

Week #:	57	Text:	(various)	Title:	Secrets of the Holy Place: 3 (A)
Songs:	Medley: I Sing Praises – I Just Want to Praise You – We Exalt Thee (Reggie Royal and Judah) – 10:24				
	When I Look Into Your Holiness (Maranatha Singers) – 3:36				
	Oh Lord, You're Beautiful (Jesus Culture) – 5:00				
Video:	Perry Stone – Secrets of the Holy Place #3				

### Secrets of the Holy Place, by Perry Stone (begin DVD #2 at 00:00:00)

- The Priesthood and the Holy Garments:
  - The Levite's wore a white garment
  - The high priest wore a garment called the 8 garments of beauty
- The calling of the priesthood:
  - Many think the priesthood began when God ordained it through Moses, but Melchizadek was long before Moses and was called the first king and priest of the Most High God (Genesis 14:18). Then we assume God ordained Melchizadek and that was the first time in history that there was a priest. If you go throughout history, all the early religions had either temples or places of worship, sometimes it was outdoors, and they established the priesthood.
  - Before the Tower of Babel all the earth was one language (Genesis 11:1-9). What did the earlier people know about a priesthood, because the Tower of Babel is before Melchizadek (Genesis 11 vs Genesis 14). They must have understood a principle, maybe with the fall of Lucifer, how he was a praise and worship leader (Ezekiel 28:13), and how God required some type of a priesthood in order to reestablish Himself in the earth.
    - Melchizadek was said to be the first king and priest of the Most High God (Genesis 14:18)
    - Jethro (Moses' father-in-law) was the priest of Midian (Exodus 3:1)
      - This is before the Tabernacle, before the Temple. How can there be a priest when there's no place to worship God? Obviously Jethro understood sacrifices.
    - When Joseph gets married in Egypt, he marries a priest's daughter (Genesis 41:45). This is certainly not a priest of the true God, it's a priest of the gods of Egypt, and yet Joseph marries into a priestly family.
  - Priesthoods existed before the time of Moses and they existed in all these various religions that existed in that time.
  - God intended everyone in Israel to be a priest. He intended for everyone to be a worshipper, and for everyone to be able to approach Him. It was the sin of the golden calf that changed this.

Exodus 19:5-6

<sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. <sup>6</sup> And you shall be to Me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.** These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

- It appears from this scripture that God was to establish a priesthood in every tribe. How would He do that?

Numbers 3:12-13

<sup>12</sup> "Now behold, I Myself have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the children of Israel. Therefore the Levites shall be Mine, <sup>13</sup> because all the firstborn are Mine. On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine: I am the LORD."

- When God spared the lives of all those firstborns in Egypt, His intent was that those were to be His priests. They were separated unto Him, they were saved by the blood of the lamb. God intended for the firstborns to be His.
- In the Bible, in order to prevent (or exempt) your firstborn from being attached into the ministry of the priesthood of some kind, God said you have to offer the shekels of redemption (Numbers 18:16). Today in Judaism they still do this.
- God's intent was that every firstborn that was delivered in the land of Egypt was to be a priest to Him (Numbers 18:14-15). However, when they got into the wilderness, they began to worship the golden calf while Moses was on the mountain receiving the law (Exodus 32). When they began to worship the golden calf, God became very angry with them, and the Levites stood up and slew the 3,000 idolaters, and God said this would then be His tribe, that He would separate one tribe, and they would be ministers

