

The Priesthood Precedes Aaron *by* Edgar Trollip

Introduction

I am not sure if the title is news to you. If my paper on the [Torah preceding Moses](#) did not bring it home that Yah's Torah is eternal I am sure this one will. Now, there was somewhat of an omission on my part on the Torah preceding Moses-paper. Or maybe I just felt it best to leave this part for dessert. You see, what I failed to mention in the [Torah preceding Moses](#)-paper is the **priesthood precedes Aaron**. By far! **It even precedes Levi**. I thought a title like that might be a stretch for some and just discarded as more fake news. Well, I am glad you are still here. This case is indeed very similar to how the [Torah precedes Moses](#). The priesthood is ancient in origin and heavenly ordained. We were never taught that **Adam was the first earthly priest and that the garden of Eden was the first earthly tabernacle**. The priesthood has always been here and will continue to be here. Saddle up and I will try to prove this out.

The Judeo-Christian Teaching on The Origins of the Priesthood

The popular teaching in Judaism, and Christianity is that the priesthood originated at Sinai. Aaron and his boys were given the responsibility of a never before seen priestly calling. Sigh, *the dispensationalists strike again*.

In fact the more I study it, the more I see similarities between modern day dispensationalism and Judaism. But, best to leave that discussion for another time.



I grew up in a conservative protestant christian church, where even the deacons slouched in the wooden pews as the *dominee* would read through the creeds and go through liturgic motions. The paved road of New Testament dispensationalism would be the preferred option. But if the toga wearing preacher person felt a bit more adventurous, wandering into the woods of the unknown Old Testament, he could possibly tell you of the appointment of priests happening at the foot of mount Sinai. Without batting an eye. To be fair, most argue the origin story happens here:

*And Mosheh stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Who is for יהוה? Come to me." **And all the sons of Lēwi gathered themselves to him.** And he said to them, "Thus said יהוה Elohim of Yisra'el: Each one put his sword on his side, pass over to and fro from gate to gate in the camp, and each one kill his brother, and each one his friend, and each one his relative.'" And the **sons of Lēwi did according to the word of Mosheh.** And about three thousand men of the people fell that day. And Mosheh said, "**You are ordained for יהוה today** – since each one has been against his son and his brother – so as to bring upon you a blessing today."*

Exodus 32:26-29 (TS2009)

Here is another one of the scriptures to 'prove' that it is so:

*And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, **Take the tribe of Levi,** and thou shalt set them before Aaron the priest, and they shall minister to him, and shall **keep his charges,** and **the charges** of the children of Israel, before the tabernacle of witness, to do the works of the tabernacle. And they shall keep all the furniture of the tabernacle of witness, and the charges of the children of Israel as to all the works of the tabernacle. And thou shalt give the Levites to Aaron, and to his sons the priests; they are given for a gift to me of the children of Israel. **And thou shalt appoint Aaron and his sons over the tabernacle of witness; and they shall keep their charge of priesthood, and all things belonging to the altar, and within the veil; and the stranger that touches them shall die.***

Numbers 3:5-10 (LXXE)

And that's all folks. That's all she wrote. There you have it. The Levites were faithful and Yah chose them as his go-to tribe when it came to priestly matters. Or is it? **The phrase "keep my charge" is associated specifically with priestly duties.** Just keep that in mind and I will connect the dots sooner rather than later. With passages like the above, we can clearly see that Levi was in charge of all that went down when it came to the priesthood from that point in time. This is the appointment of Aaron and his sons. I agree with that. **However, is this truly the inception of the priesthood?** Nope, that is not all she wrote and it's not the origin of the priesthood by a long stretch.

There is one glaring problem with that teaching and understanding. **When you venture back to the book of Exodus, you already see priests 13 chapters earlier, in Exodus 19. This is prior to the whole golden calf circus and before the 10 words were downloaded to the tablets.**

What? You don't believe me. Very well then, here is the proof. Just keep in mind the context is all before Moses ascends Mount Sinai. Here it is:

And **let the priests that draw nigh to the Lord God sanctify themselves, lest he destroy some of them.** And Moses said to God, The people will not be able to approach to the mount of Sina, for thou hast solemnly charged us, saying, Set bounds to the mountain and sanctify it. And the Lord said to him, Go, descend, and come up thou and Aaron with thee; **but let not the priests and the people force their way to come up to God,** lest the Lord destroy some of them.

Exodus 19:22-24 (LXXE)

Did you catch that?

*...let **the priests** that draw nigh to the Lord God sanctify themselves...*

*...let not **the priests** and the people force their way to come up to God...*

The priests are there already. This is Exodus 19 remember. In other words it is before Exodus 20, where most dispensationalists think the law is given for the first time. In other words, these men were priests preceding the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Not only were the priests already in action, they had already been inaugurated and initiated. This is not something that could have simply been done on the road to Sinai. There were no drive-thru priestly ordination stalls on the way. Evenmore, Yahuah wanted to make everybody priests right there and then:

*And now if ye will indeed **hear my voice, and keep my covenant,** ye shall be to me a peculiar people above all nations; for the whole earth is mine. **And ye shall be to me a royal priesthood and a holy nation:** these words shalt thou speak to the children of Israel.*

Exodus 19:5-6 (LXXE)

This is Melchizedek-talk. Isn't it just pure beauty? Yahuah rescues his people through Yahusha haMassiach (Jude 5) and then wants to elevate them to priesthood status. A people that have only been accustomed to slavery. Following the *mikvah* through the Red Sea, it was now time to be ordained as priests. Just like the Levitical priests were ordained. Did you also see this passage includes "To hear His voice and keep His covenant"? To **hear His voice and keep His covenant** was a basic requirement of any priest as we will later uncover.

Yes, contrary to popular Evangelical and even Jewish teaching, the priesthood did not start at the base of Mount Sinai. Yahuah wanted the entire nation to be priests (probably to the nations). The reason

Yahuah wanted to do that during that specific point in time is debatable. However, the point still stands: there were many priests preceding Aaron and his sons.

Wait. What and when were they appointed as priests? That's not in my Bible.

