divorced woman 1; 47

Lev 21:8 Thou shalt sanctify him therefore; for he offereth the bread of thy God: he shall be holy unto thee: for I the LORD, which sanctify you, *am* holy.

Lev 21:9 And the daughter of any priest, if she profane herself by playing the whore, she profaneth her father: she shall be burnt with fire.

Lev 21:10 And *he that is* the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes;

The High Priest could not defile himself for anyone.

Lev 21:11 Neither shall he go in to any dead body, nor defile himself for his father, or for his mother;

Lev 21:12 Neither shall he go out of the sanctuary, nor profane the sanctuary of his God; for the crown of the anointing oil of his God *is* upon him: I *am* the LORD.

The High Priest Restrictions

The High Priest could only marry a virgin from the tribe of Levi.

Lev 21:13 And he shall take a wife in her virginity.

Lev 21:14 A widow, or a divorced woman, or profane, *or* an harlot, **these shall he not take:** but he shall take a virgin of his own people to wife.

Divorced – 01644 גָּרַשׁ {gaw-rash'}

Meaning: 1) to drive out, expel, cast out, drive away, divorce, put away, thrust away, trouble, cast up 1a) (Qal) to thrust out, cast out 1b) (Niphal) to be driven away, be tossed 1c) (Piel) to drive out, drive away 1d) (Pual) to be thrust out

Usage: AV - drive out 20, cast out 8, thrust out 6, drive away 2, put away 2, divorced 2, driven 1, expel 1, drive forth 1, surely 1, troubled 1, cast up 1, divorced woman 1; 47

Lev 21:15 Neither shall he profane his seed among his people: for I the LORD do sanctify him.

Lev 21:16 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Blemished individuals could not serve in the Tabernacle.

Lev 21:17 Speak unto Aaron, saying, Whosoever *he be* of thy seed in their generations that hath any blemish, let him not approach to offer the bread of his God.

Lev 21:18 For whatsoever man *he be* that hath a blemish, he shall not approach: a blind man, or a lame, or he that hath a flat nose, or any thing superfluous,

When I read flat nose, I had to look into what that meant because certain ethnic people are known to have flat noses, especially Africans and African Americans.

What ethnicities have flat noses?

The flat nose is seen predominantly among the **Asian, African and Latin American** populations, although the Asian and Latin Americans show narrower nasal features than the Africans. These types of noses are known for widening at the tip and opening the nostrils.

The context is speaking of defects in the body.

Flat nose – **02763** חָרָם {khaw-ram'}

Meaning: 1) to ban, devote, destroy utterly, completely destroy, dedicate for destruction, exterminate destroy utterly, completely destroy, dedicate for destruction, exterminate 1a) (Hiphil) 1a1) to prohibit (for common use), ban 1a2) to consecrate, devote, dedicate for destruction 1a3) to exterminate, completely destroy 1b) (Hophal) 1b1) to be put under the ban, be devoted to destruction 1b2) to be devoted, be forfeited 1b3) to be completely destroyed 2) **to split, slit, mutilate** (a part of the body) 2a) (Qal) **to mutilate** 2b) (Hiphil) **to divide**

Usage: AV - destroy 34, utterly 10, devote 2, accursed 1, consecrate 1, forfeited 1, flat nose 1, utterly to make away 1, slay 1; 52

Lev 21:19 Or a man that is brokenfooted, or brokenhanded,

Lev 21:20 Or crookbacked, or a dwarf, or that hath a blemish in his eye, or be scurvy, or scabbed, or hath his stones broken;

Lev 21:21 No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to offer the bread of his God.

Lev 21:22 **He shall eat the bread of his God**, *both of the most holy*, and of the holy.

The defected sons, who could not serve, as well as the wife and daughters of the Priests who could not serve in the Tabernacle could **eat the bread of God**, *both of the most holy*, and of the holy.

Paul compared this provision of the Priests to the Ministers of YeHoVaH:

1Co 9:13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live *of the things* of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

1Co 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

The blemished Priest were not to go near the altar or the veil. The verse indicates the blemished Priests were to remain outside the Tabernacle.

Lev 21:23 Only he shall not go in unto the veil, nor come nigh unto the altar, because he hath a blemish; that he profane not my sanctuaries: for I the LORD do sanctify them.

Lev 21:24 And Moses told *it* unto Aaron, and to his sons, and unto all the children of Israel.

Although the Instructions were for the Priests, the Law was communicated to all of Israel to know what the Priests' functions and limitations were in order to hold them accountable to the Torah.

There are many things we do not know about, but there are many things we can determine about the Priesthood of Melchizedek.

The Priesthood of Melchizedek was established before the Priesthood of Aaron.

Aaron was the first High Priest.

Messiah is the only High Priest mentioned in connection to the Priesthood of Melchizedek.

The Tabernacle on earth, Moses was commissioned to build, was after the Tabernacle of Heaven.

The Priesthood of Melchizedek was established before there was a man named Israel, or a tribe, or a designated Land of Israel.

The Priesthood of Melchizedek was established before the Priesthood of Aaron.

The Priesthood of Melchizedek was established before Abraham, Isaac, or Israel.

The Priesthood of Melchizedek was established before there was a tribe of Judah for Messiah to be born into.

The Priesthood of Melchizedek is to come but is not yet as it will be.