

Week #:	96	Series:	Secrets of the Holy Place	Title:	(9 A) A Priesthood of Believers
Text:	Revelation 1:6; John 14:2-3; Numbers 11:10-15; Joshua 3:10-17; Joshua 4; Mark 1:4-5; Luke 1; Matthew 3:13-17; Genesis 14:18; John 1:29; I Peter 2:24; John 8:12; Matthew 3:11; John 6:35; I Peter 2:5; I Peter 2:9-10; I Kings 19:1-4; Numbers 11:11-15; Luke 10:19; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18;				
Songs:	Open Up the Heavens – Meredith Andrews (3:53)				
	Shout to the Lord – Darlene Zschech (4:37)				
	PRAYER: Spirit Break Out – Kim Walker Smith (12:03)				
Video:	Secrets of the Holy Place, by Perry Stone – #9				

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

- Jesus has made the priesthood a priesthood of believers. If we simply say that Christ died to be an intercessor in heaven (Romans 8:34), and we don't understand that we have an approach directly to Him because we are now priests and kings unto God (Revelation 1:6), then we kind of miss the point as to why He came.

John 14:2-3

² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

- Mansions are already prepared.
 - For those who think that Jesus has a golden hammer, golden nails, and T-square, and He's measuring out mansions which He said already existed in His day, then imagine every time the accuser of the brethren has to accuse somebody and Jesus has to lay down the hammer and the nails, and run out and put on His priestly garment, and stand in intercession for you. Then He says to hold the devil off for about a year so He can finish these houses. This sounds goofy and facetious, but the point is He ever lives to make intercession (Hebrews 7:25).
- Jesus' ministry is that of a priest. He's continually in heaven dealing with sins and forgiveness and answering prayer.
 - With Christians that's a full time job!
 - Moses had to deal with Israel for 40 years and got to the point that he wanted God to kill them (Numbers 11:10-15).
- When did the transfer take place in the ministry of Jesus for the priesthood?
 - Go back to the time of Joshua. Joshua's Hebrew name is *Y'hoshua*. Christ's name [Jesus] in Hebrew is the name *Y'eshua*.
 - *Y'hoshua* means God is our salvation
 - *Y'eshua* means God is salvation
 - Joshua comes to the edge of the Jordan River (Joshua 3:10-17). The water of the Jordan River opened up. The Bible says the waters went back to the city of Adam. That was a city that existed back in that day. It's about 10 miles or so from where Joshua crossed, if you go north. Then it says the waters were rolled back all the way to the sea, which is the Dead Sea. That's another good distance.
 - Jewish rabbis speculate (and the historian Myhamoditis wrote) that when the Jordan River opened that the waters went back and stood up as a heap like a huge column. Can you imagine the people in Jericho if they saw that? Talk about being terrified.
 - Others suggest that because it was flood time, that it just flooded the entire area. But the Bible says they walked across on dry ground.
 - The scripture says that Joshua did something very strange. He took from the Jordan River 12 stones, and takes them and places them on the Israeli side and builds an altar. He then takes 12 rough stones from the wilderness and says for them to bring them and puts those 12 stones there in place of the others (Joshua 4). That was a memorial of what God would do.
 - What was the purpose of that?

- When John the Baptist comes along, the Bible says [Mark 1:4-5] he's baptizing believers in water in the Judean wilderness. It names a place – Bet Araba – and it names some other places that he's baptizing
- When they researched where the baptism of Jesus took place, it's real interesting. It took place right outside of Jericho not far from a city called Gilgal, where Israel had been circumcised before they went to take the city of Jericho.
- It's important to understand John, who is the son of a priest in Israel – his dad's name is Zacharias. John is doing this baptizing at a place where Joshua had originally crossed the Jordan River.
- He could have a lot of places on that Jordan River to baptize. Why does John the Baptist, son of a priest, go to the place where Joshua originally crossed? There's that altar on that side. Back in that day it would have still existed. They didn't destroy stuff until the Crusader and the Muslim times. He knows where he's baptizing. Why is he doing it?
 - If you go back in the Old Testament, you have the high priest. When the high priest decides that he is near death and he wants to transfer the priesthood to his son, there are three things the priest had to do and be responsible for to know that his son was going to be the next priest.
 1. The priest [the son] had to disrobe from his garment (the white garment) and he had to submerge in what's called a mikvah. He had to sanctify, or cleanse, his body in the waters of a mikvah.
 2. He then puts his garments on and they take oil in a horn and they pour it on his head. There are two ways they poured:
 - If you were going to be a priest, they poured it from the ear, across the forehead to the other ear, and it dripped down over your face, over your heart, all the way down to your feet.
 - If you were a king, they did it on the top of your head in the shape of a letter X which is the Hebrew letter Tav (the emblem of a cross).
 - The interesting thing about the priestly anointing is if you look at the shape of where they poured the oil, it forms the Hebrew letter Kaf/Kaph – כ. When Jesus is baptized, the Holy Spirit comes like a dove (Matthew 3:13-17), and the wings of a middle eastern dove do not point to the tail like most birds, the dove's wings point to the head in this shape. So when the dove is hovering over Jesus, it's hovering in the shape of the Hebrew letter that forms the shape of the anointing of a priest.
 3. They have to [1] submerge him, they [2] pour oil on him, and then [3] the high priest has to look at his son and say these words: "This is my son in whom I am well pleased."
 - This identifies he is legitimately DNA, from the genealogy, the firstborn son of the high priest.
- How does that come into play with John the Baptist and with Jesus?
 - John the Baptist is the son of a priest.
 - John the Baptist is down at the Jordan River in the water. Jesus comes and says, John I need to be baptized of you." John says, "Wait a minute – I need your baptism." John had already predicted Baptism in the Holy Ghost, so John wanted the baptism of the Holy Ghost. But John was already filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's belly (Luke 1; Matthew 3:13-17). But Jesus said,