Sure it is. Maybe you just did not know what to look for. An easy example of a priest is Abraham. But before I get to Abraham this would be a good time to explain the Melchizedek Priesthood. I will attempt to breakdown the basic functions and role of priests as we go so you are familiar with the terminology used when referring to their vocation.

What/who is Melchizedek?

This priesthood referred to in Exodus 19 (pre-Sinai) is most likely part of the church of the firstborn a.k.a. the Melchizedek priesthood. That is in all probability why we do see the firstborns being sanctified to the Most High in the first place. Consider the below passages:

For every first-born is mine; *in the day in which I smote every first-born in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to myself* ***every first-born in Israel:*** *both of man and beast, they shall be mine: I am the Lord.*

Numbers 3:13 (LXXE)

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and ***church of the firstborn*** *who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.*

Hebrews 12:22-24 (NASB1995)

*And finding great happiness and peace and rest therein, I sought for the blessings of the Fathers and I received, under the direction of Noah and Shem, those instructions whereby I might enter into the Order of the ancients and I became a rightful heir and high priest, holding the right belonging to the Fathers. **For I (Abraham) was ushered into the Assembly of the Firstborn and tasted of the fruits of heavenly life.***

Writings of Abraham 25:3

You see when Yahuah says he wanted the firstborn to be His, He is referring back to the most ancient of priesthoods, the Melchizedek priesthood. If you did not catch the Hebrews 12 connection back to

the Melchizedek priesthood then the Writings of Abraham is another witness to the tie-in. Other writings, like the Book of Elijah the prophet, also refer to this as the Order of the Ancients. Not only that, it lets us in on the fact that **Abraham was part of the Church of the Firstborn**. If you still don't believe me, I will prove this out as we progress through this paper. F.Y.I. this was not always the literal firstborn. Not in an earthly or physical sense at least. Most likely in a heavenly sense. This touches on pre-existence, which is a whole other subject matter in itself.

However, before we venture any further we need to define our terms. Who or what is Melchizedek?

*And Malkitsedeq sovereign of Shalēm brought out **bread and wine**.*

*Now **he was the priest of the Most High Ėl**.*

Genesis 14:18 (TS2009)

This is a biggie. If you still think Melchizedek was **the name** of a dude dishing out bread and wine to Abraham, you are wrong. **Melchizedek was a title given to a functional priest in the order of Melchizedek**. It was an order or realm or title, instead of a name. Melchizedek is a compound word that can be broken down as:

Malkiy=King/Messenger

plus,

Tsedeq= Righteousness/Straight Path

Miss Pamela Glasgow was also kind enough to help me out on the paleo hebrew breakdown of the term Melchizedek. Tsaddayaq מלכאצ comes from the root אצ which means side, either near something or choosing a side. אצ Tsaddaq means straightness, as in you are moving along **straight path**. To be מלכאצ, that is upright, straight, righteous (the usual translation), one must be working to follow the correct path or literally pointing out the correct path. MeLeK or MaLaK could mean messenger, angel, moloch or king depending on the context.

מלכאצ מלכאצ Malak Tsaddayaq would be a **messenger who points out the correct (straight) path**.

Do you remember what righteousness is defined as in the Bible?

*And יהוה commanded us to do all these laws, to fear יהוה our Elohim, for our good always, to keep us alive, as it is today. **And it is righteousness for us when we guard to do all this command before יהוה our Elohim, as He has commanded us.***

Deuteronomy 6:24-25 (TS2009)

Righteous behavior is doing Yahuah's commands and laws. Simple as that. When we walk in obedience, we walk in righteousness. Therefore a Melchizedek is a king of righteousness. Some have explained it as a king-priest, which does make sense. A ruler acting according to Yahuah's instructions. Hereby we can conclude that Melchizedek is simply a **messenger of Yahuah's instructions for righteous living.**

Priestly Job Description

Everybody wants to be a priest. That is what the bulk of Evangelicals teach anyway. We are kings, priests and prophets, right? That phrase does give believers a sense of a higher calling, yet it is vaguely defined. I have seldom seen pastors take the time to break down the function and job description of a priest. That is what I will attempt to do here, even briefly.

And Jesus and Banaias and Sarabias instructed the people in the law, and the people stood in their place.

*And they **read in the book of the law of God, and Esdras taught, and instructed them distinctly in the knowledge of the Lord, and the people understood the law in the reading.***

*And Neemias, and **Esdras the priest and scribe, and the Levites, and they that instructed the people,** spoke and said to all the people, It is a holy day to the Lord our God; do not mourn, nor weep. For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.*

Nehemiah 8:7-9 (LXXE)

Teaching the law/torah is part and parcel of being a priest in any capacity. Whether that capacity is the angelic, Melchizedekian (is that a word?) or Levitical order, all priesthoods of Yahuah need to teach the law of the Most High. No exceptions there. All teach the commandments of the Most High.

*For the **priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth:** for he is the **messenger** of the Lord Almighty. But ye have turned aside from **the way,** and caused many to fail in following the law: ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the Lord Almighty.*

Malachi 2:7-8 (LXXE)

Do you remember the Melchizedek definition? It is a **messenger of the right way or straight path.** The function of priests sounds very similar to the function of angels. Also the title of a Melchizedek

seems very similar to the job description given to levitical priests, doesn't it? It is to **bear the message** of the ways of the Most High. Some things never change.

Priests are the mediator for men to Yahuah. Priests are open channels flowing both ways. They receive instruction and teach instruction. They also bring offerings and sacrifices on behalf of the people to the Most High.

