

Doctrine of the High Priest The Old Testament

1. In the Law of Moses, provision was made for the appointment of a high priest. Aaron, the brother of Moses, was chosen first to fill the office. He was called "the priest" (ha-kohen)
 - *Exodus 31:10 And the cloths of service, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office,*

2. As the office was to be hereditary and to be preserved in perpetuity in the family of Aaron, he is succeeded by his son Eleazar, and he in turn by his son Phinehas.
 - *Aaron. Exodus 29:9 And thou shalt gird them with girdles, Aaron and his sons, and put the bonnets on them: and the priest's office shall be theirs for a perpetual statute: and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons.*

 - Exodus 29:29 And the holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons' after him, to be anointed therein, and to be consecrated in them.*

 - *Eleazar. Numbers 20:28 And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount: and Moses and Eleazar came down from the mount.*

 - Deuteronomy 10:6 And the children of Israel took their journey from Beeroth of the children of Jaakan to Mosera: there Aaron died, and there he was buried; and Eleazar his son ministered in the priest's office in his stead.*

 - *Phinehas. Numbers 25:11 Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.*

3. During the time of Aaron the succession was established and fixed.
 - *Numbers 25:12 Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: 13 And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.*

4. It was forbidden for the high priest to follow a funeral, or rend his clothes for the dead.
 - *Leviticus 21:10 And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes; 11 Neither shall he go in to any dead body, nor defile himself for his father, or for his mother.*

5. Aaron was the first person to serve in the office of the high priest. His sons were to be his helpers and successors. All future high priests had to be of Aaronic descent.

- *Exodus 28:1 And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.*

6. Aaron alone was anointed.

- *Leviticus 8:12 And he [Moses] poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him.*

7. One of the distinctive epithets of the high priest was “the anointed priest.”

- *Leviticus 4:3 If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the Lord for a sin offering.*
- *Leviticus 4:5 And the priest that is anointed shall take of the bullock's blood, and bring it to the tabernacle of the congregation:*
- *Leviticus 4:16 And the priest that is anointed shall bring of the bullock's blood to the tabernacle of the congregation:*
- *Leviticus 21:10 And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes;*
- *Numbers 35:25 And the congregation shall deliver the slayer out of the hand of the revenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to the city of his refuge, whither he was fled: and he shall abide in it unto the death of the high priest, which was anointed with the holy oil.*

8. The high priest had distinct clothing which passed to his successor at his death. This dress consisted of eight parts.

- **The breastplate**, also known as the breastplate of judgment. On the breastplate were twelve precious stones, set in four rows, three stones in a row, to correspond with the name of the children of Israel inscribed upon it.



In the first row there was a ruby, a topaz and a beryl.
 In the second row a turquoise, a sapphire and an emerald.
 In the third row a jacinth, an agate and an amethyst.
 In the fourth row a chrysolite, an onyx and a jasper.
 They were mounted in gold filigree settings.

Exodus 28:15 And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work; after the work of the ephod thou shalt make it; of gold, of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine twined linen, shalt thou make it.

Exodus 28:29 And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually. 30 And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the Lord: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the Lord continually.

- **The ephod.** This consisted of two parts, of which one covered the back and the other the front, i.e. the breast and upper part of the body. These parts were clasped together on the shoulder with two large onyx stones, each having engraved on it six of the names of the tribes of Israel. They were further united by a "curious girdle" of gold, blue, purple, scarlet and fine twined linen round the waist.
- **The robe of the ephod.** This was of inferior material to the ephod itself being all of blue, ver. 31, which implied its being only of "woven work." ch. 39:22. It was worn immediately under the ephod, and was longer than it. The skirt of this robe had a remarkable trimming of pomegranates in blue, red and crimson, with a bell of gold between each pomegranate alternately. The bells were to give a sound when the high priest went in and came out of the holy place.
- **The mitre** or upper turban, with its gold plate, engraved with "Holiness to the Lord," fastened to it by a ribbon of blue.

- **The broidered coat** was a tunic or long skirt of linen with a tessellated or diaper pattern, like the setting of stone.
- **The girdle, also of linen**, was wound round the body several times from the breast downward, and the ends hung down to the ankles.
- **The breeches or drawers**, of linen, covered the loins and thighs.
- **The bonnet** was a turban of linen, partially covering the head, but not in the form of a cone like that of the high priest when the mitre was added to it.

