

## ***RESTORING THE PRIESTLY ROLE OF INTERCESSION (Part 4)***

### **Pictures of Priesthood**

The roots of our high priestly ministry extends thousands of years behind us, preceding and foreshadowing the intent of God's invasion of human history through His Son, Jesus Christ. The first priest recorded in Scripture may well have been Adam, who ministered on behalf of God and God's creation in the garden of Eden. Then perhaps we see it in the accepted sacrifice of Abel. But the first individual actually called kohen, or priest, was Melchizedek, king of Salem:

Genesis 14:18-20 NIV

[18] Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, [19] and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. [20] And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Even the first priest was careful to minister in two dimensions: to God on behalf of men, and to men on behalf of God. God later established the Aaronic priesthood as part of the instructions He gave to Moses on Mount Sinai, where He also gave him the law inscribed on stone tablets. He told Moses to build a tent according to very specific guidelines as His portable habitation among His people while they journeyed to the promised land. This tent was called the "tent of God's presence" and the tabernacle of Moses. It contained three main concentric areas into which only the priests of the tribe of Levi could enter, and then only after they had made themselves ceremonially clean.

The first area, just inside the curtains of the tent, was the courtyard or "outer place." The largest of the three spaces, it contained the brazen altar and brazen laver where the blood of innocent animal sacrifices without flaws was shed, and where their bodies were offered to God by fire. (The shedding of blood and the sacrifice of the innocent for the guilty in those sacrifices foreshadowed the shedding of Christ's innocent blood and His willing sacrifice on the cross to take away the sin of the world.)

It was at the brazen laver that the bloodied priests washed themselves before moving deeper into the tent. Next was the main tent, a covered area that housed the Holy Place and the enclosed third area called the Most Holy Place (or Holy of Holies), where God's shekinah glory or presence resided. These spaces represented levels of holiness on earth. The deeper that one moved into the tabernacle, the stricter the requirements for holiness were.

## ***Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles***

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**July 17, 2025 – The Lost Art of Intercession – James Goll & Myra Ilagan**

Priests ministering under the old covenant followed a progressive series of rituals to prepare themselves to minister before the presence of the Holy God in the tabernacle. First, sacrifices of blood were offered for the atonement of sin in the outer court. The priest was required to first come to the place of sacrifice before he could enter the tabernacle and minister to the Lord. Only after Aaron, the high priest, had made a sacrifice of blood for his sin on the altar and washed himself in the laver could he pass through the first veil into the Holy Place.

When Jesus laid down His life for us and shed His blood on the cross, He atoned for, or paid for, our sin forever, and His shed blood became a flowing fount, a holy laver that cleanses us from all sin. He became the living Way and the eternal Door into the Holy Place of God, where only priests could enter in. In that place, as priests of the Lord, we offer sacrifices of praise, worship, and adoration, guided and bathed by the light of His Word, and sustained by the bread of His Word and the fellowship of His broken Body, the Church.