“No, it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness.” So what Jesus was saying is, “John, I don’t need baptism unto repentance because of sin, I need baptism to fulfill something that you and I have got to do. Let’s make it happen.”

- So, a son of a priest [1] takes Jesus down into the waters of the Jordan [2], Jesus comes up and the Holy Spirit comes on Him like a dove to appoint Him, and [3] a voice from heaven says, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16-17).
- What is amazing is Joshua had crossed the Jordan River at that spot and rolled the waters all the way back to the city of Adam, named after the first man Adam. Another Yeshua comes 1500 years later, steps on the stones that the first Yeshua in the Old Testament put in the Jordan River, that have now been made smooth by 1500 years of water rushing over it. He stands on those 12 stones that represent the 12 tribes of Israel and there He is baptized not only as their Messiah, but just like the waters were rolled back to Adam, Jesus is about to become a priest and roll all the sins back from Adam all the way into the future that every human being would do.
- What happened at the Jordan River is not just Jesus being baptized because He thought He had to get baptized. What happened at the Jordan River is the three-fold process of what has to happen for a person to be transferred as a priest.
- This is what is really bizarre about that baptism:
 - Most people believe that Jesus was crucified about 32 AD, some place it as late as 33 AD.
 - He’s about 30 years of age, which is the age of a priest when he’s going into the priesthood. The baptism all fits the laws of Moses.
 - In Jewish secular religious history something bizarre started happening in 30 AD at the Temple that they cannot explain. One of the rabbis said the only way they can explain it is to say God’s presence was departing from His own house.
 - The drawing of the lots: On the Day of Atonement the high priest would come in and there was a box, this was called a lottery. He would pray, because there’s a goat on his left side and a goat on his right side. He would pray and reach into the box and pull out one that said, “for Azazel” [the scapegoat] and one that said, “for the Lord” [the goat that dies on the altar]. The favour of God came on the priesthood for all of those years because “for the Lord” always came up in the right hand, indicating god is going to favour Israel [the right hand] and forgive their sins. In 30 AD until the time of the destruction of the Temple [in 70 AD] it’s recorded that from that moment, “for the Lord” came up the opposite way. The priest kept pulling the wrong one out. In other words, instead of pulling “for the Lord” in the right hand, it was “for Azazel” for almost 40 years.
 - The crimson strap: On the Day of Atonement a strap was put on the neck of the goat for the Lord and on the horns of the goat for Azazel, and about an 18” (according to the Temple Institute) red strap of wool died red was placed on the Temple

door so that when the Atonement was made they could look and see that the thread had turned white. According to Jewish history, beginning in 30 AD on the Day of Atonement the red thread never turned white again for 40 years.

- The westernmost candle: When the Menorah had to be lit, the wicks had to be cleaned and the oil refreshed in the Menorah. The western branch was nearest to the Holy of Holies. It was lit first after being cleaned. The others were lit from the western candle. Up until the time of 30 AD the western candle always kept burning even when the other ones went out. In 30 AD the western candle started going out first – for 40 years, and nobody could explain it.
 - The logs on the altar: On the Brass Altar there's a grate, there's earth underneath it, and logs are placed in it. The altar from Herod's day was much larger than in the wilderness, because there were more people in Israel and more people bringing sacrifices. They actually had a ramp that you stepped up to the altar. In Solomon's day there were steps, but there was a ramp because you weren't supposed to see underneath the priests' garment, so they had a ramp going up and that's how they would offer the sacrifice. Jewish history says that they used two huge logs to burn the offering and those logs lasted all day long. However, in 30 AD something really weird began to happen. Jewish history indicates that the two logs that were used to burn on the altar of sacrifice, when they started putting logs in in the morning, they had to put them in all day long. The miracle of the supernatural fire quit.
 - On the Table of Shewbread: Once a week the priests were able to eat the bread on the Table of showbread. The piece was the size of an olive. The moment it went into their mouth they were satisfied from hunger. However, in 30 AD the miracle completely ceased. They began to notice that when they ate the bread it never satisfied them. This happened for 40 years until the destruction of the Temple.
- In the Talmud where this information is found it says they were uncertain of the meaning of these very strange events that were happening. Approximately 30 AD a new priest was in town. A new priesthood was in town. Because in 30 AD everybody at that Temple had been a descendent of either Zadok or Levi. Sometimes the high priest was appointed by the Roman government – it got political. But nonetheless, up until that point there had been a specific family that the priesthood was and it was all Levi. All of a sudden a man from the tribe of Judah has arisen by the name of Yeshua the Nazarene who was about to introduce a brand new priesthood that is not an Aaronic priesthood, it is not a Zadok priesthood, it is called a Melchizedek priesthood (Genesis 14:18). As a Melchizedek priest He isn't just going to be priest, but He's also one day going to come back to be king, because Melchizedek fulfilled the office of both a priest and a king.
 - The lots went backwards and didn't work because in John 1:29 Jesus is the Lamb of God that was going to take away the sins of the world. The days of the scapegoat were going to be over. Man's sins will be forgiven by the blood of Jesus.

