

The Messiah is *the* promised King and *the* Great Prophet, but His central function is as the Great High Priest (Zech.6.11-3). Clothed in modesty and royal humility, He alone stands between us & a well-deserved Hell.



The Old Covenant torn up

When the High Priest heard the Lord Jesus claiming to be the Son of the Blessed God and the priestly Son of Man, he ripped his garments (Mt.26.65). Caiphas was breaking Divine Law, even for the death of his own father or mother, this was forbidden (Lev.21.10). It signifies, just as much as the ripping of the Veil in the Holy of Holies, the death of the old, obsolete priesthood, and the beginning of the New Covenant.

There is only One God and only One Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.

Without that Priest, we face unmediated justice.

Go to Him, He calls you, ask Him for forgiveness and freedom from all your sin, trust His promises. Depend on His power to change you and fill you with His own Holy Spirit.

All other priests will fail, only One Representative is fit to stand holy and blameless for us before God, the One Who offered up Himself.

Come to The Lamb of God!

Welcome to our services!

Woolwich Evangelical Church

141 Woodhill, SE18 5HW

Evening Service 6.30 pm

Morning Service 11.00 am

woolwichevangel.org

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No Priest?



No God!

The godless often say, “I go to God as I please”
But this is a colossal mistake.

A famous prince of the Jewish tribe of Levi, Jacob’s third son, called Korah, thought like this. He and his companions said to Moses, ‘You take too much upon you, *all* the people are holy’ (Num.16.3). We can all be priests and come directly into God’s presence.

But he was dead wrong. The next day, his body was ashes, the vessel in which he brought incense molten into a plate and used to cover the altar as a plain warning to others (Num.16.35-8).

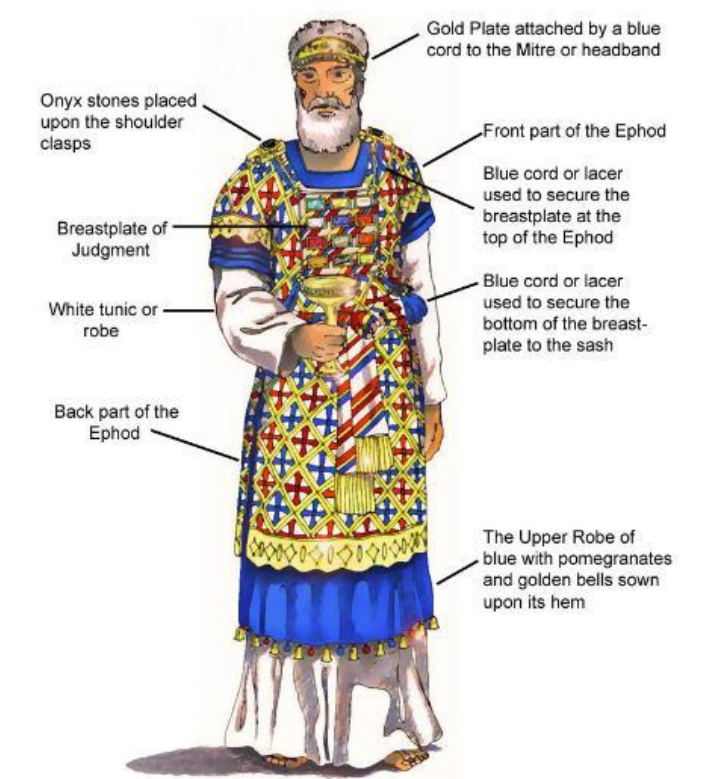
The Levite, Uzzah, who broke the Law by touching the Ark of the Covenant was instantly struck dead (2 Sam.6.7). David and Israel were appalled. Here is a clear signal, that the unchanging God may only be approached, by those He appoints, and as He pleases.

The great Hebrew King, Uzziah, became proud, and chose to extend his own right, to what belonged only to priests, by offering incense (2 Chron.26.16-21). The priests boldly warned him, at the risk of their own lives, but he angrily insisted. God intervened and afflicted him with leprosy for life. He would never again enter the Temple for worship.

- *So what is a priest?
- *What do they do?
- *How are they different from prophets, teachers or judges?
- *Why is this idea so central to the Word of God?
- *Why is it a matter of life or death for us to know?

The Hebrew word for priest comes from the sense of wearing fine clothes for a unique occasion. In Isaiah 61.10, a bridegroom 'priests'.

Every item of clothing the High Priest wore carries important spiritual lessons, which we have no space for now. Exodus 28.



Like the Tent itself, this man was the living place where God was to be approached. His clothing in precious stones, gold and fine materials, merely represents his life and character, which were to be pure, fruitful & sacred. His crown carries the words, 'Holiness to Yahveh', (God's Sacred Name). He reveals God's Presence.

Yet, unlike holy prophets and kings, the priest had the vital role, not just of representing God to the people, but the people to God. He was their Mediator.

Once only a year, the High Priest would confess their sins, offer up sacrifices in their place, and alone enter into the Holiest place of all, the very heart of the Tabernacle or Temple (Lev.16).



No one else could enter, on pain of death.

But even the High Priest was unworthy to come to God. Aaron was nearly destroyed for the golden calf (Deut.9.20). Joshua the Priest was clothed in filthy garments, Satan accusing him of his unfitness (Zech.3.1-5). Even the High Priest of the tribe of Levi needed a worthier High Priest to represent him! There is only Man Who qualifies.