

Twelve Steps to Building a Kingdom of Priests

Like a church building grows in phases throughout the generations, so the Levitical priesthood developed in phases too. And to understand the priesthood, we must learn those phases.

I. Twelve Steps to Build the Levitical Priesthood

1. Israel is identified as a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:5–6)
2. Israel's firstborn sons serve as priestly assistants (Exod. 12:23; 13:2, 13; 19:22, 26; 24:5; Luke 2:23)
3. Aaron and his sons are chosen as Israel's priests (Exodus 28–30; Num. 6:24–26)
4. Moses serves as a greater priest (Exodus 32–34; Ps. 99:6)
5. Firstborn sons of Israel are replaced with the Levites (Exod. 32:25–29; Numbers 3)
6. The Levites are given to the priests (Num. 3:6–8; Num. 8:16, 19; 18:6–8)
7. The book of Leviticus is for priests, not Levites (Leviticus 1–27)
8. The Levites are denied access to the altar (Numbers 16–18)
9. God makes a covenant with the priests and Levites (Numbers 25; Malachi 2:1–9)
10. Levitical cities are established throughout the land (Numbers 35)
11. The high priest is established in Israel and so is the redemption that comes by his death (Numbers 35)
12. The Levitical priesthood is established and ready for launch (Deut. 18:1–7; 33:8–11)

II. With a new high priest comes a new royal priesthood—a family of royal priests

1. Jesus is the Son-Priest-King (Hebrews 1:1–3)
2. The saints are sons-kings-priests.
 - a. Sonship (Hebrews 12:1–17)
 - b. Kingdom (Hebrews 12:18–29)
 - c. Priesthood (Hebrews 13:1–19)