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YouTube Prayer Link

The role of the priest

There are many passages in the Old Testament that describe the work and duties of the high priest. Here are some verses related to the work of the High Priest:

Exodus 28:1-3: "Neutralize from the Israelites your brother Aaron and his son Natab, the garment, and the garment, and make him holy." Give these garments to your brother Aaron and his son, and ask them to give me the priesthood. You will make them holy garments for his glory and for his beauty. 」

Leviticus 16: This chapter describes the ritual of Yom Kippur, the day when the high priest was responsible for entering the Holy of Holies to atone for the sins of the Israelites.

Numbers 27:21: "He will stand before Eleazar the priest and ask about the decision of Lital before the Lord, and he will ask before the Lord about the passage of the Israelites." 」

1 Samuel 2:35, "I will make a faithful priest for myself, and he will do what I want, and the house I have started will always be blessed." 」

Ezekiel 44: This chapter describes the duties and responsibilities of the priests in the rebuilt temple, which included the protection and guardianship of the sanctuary and the proper ceremony.

These verses are only part of the Old Testament that describes the work of the high priest. The duties of the High Priest cover religious ceremonies, sacrificial sacrifices, rituals of atonement, religious teaching, and intermediary roles with God and the people. They play an important role in maintaining the connection between the people and God and guaranteeing the proper execution of religious ceremonies. In the Old Testament, the high priest was an important player in the Jewish religious system, performing priesthood in the temple and playing a key role in

religious ceremonies and ceremonies. The status and duties of the High Priests may vary from period to time and in Jewish society, but as a whole they played a vital role in religious and social life.

Here are some of the importance of the High Priest in the Old Testament:

Intermediaries and Representatives: The High Priest is seen as an intermediary between God and humanity, responsible for making sacrifices and prayers to God on behalf of the people. Their role is to establish a connection between humans and God, to help people have a relationship with God.

Ritual of Atonement: The High Priest is responsible for performing the ritual of atonement on special holidays such as Yom Kippur. This ritual was designed to wash away the sins of the Israelites and reconcile them to God. The High Priest plays a key role in this ceremony, offering sacrifices to God, confessing sins to God on behalf of the people and asking for forgiveness.

Religious Guidance and Education: The High Priest plays a guiding and educating role in religious and moral matters. They can interpret laws, teach people to follow God's commands, and provide religious guidance.

Supervision of religious ceremonies: The high priest oversees various religious ceremonies, including burnt offerings, vegetarian sacrifices, and peace sacrifices. They ensure that these rituals are performed in accordance with God's will and regulations to ensure that people's worship of God is properly expressed.

Leadership: High priests often held a high position in Jewish society, and their opinions and guidance had an important influence on religious and social affairs. They are also sometimes involved in political and social affairs, playing leadership roles not only religiously, but also culturally and politically.

In general, the High Priests of the Old Testament played an integral role in the Jewish religious system, not only in religious ceremonies, but also in religious teaching, moral guidance, and social leadership.

There are also many passages in the New Testament that describe the work and duties of Christians as priests. Christians are considered spiritual priests who have a special duty and mission through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:5 "When you come to the Lord, you are like living stones, built into a spiritual palace and holy priests, offering spiritual sacrifices pleasing to God through Jesus Christ." ┘

1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a priest with kings, a holy kingdom, a people of God, and may you proclaim the virtues of the One who calls you out of darkness into the wondrous light." ┘

Revelation 1:6: "And make us citizens and priests of His Father." ┘

Revelation 5:10: "And make us kings of the earth." ┘

These verses emphasize that Christians became priests under the redemption of Jesus Christ and had the mission of offering spiritual sacrifices, proclaiming God's virtues, and serving God. Christians are called to serve God with holy lives and to preach the gospel to the world. Their duties include offering thanksgiving and worship, intercessory prayer, proclaiming God's truth, and helping others know Christ. This priestly role emphasizes that every Christian has a spiritual responsibility and is given an important divine mission.

How should we use the duties of Christian priesthood

As Christians, we can take some guidance from the duties of the Christian priesthood described in the New Testament to understand how to apply them:

Offering Spiritual Sacrifices: Christians should offer their lives as spiritual sacrifices, meaning giving themselves completely to God. This can be achieved through worship, thanksgiving, prayer, and service. We should give everything we have with a pure heart and seek God's will.

Proclaiming God's Virtues: Christians should proclaim God's virtues through words and deeds. This includes love, compassion, justice, and truth. We should reflect the image of Christ in our lives and be His witnesses so that the world can see God's love and glory.

Serving Others: Christians are called to serve others, both internally and externally. Like Jesus, we should care for the poor, the oppressed, the needy, and respond to their needs with love, compassion, and compassion.

Proclaiming the Gospel: Christians have a responsibility to pass on the message of salvation from Jesus Christ to others and help them learn about God's love and opportunities for redemption. This can be achieved through words, deeds, and life testimonies.