- The thread not turning white is in I Peter 2:24, because Jesus bore our sins and would carry them away, therefore there was no necessity of looking to a red thread; you then looked at the cross in order to get your redemption.
- The reason the candle was not being lit was in John 8:12 when Jesus introduced himself in 30 AD saying, "I am the light of the world." When you are the light of the world, you don't need the light of a candlestick in the middle of a gold lamp. You just need Jesus to light up your path.
- The reason the logs did not last as long as they should is He was about to Matthew 3:11, which says He will bring a new fire to the earth – "You shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost and with FIRE."
- The reason the little piece of bread on the Table of Shewbread never satisfied is John 6:35, Jesus said, "I am the bread from heaven," meaning natural bread is no longer going to satisfy. We are to eat from Jesus – He is the bread of Heaven.

I Peter 2:5, 9-10

⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- Living stones
- Spiritual house
- Holy priesthood
- Holy nation
- ROYAL priesthood – it didn't exist except in Melchizedek, a king and priest
 - Every king had to be a king – that's his office.
 - Every priest had to be a priest – that's his office
 - Now you've got a royal priesthood going on.
- Not only did Jesus become the royal priest/king priest, but He decides just like the high priest Aaron had to have sons who would be priests and who had to marry righteous women who would assist them in their ministry, Jesus decides He's not going to do this alone. He's going to be the high priest. He's going to be the intercessor. He's going to take care of the sin issue. He's going to take care of the answered prayer. But He wants to have a priesthood. So He decides to raise up a royal priesthood, of which that's what we are.
- One of the weaknesses of western Christianity is the way it has been taught of who we are in Jesus. We've been taught we are a sinner saved by grace and going to heaven – always looking forward to dying. Songs a generation ago sung in the church, 8 out of 10 were about getting to heaven.
- We have a covenant with God. God has a will for our lives. We shouldn't be in a hurry to get to heaven. Heaven's going to be there when we get there. Heaven's not going anywhere.
- In the early Pentecostal church they were very heavily persecuted. Everybody got persecuted because of how they looked, how they dressed, they believed in speaking in tongues. The reason they talked about heaven is because they thought that one of these days they were going to leave their troubles behind – one of these days they weren't going to be persecuted anymore. When you go through every day of going to

work and people calling you a holy roller, a religious fanatic, and a nut, and you hear it and you endure it, you get tired. The next thing you want to know is how in the world you will deal with it. Well, praise God you can hold on until the end. They were being persecuted. That's why so many songs written and sung about going to heaven.

- Yes, we are sinners saved by grace. But we are not called to sit and fold our arms and just pray that God will get us out of some mess. Elijah got depressed and wanted to die (I Kings 19:1-4). Moses got depressed and wanted to die (Numbers 11:11-15). So when God's people get depressed and think all hell's breaking loose, and trouble's coming, they can't pay their bills, or they are persecuted, you know what we do? We get depressed and the first thing we want is out of here.
- I hope Jesus doesn't come back for a while for this reason: I want to get more people out of hell and into heaven. It's going to take a little more time to do it, and I want to get some people saved before He gets here.
- It takes some time to bring people into the Kingdom of God. Yes, Jesus is coming, but let's get more people saved. Give us an extra day, give us an extra week, give us an extra month, because the more people we get saved, we're going to depopulate hell and populate heaven, and God wants us to populate heaven!
- We [the church] are not just a bunch of people on earth barely holding on. The high priest of heaven said to us in Luke 10:19
- 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
- Acts 1:8
- 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- Matthew 28:18
- 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- AUTHORITY [Greek: EXOUSIA] and POWER [Greek: DUNAMIS] are two words that Jesus left us in the New Testament.
 - POWER [DUNAMIS] means a dynamo that's on the inside of you. A dynamo, when it spins it creates its own energy. It has an electrical centrifugal force. That's where we get the word dynamite.
 - AUTHORITY [EXOUSIA] means we take His name! We take Jesus' name and speak over demons and they have to come out. We take Jesus' name and speak over sickness and He'll bring healing to that person.
 - In baptism, you say, "In the name of the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost," because when you say His name there's a seal of blessing that comes on people even through baptism.
- Jesus said He had to have a priesthood. So He decided to raise up a royal priesthood!

(end DVD #9 at end 00:25:48)