*For there is one Elohim, and one **Mediator** between Elohim and men, the Man Messiah יהושע.*

1 Timothy 2:5 (TS2009)

*And because of this **He is the Mediator** of a renewed covenant,
so that, death having taken place for redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant,
those who are called might receive the promise of the everlasting inheritance.*

Hebrews 9:15 (TS2009)

*And there Tsadoq the priest and Nathan the prophet shall **anoint** him sovereign over Yisra'el.
And blow the shophar, and say, 'Let Sovereign Shelomoh live!'*

1 Kings 1:34 (TS2009)

*Her priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things;
**they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane,
and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean;
and they hide their eyes from My sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.***

Ezekiel 22:26 (NASB)

So in summary, priests should walk in the Truth of Torah. They should teach the instructions in righteousness but also carry the power of appointing kings. The power of Yah and the truth go together. Spirit and truth, right? Priests play a mediator role between Yahuah and man. They are to guard the knowledge and frequently teach the Torah. Priests are messengers of Yahuah. Which is interesting as angels are also messengers of El Elyon. Priests furthermore:

- Discern the holy and common,
- Discern the clean and unclean,
- Setup the tabernacle, where Yahuah's presence is,
- And guard the sabbaths of the Most High.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of priestly duties but you get the gist of it. As this article progresses I will keep adding to it, to make it more thorough. It is the same Ruach haQodesh manifesting power and the presence of Yahuah in their midst, as the Ruach haQodesh that leads them to teach the instructions of Yahuah.

Now that you have a fair idea of what a priest should be doing we will work our way back in time. All the way back to Eden. We will see a priestly lineage from Levi going all the way back to Adam. Obviously this is not a Levitical priesthood we are talking about here. The Levitical order borrows its priestly authority from the Mechizedek order. The Mechizedek order is the most ancient of priestly orders and interwoven with the angelic priesthood. I do not want to get ahead of myself though. First up, we have everybody's favorite priestly patriarch, Levi.

Levi the Priest

Most Churchians know Levi's descendants became Levitical priests through Aaron and his sons. However, did you know **Levi himself was a priest?** Most Christians don't. If you read the Armenian canon you will find the Testaments of the Patriarchs, including the Testament of Levi. Fragments of the testament of Levi (in Aramaic) were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls. This text explains the origins of what we know as the Levitical priesthood today, in depth and detail.

The calling and appointment, the whole shebang is meticulously described across the pages of the Testament of Levi. The scene is set where Levi is gathering his descendants around his deathbed and passing on this valuable information. For instance, look what was revealed to Levi in a dream:

*And thereupon the angel opened to me the gates of heaven, and **I saw the holy temple**, and upon a throne of glory the Most High. And He said to me: Levi, **I have given thee the blessing of the priesthood until I come and sojourn in the midst of Israel**. Then the angel brought me down to the earth, and gave me a shield and a sword, and said to me: Execute vengeance on Shechem because of Dinah, thy sister, and I will be with thee because the Lord hath sent me.*

Testament of Levi 2:9-11

If you ever wondered what justified Simeon and Levi's slaughter of Shekem, there you have it. An angel gave him the O.K. and also rigged him up with weapons and armor to do the job. Maybe that is what the US military was looking for in Iraq. I don't know. However, finding some divine sword and shield in the desert could be worth the while. Anyways, let's stay on track.

In this passage we see a reference to the **heavenly temple**. Yahuah gave the blueprint to Moshe to construct and fashion a tabernacle in the likeness of the heavenly one. Do you remember? It is very important to note there is a tabernacle or temple, with instruments and altars and everything in heaven. That is where Yahusha haMassiach ministers on our behalf. **The main point here though is that Levi was in the know. Levi and his descendants were destined to be priests of the Most High.** Not only was the tabernacle fashioned after heaven's blueprint also the priesthood originates from the heavenly one. If you read on you will find that Levi's priestly appointment is also confirmed to Jacob, his father, in a vision. Levi was spiritually and physically being trained up to function as a priest. Furthermore, a generational promise was given to him in the following passage:

And some of them (Levi's descendant) shall be high priests, and judges, and scribes; for by their mouth shall the holy place be guarded. And when I awoke, I understood that this dream was like the first dream. And I hid this also in my heart, and told it not to any man upon the earth.

Testament of Levi 3: 29-30

We are not given any of this in the 66-book canon. Does it not slot in nicely with the rest of the picture though and explain why we already see priests in Exodus 19?

Earlier in the third chapter Levi goes through his initiation as a priest. Here are some of the highlights:

*And there again I saw a vision as the former, after we had spent there seventy days. And I saw seven men in white raiment saying unto me: Arise, **put on the robe of the priesthood, and the crown of righteousness, and the breastplate of understanding, and the garment of truth, and the late of faith, and the turban of the head, and the ephod of prophecy.** And they severally carried these things and put them on me, and said unto me: From henceforth **become a priest of the Lord**, thou and thy seed for ever. And the first anointed me with holy oil, and gave to me the staff of judgement. **The second washed me with pure water, and fed me with bread and wine even the most holy things, and clad me with a holy and glorious robe.***

Testament of Levi 3: 13-17

This is a description of the similar initiation Aaron and his boys went through. Yahuah cleanses, clothes and feeds his priests. Here, even **bread and wine** is mentioned. Your Melchizedek connection detectors should be going off right now. There are similar initiation ceremonies for both. You can check out the Book of Elijah the prophet if you would like more information on the initiation of Melchizedek priests. But to my understanding Levi was still part of the Melchizedek priesthood. The

reason I say this is he was also not the oldest and he was seeking righteousness. Like many of the Melchizedek priests. And also the bread and wine connection. The three factors are a telltale sign for a Melchizedek priest rather than a Levitical one.

*And **Isaac** called me continually to put me in **remembrance of the law of the Lord**, even as the angel of the Lord showed unto me. **And he taught me the law of the priesthood of sacrifices, whole burnt-offerings, first-fruits, freewill-offerings, peace-offerings. And each day he was instructing me**, and was busied on my behalf before the Lord, and said to me: Beware of the spirit of fornication; for this shall continue and shall by thy seed pollute the holy place.*

Testament of Levi 3: 35-37

Did you catch that? Read it again. Both, Isaac and Jacob were teaching Levi how to be a priest. In this case it was Isaac. Not only were his father and grandfather teaching him but also a designated mentor angel. Part of his training was knowing the law of the Most High and how to prepare sacrifices. **This implies that Isaac, Jacob and this angel were all priests at one stage.** More proof of the priesthood preceding Aaron. We will also get into the angelic priesthood later on.

