

Our Unique High Priest

Introduction.

Under the first covenant, priests were the spiritual leaders over Israel. However, there are no priests officiating in Israel on earth today. They have rabbis in their synagogues.

We have Catholic priests; however, the Catholic priest operates under an entirely different system. Their duties are different. In fact, because Catholic priests are not of Jewish descent, they **would not qualify** to minister under the first covenant. Because Yah chose the line of priesthood to minister over his congregation.

A priest is defined as one who is duly authorized to minister in sacred things, particularly **to offer sacrifices at the altar**, and who acts as **mediator** between men and Elohim." They were also to teach the people of Israel **the Torah, Yahweh's instructions**, given to Moses.

Leviticus 10:8,11 [Halleluyah Scriptures]

And יהוה [Yahweh] spoke to Aharon, saying.....so that you **will teach the people of Yisra'el all the laws** יהוה [Yahweh] has told them through Moshe.

So, it is Yahweh **who chose** the priests who would serve in his tabernacle and later the Temple. And He chose them from the tribe of **Levi**.

Exodus 28:1 [Halleluyah Scriptures]

"And you, bring near Aharon your brother and his sons with him, from among the children of Yisra'el, **for serving as Kohen [priest] to Me:** Aharon, Nadab and Abihu, El'azar and Ithamar, the sons of Aharon.

There is but **one** exception to that rule. **Yeshua** was chosen and appointed by Yahweh from the tribe of **Judah**.

Hebrews 7:13-14 [Halleluyah Scriptures]

(13) For He of whom this is said belongs to **another tribe**, from which **no one had attended at the Altar**.

(14) For it is perfectly clear that our Adon [Lord] arose from Yehudah [Judah], a tribe about which Mosheh **never** spoke of concerning kehunnah [priesthood],

Therefore, the **Levitical priests** served the **people**, performing **ritual acts** and **religious rites** on their behalf to Yahweh, in the tabernacle and the temple.

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At the top of the hierarchy of the Levitical-Aaronic priesthood was the **high priest** of Israel who was also **chosen** to that position.

The high priest is the chief priest. Even though he perform the common duties of the priesthood; his **chief duty** was to enter into the Holy of Holies (from which the other priests were excluded) and offer sacrifices for **his own** sins and the sins of the people **once a year on the Yom Kippur** [atonement].

Hebrews 5:1-5 CJB

- (1) For every cohen gadol [**high priest**] taken from among men is appointed to act on people's behalf with regard to things concerning God [**Elohim**], to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
- (2) He can deal gently with the ignorant and with those who go astray, since he too is subject to weakness.
- (3) Also, because of this weakness, he has to offer sacrifices **for his own sins**, as well as those of the people.
- (4) And **no one takes this honor upon himself**, rather, **he is called by God [Elohim]**, just as Aharon was.
- (5) So neither did the **Messiah** glorify himself to become cohen gadol [**high priest**]; rather, it was the One who said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."

Yeshua's priestly minister was of a **different order** than the Levitical priesthood. The Levitical priests was subject to death. They constantly need to be replaced. But **yeshua**, as a high priest will never die.

We know that Yeshua is now our high priest. We know that he is now ministering in the heavenly sanctuary. But the question is, **when did he become a high priest**. Did his being the son of Yahweh automatic qualify him as high priest? Or would he need to go through the same process that the Levitical priests went through to become high priest?

What process did yah **require** Aharon and his and sons to go through to become high priest?

Exodus 29:29-35 TS2009

- (29) "And the set-apart [holy] garments of Aharon are for **his sons** after him, to be anointed in them and to be **ordained** in them.
- (30) "The priest from his sons in his place, puts them on for **seven days**, when he enters the Tent of Appointment to attend in the set-apart [holy] place.

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(33) and they shall eat those *offerings* with which the **atonement** was made, **to ordain them**, to set them apart. But let a stranger not eat them, because they are set-apart.

