

# OFFICE, OFFICES

The chief butler told Pharaoh that Joseph had said he would be restored to his **office**, and that's exactly what happened.

- **Genesis 41:12-13:** "And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret. And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged."

God wanted Aaron and his sons to minister to Him in the **office** of priest.

- **Exodus 28:1:** "And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons."

Under the Mosaic Law, Aaron and his sons needed priestly garments to minister to God in the **office** of priest.

- **Exodus 28:3:** "And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office."
- **Exodus 28:4:** "And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a brodered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office."

- **Exodus 31:10:** "And the cloths of service, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office,"
- **Exodus 35:19:** "The cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office."
- **Exodus 39:41:** "The cloths of service to do service in the holy place, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and his sons' garments, to minister in the priest's office."

Under the Mosaic Law, people had to be consecrated and sanctified before they could minister to God in the **office** of priest.

- **Exodus 28:41:** "And thou shalt put them upon Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him; and shalt anoint them, and consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office."
- **Exodus 29:44:** "And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office."
- **Exodus 30:30:** "And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office."

Under the Mosaic Law, God required priests to wear linen breeches when they worked the priestly **office** (so they wouldn't expose themselves). This was a statute forever. If a priest failed to do this then it could kill them.

- **Exodus 28:42-43:** "And thou shalt make them linen

breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach: And they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in unto the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near unto the altar to minister in the holy place; that they bear not iniquity, and die: it shall be a statute for ever unto him and his seed after him."

Under the Mosaic Law, a procedure had to be followed to hallow those who would take the **office** of priest.

- **Exodus 29:1**: "And this is the thing that thou shalt do unto them to hallow them, to minister unto me in the priest's office: Take one young bullock, and two rams without blemish,"

The **office** of priest belonged to Aaron and his sons.

- **Exodus 29:9**: "And thou shalt gird them with girdles, Aaron and his sons, and put the bonnets on them: and the priest's office shall be theirs for a perpetual statute: and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons."

The holy garments of the high priest were to be passed down to Aaron's son. (In other words, the **office** of high priest was to be passed down from Aaron to one of his sons).

- **Exodus 29:29**: "And the holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons' after him, to be anointed therein, and to be consecrated in them."

Aaron had to be washed with water, wear the high priestly

garments, and be anointed before he could carry out the **office** of high priest.

- **Exodus 40:13:** "And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest's office."

The sons of Aaron had to be anointed before they could minister to the Lord in the **office** of priest.

- **Exodus 40:15:** "And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations."

Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar (the four sons of Aaron) were anointed and consecrated to serve in the **office** of priest.

- **Numbers 3:2-3:** "And these are the names of the sons of Aaron; Nadab the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the priests which were anointed, whom he consecrated to minister in the priest's office."

Under the Mosaic Law, if anyone who wasn't a male descendant of Aaron tried to serve in the **office** of priest, they were to be put to death.

- **Numbers 3:10:** "And thou shalt appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall wait on their priest's office: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death."
- **Numbers 18:7:** "Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for everything of the altar,

and within the vail; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death."

God told Eli that those who were left in his house would crouch before the faithful priest that He would raise up, to beg to be put into the priest's **office** so he could eat a piece of bread. (In other words, God was going to send terrible poverty upon Eli's household.)

- **1 Samuel 2:36:** "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left in thine house shall come and crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread."

Azariah executed the **office** of the priest in the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem.

- **1 Chronicles 6:10:** "And Johanan begat Azariah, (he it is that executed the priest's office in the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem:)"

It seems the people who David put in charge of singing only ministered during his reign. Once the temple was built, they waited on their **office** according to their designated order.

- **1 Chronicles 6:32:** "And they ministered before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of the congregation with singing, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem: and then they waited on their office according to their order."

David and Samuel chose those who served as porters in the tabernacle. (It seems they played a role in giving them the **office** of porter.)

- **1 Chronicles 9:22:** "All these which were chosen to be porters in the gates were two hundred and twelve. These were reckoned by their genealogy in their villages, whom David and Samuel the seer did ordain in their set office."

The position of chief porter was considered to be an **office**.

- **1 Chronicles 9:26:** "For these Levites, the four chief porters, were in their set office, and were over the chambers and treasuries of the house of God."

Mattithiah had an **office** in the tabernacle.

- **1 Chronicles 9:31:** "And Mattithiah, one of the Levites, who was the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, had the set office over the things that were made in the pans."

The **office** of the Levites was to serve the priests in the tabernacle.

- **1 Chronicles 23:28-29:** "Because their office was to wait on the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts, and in the chambers, and in the purifying of all holy things, and the work of the service of the house of God; Both for the shewbread, and for the fine flour for meat offering, and for the unleavened cakes, and for that which is baked in the pan, and for that which is fried, and for all manner of measure and size;"

The **office** of the Levites involved standing every morning and evening to praise and thank God.

