

PRIESTS AND ALTARS

Worship, War, and the Surrendered Life

LESSON 2 — PART 1 STUDY GUIDE

The Office of the Priest: Who the Priest Was

Teaching by Apostle Robert H. Barrett | Grace & Truth International | July 2026

Name: _____ Date: _____

PRIMARY TEXTS

Exodus 19:5–6 (ESV) *"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."*

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."*

SECTION 1 — GOD'S ORIGINAL DESIGN: EXODUS 19:5–6

FILL IN THE BLANK — KEY STATEMENTS

God's first intention for His people was a _____ priesthood.

The phrase "kingdom of priests" meant that _____ of the nation would function as priests.

Israel was meant to be the nation through which every other nation had access to

_____.

The calling carried a condition: "if you will indeed _____ my voice and keep my _____."

KEY INSIGHT — KEVIN J. CONNER, THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES

► Conner frames this as God's intention from the beginning — that the whole redeemed community would constitute a _____ nation, each member having direct access to God and corporate responsibility to represent Him before the world.

SECTION 2 — THE PIVOT: THE GOLDEN CALF AND THE NARROWING OF THE PRIESTHOOD

Exodus 32:26–29 (ESV) *"Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, 'Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me.' And all the sons of Levi gathered around him... And Moses said, 'Today you have ordained yourselves for the service of the Lord, each one at the cost of his son and of his brother, so that he might bestow a blessing upon you this day.'"*

FILL IN THE BLANK

Within forty _____ of hearing God declare them a kingdom of priests, Israel was worshipping a golden calf.

Moses stood in the gate and asked: "Who is on the _____ side?"

The only tribe that stepped forward was the tribe of _____.

The Levites received the priesthood because they were willing to _____ with God when it was costly.

Moses said: "Today you have _____ yourselves for the service of the Lord."

KEY INSIGHTS

- ▶ The priesthood has always required a _____ moment — a point of decision where allegiance to God is declared at personal cost.
- ▶ The universal priesthood of Exodus 19:6 was abandoned for the most fundamental violation possible — the worship of an _____.
- ▶ Conner: the progressive narrowing of access reflects the spiritual reality that _____ creates distance from God and that distance requires _____ to cross.

MY NOTES

DIAGRAM 1: THE THREE LEVELS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT PRIESTHOOD

