

# The High Priest

“Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as **priests**... (Exo 28:1)

**Priest** (*kohen* in Hebrew) means “one who **officiates**” and the priests of the Old Testament were to “officiate” or watch over, serve within, and guard the tabernacle.

Their leader was known as the “**high priest**” and we can learn a great deal about his role from *Hebrews*:

For every high priest chosen from among men is **appointed** to act on **behalf** of men in relation to God, to **offer** gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with **weakness**. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his **own** sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when **called** by God, just as Aaron was. (Heb 5:1-4)

*Hebrews 7:23* reveals that there had to be many priests—high priest after high priest—“because they were prevented by **death** from continuing in office.”

**But what does this have to do with our search for our King?**

This makes Jesus the guarantor of a **better** covenant. (Heb 7:22)

**Why? How?** Listen to *Hebrews 7:24-28*:

- ★ He holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever
- ★ He lives to make intercession for all who draw near to God through him
- ★ He is a holy and innocent high priest, unstained by sin and exalted above the heavens

What a blessing that “**through him**” we can “continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God” (Heb 13:15).



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's think back through some of the language we heard in *Hebrews 5*:
  - What would it mean for one man “to act on behalf of men in relation to God”?
  - We heard briefly about the “breastpiece of judgment” that the high priest would wear, holding 12 precious stones engraved with the names of Israel's tribes. How does *Exodus 28:29-30* help us understand the significance of these stones and Aaron's work?
  - In what ways were even the high priests “beset with weakness”?
- Because of what *our* high priest has accomplished, what do we now enjoy? What can we learn from:
  - *Hebrews 12:28*?
  - *Hebrews 13:15-16*?
  - *1 Peter 2:9-10*?
- Do we depend on someone else to make sacrifices for us? If not, where do our sacrifices come from?