Special Note.

These last four, the tunic or long skirt of linen, the girdle, the breeches or drawers, and the bonnet were common to all priests.

9. The high priest alone was permitted to enter the holy of holies, which he did once a year, on the great day of atonement, when he sprinkled the blood of the sin offering on the mercy seat, and burnt incense within the veil.
 - *Leviticus 16:12 And he [Aaron, the high priest] shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the Lord, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: 13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: 14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times. 15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: 16 And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.*
10. The usual age for entering upon the functions of the priesthood, according to 2 Chronicles 31:17, is considered to have been 20 years, though a priest or high priest was not actually incapacitated if he had attained to puberty.
 - *2 Chronicles 31:17 Both to the genealogy of the priests by the house of their fathers, and the Levites from twenty years old and upward, in their charges by their courses;*
11. Again, according to Leviticus 21:17-21, no one that had a blemish could officiate at the altar.
 - *Leviticus 21:17 Speak unto Aaron, saying, Whosoever he be of thy seed in their generations that hath any blemish, let him not approach to offer the bread of his God.*

18 For whatsoever man he be that hath a blemish, he shall not approach: a blind man, or a lame, or he that hath a flat nose, or anything superfluous, 19 Or a man that is broken footed, or broken handed, 20 Or crookback, or a dwarf, or that hath a blemish in his eye, or be scurvy, or scabbed, or hath his stones broken; 21 No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the Lord made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to offer the bread of his God.

12. A manslayer was not to leave the city of refuge during the lifetime of the existing high priest.

- *Numbers 35:25 And the congregation shall deliver the slayer out of the hand of the revenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to the city of his refuge, whither he was fled: and he shall abide in it unto the death of the high priest, which was anointed with the holy oil.*
- *Numbers 35:28 Because he should have remained in the city of his refuge until the death of the high priest: but after the death of the high priest the slayer shall return into the land of his possession.*
- *Joshua 20:6 And he shall dwell in that city, until he stand before the congregation for judgment, and until the death of the high priest that shall be in those days: then shall the slayer return, and come unto his own city, and unto his own house, unto the city from whence he fled.*

13. It does not appear by whose authority the high priests were appointed to their office before there were kings of Israel. After this the office seems to have been used for political rather than religious purposes.

14. Though at first chosen for life, we find that Solomon deposed Abiathar, 1 Kings 2:35, and that Herod appointed a number of high priests, which may account for there being at least two living in Christ's time, Annas and Caiaphas. Luke 3:2.

- *1 Kings 2:35 And the king [Solomon] put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his room over the host: and Zadok the priest did the king put in the room of Abiathar [the high priest of Israel].*
- *Luke 3:2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.*

Special Note.

Abiathar (father of abundance, i.e. liberal), was the High Priest and fourth in descent from Eli (BC. 1060-1012). Abiathar was the only one of all the sons of Ahimelech, the high priest who escaped the slaughter inflicted upon his father's house by Saul, in revenge of his having inquired of the Lord for David and given him the shew-bread to eat. 1 Samuel 22:1.

Abiathar having become high priest fled to David, and was thus enabled to inquire of the Lord for him. 1 Samuel 23:9; 30:7; 2 Samuel 2:1; 5:19, etc. He adhered to David in his wanderings while pursued by Saul; he was with him while he reigned in Hebron, and afterwards in Jerusalem. 2 Samuel 2:1-3. He continued faithful to him in Absalom's rebellion. 2 Samuel 15:24, 29, 35, 36; 17:15-17; 19:11.

When, however, Adonijah set himself up from David's successor on the throne, in opposition to Solomon, Abiathar sided with him, while Zadok was on Solomon's side. For this Abiathar was deprived of the high priesthood. Zadok had joined David at Hebron, 1 Chronicles 12:28, so that there was henceforth high priests in the reign of David, and till the deposition of Abiathar by Solomon, when Zadok became the sole high priest (*Smith's Bible Dictionary*).

Hilkiah the High Priest

15. The eighth king of Judah, Jehoash (or Joash; c. 835 BC – 796 BC) authorized the high priest Hilkiah (hil-ki'a; portion of Jehovah) to pay workers to make repairs on the house of the Lord.

