

THE PRIESTHOOD: A NEW AND RADICAL CHANGE

³⁵ *I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always.* ³⁶ *Then everyone left in your family line will come and bow down before him for a piece of silver and a loaf of bread and plead, “Appoint me to some priestly office so I can have food to eat.”*

I Samuel 2:35,36

- I. A new and radical change in worldwide priestly service has arrived.

- II. Two priesthoods looked identical for a time. Zadok and Abiathar.
 - A. Abiathar joined David in the cave of Adullam. (I Samuel 22:23)

²³ *Stay with me; don't be afraid. The man who wants to kill you is trying to kill me too. You will be safe with me.*
 - B. Abiathar was appointed high priest when David ascended the throne of Judah. (I Chronicles 15:11)

¹¹ *Then David summoned Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab the Levites.*
 - C. Abiathar was the king's intimate companion. (I Chronicles 27:34)

³⁴ *Ahithophel was succeeded by Jehoiada son of Benaiah and by Abiathar. Joab was the commander of the royal army.*
 - D. Abiathar was deposed when he idiotically supported David's son Adonijah in a failed coup. (I Kings 2:26,27)

²⁶ *To Abiathar the priest the king said, “Go back to your fields in Anathoth. You deserve to die, but I will not put you to death now, because you carried the ark of the Sovereign LORD before my father David and shared all my father's hardships.”* ²⁷ *So Solomon removed Abiathar from the priesthood of the LORD, fulfilling the word the LORD had spoken at Shiloh about the house of Eli.*
 - E. Abiathar chose prosperity and a new thing over obedience to God.

III. Two Priesthoods / Zadok and Abiathar

- A. Abiathar's unfaithful priesthood. Ministry with only an anointed gift and no intimacy. (Ezekiel 44:10-14)

¹⁰ “ *The Levites who went far from me when Israel went astray and who wandered from me after their idols must bear the consequences of their sin.*
¹¹ *They may serve in my sanctuary, having charge of the gates of the temple and serving in it; they may slaughter the burnt offerings and sacrifices for the people and stand before the people and serve them.* ¹² *But because they served them in the presence of their idols and made the people of Israel fall into sin, therefore I have sworn with uplifted hand that they must bear the consequences of their sin, declares the Sovereign LORD.* ¹³ *They are not to come near to serve me as priests or come near any of my holy things or my most holy offerings; they must bear the shame of their detestable practices.*
¹⁴ *And I will appoint them to guard the temple for all the work that is to be done in it.*

- B. Zadok's faithful priesthood. Ministry with an anointed gift, life, and intimacy. (Ezekiel 44:15-18)

¹⁵ “ *But the Levitical priests, who are descendants of Zadok and who guarded my sanctuary when the Israelites went astray from me, are to come near to minister before me; they are to stand before me to offer sacrifices of fat and blood, declares the Sovereign LORD.* ¹⁶ *They alone are to enter my sanctuary; they alone are to come near my table to minister before me and serve me as guards.* ¹⁷ “ *When they enter the gates of the inner court, they are to wear linen clothes; they must not wear any woolen garment while ministering at the gates of the inner court or inside the temple.* ¹⁸ *They are to wear linen turbans on their heads and linen undergarments around their waists. They must not wear anything that makes them perspire.*

IV. Three traits of the Zadokite priesthood

- A. Zadok was courageous; he chose the anointing of God over human tradition.
B. Zadok was loyal; he placed Godly principle above public opinion.
C. Zadok was pure; he chose God's promotion over human promotion.