

Service of Kohanim

Ref: *Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Klei Hamikdash* , Chapters 4–5

The Priests were set aside from the Levites.

Every Jewish person needs to show much honour to the Priests.



To sanctify the *Kohanim* to serve in the Temple.¹⁰

The Priestly watches to be given equal opportunity during the Festivals.¹¹

Mosheh Rabenu divided the Priests into **8** watches.

Shmuel Hanavi divided the Priest into **16** watches.

David *Hamelech* divided the Priests into **24** watches.

For each watch, there was 1 leader.

Each watch would serve for 1 week (*Shabbat* until *Shabbat*).

On the Festivals, there will be the appointed watch on duty, but in addition any Priest may serve and receive a portion of some of the sacrifices.

Similarly, when a Priest would like to offer his own sacrifice, he may do this on any day he desires.

The *Kohen Gadol* (High Priest) receives his office with anointing or by dressing with the garments.

He was appointed by a court of 71 judges.

Reminder:

Pack on *Nasi*



HIERARCHY OF PRIESTS **8** LEVELS

- *Kohen Gadol Hamashuach* (anointed)
 - [*Kohen Gadol Hamerubeh Begadim* (garments)]
 - [*Kohen Mashuach Milchamah* (anointed Priest who leads Nation to war)]
- *Segan* (Viceroy) – stands to right hand of *Kohen Gadol* always
- *Katikol* – Serves *segan* as *segan* serves *Kohen Gadol* **2 or more**
- *Amarkal* (officers) **7 or more** In charge of keys of Temple
- *Gizbar* (Treasurer) **3 or more** – Collect consecrated items and redeem others
- *Rosh Mishmar* – Head of a watch
- *Rosh Bet Av* – Head of a clan i.e. a division of a watch
- *Kohen Hedyot* – Ordinary Priests

Promotion can happen but one should never be demoted unless misbehaviour took place.

SERVICE OF KOHEN GADOL

A *Kohen* or *Kohen Gadol* are initiated into Temple Service by offering $\frac{1}{10}$ *ephah* from own possessions.

- Should surpass his Priestly brethren in beauty, power, wealth and wisdom.
- Should conduct himself with dignity, including avoiding public appearance where possible.
- May attend a house of mourning but should be accompanied with honour.
- For mourning of his own relatives, he does not go out from the entrance of his home or Temple. – The whole nation come to his home to comfort him. Other leniencies of mourning apply to him.

🕒 Reminder:

Pack on Mourning



- He remains in the Temple the whole day (chamber of the *Kohen Gadol*) and returns home (in *Yerushalayim*) at night.
- May act as judge and can be judged. Not obligated to testify if he knows testimony in a financial dispute.
- Must marry a virgin and cannot have two wives.

🕒 Reminder:

Priests – Forbidden Relations. Ref: *Sefer Kedushah*,
Hilchot Issurei Biah, Chapter 17, 18, 19.



- He receives first portion of any sacrifice offered. Regarding consecrated produce, he is like all other Priests.
- He may offer Incense or sacrifice whenever he likes out of honour.
- Others

🕒 Reminder:

Sequence of *Avodah* (Service) of *Kohanim* and *Leviim* in
Bet Hamikdash. Ref: *Sefer Avodah*, *Hilchot Temidin Umusafin*, Chapter 6.
Pack on Priests