- *2 Kings 12:1 In the seventh year of Jehu Jehoash began to reign; and forty years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zibiah of Beer-sheba. 2 And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the Lord all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him. 3 But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.*
- *2 Kings 12:10 And it was so, when they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up, and they put up in bags, and told the money that was found in the house of the Lord.*

16. According to the biblical genealogy Hilkiah was son of Shallum.

- *1 Chronicles 6:13 And Shallum begat Hilkiah, and Hilkiah begat Azariah,*
- *Nehemiah 11:11 Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, was the ruler of the house of God.*

17. Hilkiah was the ancestor of Ezra the scribe.

- *Ezra 7:1 Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,*

18. His high priesthood was crowned by spiritual reformation during the reign of the eighth king of Judah, Jehoash; Hilkiah restored true religion to Judah while destroying the altars of Baal.

- *2 Kings 11:18 And all the people of the land went into the house of Baal, and brake it down; his altars and his images brake they in pieces throughly, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the Lord. 19 And he took the rulers over hundreds, and the captains, and the guard, and all the people of the land; and they brought down the king from the house of the Lord, and came by the way of the gate of the guard to the king's house. And he sat on the throne of the kings. 20 And all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was in quiet: and they slew Athaliah with the sword beside the king's house. 21 Seven years old was Jehoash when he began to reign.*
- *2 Kings 23:4 And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.*

19. In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign the solemn Passover was kept at Jerusalem

- *2 Chronicles 35:1 Moreover Josiah kept a Passover unto the Lord in Jerusalem: and they killed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. 2 And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the Lord, 3 And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the Lord, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; it shall not be a burden upon your shoulders: serve now the Lord your God, and his people Israel, 4 And prepare yourselves by the houses of your fathers, after your courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son. 5 And stand in the holy place according to the divisions of the families of the fathers of your brethren the people, and after the division of the families of the Levites. 6 So kill the Passover, and sanctify yourselves, and prepare your brethren, that they may do according to the word of the Lord by the hand of Moses. 7 And Josiah gave to the people, of the flock, lambs and kids, all for the Passover offerings, for all that were present, to the number of thirty thousand, and three thousand bullocks: these were of the king's substance. 8 And his princes gave willingly unto the people, to the priests, and to the Levites: Hilkiah and Zechariah and Jehiel, rulers of the house of God, gave unto the priests for the Passover offerings two thousand and six hundred small cattle, and three hundred oxen. 9 Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethaneel, his brethren, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, chief of the Levites, gave unto the Levites for Passover offerings five thousand small cattle, and five hundred oxen. 10 So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their courses, according to the king's commandment. 11 And they killed the Passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands, and the Levites flayed them. 12 And they removed the burnt offerings, that they might give according to the divisions of the families of the people, to offer unto the Lord, as it is written in the book of Moses. And so did they with the oxen. 13 And they roasted the Passover with fire according to the ordinance: but the other holy offerings sod they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them speedily among all the people. 14 And afterward they made ready for themselves, and for the priests:*

because the priests the sons of Aaron were busied in offering of burnt offerings and the fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared for themselves, and for the priests the sons of Aaron. 15 And the singers the sons of Asaph were in their place, according to the commandment of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the porters waited at every gate; they might not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them. 16 So all the service of the Lord was prepared the same day, to keep the Passover, and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar of the Lord, according to the commandment of king Josiah. 17 And the children of Israel that were present kept the Passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days. 18 And there was no Passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a Passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 19 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah was this Passover kept.

20. During his tenure as high priest, Hilkiah discovered in the house of the Lord, a book called "the book of the law" and "the book of the covenant", 639 BC. The contents of this book are unknown.

- *2 Kings 22:8 And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found **the book of the law** in the house of the Lord. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.*
- *2 Kings 23:2 And the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of **the book of the covenant** which was found in the house of the Lord.*
- *2 Chronicles 34:9 And when they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and of all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem.*
- *2 Chronicles 34:14 And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest found **a book of the law** of the Lord given by Moses. 15 And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord. And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan. 16 And Shaphan carried the book to the king, and brought the king word back again, saying, All that was committed to thy servants, they do it. 17 And they have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the Lord, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and to the hand of the workmen. 18 Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath given me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. 19 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes. 20 And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king's, saying, 21 Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great is*

the wrath of the Lord that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord, to do after all that is written in this book. 22 And Hilkiah, and they that the king had appointed, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college:) and they spake to her to that effect.