The Testament of Levi, similar to the 66-book canon, explains angels are **ministering** in heaven. They even bring bloodless sacrifices (Testament of Levi 1). It is necessary for Levi and his boys to understand the significance of the offerings and sacrifices. It goes on to explain how the predecessors of the priesthood taught him all about the different sacrifices and offerings and how they are to be presented. You see Jacob and Isaac already knew how this worked. Why? Because they were also functioning as priests.

*AND now, my children, I command you: **Fear the Lord your God with your whole heart, and walk in simplicity according to all His law.***

And do ye also teach your children letters, that they may have understanding all their life, reading unceasingly the law of God.

For every one that knoweth the law of the Lord shall be honored, and shall not be a stranger whithersoever he goeth.

Testament of Levi 4:1-3

Knowing and teaching the law of the Most High is an integral part of the priestly function. We also established this with Melchizedek and the path of righteousness. And the Torah does simplify many matters in life. For instance, keeping to the dietary laws automatically rules out certain foods that do not need to take up mind space or consideration when doing your weekly trip to the grocery store. The

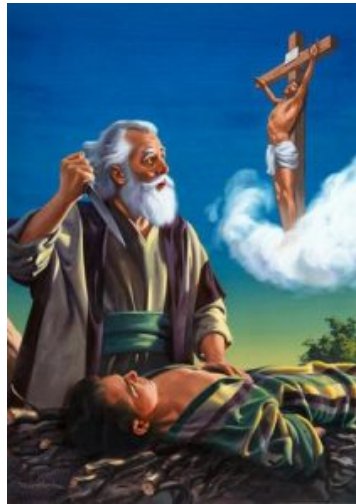
boundaries of Yah's torah provide safe, efficient and simplified parameters to live a life focussed on the weightier matters.

The fourth chapter of the Testament of Levi paints a gloomy picture on the future of the Levitical priesthood. Here it is prophesied how pride will grip their hearts and how they will forsake Yahuah's laws for their own devices. The lowlight of the priesthood is probably Ezekiel 8 where they are participating in some serious secretive sun worship. Ezekiel 34 also calls the priesthood out for not only being negligent shepherds but in fact exploiting the sheep. Remember what was Yahusha's final instruction to Peter? To feed His sheep. Well, here the priests are guilty of not feeding the sheep. This is a serious offense in the eyes of the Most High. They have failed and abused their position for selfish gain, just as the Testament of Levi prophesied many years earlier.

We have established Jacob and Isaac were capable priests themselves. They also provided the necessary training for Levi to equip him for his priestly office. Can we go even further back? How about Abraham? I told you I will prove out he was a priest as well, didn't I? The time has finally come.

Abraham the Priest

Just in case you skipped Sunday school, here is a quick refresher of who Abraham was. He is mentioned in the Hebrews 11 hall of faith. Most believers consider him as the father of our faith. He is most well known for his bold almost blind obedience for nearly offering his only son with Sarah, Isaac. We are told in the Bible he was a prophet of the Most High. But did you know he was a priest? Abraham was a priest bro.



Consider Genesis 24:5 for a moment:

*...Abraham **obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.***

Genesis 26:5 (KJV)

What does this verse imply? I will do a very brief breakdown of each of the phrases so we can gain a better understanding of what Abraham was up to. Obeying His voice and keeping his charge are two phrases that tie directly into priesthood.

- **Obey my voice**

*And now if ye will indeed **bear my voice, and keep my covenant**, ye shall be to me a peculiar people above all nations; for the whole earth is mine. And ye shall be to me a **royal priesthood** and a holy nation: these words shalt thou speak to the children of Israel.*

Exodus 19:5-6 (LXXE)

Well, that is pretty straight forward. This ties the royal priesthood directly to hearing His voice and keeping His covenant (brit). This was simply to make them stand out and become more prosperous on the earth. Sounds good to me, however we know Israel rebels.

- **Keep my charge**

*And ye have not **kept the charge** of mine holy things: but ye have set keepers of **my charge** in my sanctuary for yourselves.*

Ezekiel 44:8 (KJV)

*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.*

Ezekiel 44:15 (KJV)

Do you remember Abraham was keeping Yah's charge. What was Abraham up to when keeping Yah's charge? Most probably priestly duties. In the above passages Ezekiel ties **keeping Yahuah's charge to**

His sanctuary and working with His set apart things. To ‘minister’ is also a term commonly used for someone conducting priestly duties.

- **Keep my commandments and laws**

*And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to **keep my commandments and my laws?** See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.*

Exodus 16:27-29 (KJV)

Keeping the sabbath was part and will always be part of Yah’s commandments. This implies Abraham was keeping Yahuah’s commandments; it included keeping Shabbat. Aren’t we supposed to do the same behavior of Abraham?

*“I know that you are the seed of Abraham, but you seek to kill Me, because My Word has no place in you. “I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” יהושיע said to them, **“If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham...”***

John 8:37-39 (TS2009)

To recap, what did Abraham do? **He obeyed Yah’s voice, and kept Yah’s charge, Yah’s commandments, Yah’s statutes and Yah’s laws.** Once these terms are defined it becomes clear that Abraham was doing the behavior of the Most High, including the **priestly function** of the angels/messengers. Many, if not all, of these terms have an association with priesthood. Abraham was walking in his royal priestly calling. Those are the works of Abraham. Yes, walking in Torah is obvious, but have you taken up your higher calling, functioning in the royal priesthood? Abraham did. Abraham had been taught by Shem and Eber. Were they also priests? Let’s find out.

The Melchizedek Connection

If you missed it in the opening pages, “Melchizedek” simply means a messenger of the straight path. We established this is likely a title rather than a name. Melchizedek is mentioned in only three places in Scripture: Genesis 14, Psalm 110, and throughout the book of Hebrews. Well, that is if you choose to camp within the 66-book canon. If you dare venture to the Writings of Abraham, the Book of Elijah

the prophet and the Aramaic Targum you will find a wealth of additional references. Here is the account in Jasher:

*My son **Isaac** is grown up and he has not for some time studied the service of his God, now tomorrow I will go and bring him to **Shem, and Eber** his son, and there he will learn the ways of the Lord, for **they will teach him to know the Lord** as well as to know that when he prayeth continually before the Lord, he will answer him, therefore there he will know the way of serving the Lord his God.*

Jasher 23:5

There is a mountain of information on Shem's priesthood and I do not want to spread our focus too thinly. For now, just be aware he is the missing link that is often overlooked by the 66-book canon police. **Shem and Eber** are the ones holding together the priesthood from Noah to Abraham. They are also the Training and Development team of the Melchizedek priesthood. They are the ones teaching the ways of the Most High even to the nations. Abimelech and the Pharaoh of Abraham's day were also brought up in the order of the ancients.