- under Moses and under Aaron (Exodus 32:27-28). (The tribe of Levi is the one Moses and Aaron were associated with – remember, they were brothers.)
- It is important that we realize that God’s intent was that every one of us be a priest unto Him. Not everyone to be a pastor, or a teacher, as even Paul bears this out that not everyone will be those offices (I Corinthians 12:27-31). We all can’t be pastors or teachers, but we CAN all be worshippers and present ourselves into the holy place of heaven with our prayer. That’s what changed in the priesthood through the ministry of Jesus Christ.
  - The priesthood:
    - There were two divisions of the priesthood
      - The high priest – who was one man alone
      - The Levites – there were 22,000 men
    - Aaron had four sons (Numbers 3:2)
    - Word for priest in Hebrew is *cohanim*. The high priest of *kohem gadol* (which is the superior priest).
    - Aaron’s sons would have worn the common garment of the Levites – white linen. No son of Aaron, until Aaron died, was able to put on the garments of the high priest.
    - The high priest wore the garments of beauty every day of the year except for one – the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16). Once a year he had to strip himself of these garments, and seven days before the day of atonement he had to stay in a chamber by himself, to purify his mind, soul, body, spirit, everything, so that he’d be fit to go into the presence of God. At this time he would put on the four linen garments as worn by the other priests (special garments made just for him on that day).
    - There were two separate garments:
    - Names and meanings:
      - Aaron – high and exalted
      - Nadab – willing and generous
      - Abihu – he is my father
      - Eleazar – my God has helped
      - Ithamar – land of palm (palm is a symbol of victory)
    - Christ is concealed in the Tabernacle, so we could take these names to mean: ***Christ, who is high and exalted, was willing and generous to obey His Father, God helped Him to gain victory over sin.***
      - The meaning of these names indicates that there would be one coming who would be victorious.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

<sup>9</sup> *The thing that has been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done; and there is no new thing under the sun.*

- Three Biblical Priests:
  - Melchizedek Priesthood (Genesis 14:18)
    - Also mentioned in Psalms 110:4; Hebrews 5:6-11; Hebrews 6:20-7:28
  - Aaronic Priesthood (Exodus 28)
    - This is the priesthood that began in the wilderness with Moses and his brother Aaron, and continued on through Aaron’s sons.
  - Zadok Priesthood (I Kings 1)
    - Rarely talked about
- Melchizedek Priesthood:
  - Genesis 14:17-18 tells us that Melchizedek was the king and priest before the Most High God.
  - ***Melech*** – means ***king***; ***sedek*** – means ***righteousness***; this translates as ***King of Righteousness***
  - **This was not his name, it was his title.**
  - A lot of teachers say that Melchizedek was Jesus Himself – that He came down in the form of a person, but it was impossible for Melchizedek to physically have been Jesus Christ, because Jesus is said to be of the order of Melchizedek. If it was Jesus Himself, then He would be of an order of Himself, which complicates it too much. (For more on this, Perry Stone wrote a book that goes into this in more detail – titled: *The Priesthood and the Blood*)
  - Who was this man?
    - Some say he was just a righteous man who lived at the time of Abraham.