Eliashib the High Priest
c. 446 BC

21. During the time of the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem under Nehemiah, the high priest of Israel was Eliashib. He helped to repair the Sheep Gate.

- *Nehemiah 3:1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.*

22. Later Eliashib was "allied unto Tobiah" the Ammonite and allowed that enemy of Nehemiah the use of a great chamber in the temple.

- *Nehemiah 13:4 And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah: 5 And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests.*

23. The dwelling residence of Eliashib was located near the wall of Jerusalem.

- *Nehemiah 3:20 After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.*

24. One of Eliashib's grandsons, a son of Joiada, married a daughter of Sanballat the Horonite and was for this expelled from the community of faith by Nehemiah.

- *Nehemiah 13:28 And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me.*

Josedech (Jehozadak) the High Priest
c. 588 BC

25. Josedech (Jehovah justifies; Jehozadak) was the son of the high priest Seraiah.

- *1 Chronicles 6:14 And Azariah begat Seraiah, and Seraiah begat Jehozadak, 15 And Jehozadak went into captivity, when the Lord carried away Judah and Jerusalem by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.*

26. When his father was killed at Riblah c. 588 BC by order of Nebuchadnezzar, Jehozadak was led away captive to Babylon.

- *2 Kings 25:18 And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door: 19 And out of the city he took an officer that was set over the men of war, and five men of them that were in the king's presence, which were found in the city, and the principal scribe of the host, which mustered the people of the land, and threescore men of the people of the land that were found in the city: 20 And Nebuzar-adan captain of the guard took these, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah: 21 And the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away out of their land.*
- *1 Chronicles 6:15 And Jehozadak went into captivity, when the Lord carried away Judah and Jerusalem by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.*

27. Josedech (Jehozadak) himself never attained the high priesthood, but he was the father of Jeshua the high priest, and of all his successors till the pontificate of Alcimus.

- *Ezra 3:2 Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.*
- *Nehemiah 12:26 These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.*

Joshua the High Priest
Served c. 514 BC - 490 BC

28. According to Jewish history, Joshua was the first person chosen to be the high priest of Israel to serve in the rebuilt Jewish Temple following the return of the Jews from exile in Babylon.

29. Joshua was among the leaders of Israel returning from exile that inspired a momentum towards the reconstruction of the temple.

- *Ezra 5:2 Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua [Joshua] the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them.*

30. Later some of his sons and nephews were guilty of intermarriage.

- *Ezra 10:18 And among the sons of the priests there were found that had taken strange wives: namely, of the sons of Jeshua [Joshua] the son of Jozadak, and his brethren; Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah.*
- *Zechariah 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.*
- *Zechariah 3:8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.*
- *Zechariah 6:11 Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest;*

The New Testament

Caiaphas and Annas

31. The high priest of Israel during the days of Christ was Caiaphas.

- *Matthew 26:3 Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,*
- *Matthew 26:57 And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.*

32. Standing before Caiaphas, Jesus was silent until commanded to speak.

- *Matthew 26:62 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?*
- *Matthew 26:63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.*

33. When Caiaphas heard the testimony of Christ, he was so enraged he tore his clothing, contrary to the Law as per Leviticus 21:10.

- *Matthew 26:65 Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? Behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.*

- *Leviticus 21:10 And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes;*

See also...

- *Mark 14:60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? What is it which these witness against thee?*
- *Mark 14:61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?*
- *Mark 14:63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses?*

See also...

- *John 11:49 And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,*
- *John 11:51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;*

34. In order to establish the principle that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath, the Lord appealed to an incident in the life of David during the days of Abiathar the high priest (c. 1060-1012).

- *Mark 2:26 How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?*

35. In the Garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus was being arrested, Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of a servant of Caiaphas, the high priest.

- *Mark 14:47 And one of them that stood by drew a sword, and smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.*
- *Luke 22:50 And one of them [Peter] smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.*

36. When Jesus was led away to Caiaphas the high priest for interrogation, Peter followed afar off and came to the palace of the high priest.