(35) "And so you shall do to Aharon and his sons, **according to all** I have commanded you. **Seven days you shall ordain them**,

Leviticus 8:33-35 TS2009

(33) "And do not go outside the door of the Tent of Appointment **for seven days**, until the days of your ordination are completed – for he fills your hands [*will be consecrating you*] for **seven days**.

(34) "יהוה [Yahweh] has commanded to do, as he has done this day, to make atonement for you.

(35) "And stay **at the door** of the Tent of Appointment **day and night for seven days**. And you shall guard the duty of יהוה, [Yahweh] and not die, **for so I have been commanded.**"

So, the requirement was for Aaron and his sons to **remain** in the tabernacle for **seven days**. Seven days is the time that Yah established for the priests to be **ordained** into the office of priesthood.

Therefore, since Yeshua was **careful** to obey all Yah's instruction of righteousness, while he was here on earth, He would **also** need to go through the same process of ordination as Aaron and his sons.

Yeshua was **careful** to obey the Torah. Which is Yah's instructions given to Israel. He paid the temple tax [Matthew 17:24-27] and was baptized by John the Baptist [Matthew 3:13-15,] whose baptism was a **baptism of repentance (Luke 3:1-3)**.

Matthew 3:15 TLV

But Yeshua responded, "Let it happen now, for in this way it is fitting for us to **fulfill all righteousness.**" So John yielded to Him.

What we must do is to **understand** all that was involved in Yahweh's plan of redemption. What exactly did Yeshua come to earth to do?

First, we know that Yeshua **came to die** for the sins of humanity. And His death would be like the death of lambs who died for the sins of Israel. This fact is **undeniable**, because Yah scheduled Yeshua's birth to

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take place in the very place where lambs were born who were **destined** to be **sacrifice at the temple in Jerusalem**.

He was not born in dirty, filthy stable among donkeys and cows.

After yeshua was **sacrificed on the cross** as on an altar, the next step was for his blood to be taken in the holy of holiest place in the temple. It was **not enough** for the priest to kill the lamb, the blood of the lamb needed to be taken into the most holy place to be accepted by Yahweh. Remember, it is the **blood that make atonement for sin**, because the life of the creature is in the blood.

The rituals performed on Yom Kippur is a **clear pictured** of what Yeshua needed to do to complete the process of atonement.

On yom Kippur, the high pries killed the animal. After he killed it, he took the blood of the animal in the most holy place behind the curtains for the blood to be accepted by yah for the sins of the people. The atonement was not complete **until** the high priest sprinkled the blood on ark of the covenant.

Therefore, as we can see, Yeshua was required to fill **two** roles:

He needed to

1. Be the **sacrificial lamb**
2. He needed to be the high priest to take **his own blood** into the most holy place in heaven.

Everything that **yeshua needed to do** was carefully planned and orchestrated by Yah, his father. And was rehearsed by Israel each year as they celebrated the Passover festival.

Let us look at what Yahweh ordered to be done at Passover also called the feast of unleavened bread.

Leviticus 23:5-8 CJB

(5) " 'In the first month, on the **fourteenth** day of the month, between sundown and complete darkness, comes Pesach [Passover] for Adonai [Yahweh].

(6) On the **fifteenth day** of the same month is the **festival of matzah**; for **seven** days you are to eat matzah.

(7) On the **first day** you are to have a holy convocation; don't do any kind of ordinary work.

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(8) Bring an offering made by fire to Adonai [Yahweh] **for seven days**. On the seventh day is a **holy convocation**; do not do any kind of ordinary work.' "

On **Nissan 16, firstfruits**, Yeshua was raised from the dead. Not easter, but on Yah's scheduled day for his resurrection. He showed himself to several people on that day to **confirm his resurrection**. However, there is no record of anyone seeing him **until eight days** later.

John 20:26 TLV

Eight days later the disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Yeshua comes, despite the locked doors. He stood in their midst and said, "Shalom aleichem!" [Peace be unto you]

What was happening during Yeshua's absent?