The order of the ancients or the Melchizedek order is not a monastic society or secret order; it is a sequential order or priestly leadership over Yahuah's people. But there does seem to be an apprenticeship role being taken by the ones in training. It appears the Melchizedek title is passed down from father to son or grandson, generation to generation. But then again according to the writings of Abraham it can even be bestowed on leaders of nations that follow in Yahuah's instructions. Becoming part of our heavenly inheritance and pre-existence identity is a Melchizedek thing. It is a matter of reuniting with the Heavenly Family. Can you see the importance of becoming sons of Alahayam?

However, there is a slight twist. Unlike other titles or rights passed unto the firstborn, the Melchizedek can be bestowed on any of the sons that were walking in the ways of Yahuah, not necessarily the literal firstborn.

We have now worked our way down to Shem. **Shem is the Melchizedek we read of in Genesis 14.** The Melchizedek title continued to be inherited from priest to priest until it eventually reached Yahusha. This is a different story in itself and will require its own article. The promise of the Seed that would crush the head of the Serpent was at last fulfilled. Shem was taught by none other than his father, Noah.

Noah the Priest

According to Peter, Noah is the 8th preacher of righteousness. Obviously not the levitical order but rather the Melchizedek order.

<p>And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly. 2 Peter 2:5 (KJV)</p>	<p>And sparide not the firste world, but kept Noe, the eiythe man, the biforgoere of riytwisnesse, and brouyte in the greet flood to the world of vnfeithful men; 2 Peter 2:5 (Wycliffe)</p>
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This is not referring to Noah being the 8th righteous person on the ark. If that was so, would it not have said he was the first of eight people on the ark. It also cannot be the eighth generation from Adam. **Noah was the tenth generation from Adam.** You can reference Luke 3 to see the genealogy laid out.

Nope, this is talking about the Melchizedek priestly lineage. Or probably the Melchizedek High Priest lineage. Noah was the **eight preacher of righteousness**. The Wycliffe translations say he was “the eighth man, the **beforegoer of righteousness**.” Does that not sound a lot like Melchizedek/Shem? And yes, Shem would become the next Melchizedek after Noah.

Now take a look at this table. I know it is probably not 100% correct before you send a mail to the complaints department. It is a work in progress:

Generations from Adam:	Lineage of Melchizedek Priests:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adam 2. Seth 3. Enosh 4. Cainan 5. Mahalalel 6. Jared 7. Enoch 8. Methuselah 9. Lamech 10. Noah 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adam 2. Seth 3. Enosh 4. Cainan? 5. Mahalalel? Jared? 6. Enoch 7. Methuselah/Lamech? 8. Noah 9. Shem

Well, the generation of Adam to Noah is correct. The lineage of the Melchizedek priests is where I am having trouble. Yes, two names are skipped over. I am not sure which two names they could be. To my understanding the title was not passed at death but rather during the lifespan of the priest. Most likely through baptism initiation ceremonies. Remember Adam lived for 930 years before he died. Adam saw the birth of Methuselah, Lamech and Enoch. This is if you're going off the Septuagint. He only missed out on Noah's birth. So it had to be carried over during his life and not at his deathbed confessions. This principle has much deeper esoteric value to it.

The title was then passed to his son Seth. From Seth, the title passed from father to son (or grandson). Noah inherited the title when Methuselah died even though Noah was Methuselah's grandson. The names highlighted in yellow I could find some sort of proof are part of the Order of the Ancients or the Order of Melchizedek. Adam, Seth, Methuselah and Noah are definitely included. That is at least 4/5 out of the 8. I am not % sure of the rest. Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared and Lamech are the ones left in question.

As far as my research goes it appears as if Enoch was also part of the Order. We can all agree Enoch walked with Yahuah and played a significant role in teaching the ways of Yahuah to the inhabitants of the earth. The majority of texts do not say he was a Melchizedek in those specific words. However, there are texts like the Writings of Abraham that point blank tell us Enoch was of the heavenly order (Writings of Abraham 20).

Either way, we can conclude two names are skipped over and **Noah is the 8th preacher of righteousness**. We have proven Levi, Abraham and Noah were priests preceding Aaron. The next step will be to prove the priesthood of Adam. Before we dig into Adam's priesthood, we will consider Adam's environment. Was the Garden of Eden in fact a type tabernacle? This will provide a crucial stepping stone for us to determine if Adam was a priest functioning in the Eden tabernacle.

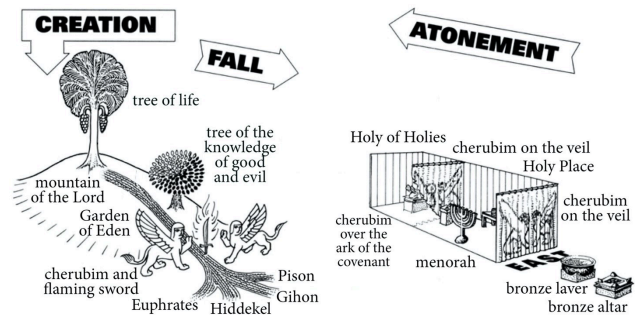
The Eden Tabernacle

Similar to the Levites and the tabernacle being in the midst of the camp of Yashar'el, the Garden of Eden was functioning as the original tabernacle and Adam as the priest at work. Are you still not convinced? Take a look at the table I have compiled below, where I have illustrated parallels between the Garden and the tabernacle, and tell me it isn't so:

