

## The Jewish Priesthood

### Where did it originate?

- God intended the Israelites to be their own priests, but they chose not to live up to it
- God instituted the tribe of Levi through the line of Aaron to become the priesthood
- the High Priest was passed down from the descendants of Aaron

[Numbers 18:1,8](#); [Exodus 28:1](#)

### What did they do?

- represented the people to God and God to the people
- they ran the entire religious system in Israel
  - teaching of the Law [Leviticus 10:11](#)
  - offering the sacrifices [Leviticus 9](#)
  - maintaining the Tabernacle [Numbers 18:3](#)
  - officiating in the Holy Place [Exodus 30:7-10](#)
  - inspecting ceremonially unclean persons [Leviticus 13 & 14](#)
  - mediating disputes [Deuteronomy 17:8-13](#)
  - collecting taxes [Numbers 18:21,26](#)
- the high priest was in charge of the other priests
  - once a year he offered an atonement sacrifice for all Israel [Leviticus 16](#)

### How were they viewed by a Jew in the New Testament times?

- they were the center of the religious AND political system
- they had developed the sacrificial system into a money making scam
  - where they manipulated the people through religious guilt
  - they represented the Jews to the Romans manipulating them thru political fear
- the high priest represented a Hebrew's religious and political authority
  - they were feared and revered
  - they were not questioned or challenged