

ROLE, ROLES

Korah and the Levites who joined him in his rebellion murmured against Aaron. (In reality they were rebelling against God, because He was the one who gave the Levites their **role**.)

- **Numbers 16:11:** "For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him?"

Moses told the Israelites that if the Levites kept to their assigned **roles** and didn't try to perform the job of priest, there wouldn't be any more wrath from God against them.

- **Numbers 18:5:** "And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel."

Heshbon played a **role** in the downfall of the lords of the high places of Arnon.

- **Numbers 21:28:** "For there is a fire gone out of Heshbon, a flame from the city of Sihon: it hath consumed Ar of Moab, and the lords of the high places of Arnon."

Caleb was chosen to play a **role** in dividing the land of Canaan among the Israelites.

- **Numbers 34:19:** "And the names of the men are these: Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh."

Shemuel was chosen to play a **role** in dividing the land of Canaan among the Israelites.

- **Numbers 34:20:** "And of the tribe of the children of Simeon, Shemuel the son of Ammihud."

Elidad was chosen to play a **role** in dividing the land of Canaan among the Israelites.

- **Numbers 34:21:** "Of the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad the son of Chislon."

Bukki was chosen to play a **role** in dividing the land of Canaan among the Israelites.

- **Numbers 34:22:** "And the prince of the tribe of the children of Dan, Bukki the son of Jogli."

Hanniel was chosen to play a **role** in dividing the land of Canaan among the Israelites.

- **Numbers 34:23:** "The prince of the children of Joseph, for the tribe of the children of Manasseh, Hanniel the son of Ephod."

Kemuel was chosen to play a **role** in dividing the land of Canaan among the Israelites.

- **Numbers 34:24:** "And the prince of the tribe of the children of Ephraim, Kemuel the son of Shiphtan."

Elizaphan was chosen to play a **role** in dividing the land of Canaan among the Israelites.

- **Numbers 34:25:** "And the prince of the tribe of the children of Zebulun, Elizaphan the son of Parnach."

Paltiel was chosen to play a **role** in dividing the land of Canaan among the Israelites.

- **Numbers 34:26:** "And the prince of the tribe of the children of Issachar, Paltiel the son of Azzan."

Ahihud was chosen to play a **role** in dividing the land of Canaan among the Israelites.

- **Numbers 34:27:** "And the prince of the tribe of the children of Asher, Ahihud the son of Shelomi."

Pedahel was chosen to play a **role** in dividing the land of Canaan among the Israelites.

- **Numbers 34:28:** "And the prince of the tribe of the children of Naphtali, Pedahel the son of Ammihud."

Joshua played a **role** in dividing the promised land among the tribes of Israel.

- **Joshua 19:51:** "These are the inheritances, which Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel, divided for an inheritance by lot in Shiloh before the LORD, at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. So they made an end of dividing the country."

The heads of the tribes of Israel played a **role** in dividing the

promised land among the tribes of Israel.

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Eleazar played a **role** in dividing the promised land among the tribes of Israel.

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The reason Boaz was willing to carry out the **role** of the near kinsman for Ruth was because she was a woman of virtue.

- **Ruth 3:11:** "And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman."

Boaz told Ruth that someone else was a nearer kinsman than him. This means another person had the first right to perform that **role**.

- **Ruth 3:12:** "And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I."

Boaz told Ruth that in the morning he would talk to her nearest kinsman, to see if he would perform the **role** that the Mosaic Law required him to do.

- **Ruth 3:13:** "Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning."

It seems David eventually learned that Saul had been killed by archers, and that archery played a **role** in Israel's defeat at the hand of the Philistines. (He responded by having the Israelites learn how to use a bow and arrow.)

- **2 Samuel 1:17-18:** "And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son: (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.)"

Both Joab and Abishai played a **role** in murdering Abner.

- **2 Samuel 3:30:** "So Joab, and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had slain their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle."

The surviving Gibeonites wanted to put Saul's sons to death because of Saul's genocide against them. (It's possible that Saul's household played a **role** in it, since God called Saul's household a bloody house.)