Intercession Prayer: Christians can intercede for others and bring their needs to God. This reflects the priesthood's role as an intermediary, bringing people's needs to God through prayer for His help and grace.

Live a holy life: Christians should glorify God with a holy life, free from sin, and adhere to God's moral standards. Our behavior and conduct should be consistent with our status as priests.

The duties of the Christian priesthood are broad and include personal spiritual growth, worship, service to others, and the proclamation of the gospel. Through these duties, we can live out our faith in our daily lives, manifest the glory of God, and transmit the love of Christ to the world.

Let us pray together

Dear Heavenly Father,

Father, I ask you to reveal to us your will and help us understand our role in your plan. Please guide us with your Holy Spirit so that we can understand how to serve you and others with love and humility.

Lord, please give us the hearts of our loved ones, and may we be able to treat others with genuine love and compassion. May our lives be a testimony that can infect and encourage others to seek your grace.

Holy Spirit, teach us to study deeply in the Bible to be able to understand your truth and apply it to our lives. Help us to rely on your wisdom and insight as we teach, coach, and guide others.

Lord, give us the courage and determination to persevere in the face of adversity and continue to work hard for your ministry. Let us constantly seek your face, rely on your strength, and become a resilient priest.

Heavenly Father, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ that this Christian priest may thrive in your grace, continually know you better, and become a spiritual leader who can bring about change and blessing.

We pray in the name of the Jesus Christ, Amen.

Leviticus chapter 16

Chapter 16 of Leviticus in the Bible describes the Day of Atonement, the most important day in the Jewish religious calendar. The chapter outlines the procedures that the high priest must follow to make atonement for the sins of the people.

On the Day of Atonement, the high priest must first bathe and put on special garments before offering sacrifices on behalf of the people. He must then select two goats, one to be sacrificed as a sin offering and the other to be sent out into the wilderness as a symbol of the removal of the people's sins.

The high priest then enters the inner sanctuary of the tabernacle, the Holy of Holies, where he sprinkles blood from the sin offering on the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant. This act of atonement is meant to purify the sanctuary and make atonement for the sins of the people.

The chapter emphasizes the importance of atonement for sin and the role of the high priest as a mediator between the people and God. It also highlights the need for repentance and the desire for forgiveness as a central theme in Jewish religious practice. Overall, the chapter serves as a reminder of the importance of seeking forgiveness and striving to live a holy life.

CHAPTER 16

Le. 16:1 The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron who died when they approached the LORD.

Le. 16:2 The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind

the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.

Le. 16:3 “This is how Aaron is to enter the sanctuary area: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

Le. 16:4 He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on.

Le. 16:5 From the Israelite community he is to take two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

Le. 16:6 “Aaron is to offer the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household.

Le. 16:7 Then he is to take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

Le. 16:8 He is to cast lots for the two goats — one lot for the LORD and the other for the scapegoat. [That is, the goat of removal; Hebrew azazel; also in verses 10 and 26]

Le. 16:9 Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the LORD and sacrifice it for a sin offering.

Le. 16:10 But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD to be used for making atonement by sending it into the desert as a scapegoat.

Le. 16:11 “Aaron shall bring the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household, and he is to slaughter the bull for his own sin offering.

Le. 16:12 He is to take a censer full of burning coals from the altar

before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense and take them behind the curtain.

Le. 16:13 He is to put the incense on the fire before the LORD, and the smoke of the incense will conceal the atonement cover above the Testimony, so that he will not die.

Le. 16:14 He is to take some of the bull's blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the atonement cover.

Le. 16:15 "He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it.

Le. 16:16 In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been. He is to do the same for the Tent of Meeting, which is among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

Le. 16:17 No-one is to be in the Tent of Meeting from the time Aaron goes in to make atonement in the Most Holy Place until he comes out, having made atonement for himself, his household and the whole community of Israel.

Le. 16:18 "Then he shall come out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it. He shall take some of the bull's blood and some of the goat's blood and put it on all the horns of the altar.

Le. 16:19 He shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times to cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleanness of

the Israelites.

Le. 16:20 “When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat.

Le. 16:21 He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites — all their sins — and put them on the goat’s head. He shall send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task.

Le. 16:22 The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place; and the man shall release it in the desert.

Le. 16:23 “Then Aaron is to go into the Tent of Meeting and take off the linen garments he put on before he entered the Most Holy Place, and he is to leave them there.

Le. 16:24 He shall bathe himself with water in a holy place and put on his regular garments. Then he shall come out and sacrifice the burnt offering for himself and the burnt offering for the people, to make atonement for himself and for the people.

Le. 16:25 He shall also burn the fat of the sin offering on the altar.

Le. 16:26 “The man who releases the goat as a scapegoat must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterwards he may come into the camp.

