

What is WORSHIP?

Part 3 **Worship Then & Now**
PRIESTS

On Wednesdays this month we're looking at worship "**then and now.**" **Hebrews 12:28** issues a clear call...

...and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe...

...but how should we answer that call? There's a big difference between worship "then" and "now."

Throughout the Old Testament, we read about God's people being led and served by priests, starting with Aaron and his sons (**Exo 28:1**). Beyond this family, an entire tribe of Israel, the tribe of Levi, was chosen by God to serve as ministers and guards of this work (**Num 3:5-7**).

At the head was the high priest (**Heb 5:1-4**). What would he do?

...act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. (**Heb 5:1**)

When he served, he would wear "holy garments" (**Exo 28:2**).

But there had to be many, many priests over the centuries "because they were prevented by death from continuing in office" (**Heb 7:23**). Until... let's read about the greatest high priest of all in **Hebrews 7:22-28**.

Does that mean there are no priests today? No.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession... (**1 Pet 2:9**)

Through Jesus, we are called to "continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God" (**Heb 13:15**).



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Priest (*kohen* in Hebrew) means "one who officiates." In your own words, what did God want and the people need these men to do?
- In what ways was even the high priest "beset with weakness" (**Heb 5:2**)?
- In contrast to "the former priests" who were "many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office," Jesus holds his priesthood "permanently, because he continues forever" (**Heb 7:23-24**). Why is this really, really good news?
- What do we need to understand from **1 Peter 2:9**?
- Do we wait around for someone else to bring sacrifices to us or for us? If not, where do the sacrifices we offer come from? What sort of sacrifices are they? Revisiting **Hebrews 13:15-16** might be helpful here...