- **1 Chronicles 23:28, 30:** "Because their office was to wait on the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the Lord, in the courts, and in the chambers, and in the purifying of all holy things, and the work of the service of the house of God; ... And to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at even:"

The **office** of the Levites involved helping with the sacrifices that were offered on the sabbath, each new moon, and the required feasts of the Mosaic Law.

- **1 Chronicles 23:28, 31:** "Because their office was to wait on the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the Lord, in the courts, and in the chambers, and in the purifying of all holy things, and the work of the service of the house of God; ... And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the LORD in the sabbaths, in the new moons, and on the set feasts, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the LORD:"

After Nabad and Abihu died, Eleazar and Ithamar carried out the **office** of priest.

- **Numbers 3:4:** "And Nadab and Abihu died before the Lord, when they offered strange fire before the Lord, in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children: and Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priest's office in the sight of Aaron their father."
- **1 Chronicles 24:2:** "But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children: therefore Eleazar and

Ithamar executed the priest's office."

The **office** of Chenaniah and his sons involved things that took place outside of the temple.

- **1 Chronicles 26:29:** "Of the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons were for the outward business over Israel, for officers and judges."

When the temple was dedicated, the priests carried out the duties of the priestly **office**.

- **2 Chronicles 7:6:** "And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood."

The sons of Jeroboam stopped the priests and Levites from carrying out the **office** that God gave to them. (The kings of Israel wanted the people to worship the golden calves, not God.)

- **2 Chronicles 11:14:** "For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the LORD:"

In the days of Joash, Jehoiada appointed priests and Levites to the **offices** of the temple.

- **2 Chronicles 23:18:** "Also Jehoiada appointed the offices

of the house of the LORD by the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as it is written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was ordained by David."

Each day, the chest that was by the temple gate was brought to the king's **office**, emptied by the king's scribe and the officer of the high priest, and then put back by the temple gate. (The money which was raised was used to repair the temple.)

- **2 Chronicles 24:11:** "Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance."

During Hezekiah's reign, the Levites sanctified themselves in holiness so they could serve in their appointed **office**.

- **2 Chronicles 31:18:** "And to the genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, through all the congregation: for in their set office they sanctified themselves in holiness:"

Nehemiah did good deeds for the **offices** in the temple.

- **Nehemiah 13:14:** "Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof."

David prayed that God would take away the **office** of those who repaid his love with evil, and give it to someone else. (This seems to refer to Saul, who used his position as king to murder a great many people. The apostles also applied it to Judas when they appointed Matthias to replace him.)

- **Psalm 109:8:** "Let his days be few; and let another take his office."

In the millennium, the Levites who engaged in idolatry wouldn't be allowed to carry out the **office** of priest.

- **Ezekiel 44:12-13:** "Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity; therefore have I lifted up mine hand against them, saith the Lord God, and they shall bear their iniquity. And they shall not come near unto me, to do the office of a priest unto me, nor to come near to any of my holy things, in the most holy place: but they shall bear their shame, and their abominations which they have committed."

The angel of the Lord appeared to Zacharias when he was carrying out the **office** of the priest in the temple.

- **Luke 1:5, 8:** "There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. ... And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,"

The people who make up the body of Christ have different

**offices** (roles) in that body. God hasn't called all of us to do the same thing.

- **Romans 12:4:** "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:"

Those who rule over the body of Christ must be diligent in their **office**.

- **Romans 12:8:** "Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."

There's nothing wrong with desiring church **offices**.

- **1 Timothy 3:1:** "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work."

Paul mentions elders (who are also called bishops) and deacons as **offices** in the church. There's never any mention of "pastor" being an office (or of pastors having a position of authority over the church). Throughout the New Testament, the people in charge of the church were *the elders*.

- **1 Timothy 3:1:** "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work."
- **1 Timothy 3:10:** "And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless."
- **1 Timothy 3:13:** "For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

If a church leader isn't blameless then he's not qualified to hold a church **office** and must be removed.

- **1 Timothy 3:2:** "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"
- **1 Timothy 3:10:** "And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless."

Before a person is allowed to hold a church **office**, he must prove that he has the ability to take care of the church. The way he does that is by having a wife and multiple children and having an orderly household.

- **1 Timothy 3:2, 4-5:** "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ... One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)"
- **1 Timothy 3:12:** "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well."

A person can be disqualified from holding an **office** in the church because of the behavior of his children.

- **1 Timothy 3:4-5:** "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)"

- **1 Timothy 3:12:** "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well."

If a person has just become a Christian recently then he's not eligible to hold an **office** in the church.

- **1 Timothy 3:6:** "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil."

Deacons are expected to be bold in the faith, and use their **office** to further the gospel.

- **1 Timothy 3:13:** "For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Paul said that he was a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher. (It seems those are all different things.)

- **2 Timothy 1:11:** "Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles."

There aren't any prophets in this dispensation. That **office** has been brought to an end. The method that God uses to speak to us has changed.

- **Hebrews 1:1-2:** "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;"

The descendants of Levi were given the **office** of the priesthood.

- **Hebrews 7:5:** "And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:"