- *Mark 14:53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes.*

- *Mark 14:54 And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.*

37. In the palace of Caiaphas the high priest, Peter waited and watched to see what would be done with Jesus.

- *Mark 14:66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest:*

38. When Jesus was moved from the Palace of the High Priest Caiaphas to the home of Annas, the former high priest, Peter still followed.

- *John 18:15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest.*

39. While Peter waited at the door to the home of Annas the former high priest, John, who knew Annas, went and spoke to the keeper of the door and then motioned for Peter to join him.

- *John 18:16 But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter.*

40. Annas asked Jesus about two issues: his disciples and his teaching.

- *John 18:19 The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine.*

41. As Jesus was abused and punched in the presence of Caiaphas, so He was struck in the presence of Annas, the former high priest.

- *John 18:22 And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?*

42. Frustrated by the situation, Annas sent Jesus back to Caiaphas, the high priest.

- *John 18:24 Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.*

43. While Jesus was being shuttled back to Caiaphas the high priest, Peter was confronted about being a disciple of Christ.

- *John 18:26 One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him?*

44. A little more than fifty days after Jesus stood before Annas and Caiaphas, Peter stood before the same men.

- *Acts 4:1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, 2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. 4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand. 5 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, 6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?*

45. The heart of Caiaphas the high priest, which was hostile to Christ, remained hostile to His disciples following the Lord's resurrection.

- *Acts 5:17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,*

46. Though told to keep silent and even imprisoned, Peter would not stop preaching Christ. Following a miraculous deliverance from prison, Peter returned to the Temple area to proclaim the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord. Once more Caiaphas was present along with others to discuss the matter and wonder.

- *Acts 5:21 And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought.*
- *Acts 5:24 Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.*

47. As Jesus was brought before Caiaphas two times, so Peter was brought before him twice.

- *Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,*

48. The last words of Caiaphas recorded in the Bible were addressed to Stephen.

- *Acts 7:1 Then said the high priest, Are these things so?*

49. The last action of Caiaphas recorded in the Bible is that of gnashing his teeth so great was his hatred of the gospel message.

- *Acts 7:54 When they heard these things [from Stephen], they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.*

Ananias the High Priest

50. Before Saul of Tarsus was converted, a new high priest had been appointed. His name was Ananias.

- Ananias allowed religious murder. *Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,*
- Ananias promoted unjust persecution. *Acts 22:5 As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.*
- Ananias directed specific evil acts. *Acts 23:2 And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.*

Paul had to repent of speaking harsh words against Ananias.

Acts 23:3 Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law? 4 And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest? 5 Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.

- Ananias engaged in personal persecution of Paul before Roman authorities. *Acts 24:1 And after five days Ananias the high priest descended with the elders, and with a certain orator named Tertullus, who informed the governor against Paul. Acts 25:2 Then the high priest and the chief of the Jews informed him against Paul, and besought him, 3 And desired favour against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, laying wait in the way to kill him.*

The High Priesthood of Christ

51. As Jesus was, and is, a prophet and king, so He was, and is, a high priest.

- Jesus is a merciful and faithful High Priest. *Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*

- Jesus as High Priest is to be carefully considered. *Hebrews 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*
- Jesus is a High Priest that has passed into the heavens. *Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*
- Jesus is a High Priest that has been tested, but without sin. *Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*
- Jesus is a High Priest ordained of God. *Hebrews 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:*
- Jesus is a humble High Priest. *Hebrews 5:5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.*
- Jesus as a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. *Hebrews 5:10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.*
- Jesus is an eternal High Priest. *Hebrews 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*
- Jesus is a holy High Priest. *Hebrews 7:26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;*
- Jesus a High Priest who is set on the right hand of God. *Hebrews 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;*
- Jesus is a sacrificing High Priest. *Hebrews 8:3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.*
- Jesus is a suffering High Priest. *Hebrews 9:7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:*
- Jesus is a High Priest of good things to come. *Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;*

- Jesus is the final High Priest. *Hebrews 9:25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;*
- Jesus is the only High Priest over the house of God. *Hebrews 10:21 And having an high priest over the house of God;*
- Jesus is a sanctifying High Priest. *Hebrews 13:11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. 12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. 13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.*