Le. 16:27 The bull and the goat for the sin offerings, whose blood was brought into the Most Holy Place to make atonement, must be taken outside the camp; their hides, flesh and offal are to be burned up.

Le. 16:28 The man who burns them must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterwards he may come into the camp.

Le. 16:29 “This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves [Or must fast; also in verse 31] and not do any work — whether native-born or an alien living among you —

Le. 16:30 because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins.

Le. 16:31 It is a sabbath of rest, and you must deny yourselves; it is a lasting ordinance.

Le. 16:32 The priest who is anointed and ordained to succeed his father as high priest is to make atonement. He is to put on the sacred linen garments

Le. 16:33 and make atonement for the Most Holy Place, for the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and for the priests and all the people of the community.

Le. 16:34 “This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: Atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites.” And it was done, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leviticus chapter 16 describes the annual Day of Atonement, which was the most important day of the year for the Israelites.

Here are some key verses from the chapter:

Verses 2-4: "And the Lord said to Moses: 'Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat. Thus Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with the blood of a young bull as a sin offering, and of a ram as a burnt offering.'"

These verses describe the strict regulations for approaching the Holy Place and the mercy seat, which was the symbolic dwelling place of God on earth. Only the high priest, Aaron, was allowed to enter the Holy Place on the Day of Atonement, and only after making the prescribed offerings for himself and the people.

Verses 7-10: "He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the Lord's lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering. But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, and to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness."

These verses describe the two goats that were used in the Day of Atonement ritual: one goat was sacrificed as a sin offering, while the other was set free into the wilderness, symbolically carrying away the sins of the people.

Verses 30-34: "For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord. It is a sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever. And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father's place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments; then he shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year."

These verses summarize the purpose and significance of the Day of Atonement, which was to make atonement for the sins of the people and to restore their relationship with God. The ritual was to be observed annually as an everlasting statute, and was a solemn and holy day of rest for the Israelites. The role of the high priest in making atonement for the people and the tabernacle is emphasized, as is the need for repentance and affliction of the soul in order to receive forgiveness.

Chapter 16 of the Book of Leviticus in the Bible describes the rituals and practices associated with the Day of Atonement, also known as Yom Kippur. This annual event was a significant day in Israelite religious life, focused on the atonement of sins and the cleansing of the sanctuary. Here is a reflection on the key themes and lessons found in Leviticus chapter 16:

The Need for Atonement: Leviticus 16 underscores the concept of atonement for sins. It outlines the specific rituals and offerings that the high priest was to perform on behalf of the people to cleanse them from their transgressions.

Reflection: This chapter reminds us of the reality of sin and the need for atonement. It teaches us that our actions have consequences and that we fall short of God's perfect standard. It points us to the importance of seeking forgiveness and reconciliation with God. It encourages us to acknowledge our need for atonement and to humbly approach God, trusting in His mercy and grace.

The Role of the High Priest: Leviticus 16 highlights the central role of the high priest in the Day of Atonement rituals. The high priest would enter the Most Holy Place, make offerings, and intercede on behalf of the people.

Reflection: The role of the high priest points to Jesus Christ as the ultimate High Priest in the New Testament. It symbolizes the need for a mediator between God and humanity. The high priest's actions foreshadow Jesus' sacrificial death and His role as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. It reminds us of the significance of Jesus' work on the cross and His ability to reconcile us with God.

The Symbolism of Sacrifice: Leviticus 16 includes various sacrifices and offerings as part of the Day of Atonement rituals. These offerings represent the surrendering of sin and the seeking of God's forgiveness.

Reflection: The symbolism of sacrifice points to the concept of surrender and repentance. It prompts us to acknowledge our sins before God, to repent, and to offer ourselves as living sacrifices. It challenges us to surrender our selfish desires, attitudes, and behaviors, recognizing that true atonement requires genuine repentance and a change of heart.

The Sanctification of the Sanctuary: Leviticus 16 describes the cleansing of the sanctuary as an integral part of the Day of Atonement. The rituals were performed to purify the holy place from the defilement caused by the sins of the people.

Reflection: The sanctification of the sanctuary serves as a metaphor for the need to cleanse our hearts and lives. It reminds us that our sins not only affect our relationship with God but also impact the larger community. It calls us to examine our lives and seek purification, both individually and corporately, to create an environment that is conducive to God's presence and work.

In summary, Leviticus chapter 16 focuses on the themes of atonement, the role of the high priest, the symbolism of sacrifice, and the sanctification of the sanctuary. It reminds us of the need for atonement for our sins and the importance of seeking forgiveness and reconciliation with God. It points to Jesus Christ as the ultimate High Priest who sacrificed Himself for our sins. It challenges us to surrender ourselves before God, repent of our sins, and actively pursue a life of holiness and sanctification.