

A Holy Priesthood

“Rags to riches”

- Ex.19:1-6
- After years of silence, Israel heard God again
 - He did not pick people of Babel, Gn.11
 - ...or rich / powerful monarchs, Ex.1
- He chose lowly slaves in Egypt to become His people...and to bring His Son to save the world

They forsook God for their own sinful course
They prefigure Jews who rejected Christ

“News spread in a variety of ways”

- Words of His servants – Moses and Aaron
- Miracles that destroyed Egypt
- Crossing the Red Sea
- Revelation on Mt. Sinai
 - Former slaves...had to wash themselves
 - Contrast: “Lord takes you just as you are”
 - Some make it mean – “sins and all”
 - And ... “be comfortable around God”

Exodus 19

- 1-6: background for 1 Peter 2
- 7-9: God's speech should produce belief in Him and Moses forever
- 10-11: people would wash in preparation for meeting God in three days (consecrate)

Be sacred, set apart, i.e., dedicate to service and loyalty to God

Summary: leave Egypt behind; show respect / obedience to God

I. Privileges – 1 Pt.2

1 Pt.2:4-10

4: coming to Him

- Our '*proselyte*' – come to Him, Mt.11:28ff

5: as living stones come to Living Stone (4)

- Every new Christian . . . is a stone

5: spiritual house

- Not gold...but holy lives

5: holy priesthood (mixed metaphors)

- Stones (part of building)
- Servants (in the building, priesthood)
- Spiritual sacrifices

1 Pt.2:4-10

6-8: Chief cornerstone, Ps.118:22

- Rejected; disobedient to the Word

9: chosen generation: ¹stones, ²chosen, ³living

9: royal priesthood

- Mixed metaphors: living stones (5); priests (9)

9: holy nation. Gentiles??

9: His own special people. Dt.14:1-2; Ac.20

- **Privilege:** called out of darkness...into light
- **Danger:** stress privileges, forget responsibility

I. List of Privileges – 1 Pt.2

II. Primary Positions of OT

OT . . .

- Kings – 1 Sm.16:6
- Prophets – Ex.20:19, spokesmen for God
- Priests – people's representatives with God
 - Taught, blessed, accepted offerings and sacrifices to God. Hb.10:20
- 16th Century: English churchmen spoke of priests, not elders
 - NT does not authorize special ranks of priests (as Mormons, Catholics)
 - No clergy-laity system in Lord's church

I. Privileges – 1 Pt.2

II. Primary Positions of OT

III. Priestly Properties (OT)

OT priests...

- Could not have physical blemish, Lv.21:16-24; Ep.5:27
- Teachers, Lv.10:11. Ezk.22:26
- Priestly blessing, Nu.6:24-27. Mal.2:1-2
- Sacrifice offerings to God. 1 Sm.13. Hb.10.

How did OT sacrifices benefit them?

1. Provided provisional forgiveness of sin.

Lv.4:20 (26, 31)

- Sell car to neighbor; he writes a check
- Have I been paid?
- No real forgiveness until Jesus, Hb.9:15; 10:4; 2 Sm.12:13

How did OT sacrifices benefit them?

2. Awareness of horror of sin. Lv.4:29

- Israelite takes goat of sin offering to the priest ...

How did OT sacrifices benefit them?

3. Awareness of need for a greater sacrifice.

Mic.6:6.

- Paradox: their sacrifice provided them with assurance of God's forgiveness...and taught them the need for a greater sacrifice
- After Samaritan Temple was destroyed, they said, 'We offer sacrifice before the Lord on the altar of prayers ... we sanctify ourselves and praise and proclaim.'