

Name: _____

What is a Priest?

Priest:

A priest is a person who represents man before God and God before man.* It is an important part of God's plan for redemption. 1. A Priest is a mediator (intercessor) between

God and his people who worship him. 2. A priest makes the will of God known to the people. 3. A Priest helps the people understand God's grace and mercy. 4. A Priest leads the people in the rituals and ceremonies of praise.

In the time of the patriarchs, the priesthood was performed by the people themselves. They offered sacrifices for their sins and those of their families. God told Moses that the priests would be the descendants of Aaron.

The Epistle to the Hebrews teaches that Jesus is the Great High Priest. The priests of the family of Aaron were no longer needed. Jesus made the perfect and final atonement for sins (see Hebrews 8:6-10:25). All of the believers were called by God to be priests. That is, we are to present Christ to people who don't know him. We don't offer sacrifices as the priests of Israel did. The sacrifice that Christians offer is a life of service and praise to God.

* A Dictionary of the Bible and Christian Doctrine in Every Day English, Albert Truesdale (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1980), 230-31.