- **2 Samuel 21:4, 6:** "And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said,

What ye shall say, that will I do for you. ... Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give them."

Jozachar and Jehozabad attacked Joash and played a **role** in killing him.

- **2 Kings 12:19-21:** "And the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And his servants arose, and made a conspiracy, and slew Joash in the house of Millo, which goeth down to Silla. For Jozachar the son of Shimeath, and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, smote him, and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David: and Amaziah his son reigned in his stead."

Samuel and David chose the people 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."

All the people of Israel (along with David's mighty men) played a **role** in making David king.

- **1 Chronicles 11:10:** "These also are the chief of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, and with all Israel, to make him king,

according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel."

The foreigners who lived in Israel during David's reign played a **role** in the construction of the temple.

- **1 Chronicles 22:2:** "And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God."

Both Solomon and the Israelites played a **role** in dedicating the temple.

- **2 Chronicles 7:5:** "And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God."

David, Nathan, and Gad played a **role** in commanding the Levites to use musical instruments in the temple. (It seems the commandment itself came from God, and He used His prophets to communicate it.)

- **2 Chronicles 29:25:** "And he set the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets."

During the reign of Hezekiah, the Levites played a **role** in sanctifying those who were unclean, but still came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

- **2 Chronicles 30:17:** "For there were many in the congregation that were not sanctified: therefore the Levites had the charge of the killing of the passovers for every one that was not clean, to sanctify them unto the LORD."

During the reign of Hezekiah, numerous people played a **role** in distributing offerings to the priests. (This included Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah.)

- **2 Chronicles 31:15:** "And next him were Eden, and Miniamin, and Jeshua, and Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, in the cities of the priests, in their set office, to give to their brethren by courses, as well to the great as to the small:"

Both David and Solomon played a **role** in dividing the Levites into courses (divisions).

- **2 Chronicles 35:3-4:** "And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; it shall not be a burden upon your shoulders: serve now the LORD your God, and his people Israel, And prepare yourselves by the houses of your fathers, after your courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son."

David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun played a **role** in commanding that singers were to sing when the Passover was celebrated.

- **2 Chronicles 35:13, 15:** "And they roasted the passover

with fire according to the ordinance: but the other holy offerings sod they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them speedily among all the people. ... And the singers the sons of Asaph were in their place, according to the commandment of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the porters waited at every gate; they might not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them."

One of the key factors in the construction of the second temple were the prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah. They played a **role** in motivating the Jews to resume and finish the construction effort.

- **Ezra 6:14:** "And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia."

The information about the assassination plot against King Ahasuerus, and Mordecai's **role** in uncovering it, was written in the book of the chronicles of the king.

- **Esther 2:21, 23:** "In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hands on the king Ahasuerus. ... And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king."

It never seems to have crossed Job's mind that Satan played a **role** in his suffering. Instead he blamed everything on God.

- **Job 30:11:** "Because he hath loosed my cord, and afflicted me, they have also let loose the bridle before me."

The psalmist said that God's spirit plays a **role** in the conception of new living creatures (which, apart from Him, would never have existed).

- **Psalms 104:29-30:** "Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth."

God was going to drive Shebna out of his **role** as treasurer (because he abused his position by using the funds he was administering to purchase a fancy tomb for himself).

- **Isaiah 22:15-16, 19:** "Thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, Go, get thee unto this treasurer, even unto Shebna, which is over the house, and say, What hast thou here? and whom hast thou here, that thou hast hewed thee out a sepulchre here, as he that heweth him out a sepulchre on high, and that graveth an habitation for himself in a rock? ... And I will drive thee from thy station, and from thy state shall he pull thee down."

The religious leaders of the Jews played a **role** in turning the promised land into a desolate wilderness.

- **Jeremiah 12:10:** "Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness."

In the millennium, the Levites who previously engaged in idolatry would serve God in the temple. However, their **role** would be limited because of what they had done.

- **Ezekiel 44:12-14:** "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. But I will make them keepers of the charge of the house, for all the service thereof, and for all that shall be done therein."

People's **role** in the millennium temple depended on how faithful they had been to God in the past. Those who served Him faithfully (such as the sons of Zadok) would be given the best positions.