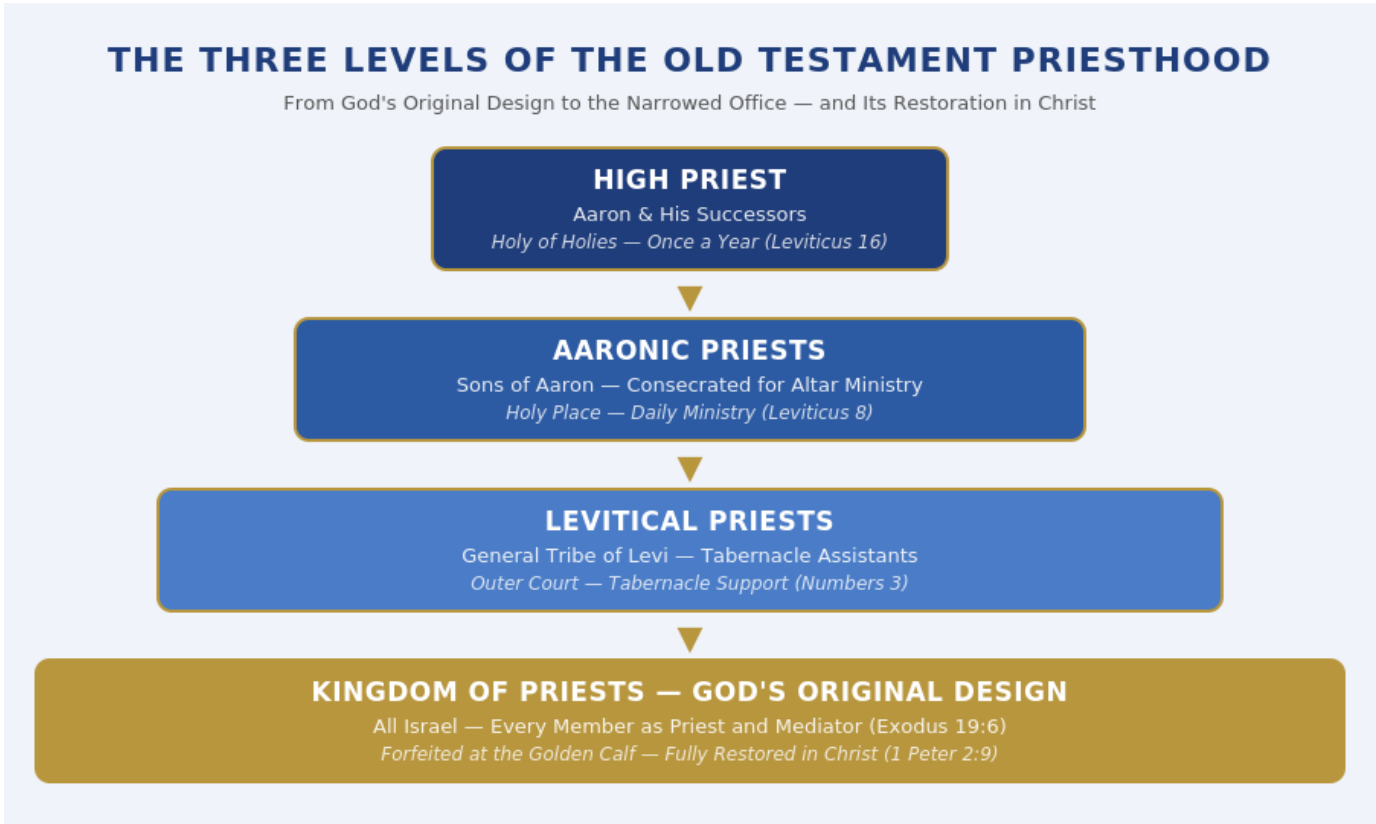


Illustration: Grace & Truth International | © 2026 Apostle Robert H. Barrett. All rights reserved. Based on Numbers 3, Leviticus 8, and Exodus 19:6.

FILL IN THE BLANK — THE THREE LEVELS

- 1. General Levites — Served in the Tabernacle as _____
- 2. Aaronic Priests — Consecrated to offer sacrifices and minister in the _____
- 3. High Priest — Aaron alone could enter the _____

MY NOTES

SECTION 3 — THE CONSECRATION OF AARON: LEVITICUS 8

Every step of Aaron's consecration is a theological statement about what God requires of the one who ministers before Him.

DIAGRAM 2: THE HIGH PRIEST'S GARMENTS — EXODUS 28



Artist's rendition of the high priest's garments (28:1–38¹)

¹ Dorian G. Coover-Cox, "Exodus," in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 137.

THE CONSECRATION STEPS — FILL IN THE BLANK

The priest does not _____ himself. The calling comes from God. (Hebrews 5:4)

► The Washing (Lev 8:6)

The washing was not self-administered. Moses _____ Aaron. The cleansing that qualifies a person for priestly ministry is always _____, not self-generated.

► The Anointing (Lev 8:12)

The anointing oil was the outward sign of the _____ consecrating work.

The anointing that rests on the _____ of the priest flows to everything he wears and everywhere he goes.