The Garden of Eden	Temple/Tabernacle
The Spirit of God was involved in the creation account, including the garden (Genesis 1:2).	The Spirit of God was involved in the construction of the tabernacle (Exodus 31:2-6).
The garden had gold and onyx (Genesis 2:11-12).	Gold and onyx were used to decorate the tabernacle furniture and priestly garments (Exodus 25:7, 11, 17, 31).
There were seven planets/wandering stars created (Genesis 1:14-18).	One of the furniture pieces was a menorah and it had seven branches, with seven lights (Exodus 37:17-20).
The creation of the sea in Genesis (Genesis 1:10).	The massive bronze basin constructed for the temple was called the sea (1 Kings 7:23-26).
Cherubs guarding the entrance to Eden (Genesis 3:24).	Cherubs on top of the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant (Exodus 25:17-20).
Fruit trees were placed in the garden (Genesis 3:2).	Bells and pomegranates alternated around the hem of the robe of the priests (Exodus 39:26) and the walls of the house he carved engraved figures of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers . (1 Kings 6:29).
Eden had a tree of life (Genesis 2:9).	The Tabernacle had a treelike lampstand , with branches, flowerlike-cups, buds, and blossoms (Exodus 25:31-36). Inside the ark of the covenant Aaron's rod with almond blossoms (Numbers 17:8).
There were three circles or sections in Eden; the outer world, the garden and Eden (Genesis 2:8).	The temple had a tripartite structure of concentric circles of holiness; the courtyard, the holy place and the holy of holies (Exodus 27:7, Exodus 26:33).
The presence of the Most High was in the garden (Genesis 3:8).	The presence of the Most High was in the tabernacle (Leviticus 26:12, Deuteronomy 23:14, 2 Samuel 7:6-7).

Adam also donned priestly attire (Ezekiel 28:13, Genesis 3:7 (Targum Jonathan).	Levitical priests were adorned in priestly robes (Exodus 28:4).
Adam is depicted as a priest with respect to his task, namely, to work and to keep the garden (Genesis 2:15).	The Levites were told to guard and keep the tabernacle (Numbers 3:7-8; 8:25-26; 18:5-6; Ezekiel 44:14).
Eden was situated on a mountain (Ezekiel 28:14-16).	The temple in Ezekiel is situated on a mountain (Ezekiel 40:2; 43:12).
The entrance to Eden faced east (Genesis 3:24).	The entrance to Israel's later temple was to face east just as the end-time temple of Ezekiel was to face east (Ezekiel 40:6).
As a river flowed out from Eden (Genesis 2:10).	A river flows from the eschatological temple (Ezekiel 47:1-12, Psalm 36:8-9, Revelation 21:1-2, Revelation 22:1-2).
The conclusion of the creation account was rest (Genesis 2:1-3).	The construction of the tabernacle culminates with instructions to rest (Exod. 31:12-17).

The trees, the rivers, the fruits, the cherubim, all of it points to Eden being the first tabernacle on earth. These are just some parallels but you get the idea. All this to prove Adam was a priest and the garden of Eden his tabernacle.



Take a look at the following passage where

Yahuah is reminding His people how Paradise was taken away due to transgression. He talks of it in the context of Jerusalem and the temple that will be destroyed due to transgression in the same fashion as the Celestial City and Paradise had to be uplifted due to Adam's disobedience.

*And Yahuah said to me: This city will be delivered up for a time, and the people will be chastened for a time, and the world will not be forgotten. Or do you think that this is the city of which I said: On the palms of my hands I have carved you? **It is not this building that is in your midst now; it is that which will be revealed, with me, that was already prepared from the moment that I decided to create Paradise.***

*And I showed it to Adam before he sinned. **But when he transgressed the commandment, it was taken away from him - as also Paradise.***

*After these things I showed it to my servant Abraham in the night between the portions of the victims. And again I showed it also to Mosheh on Mount Sinai when **I showed him the likeness of the tabernacle and all its vessels. Behold, now it is preserved with me - as also Paradise.***

Now go away and do as I command you.

2 Baruch 4:1-7

Baruch really brings it home when he connects the dots back to the tabernacle blueprints that Moses was shown, representing Paradise. There is a smoking gun if you desire one. You see Alahayam is like a good Father, taking away privileges from his children when they are careless. Just like the tabernacle was removed, so was the garden. The breach in relationship had to be restored before the privileges can be enjoyed again. How?

*And **he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as if it were of a garden:** he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: **the LORD hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest.***

Lamentations 2:6 (KJV)

There has to be a change of heart. A circumcised one, that desires to keep His ways. If the above passage said ‘**the** garden’ instead of ‘**a** garden’ the connection back to Eden would have been obvious. Like the original Paradise, Paradise 2.0, a.k.a. the tabernacle was also taken away. Did you also catch the Melchizedek-connection here? It says Yahuah has despised “...**the king and the priest...**”, representing how the Mechizedek order has been brought into disrepute and even in the split functionality of the kingship and priesthood has failed. Again privileges like feasting are taken away.

We know paradise was taken up to the third heaven according to Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. So just like the garden was ended, Yah had brought an end to His physical tabernacle. The tabernacle was supposed to be a (partial) restoration or reminder of paradise. Paradise fades away when true worship of the Most High is neglected. When sins remain unrepented, His presence wanes away.

Adam's Priesthood

The order of Melchizedek began with Adam, who was the first representative of Elohiym. Adam was the first earthly priest under the dome of heaven. The order was granted authority from heaven and instantiated by the Most High. Adam was the first priest in the order of Melchizedek. The order is an eternal order. That is why Hebrews 7:3 says it does not have a father or mother and is without genealogy. The priesthood is a forever thing.

*...having been approved of Elohiym, he (Melchizedek) was ordained
a high priest after the order of the covenant
which Elohiym made with Enoch which is after the order of the Firstborn,
even our Father **Adam**.*

***For this holy order came not by man nor the will of man, neither by father nor mother,
neither by beginning of days nor end of years, but of Elohiym.
For it was established in the beginning of the earth by the Ancients of days,
wherefore it is called the Order of the Ancients, and it was delivered unto men
from the beginning*** by the calling of Elohiym's own voice according to His own will through the voice of His Priesthood, unto as many as believed on His name and were faithful until they had obtained.

