

The Perfection of Zion Through the Priesthood

- I. Introduction: A kingdom of priests
- II. When the Lord has established Zion, He will appear in His glory (Ps. 102:16)
 - A. Current signs of Jesus' return
 - B. Zion, the kingdom of God on earth
- III. The bronze burnt offering altar (Ex. 27:1-2; Num. 16:39-40)
 - A. The rich experience of Christ as spiritual sacrifices (1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 5:1-2)
 - 1. The sacrifices, the first service of the priesthood (Heb. 8:3)
 - 2. Bringing food to God the Father (Num. 28:2)
 - 3. The burnt offering: The first sacrifice = complete obedience to the Father, a sweet aroma to the Father (Gen. 22:2-3; Lev. 1:9; Lk. 2:49)
 - 4. Bringing the firstfruits—being transformed to attain spiritual maturity through the Spirit of the Lord (Rev. 14:1, 4; Prov. 3:9)
 - B. The altar—laying down our own life (Mt. 16:24; 1 Jn 3:16)
 - C. Zion and the sacrifices (Ps. 51:18-19; 40:6-10; 66; 107:17-22)
- IV. The bronze laver (Ex. 30:17-21; 38:8; 40:30-32)
 - A. Separated from the world
 - 1. The whole world lies in the power of the evil one (1 Jn 5:19) – Zion must be the exact opposite
 - 2. No one can serve two masters (Mt. 6:19-24)
 - 3. The present form of the world is passing away (1 Cor. 7:29-31)

- B. The constant purification of the priests (Heb. 10:19-22)
 - 1. Washing hands and feet (1 Cor. 6:11; Jn 13:8-10; 15:3; Ps. 24:3-4)
 - 2. Renewal (Tit. 3:5; Eph. 4:23)
 - 3. Leads to sanctification (2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 5:26-27)
- V. The golden lampstand of pure gold – fresh oil daily; shining forth the light of life, signifying the churches with the great heavenly High Priest walking in their midst
- VI. The golden table with the showbread (Ex. 25:23-30; 40:22-23; Lev. 24:5-9; Mt. 24:44-51)
 - A. Christ is the bread of life that came down from heaven—heavenly manna, the unleavened bread of life
 - B. It must remain before God’s presence for six days
 - C. It is eaten by the priests on the seventh day
- VII. The golden incense altar—the priestly prayer with Christ as the incense rising up to God (Ps. 141:2; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4)
- VIII. The mercy seat—the ark of the covenant (Heb. 4:16; 10:19-25, 35-39)
 - A. The ark of the covenant is God’s throne among His people—an expression of His authority, presence, and power on earth (1 Chr. 28:2; Ps. 99:1)
 - B. It is God’s testimony in Zion (Ps. 132:7-8, 13; 1 Sam. 4:21-22; 2 Chr. 15:2)
 - C. Only the priests may approach the ark (Josh. 3:3, 6; 6:6)
 - D. The ark of the covenant is the place where God speaks (Ex. 25:22; Num. 7:89)
- IX. Conclusion