

# Old Union Baptist Ministers' School

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## *"The Priesthood of Believers"*

By  
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### **Lesson Scripture - 1 Peter 2:5-10**

**The Biblical History of Priest** - Before the Mosaic economy was established, heads of families, and tribes, carried out the priestly functions of building altars, and offering sacrifices to God in behalf of their people. Some of these came to be known as Patriarchs. This is true with of Abraham (Hebrews 7:4); his twelve sons (Acts 7:8-9), David (Acts 2:29), and others. Job was a good example of this priestly function. (Job 1:5)

Following the exodus from Egypt, God called Moses up into Mount Sinai where he showed him the pattern for the Tabernacle. It was to represent the place where God meets man. I don't think there was a physical building in heaven, from which the tabernacle was copied. But there did exist in heaven something, **or rather someone**, with real substance, which the tabernacle would fore-shadow. **That tabernacle represented the Lord Jesus.** In Him God meets man! He is the mercy seat that covers the broken law of God, the place where **"Grace" and "Mercy"** are found, and where sinners can make peace with God. (Colossians 1:20-22)

God's plan included the establishment of the Priesthood for maintaining the ministry of the tabernacle, because there were many services to be performed. It must be set up, and carried forth. Many different duties were associated with the ordinances of divine services, and the things they represented. Sacrifices were required continually.

### **Levites - The Sons of Levi**

The three sons of Levi were Gershom, Kohath, and Merari. Have you ever wondered why the sons of Levi were chosen to minister in things pertaining to the tabernacle? In my opinion it is because God knew they would be **loyal to the covenant**, as they proved following the golden calf apostasy. Moses asked, ***"Who is on the Lord's side, let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves unto him."*** (Ex. 32:26-29) The tribe of Levi was chosen to keep the charge of the Tabernacle. All three families of this tribe had special duties in connection with the tabernacle. (Numbers 3:21-37)

The Tribe of Levi received no territorial inheritance of land, as did the other tribes, when the conquered land was divided. Instead, they were given 48 cities to live in, with a little ground for their animals. (Num. 35:1-8 and Joshua 21:1-42) They were also allotted the tithe from the other eleven tribes as a means to sustain their livelihood. (Num. 18:20-24)