Writings of Abraham 98:2-4

*For upon him (Messiah) shall rest the priesthood of his fathers and
he shall commence **the organization of that holy order which was
in the beginning of the world** which shall be consummated before the Son of God
shall walk again upon the earth.*

Writings of Abraham 77:7

The priesthood was there from the beginning according to the Writings of Abraham. Abraham would be one to know as we have already proven him out to be a Melchizedek High Priest.

There are many moving pieces in Adam's deception and how haSatan usurped Adam's priesthood. Adam was supposed to walk in the Father's righteous way but went astray. I can already sense someone in the back on the tip of their seat urging to shout "Adam was only given one commandment: not to eat from the tree in the midst of the garden." Yes, that is what our programming has taught us. Ezra the priest would disagree. In a game of Bible Trivia most of us wouldn't mind having Ezra on our team. This is what he said went down in the garden:

And unto him (Adam) thou gavest commandment to love thy way:
*which he transgressed, and immediately thou appointed death in him and in his generations,
of whom came nations, tribes, people, and kindreds, out of number.
And every people walked after their own will,
and did wonderful things before thee, and **despised thy commandments.***

2 Esdras 3:7-8

*Because for their sakes I made the world: and when
Adam transgressed my statutes, then was decreed that now is done.*

2 Esdras 7:11

Adam was supposed to be functioning in his priestly calling but failed. Adam was supposed to love Yahuah's way. Yahuah's way includes His instructions or commandments and statutes- all plural. Not just not to eat from that forbidden tree. Remember what we said about the Melchizedek he shows the straight ways or paths of Yahuah. That was supposed to be Adam's manner of living. Will we see the redemption of Adam and the restoration of the Melchizedek priesthood? Yah's got this. We see the restoration through Yahusha ha Messaich. That is another conversation altogether.

Another two proofs to consider are Adam's clothing and Adam's altar. Two elements very common when referring to priesthood were the altar of burnt offering and priestly garments. Did you know Adam was operating an altar and wearing his priestly attire?

Adam's Sunday Best

Do you remember the glorious robe Levi received upon his initiation? Did you know Adam had his own priestly robes before Eden became a nudist colony? We see Adam clothed in a purple robe in the Aramaic Targum account of Genesis:

*And the eyes of both were enlightened, and they knew that they were naked, **divested of the purple robe in which they had been created.** And they saw the sight of their shame, and sewed to themselves the leaves of figs, and made to them cinctures.*

Genesis 3:7 (Targum Jonathan)

Ah-ha, what have we here? Adam's got an outfit on. Not just any outfit at that. His royal robe is another proof that he was working as a priest in the Eden tabernacle. Remember the priest were to wear the same garb:

*And you shall make the **robe** of the shoulder garment all of blue.*

Exodus 28:31 (TS2009)

Now, I know it says it was all blue. However, consider the Hebrew word for "blue" is *tekeleth*. *Tekeleth* can also be translated as "purple" or "violet". This implies the color here was possibly a bluish-purple. Adam was clothed in priestly garments if you put the pieces of the puzzle together. But wait, there is more Adam even had an altar.

Adam's Altar

Not only was Adam dressed for success he had an altar to bring offerings and sacrifices. Just like the priests were to do. Here we see Abraham and Noah rebuild the same altar:

*And they came to the place of which the Lord had told him. And **Abraham builded there the altar which Adam had built**, which had been destroyed by the waters of the deluge, which Noah has again builded, and which had been destroyed in the age of divisions; and he set the wood in order upon it, and bound Izbak his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.*

Genesis 22:9 (Targum Jonathan)

*And Noah builded the altar before the Lord; that altar which **Adam had builded in the time when he was cast forth from the garden of Eden**, and had **offered an oblation upon it; and upon it had Kain and Habel offered their oblations**. But when the waters of the deluge descended, it was destroyed, and Noah rebuilded it; and he took of all **clean cattle, and of all clean fowl, and sacrificed four upon that altar**. And the Lord accepted his oblation with favour.*

Genesis 8:20 (Targum Jonathan)

Yes, it does seem the altar was outside Eden. In these passages we can clearly see the patriarchs knew what it meant to bring oblations before the Most High. This was a task later reserved for Levitical priests to oversee. This just to drive the point home these patriarchs were priests of the Most High and knew exactly how the protocols of the priesthood worked.

Remember we have already determined Eden was the temple inside the Garden. It was a garden temple that is most probably why we find flowers, almonds, palms, pomegranates and so forth images inside the tabernacle. The garden was the tabernacle of heaven. Adam was appointed and functioning as the priest thereof.

Was Adam's sacrifices bloodless like those of heaven as per the Testament of Levi? I would think so prior to sin. Hebrews tells us there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. However if there is no sin no blood would be required. Leviticus 1-5 does describe sacrifices that include some that are bloodless. Or maybe the 'bloodless' phrase refers to blood being drained beforehand and therefore all prescribed sacrifices are 'bloodless'. I am not 100% sure.

What we have is established is Adam was placed in the garden 'tabernacle'. Adam was dressed in priestly garb. Adam was given instruction and specific commandments from the Most High. Adam was given priestly tasks and even built an altar to bring sacrifices and oblations. Adam was the first Melchizedek.

This is the prototype of royal priesthood from which all other priests will be molded. In other words, when the priesthood is legislated in Israel, it will pick up language and imagery from Eden. At the same time, the Law of Moses divided the royal and priestly roles originally united in Adam.

The priesthood like the tabernacle has its roots in heaven. You might be thinking "but who are the priests that minister in heaven?" Glad you asked.

The Angelic Priesthood

The angels of course. The angels minister in heaven. Commonly referred to as ministering angels. Ministering in itself is a priestly function. There is also the heavenly tabernacle and its utensils given to us as another clue. For instance, do you remember the **coal** the angel brought to place on the prophet Isaiah's lips? The angel brought it with **tongs** from the **altar**.