- Jewish Rabbis believe this was Shem, the righteous son of Noah. The lineage of the Messiah was going to come through Shem. Some think Shem would have been dead, but he would not if you chart the genealogy of the Bible.
- The book of Jasher is mentioned in the Bible twice: Joshua 10:13, II Samuel 1:18. A copy was found in the 1840's, translated by the British. In this book of Jasher it says that Shem was Melchizedek (Jasher 16:11). (This is perhaps where the Jews get the theory that this is who this was.)
- According to the divine order of God, it is impossible for one person to be both a king and a priest. There are three offices God established in the Old Testament:
  - Prophet – the voice of God to the people
    - In the divine order, you would not normally go into the other positions if you were in this one, although David prophesied when he was a king of the things that would happen in the future, making him both king and prophet (Acts 2:29-35).
  - Priest – who approached the people
    - Once again, David infringed upon this one while he was the king, when he ate of the showbread at Nob, which was supposed to be reserved only for the priests (I Samuel 21:1-6). Jesus brought this out when he brought up David eating of the showbread and God not killing him for doing it (Matthew 12:3-4).
    - David took the ephod for himself – this is the garment reserved only for use by the high priest. God didn't kill him for this, because David's seed was going to be the seed that the Messiah comes from, and David will rule right beside Jesus in the millennium, and out of that the temple will be built (Ezekiel 37:24-28). Jesus will be king of the whole earth, but David is going to be king of all of Israel. He gets to be king again!
  - King – who ruled over the people
- David is in the lineage of the Messiah. David was a prophet, according to the Old and New Testaments. David was a king. David also stood in the office of priest on at least two occasions (I Samuel 23:2; I Samuel 30:7-8).
- Melchizedek is from the area of Selem (according to our Bible), however, this is the word Shelem, which is the last part of the word Yerushalem or Jerusalem (Genesis 14:18). He was a king and priest in the city of Jerusalem, before it had that name.
  - The name Jerusalem comes from two stories in the Bible, the first being Melchizedek king of Shelem.
  - The second is when Abraham offered Isaac, he called the name of the place *Jehovah Jireh*, or *YHWH Yirah*. *Jireh* means God will provide. Take *Jireh* and combine it with *Shelem* (meaning peace), and you get the word *Yerushalem* or *Jerusalem* (Genesis 14 & 22)
- When Abraham was visiting with Melchizedek, he was offered the bread and the wine, or as we say it, the bread and the fruit of the vine. This is the very first picture of the communion service being held long before there ever was even a Passover.
- Melchizedek has all these wonderful patterns that would later be fulfilled through Christ, because he is of the order of Melchizedek (Psalms 110:4; Hebrews 7:21).
  - Melchizedek is the only priest and king.
  - Aaron was a priest, but not a king.
  - Zadok was a priest, but not a king.
  - This is important to understand, because Jesus right now (for about 1900 years) has been a high priest in heaven, but when He comes back to rule for 1,000 years as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16). So He will rule for about 2,000 years as a high priest, but He will rule for what we call the third day – or the third 1,000 years – as king of the earth. anyone who survives the tribulation (about 1/3 of the whole world) and gets to repopulate the earth, they have to come to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles or God sends judgment on them for not coming (Zechariah 14:16-17). This means that all those people who didn't want to go hear preaching or worship God won't have a choice. You either go or else.
- Aaronic Priesthood:

- We hear about Aaron standing with Moses, interceding for the Children of Israel, all the way through to him standing with Moses. The rod of Aaron was used to bring the first few plagues against Egypt (Exodus 4-7).
  - Funny note about Moses using Aaron's rod instead of his own. Every time he used Aaron's rod, the Egyptian magicians were able to imitate everything he did. When Moses used his own rod, they were not able to do the miracles.
- Aaron was a Levite. Moses was a Levite. Aaron was Moses' brother.
- Moses was 80 years of age when he went into the wilderness (Exodus 7:7), and then God instructs him to build this tabernacle. Then he dies at 120 years of age. It says his eyes were not dimmed nor his natural forces abated (Deuteronomy 34:7).
- Aaron was 83 years of age when they went into the wilderness (Exodus 7:7). High priests filled the position until they died.
- Aaron was the first high priest, not the first one in the Bible, but the first one under the tabernacle. His sons were a part of that as well.
- Aaron's rod blossomed when they laid it at the door of the tabernacle, along with the other eleven, and it blossoming is how the tribe of the priests was chosen (Numbers 17:6-8).
- Zadok's Priesthood:
  - Zadok's priesthood existed during the time of David, and also spilled over into the time of Solomon (II Samuel 8:17).
  - Zadok was the priest who was faithful to David when a coup was going on in the famine. Normally when the next king is going to come to power, whoever the priest is is going to align themselves with that next king for safety purposes.
  - The book of Ezekiel mentions (Ezekiel 44:15) how the Levites had failed God under the Old Covenant at times, complaining, offering lame sacrifices, becoming bored in their duties, etc. (Malachi 1). Zadok's sons were so loyal that God said He would allow the Levites in the millennial temple to approach and offer offering to God, but they will not have the same level of authority as the sons of Zadok will (Ezekiel 44-47). God is going to remember the Zadok priesthood in the millennial reign of the Messiah.
  - Zadok was the last priesthood in the tabernacle before Solomon came to power. It was this priesthood that was transferred from the tabernacle to the Temple of Solomon when it was built.
- The Levites:
  - Levi:
    - Was one of the original twelve sons of Jacob.
    - His mother was Leah.
    - He was the third son of Leah.
    - His name means **attached to God**.
  - The Levites:
    - They were not to be numbered among the other tribes because they were the thirteenth tribe. (Joseph had two sons, split into two tribes – Ephraim and Manasseh.) There were 12 tribes that possessed the land, then there was the tribe of Levi who were always near the tabernacle / temple in the land. (Numbers 1:49)
    - They were not to be given an inheritance to the land, but they were to serve around the house of God (Deuteronomy 10:9). Their land grant was basically God's house in the city of Jerusalem.
    - They were given the tithe (tenth) to meet their needs (Numbers 18:21).
      - When God demanded these grain, animal, and peace offering, we just assume that God wanted those offerings, but what did they do with all that? Answer: the priests ate it. The offerings weren't only for God, they were to sustain the priesthood. The priests could not go out and own a farm. They could not go out and do agriculture work. They were to do all the temple work. (Solomon once offered 10,000 sheep at one sacrifice – they had a lot of work to do in sacrificing!)
      - Tithes and offerings even today are important because they keep the church going and they allow the pastors to focus on their jobs, which is far more than just preaching a few hours a week. If you want to hear a word from God from your pastor, you have to give him/her time to spend time in the presence of God.
  - When Moses selected Aaron as the priest, there came a family problem and a rebellion rose up through a man named Cora (Numbers 16).