- **Ezekiel 44:15:** "But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:"

Before Daniel was thrown into the den of lions, Darius was considering elevating him to an even greater **role**.

- **Daniel 6:3:** "Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole

realm."

Christians must be the salt of the world. That is vital to our **role**. If we lose that then our value in this world is greatly diminished.

- **Matthew 5:13:** "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

The **role** of John the Baptist was to bear witness to the Light (the Lord Jesus Christ).

- **John 1:7:** "The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe."

One of the **roles** of the Holy Spirit is providing comfort to churches.

- **Acts 9:31:** "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."

Works and obedience to the Law plays no **role** in obtaining righteousness. (Instead we are saved by grace through faith.)

- **Romans 3:20-22:** "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that

believe: for there is no difference:"

God is wholly responsible for our salvation. He predestined us, called us, justified us, and glorified us. We play no **role** at all, because He did *all* of it.

- **Romans 8:30**: "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

The people who make up the body of Christ have different **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:"
- **1 Corinthians 12:5**: "And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord."

The primary **role** of the apostle Paul was preaching the gospel, not performing baptisms. (This is more evidence that baptism doesn't save us, because this verse specifically says Christ didn't send Paul into the world to baptize.)

- **1 Corinthians 1:17**: "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."

Paul and Apollos both played a **role** in the birth of the Corinthian church.

- **1 Corinthians 3:6**: "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."

All things are "of" the Father and are "by" Jesus. They each played a **role** in creation, but their roles were different.

- **1 Corinthians 8:6:** "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."

One part of the body of Christ shouldn't leave because it's different from the other parts. That would be like a foot leaving the human body because it's different from a hand. All parts are needed and have their **role**.

- **1 Corinthians 12:15-16:** "If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?"

We must not try to all be the same when it comes to spiritual gifts and service. God designed us to be different, and to perform different **roles** within the church.

- **1 Corinthians 12:19:** "And if they were all one member, where were the body?"

The reason Paul gave for saying that he was the least of the apostles and didn't deserve that **role** was because he persecuted the church of God.

- **1 Corinthians 15:9:** "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."

The apostles and prophets had a **role** in the construction of the church.

- **Ephesians 2:20:** "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;"

When Paul lists **roles** in the church he lumps pastors and teachers together and lists them last. (In the Bible the "pastor" is just a type of teacher. He's not the head of the church. The modern role of "pastor" isn't Biblical. In the apostolic era churches were ruled over by elders.)

- **Ephesians 4:11:** "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;"

In the ages to come there won't be people with the positions of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and teacher. Those **roles** won't be necessary because their jobs will be finished. (Once the saints are perfected there will no longer be a need for them.)

- **Ephesians 4:11-13:** "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"

Paul addressed his letter to the Philippian church to the saints (Christians), bishops (elders), and deacons. It wasn't addressed to the pastor. (This is because the modern **role** of pastor has no

Biblical support.)

- **Philippians 1:1:** "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:"

Paul thought that suffering for the sake of the gospel was necessary and played a **role** in the salvation of others.

- **2 Timothy 2:10:** "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

Paul was the one who gave Titus the **role** of fixing problems in the church and ordaining elders.

- **Titus 1:5:** "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:"

Paul refers to Onesimus as someone he had "begotten in my bonds". It seems Paul played a role in his salvation even though Paul was in prison at the time.

- **Philemon 1:10:** "I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:"

God gave Aaron the **role** of high priest.

- **Hebrews 5:4:** "And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron."

The **role** of Jesus as a high priest is to offer gifts and sacrifices.

- **Hebrews 8:1, 3:** "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; ... For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer."

It's wrong to seek a church leadership **role** out of a desire for money.

- **1 Peter 5:2:** "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;"

Although we're saved by faith and *not* by works, our works will play a **role** in the reward that Jesus gives to us.

- **Revelation 2:23:** "And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."
- **Revelation 22:12:** "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

The **role** of the saints through the endless ages to come (after the final day of judgment) is to serve God.

- **Revelation 22:3:** "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:"