Look again at **Leviticus 23:6**. "On the **fifteenth day** of the same month is the **festival of matzah**; for **seven days** you are to eat matzah".

Why seven days? Because during those seven days Yeshua was **completing** his work of atonement.

He was **not finished** when he was resurrected. Yes, **he did shed his blood**. Yes, **he was resurrected** from the dead. However, if Yeshua had stopped there, what would be done with **the blood** needed to atone for the sins of humanity.

Remember, it is all in **the blood**. **No blood, no atonement**. And since the **final** act of atonement, the sprinkling of the blood, had to be completed **in heaven**, that is where yeshua was during his time of absent.

While the people of israel were eating **unleavened** bread and offering sacrifices, yeshua was in the heavenly sanctuary being **ordained** so he could take his blood into the most holy place to atone for humanity's sins.

We will **not understand** this unless we view it through the **eyes** of the Hebrews. We must keep in mind that our bible was written **by Jews**, and **to Jews**.

And many details are left out because the Jews would understand. Whereas we as non-Jews must look at scripture in the light of other passages to get an understanding. We must place **line upon line** and **precept upon**

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precept and pray for the Ruach HaKodesh [Holy Spirit] to give us understand.

In our next lesson. This will become more clearer to you as we examine other supporting scriptures.

Part two

Yeshua was born as a man for the purpose of sacrificing himself, as a lamb for the sin of the world. John the Baptist called Yeshua **Elohim's lamb** who would take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). The very place of Yeshua's birth confirms the purpose of his birth. He was born in the place where lambs were birth and cared for who were destined to be sacrificed at the temple in Jerusalem (Mica 4:8).

Therefore, in fulfillment of his purpose, Yeshua was sacrificed on Passover, and was resurrected on firstfruits.

John gives us an account of Yeshua activities after his resurrection.

John 20:1 CJB

(1) Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Miryam from Magdala went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

John 20:16-17 TS2009

(16) יהושע [Yeshua] said to her, "Miryam!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

(17) יהושע [Yeshua] said to her, "**Do not hold on to Me**, for I have not yet ascended to My Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending [going up] to My Father and your Father, and to My Elohim and your Elohim.'

There have been many different opinions about why yeshua did not want Miryam to touch him. Some even said Maryam had an unnatural affection for Yeshua. However, when you look at this statement as well as Yeshua's ascending to his father, in the context of **Leviticus 8:33-35** we will understand why Miryam could not touch Yeshua and why he was ascending to his father.

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Leviticus 8:33-35 TS2009

(33) “And do not go outside the door of the Tent of Appointment [Meeting] **for seven days**, until the days of your ordination are completed – for he fills your hands [will be consecrating you] for **seven days**.

(34) יהוה [Yahweh] has commanded to do, as he has done this day, to make atonement for you.

(35) “And stay **at the door** of the Tent of Appointment **day and night** for **seven days**. And you shall guard the duty of יהוה, [Yahweh] and not die, **for so I have been commanded.**”

Those are Yahweh’s instruction for ordaining His priests. Even though Aaron and his sons were already **appointed** by yah to serve as priest, it was necessary for them to be officially consecrated, set aside, or ordained before officiating in that role.

One of the requirements was for them to remain in the tabernacle for seven days, during which sacrifices were made on each day. “*And stay **at the door** of the Tent of Appointment **day and night** for **seven days**.*”

According to Luke, yeshua appeared to **two** disciples who was walking along the road, and explained to them how what was written in the scriptures concerning him

Luke 24:25-27 TLV

(25) Yeshua said to them, “Oh foolish ones, so slow of heart to put your trust in all that the prophets spoke!

(26) Was it not necessary for Messiah to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?”

(27) Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them the things written about Himself in all the Scriptures.

He also appeared to the other disciples who were behind closed doors, and opened their minds to understand the things written in the scriptures concerning him.