- Cora was the great-grandson of Levi. He had influence over 250 leaders. His opinion was that Moses took too much on himself and that he, as a Levite, should share in the priesthood.
- Jewish tradition says that Cora knew where the keys to the treasures were back in Egypt, and before they left he went and stripped them of the treasures that would then later be used in the tabernacle.
- Since Cora was the businessman who may have helped finance the tabernacle, he felt like he should be in authority over the tabernacle.
- There is a danger in churches of people who have great wealth and who invest a lot of money in the building or the facility, who think they own the building or the facility. And if you're not careful they won't stay humble before God and give God the glory for blessing. Instead they will raise up as a Cora to overthrow the pastor.
- Cora's name means **baldness** or another translation means **cold or frosty**. The implication is that his heart was cold.
- God told Moses to tell Aaron to get his sensor (the thing that held the coals and incense) and fill it, then have Cora do the same, and they would see who the priest was to be (Numbers 16:5-7). So Cora and his 250 men made their own sensors and then put the coals and incense in, and holy smoke went up to God and He was not pleased. In that moment the earth opened up and swallowed them up into hell in the condition they were in. They infringed in an office they had to right to.
- Only the priests could handle the holy incense.
  - In one instance, a king tried to go in and offer his own incense (a king, not a priest) and he gets struck down with leprosy (I Chronicles 26:18-21; II Samuel 6:6-7).
  - When one man tried to touch the Ark of the Covenant he got struck down.
  - Even Nadab and Abihu, who were two sons of Aaron, offered strange fire unto the Lord. This probably means that they couldn't get the fire going on the altar so they went out and created their own. Whatever they did, they were out of order and so God struck them (Leviticus 10:1-2).
  - God considered it very serious as to how to handle the holy things.
- When Cora and his men were killed, all the sensors were left lying around. God told Aaron to take them and melt them down and make a covering for the brass altar (Numbers 16:36-40). When they built that covering over that brass altar, it meant that every time they saw that, Israel was to be reminded of mishandling God's holy things and reminded of the rebellion that almost cost them because of listening to a man who wanted authority because he could control the money.
- This is when God instructed them to lay out the rod of each tribal leader of Israel (Numbers 17:2). The next morning when they got up, all the rods looked the same except one, and that was Aaron's (Numbers 17:8). Overnight, Aaron's rod – a dead tree branch with no roots (you can't produce fruit without having root!) – blossomed.
  - When you really are God's chosen person, you will produce spiritual fruit, or fruit of the Spirit.
  - Overnight a dead tree branch without roots began to produce fruit. This indicates that when you come into the door of the tabernacle, and you are just a sinner and a heathen, and you grew up knowing nothing about God, and you have no roots in the faith, nobody in the family that was a Christian, and you are that first generation Christian, God is trying to say to you that the moment you come into His presence, it doesn't matter if you have roots in the faith, because He's going to give you fruit in your life from the very beginning.

(end DVD #2 at 00:35:25)