► The Blood — Three Points (Lev 8:23)

1. Right Ear — Consecrated _____. The priest must _____ God before speaking for God. _____

2. Right Thumb — Consecrated _____. Everything the priest does in ministry is marked by the blood. _____

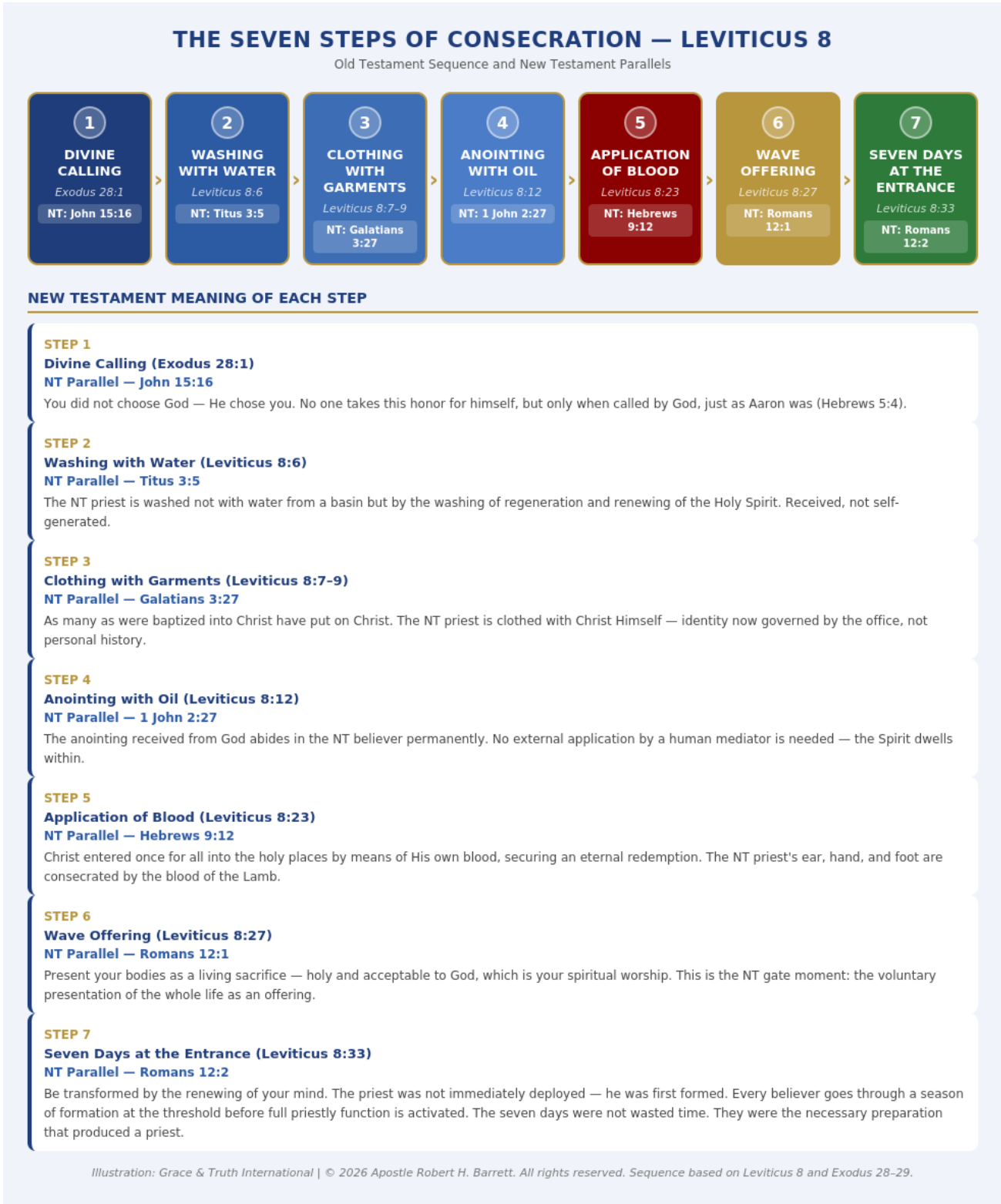
3. Right Big Toe — Consecrated _____. The priest cannot go where the _____ has not covered. _____

Conner: these three points represent the totality of a person's engagement with the world — what they _____, what they _____, and where they _____.

► The Seven Days (Lev 8:33)

The priest was not immediately _____. He was first _____.

