

AN OINTED

*The power to perform
your purpose*

Map of Philistine Cities and Conquests



1 Samuel 7

1 Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the Lord, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the Lord.

2 So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.

3 Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

4 So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the Lord only.

5 And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the Lord for you."

6 So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the Lord. And they fasted that day, and said there, "We have sinned against the Lord." And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.

7 Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

8 So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines."

9 And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord. Then Samuel cried out to the Lord for Israel, and the Lord answered him.

10 Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the Lord thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.

11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car.

12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."

13 So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

14 Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

15 And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

16 He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places.
17 But he always returned to Ramah, for his home was there. There he judged Israel, and there he built an altar to the Lord.
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Samuel lived in the 11th century BC. He was a judge, a prophet, and a priest. He replaced Eli, an evil priest who raised Samuel in the tabernacle of Moses.

In this story about Samuel we learn these things about the ministry of a priest in Israel.

1. The priest ministered to God in the presence of God.

The tabernacle of Moses was set up at Shiloh. It was the hot spot of God's presence on the earth. It was the place where God met with the Jews.

Only the priests could enter the Holy Place in the temple near the presence of God.

As a priest, Samuel had access to the presence of God. He ministered to God in the presence of God.

2. The priest was an example to the Jews of obedience to God.

Samuel led the Jews to obey God. His leadership was based on his personal example of obedience to God. Samuel obeyed God even when it was not popular. Samuel obeyed God even when obedience was not politically correct. Samuel obeyed God even when it was not personally rewarding.

As a priest, Samuel was an example to the Jews of obedience to God.

3. The priest was a mediator between God and the Jews.

The priest represented God and the Jews. His goal as a mediator was to reconcile God and the Jews. He reminded the Jews of the covenant that God had made with them and what they needed to do to experience the blessings of that covenant.

Samuel was a mediator between God and the Jews.

4. The priest was someone the Jews could confess their sins to and be healed.

After Samuel told the Jews what to do to be saved from their enemies, they gathered at Mizpah and Samuel judged the people. They confessed their sins to Samuel, and they were healed.

Samuel was someone the Jews could confess their sins to and be healed.

5. The priest prayed for salvation for the Jews.

The Philistines were the enemies of the Jews. Because Israel had sinned, God made Israel subjects of the Philistines. The Philistines were harsh task masters. They would take the Jews' women and children. They would take their produce. They would take their animals.

Samuel prayed for salvation for the Jews.

6. The priest offered sacrifices to God.

Only the priest could offer sacrifices to God so that God would forgive the sins of the Jews. This was done regularly at the tabernacle of Moses.

7. The priest had favor with God.

The prayers of a priest were favored by God on behalf of the Jews. Their prayers could bring judgment. Their prayers could bring blessing. God wanted to show His power through His priests.

Samuel was revered by the Jews. In this story, God heard Samuel's prayer and delivered the Jews through a powerful miracle. God thundered and the Philistine army became confused and afraid. This confusion weakened their lines and led to their defeat at the hands of the Jews.

Samuel had favor with God.

How does this story and what we have learned about priests apply to the church?

Jesus is our chief priest and he has made all of us His priests on the earth.

Rev 5:8-10

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

10 And have made us kings and priests to our God;

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1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

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As priests....

1. We have excess to the presence of God.

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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Because we are all priests of God, we have a personal relationship with God. We can talk to God and He talks to us. He wants to show us His will for our lives. He wants to show us how to best serve Him and others.

As priests, we have excess to the presence of God.

2. We are an example to the world of obedience to God.

Matthew 5:13-16

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

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1 Tim 4:12

2 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
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Phil 3:17-19

17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.
18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:
19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame — who set their mind on earthly things.
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As priests, we are examples to the world of obedience to God

3. We are mediators for Jesus Christ to the world.

We have a ministry of reconciliation between God and man through Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,
19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.
21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
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Jesus is the only mediator who died for man's sins to reconcile God and man. But as His priests, we are ambassadors of Christ appointed by Him to be His body on the earth that reconciles men to God. We have the responsibility of telling men the covenant that God has made with mankind and telling them what they need to do to be reconciled to God.

As priests, we are mediators between God and man through Jesus.

4. We heal those who confess their sins to us.

Galatians 6:1-2

1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
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James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
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To be cleared of the feelings of guilt you have for your sin, confess your sins to God. He is the only one that can clear the consciences of the guilty.

But as priests of God, are anointed to heal and restore those who confess their sins to us.

We are all priests of God.

As priests we heal those that confess their sins to us.

5. We pray for the salvation of men.

1 Timothy 2:1-6

1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

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Like Samuel the priest prayed for the Jews to be saved from the Philistines, as priests we are called to pray for all men to be saved from sin. Our ministry of prayer as priests for the salvation of men is the most important work we do as priests on earth for others.

As priests, we pray for the salvation of men.

6. We offer sacrifices to God.

Hebrews 13:15-16

15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

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No other sacrifice for sin is needed but the sacrifice of Jesus. Our responsibility as priests is to offer the sacrifice of praise to Jesus for what He has done and to serve the needs of others. Our sacrifices of thanksgiving glorify Jesus!

As priests, we offer sacrifices to God.

7. We have favor with God.

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

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Ephesians 1:1-3

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

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As priests, we are favored by God. He listens to us. He takes every prayer we pray for others very seriously. He enjoys His partnership with us and wants to work through our partnership with Him. God wants to show His power through us.

We have His favor as His priests; like our children and grandchildren have our favor; like a loyal employee has the favor of his boss; God delights in us and it is His delight to bless us and to show His power through us.

As priests, we have favor with God.

Church, will you accept by in God's Word your anointing as a priest of God through Jesus Christ?

Just like Samuel heard God's call and had to accept God's anointing to be a priest and a prophet, you must hear it and accept. You have heard it today. Will you accept it?

Will you by faith in God Word commit yourself to fulfill your ministry as a priest?

Will you...

1. Be a minister to God in His heavenly tabernacle
2. Be an example to others of obedience to God
3. Be a mediator between God and man
4. Be a healer to those who confess their sins to you
5. Be an intercessor in prayer for the salvation of mankind from sin
6. Be a worship leader that offers sacrifices of praise to God through Jesus
7. Be a vessel of God's power because you have the favor of God

Will you reject the lies of the enemy about who you are?

Will you stop letting what other people say, your emotions, or your perverted desires determine your identity? Will you believe the truth about your identity in Christ and that part of your identity is that you are a priest of God?

Your position as a priest of God begins when you receive Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. He is the chief priest that represents God and all of mankind. Through His death Jesus made a sacrifice for sin that satisfied the justice of God once and for all. Jesus died for you so that you could rule and reign with Him as kings. Jesus died for you that you could serve with Him as priests.

Will you receive Him? Will you accept what He did for you? Will you become a priest of the most high God?