Let me refresh your memory I cannot recall the passage:

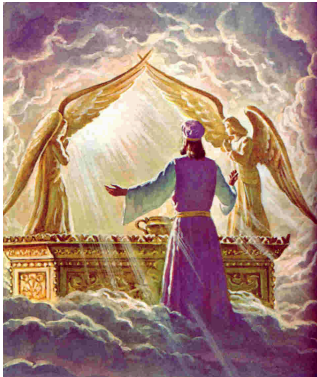
*Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a **live coal** in his hand,
which he had taken with the **tongs** from off the **altar**.*

Isaiah 6:6

Those three elements are all present on the earthly tabernacle model. There is literally a tabernacle in heaven. As above, so below. Or better said, on earth as it is in heaven. For your convenience here is a table of similarities between the earthly and heavenly priesthood:

Function/Attribute	Heavenly Priesthood	Earthly Priesthood
<p>Wearing of Linen</p>	<p><i>And out of the Dwelling Place came the seven messengers having the seven plagues, dressed in clean bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands.</i></p> <p>Revelation 15:6 (TS2009)</p>	<p><i>“And the priest, who is anointed and ordained to serve as priest in his father’s place, shall make atonement, and shall put on the linen garments, the set-apart garments.</i></p> <p>Leviticus 16:32 (TS2009)</p>
<p>Function of Ministering</p>	<p><i>And regarding the angels He says,</i></p> <p><i>“He makes His angels winds and his ministers a flame of fire.”</i></p> <p>Hebrews 1:7 (NASB)</p> <p><i>In the heaven next to it are the archangels, who minister and make propitiation to the Lord for all the sins of ignorance of the righteous.</i></p> <p>Testament of Levi 1:22</p>	<p>Let the priests, the LORD’S ministers, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, “Spare Your people, LORD, and do not make Your inheritance a disgrace. With the nations jeering at them. Why should those among the peoples say, ‘Where is their God?’”</p> <p>Joel 2:17</p>
<p>Function as Judges</p>	<p><i>God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods.</i></p> <p><i>How long will ye (sons of Elohim) judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked?</i></p> <p><i>Selah.</i></p>	<p><i>Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come forward, because the LORD your God has chosen them to serve Him and to bless in the name of the LORD; and every dispute and violent crime shall be settled by</i></p>

	Psalm 82:1-2	them. Deuteronomy 21:5
Execute Judgment	<p><i>And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Chronicles 21:15</p>	<p><i>And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.</i></p> <p><i>And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Exodus 32:28-29</p>
Call to Repentance	<p><i>...the third (angel), who presides over all that is powerful, is Gabriel. And the fourth, who presides over repentance, and the hope of those who will inherit eternal life, is Phanuel. These are the four angels of the most high God, and their four voices, which at that time I heard.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enoch 40:9</p>	<p><i>Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 3:1-2</p>



There are probably a host of other similarities between the heavenly priesthood and the one on the earth but these are the ones I managed to pen down despite my lack of sleep. To **minister** is a priestly function. The angels **minister** to us and are sometimes referred to as ministering angels. They are priests. Not many talk about the angelic priesthood but it is there if you know what to look for. Not only the tabernacle was a

blueprint of heaven but also the priesthood was a blueprint. The origins of the priesthood is heaven, where angels minister before the Father.

*What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? **Thou madest him a little less than angels, thou hast crowned him with glory and honour; and thou hast set him over the works of thy hands: thou hast put all things under his feet.***

Psalm 8:4-6 (LXXE)

*Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If **the world is judged by you**, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that **we will judge angels**? How much more matters of this life? So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?*

1 Corinthians 6:1-4 (NASB1995)

Judging was another priestly function. You see in these passages it is clear judgment is given from the higher authority governed by the laws pertaining to that specific judgment. This is talking of our higher calling of people judging the people and angels in accordance with Yahuah's law that will be written on our hearts.

Conclusion

You see the Levitical priesthood was a mere glimpse of what the heavenly appointed Melchizedek priesthood was supposed to represent. That is why someone like Enoch, a Melchizedek, plead the case of the Fallen Ones before Yahuah. That is also the reason for the Second Adam.

*For he (Messiah) shall give the majesty of the Lord to His sons in truth for evermore;
And there shall none succeed him for all generations forever.
And **in his priesthood the nations shall be multiplied in knowledge upon the earth,
and enlightened through the grace of the Lord.
In his priesthood shall sin come to an end,
and the lawless shall cease to do evil.
And he shall open the gates of paradise,
and shall remove the threatening sword against Adam,
and he shall give to the saints to eat from the tree of life,***

and the spirit of holiness shall be on them.

Testament of Levi 5:23-26

Sheesh! What a passage. His priesthood will end sin and by implication death. Sin ends. Meaning transgression of the law ends. Meaning the law of sin and death ends.

Who was the sword against? Adam. Adam was supposed to be the sinless High Priest, but wasn't. We see the restoration of the everlasting Melchizedek priesthood with Yahusha as the High Priest, the reopening of **paradise** and the restoration of the first Adam. The sword has to be taken away by Yahusha the High Priest in order for the saints to be able to enter paradise again and eat from the tree of life. His spirit of holiness will be on them and you know what that means: they will keep His commandments.

I do hope that you could see that The Most High already had a functioning priesthood with the likes of Adam, Noah, Shem and the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

As you can tell the usurping of Adam's priesthood and the Melchizedek restoration probably requires another paper. There is no shortage of loose threads to tie up. But in summary, following Adam's failed priesthood we never had the perfect High Priest in place. Adam was supposed to be it. That is why Yahusha had to be sent in the form of Adam/man. The Second Adam was sent, not only to redeem Adam/man, but also restore the heavenly ordained priesthood.

Why does this matter? This implies even during the Melchizedek priesthood Yahuah held men accountable to His standards, His Torah. This is obviously not the change in the law that Hebrews refers to. Even during the Edenic period Adam functioned as a mediator between Yahuah and man. He was a priest. Adam was a legit priest. Similar to the angels that are heavenly ministers, Adam was to be the High Priest functioning in the Eden tabernacle. Just like the Torah is eternal, the Priesthood is eternal. Let that sink in.