

## Baptist Distinctives- Priesthood of All Believers

### Key Terms

Priest

Priesthood

Catholic

### Key Passages

Matthew 27:45-51

1 Peter 2:9

Revelation 5:9-10

Hebrews 4:14-16

Priest

- A religious leader who is authorized to perform sacred rituals as well as mediate between man and a deity.
- Someone who entered the Holy of Holies in the Temple in Jerusalem.
- He also presided over the sacrifices.

Priesthood

- The group or system in which a priest belongs to.
- This would have rules and hierarchy.
- In the Old Testament the Levites were designated to be priests.
- You couldn't volunteer nor be chosen to be a priest, you were born into it by virtue of being a Levite.

- There were many priests that handled duties within Judaism but they had a hierarchy as to who did what.
- The High Priest was the highest priest of the order and went into the Holy of Holies before God on behalf of the nation of Israel.
- This practice was continued by the Roman Catholic Church

#### Catholic

- The Catholic Church is the universal church.
- Not to be confused with the Roman Catholic Church.
- The practice of priests and the priesthood of the Old Testament would've ended with the death of Christ.
- The Roman Catholic Church continues the practice erroneously still to this day.

#### Matthew 27:45-51

- Here we see the scene of Jesus' death.
- The Jewish day started at sunrise, around 6:00 AM.
- Matthew tells us that there was darkness all over the area starting at the 6th hour which would have been 12:00 noon until the 9th hour which would have been 3:00 PM.
- About the 9th hour Jesus cries out to God and then commits His spirit into the hands of the Father.
- At this time something amazing happens.
- The Bible records an earthquake immediately following the death of Jesus and during this earthquake the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom.
- This veil would have separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the people.
- It shielded the presence of God from the view of the people.

- Upon Jesus' death, this separation was now torn down.
- We now have access to God the Father through Christ.

#### 1 Peter 2:9

- A Royal Priesthood
- One of the purposes of the priesthood of the Old Testament was to proclaim the goodness of God.
- Peter tells us that all believers from all places are part of a royal priesthood; a chosen nation.
- We are to now take on the duties of the priesthood by proclaiming the excellence of God.
- The sacrificial system was ended upon the death of Christ.
- That is something that we do not have the right or responsibility to continue.

#### Revelation 5:9-10

- Here we see a proclamation of two things: the worthiness of Jesus and the priesthood of His people.

#### Hebrews 4:14-16

- As we saw in Revelation 5, Jesus is the only One worthy to open the 7 seals.
- His perfect obedience and death enables Him to be our Lord, Savior, and also eternal High Priest.
- The High Priest of the Old Testament was a job that was filled by different men at different times.
- The Bible tells us that we as the people of Christ are priests unto God and Jesus Himself is our eternal High Priest.

This has massive implications for us.

- Because Jesus is our High Priest we no longer have to go through a human mediator.
- Jesus is the One who pleads our case to the Father.
- Confession to any other person other than Christ is unnecessary.
- As priests we have direct access to God.
- As priests we have the responsibility to proclaim the goodness of God.
- As priests we have the responsibility to minister to God in the form of worship and obedience.
- This is the universal mandate for every born again believer both male and female.