Luke 24:44-46 TLV

(44) Then He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you—**everything** written concerning Me in the Torah of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms **must be fulfilled**.”

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(45) Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,
(46) and He said to them, "So it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,

Now look at what **John said of yeshua**, after his resurrection and his initial appearances on the first day of his resurrection.

John 20:26 TLV

Eight days later the disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Yeshua comes, despite the locked doors. He stood in their midst and said, "Shalom aleichem!" [Peace be unto you]

Eight days later Yeshua came to the disciples. Yeshua told them in verse 17 he was going up to their father. *‘יהושע [Yeshua] said to her ...But go to My brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My Elohim and your Elohim.’*

Therefore, he had been gone for **seven days**. The number of days required by Yahweh to be ordained as a high priest.

Keep in mind that in order to atone for sin yeshua need to do **two** things:

1. Shed his blood [a life for a life substitute]
2. Take his blood into the Holy of Holiest in the temple.

Only a high priest could enter the holy of holies on the day of yom Kippur (atonement). Therefore, in keeping with Yahweh's ordinances, Yeshua had to remain in the heavenly tabernacle for **seven days**. During those seven days Israel was eating unleavened bread and offering daily sacrifice on the feast of unleavened bread which lasted **seven days**.

Leviticus 23:5-8 CJB

... for **seven** days you are to eat matzah.

(8) Bring an offering made by fire to Adonai [Yahweh] **for seven days**.

The entire process of redemption took place on Yah's feast days of Passover. Yeshua's **death, resurrection, ordination, and blood atonement**. After his ordination, Yeshua took his own blood into the heavenly sanctuary, thus completing the process of atonement to redeem humanity.

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Hebrews 9:11-12 CJB

(11) But when the **Messiah appeared as High Priest** of the good things that are happening already, then, through the greater and more perfect Tent which is not man-made (that is, it is not of this created world),

(12) **he entered the Holiest Place** once and for all. And he entered not by means of the blood of goats and calves, **but by means of his own blood**, thus setting people free forever.

So, it was necessary for yeshua to be ordained **first**, in order for him to take his own blood into the heavenly sanctuary to set humanity free from sin. Because this is a ministry that only a high priest could accomplish.

When atonement was **complete**, Yeshua came back to earth and spent **forty days** teaching and preparing his disciples for ministry.

He then went back up to heaven sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high because his job on earth was complete.

Hebrews 1:3 TLV

(3..... When He had made purification for our sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

However, Yeshua continues to minister before his **father on behalf of humanity**.

Hebrews 8:1-2 CJB

(1) Here is the whole point of what we have been saying: **we do have just such a high priest** as has been described. And he does sit at the right hand of the majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 4:14-16 CJB

(14) Therefore, since we have a **great High Priest** who has passed through to the highest heaven, Yeshua, the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we acknowledge as true.

(15) For we do not have a High Priest unable **to empathize with our weaknesses**; since in every respect he was tempted just as we are, the only difference being that he did not sin.

(16) Therefore, let us confidently approach the throne from which God gives grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace in our time of need.

This is the function of a **high priest**, to approach Elohim, **advocate for the people**, and in the case of Yeshua, **to help us obtain mercy and grace**

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when we need it most. Messiah also mediates by representing His righteousness to Elohim as our righteousness

Yeshua is called the **great high priest**.

Being a **great High Priest** sets Yeshua apart from all other high priests. Aaron was the first high priest and was consider great. However, Yeshua is much greater than Aaron.

There are two reasons that makes Yeshua greater.

1. He has passed through to the highest heaven.

Hebrews 4:14

(14) Therefore, since we have a **great High Priest** who has passed through to the highest heaven, Yeshua, the Son of God,

Aaron ministered on earth in the earthly temple. But Yeshua is before the very throne of Yahweh in heaven, in His very presence of Yahweh.

Hebrews 8:1-2 CJB

(1) **we do have just such a high priest** as has been described. And he does sit at the right hand of the majesty in heaven.

