

Study 0067

Worship Under the New Covenant (3)

So far, we have seen that the basis for new covenant worship is the finished work of Christ at Calvary. We have also seen that new covenant worshippers are more than mere standers-by; are they indeed priests unto God. In this study, we shall be looking at the ministry or service of the new covenant priests. Once again, we shall be looking at the priests of the old covenant and then contrast them with the priests of the new covenant.

Text: Hebrews 9:1-6; 1 Peter 2:5, 9

Under the old covenant, there were priests who performed divine service in the inner court of the tabernacle. Their divine service was their ministry and act of worship unto God. Today, the new covenant worshipper is not a worshipper with a priest acting as intermediary on his behalf; he is himself a priest who worships God not only in spirit and in truth, but also with his service or ministry! He has been chosen by God to worship Him, and to show forth God's glory to the world by the way he lives. As we look at what the old covenant priests did in their time, we would be able to see what is expected of us, new covenant priests, and then find out if we are worshipping God as we should. The following notes apply to old covenant priests:

1. Though they were of the lineage of Aaron, they still had to possess certain qualities (**Leviticus 21:17-23**). They had to prove their genealogy after they had returned from exile; otherwise, they were not allowed to minister as priests (**Ezra 2:62; Nehemiah 7:64**).
2. They were arrayed in specially made garments which they wore each time they went into the tabernacle to serve, and they were for beauty and glory (**Exodus 28:40-43; Ezekiel 44:17-19**).
3. They washed themselves before entering the tabernacle to minister (**Exodus 30:18-21**).
4. They offered daily sacrifices for themselves and for the people (**Exodus 29:38-44**).
5. Their duties in the tabernacle included:
 - (a) Keeping the lamps of the golden lampstand burning at all times, including trimming the lamp, and pouring oil into the lampstand (**Exodus 27:20-21; Leviticus 6:12; 24:3-4**).
 - (b) They arranged and disposed of the shewbread on the table of shewbread every Sabbath day (**Leviticus 24:5-9**).
 - (c) They burned incense on the altar of incense (**Exodus 20:7-8; Deuteronomy 33:10; Luke 1:9**).
 - (d) They interceded on behalf of the worshippers who stood outside the door of the tabernacle.
 - (e) Keeping the tabernacle free of intruders at all times (**Numbers 18:7; 2 Chronicles 26:16-21**).
6. They carried the Ark of the Covenant on their shoulders whenever there was a need to move it (**Joshua 6:12; 1 Chronicles 15:12-15**).

7. They were ordained to teach the people about the law, as well as judge them based on the law (**Leviticus 10:11; Deuteronomy 33:8-10; Malachi 2:7; Deuteronomy 17:8-13**).

ASSIGNMENT

Our assignment in this study is to discover our ministry as new covenant priests.

1. What is the lineage of the new covenant priest? (**John 1:12-13; Galatians 3:26**)

2. What is the proof of the new covenant priest's lineage? (**Romans 8:9, 14-17; 2 Timothy 2:19**)

3. What is the clothing of the new covenant priest? (**Romans 13:12-14; Ephesians 4:20-24; 6:13-17; Isaiah 61:3, 10; Revelation 19:8**)

4. How often do new covenant priests enter the true tabernacle? (**1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16**)

5. What sacrifices do new covenant priests bring into the true tabernacle? (**Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15**)

6. What are the responsibilities or ministry of new covenant priests? *Please apply (5)-(7) in the body of this study to answer this question, as well as the scriptures provided here* (**Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 12:35; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 John 1:1-3; John 6:48-51; 15:4-6; 1 Peter 2:2; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:24**).

7. When and where do new covenant priests perform their ministry to God?

Conclusion

Our worship as new covenant worshippers is not just about singing and lifting our hands in the sanctuary. Our worship also includes our service and ministry to God, which can be done _____ and _____. Before we are able to serve God acceptably, we must ensure that we are appropriately _____, and be ready to present _____ as sacrifices, and bring our sacrifices of _____ for, and in, all things. Our acts of worship include:

We pray that the Lord will continue to grant us grace to worship Him as we should, and that we will serve as priests indeed, and not just in words only!