DIAGRAM 3: THE SEVEN STEPS OF CONSECRATION WITH NT PARALLELS — LEVITICUS 8



SECTION 4 — THE NT PARALLELS: THE PRIESTHOOD RESTORED AND ELEVATED

A. EXODUS 19:6 RESTORED — 1 PETER 2:9

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."*

Peter takes the exact language of _____ and applies it to the NT church.
The condition of Exodus 19:6 has been fulfilled by _____ — He obeyed perfectly and kept the covenant completely.
The restoration is a priesthood not restricted by _____, not mediated through another _____, not limited by geography or season.

B. THE NT BELIEVER'S GATE MOMENT — ROMANS 12:1

Romans 12:1 (ESV) *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."*

The NT believer's gate moment is the _____ of their life as a living sacrifice.
The priesthood has always required the willingness to stand with _____ when standing is _____.

C. CHRIST AS HIGH PRIEST — HEBREWS 4:14–16

Hebrews 4:14–16 (ESV) *"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

AARON VS. JESUS — FILL IN THE COMPARISON TABLE

AARON (OT High Priest)	JESUS (Our High Priest)
Entered a tent made with _____	Entered the true sanctuary in _____ (Heb 8:2)
Offered blood of _____	Offered His _____ blood (Heb 9:12)
Sacrifice required _____	Entered _____ for all (Heb 9:12)
Could not fully _____ with the people	Sympathizes completely -- fully _____ (Heb 4:15)
Priesthood was _____	Holds priesthood _____ -- He lives forever (Heb 7:24)

MY NOTES

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Take 30–45 minutes as a group. Be honest. Be specific. The goal is application, not just information.

Q1. Read Exodus 19:3–6. God's original design was a universal priesthood -- an entire nation functioning as mediators between Him and the world. What does it mean to you personally that this was God's first intention before Israel ever failed at Sinai?

Read: Exodus 19:3–6

Q2. The Levites received the priesthood because they stood in the gate and declared their allegiance at personal cost. Describe a specific moment in your own life where "Who is on the Lord's side?" was asked of you and how you responded.

Q3. Read Exodus 32:1–6. Israel's failure came after only forty days. What does this tell us about the relationship between impatience, familiarity, and the drift from priestly identity? Where do you see this pattern in your own life?

Read: Exodus 32:1–6

Q4. The blood was applied to three specific places -- the right ear, the right thumb, the right big toe. Which of these three areas of your life is least consecrated to God right now? Be specific.

Q5. Read Hebrews 4:14–16. The result of having Jesus as our High Priest is that we draw near "with confidence." How does understanding the superior priesthood of Christ change how you approach prayer, intercession, and access to God?

Read: Hebrews 4:14–16

Q6. Romans 12:1 is the NT equivalent of the Levites' gate moment -- presenting yourself as a living sacrifice. What is the specific thing the Holy Spirit is asking you to lay on the altar right now? What has been held back?

Read: Romans 12:1

Q7. Conner teaches that the seven days at the entrance were not wasted time -- they were the necessary formation that preceded the function. What season of formation are you currently in, and what priestly function do you believe that season is preparing you for?

Q8. Based on everything in this lesson -- God's original design, the Levites' choice, Aaron's consecration, and the NT restoration -- write out in your own words what it means that you are a royal priest. Not theoretically. What does it mean for your life this week?

Read: 1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 4:14–16

MY QUESTIONS FOR APOSTLE BARRETT

Write down any questions that arose during this lesson. Be as specific as possible so they can be addressed directly at the next session.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Sources Referenced in This Lesson

Conner, Kevin J. *The Tabernacle of Moses: The Riches of Redemption's Story as Revealed in the Tabernacle*. City Christian Publishing, 1976.

Myles, Dr. Francis. *The Order of Melchizedek: The Mystery and Power of Jesus' Eternal Priesthood*. Destiny Image, 2016.

All Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV)*. Crossway, 2001.