(2) There **he serves** in the Holy Place, that is, in the true Tent of Meeting, the one erected not by human beings but by God.

2. He is the Son of Elohim

Hebrews 4:14

we do have just such a high priest....., ***Yeshua, the Son of God***

Being Elohim's son makes Yeshua divine. Therefore, he has direct access to the father where he appears on our behalf. Not only that, Yeshua has the power to save us completely.

Though Yeshua is Elohim's son, he was also human. Therefore, as a human he experienced the same things that we experience. "***in every respect he was tempted just as we are***".

Hebrews 2:14-17 CJB

(14) Therefore, since the children share a common physical nature as human beings, **he became like them and shared that same human nature**; so that by his death he might **render ineffective** the one who had power over death (that is, the Adversary)

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(15) and thus **set free those** who had been in bondage all their lives because of their fear of death.

(17) This is why **he had to become like his brothers in every respect** — so that he might become **a merciful** and **faithful** High priest in the service of God, making **atonement** for the sins of the people.

Paul says—

Romans 1:3-4 CJB

(3) concerning his Son — he is descended from David **physically**;

(4) he was **powerfully demonstrated to be Son of God spiritually**, set apart by his having been resurrected from the dead; he is Yeshua the Messiah, **our Lord**.

We can find comfort during our troubles because we have a **unique high priest** to help us. one who knows exactly how we feel because **he has been there**.

Hebrews 4:15 CJB

For we do not have a High Priest unable **to empathize with our weaknesses**; since in every respect **he was tempted** just as we are, the only difference being that he did not sin.

As the great **high priest**, Yeshua is able to empathize, to actually feel every experience that we experience, no matter how painful it may be. Yeshua not only **feels for us**, he feels **right along with us**.

In other words, Yeshua suffers when we suffer. He shares our feelings

- When we are sick
- When we face temptation
- When we fall into sin
- When we feel lonely
- When we lose a loved one
- When we suffer persecution

Yeshua identifies and understands what we are going through. No matter what trial, pain, temptation, suffering or weakness we have, Yeshua, our Lord, empathizes with us.

“since in every respect he was tempted”.

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Yeshua, our **great High Priest**, is seated on a **throne of mercy**. On the merit of his own blood atonement, he approaches Elohim and pleads for the pardon of humanity.

Therefore, we can come before Yah with **confidence** because we are not depending on **our own merits**, but on the merit of Yeshua's sacrifice.

As Paul said

Ephesians 3:11-12 CJB

This accords with God's age-old purpose, **accomplished in the Messiah** Yeshua, our Lord. In union with him, **through his faithfulness**, we have **boldness and confidence when we approach God**.

Elohim's grace **will strengthen us** to conquer and triumph over all circumstances and situation. However, it comes through **our union** with the messiah, our **eternal high priest**.

Hebrews 7:24-25 CJB

But because he lives forever, his position as Priest does not pass on to someone else; and consequently, he is **totally able to deliver** those who approach God through him; since he is alive forever and thus forever able to intercede on their behalf.

Hebrews 7:26-27 CJB

This is the kind of **High Priest that meets our need** — holy, without evil, without stain, set apart from sinners and raised higher than the heavens; one who does not have the daily necessity, like the other high priests, of offering up sacrifices first for their own sins and only then for those of the people; because he offered one sacrifice, once and for all, by offering up **himself**.

Hebrews 7:28 CJB

For the Torah appoints as High Priest men who have weakness; but the text which speaks about the swearing of the oath, a text written later than the Torah, **appoints a Son** who has been brought to the goal [made perfect forever] **forever**.

Conclusion:

Yeshua is our great sympathetic, unique high priest. The one **who meets our every need** and carries us through all the suffering of this life.

And as Hebrews 13:6 says--

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Hebrews 13:6 CJB

Therefore, **we say with confidence**, "the Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid — what can a human being do to me?"