**The eternal priesthood.**

Soon after HASHEM called Israel out of Egypt and even before He gave them the commandments at Mount Sinai, He told them that depending their obedience to His commandments, they shall be a kingdom of priests and a Set-apart nation to Him, as witnessed in Exodus 19: 5 and the first part of verse 6, saying: ***‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;*** (6) ***and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a set-apart nation.’*** HASHEM declared Israel to be His treasured possession before all nations and accordingly they were to be a kingdom of priests and a set-apart nation to Him. They were to be stewards of the Oracles of God; the conduits through which God’s teachings regarding His Torah truths and blessings were to be disseminated. The entire nation was to consist of priestly people; who would perform priestly duties before HASHEM their God. However, it appears that the nation felt that they were not qualified to enter into the responsibility of their priestly calling assigned by HASHEM and they wanted a mediator for themselves to carry on a relationship with HASHEM the God of Israel.

Because HASHEM anticipated Israel’s need for a mediator and as we read from Deuteronomy 5: 28 – 31, He communicated His agreement that they needed a mediator from that time forward through Moses, saying: ***“And HASHEM heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and HASHEM said to me, ‘I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They have done well in all that they have spoken.*** (29) ***Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and their sons forever!*** (30) ***Go, say to them, “Return to your tents.”*** (31) ***But as for you, stand here by Me, that I may speak to you all the commandments and the statutes*** (how to apply the commandments in your lives) ***and the judgments*** (or punishment for contravening the commandments) ***which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I gave them to possess.’”*** Here HASHEM appointed Moses officially as the mediator of Israel during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness, before entering the Promised Land. The nation of Israel failed to be a model nation when Moses *‘delayed’* coming down from the mountain and Aaron got them to give him the gold rings in the ears of their wives and children and fashioned it with a graving tool; making it into a molten calf. He proceeded to tell them that the golden calf is their god, who brought them out of the land of Egypt. In addition he declared the next day to be a feast to HASHEM and we read how the nation obeyed his instruction, as witnessed from Exodus 32: 6, as follows: ***‘So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.’*** The commentary in the New American Standard Mac Arthur Study Bible, against the words ***‘to play’*** reads - *‘The Heb. Word allows for the inclusion of drunken and immoral activities so common to idolatrous fertility cults in their revelry’.* The incident of the golden calf included cultural practices which the Israelites must have learnt in Egypt; such as burnt offerings intermingled with pagan customs of sexual immorality and idolatry, totally unacceptable to God.

This caused God’s anger to flare up against them and He was ready to destroy the nation. But Moses’ pleadings on behalf of the nation caused HASHEM to change His mind. Moses went down the mountain with the two engraved tablets of stone in his hands and when he saw the golden calf and the dancing, he became very angry and he threw the tablets of stone from his hands shattering them at the foot of the mountain. Next he ground the golden calf into powder and threw it into water, after which he forced the Israelites to drink it. Moses recognized the actions of Aaron and the Israelites as a sin, punishable by death. So he stood at the gate of the camp saying as in Exodus 32: 26, ***“Whoever is for HASHEM, come to me!”*** We see further from the same verse that the Levites gathered together around him. Moses then instructed the Levites to go back and forth in the camp, and kill every man his brother, and every man his neighbor. As a result of the action taken by the Levites, HASHEM chose the Levites to take the place of the first-born Israelites, to serve as priests under Aaron and his sons, as we read from Numbers 3: 9 – 13, in this way: ***“You shall thus give the Levites to Aaron and to his sons; they are wholly given to him from among the sons of Israel.*** (10) ***So you shall appoint Aaron and his sons that they may keep their priesthood, but the layman who comes near shall be put to death.”*** (11) ***Again HASHEM spoke to Moses, saying,*** (12) ***“Now, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the sons of Israel instead of every first-born, the first issue of the womb among the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine.*** (13) ***For all the first-born are Mine; on the day that I struck down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the first-born in Israel, from man to beast. They shall be Mine; I am HASHEM.”***  At this time HASHEM called Aaron and his family and set them apart by law to be the priesthood for the nation of Israel. Even so, the nation remained set-apart to HASHEM; the Aaronic priests were to bring the sacrifices and offerings of the people of Israel before HASHEM.

Going back to Exodus 32: 28 & 29 we read: ***‘So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people fell that day.*** (29) ***Then Moses said, “Dedicate yourselves today to HASHEM—for every man has been against his son and against his brother—in order that He may bestow a blessing upon you today.”’*** Similarly HASHEM is calling first-fruits to come out of the world today and to consecrate, or set them apart for service unto Him, for each one who responds there is a reward of the priesthood. We also read from Numbers 25 that when Israel stayed at Shittim, the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab, who invited them to the sacrifices of their gods. The people ate and bow down to the pagan gods of the Moabites, including Baal-peor and HASHEM became angry with the people of Israel. So HASHEM instructed Moses in verse 4 of Numbers 25, saying: ***“Take all the leaders of the people and execute them in broad daylight before HASHEM, so that the fierce anger of HASHEM may turn away from Israel.”*** Moses obeyed and instructed the judges of Israel, as we read in verse 5 of Numbers 25, saying: ***“Each of you slay his men who have joined themselves to Baal of Peor.”*** At this same time one of the sons of Israel brought a Midianite woman in full sight of Moses and the sons of Israel, whilst they were still weeping at the doorway of the tent of meeting. When Phinehas the son of Eleazer, the son of Aaron saw it, he got up from the midst of the people, taking a spear in his hand; he went into the tent of the man and pierced both the man and woman through their bodies, effectively checking the plague and those who died by the plague were 24,000.

HASHEM made a covenant of peace (shalom in Hebrew) with Phinehas; thus making a covenant with him and his descendants after him that they will hold the office of priest (or Cohen) forever. Those of us who are called out of the world to become priests under Y’shua in the coming kingdom of God, have to be like Phinehas, jealous (or rather zealous) for God and His righteousness. We who are presently being trained to become priests (teachers and judges) in the world tomorrow should not shirk our responsibility; it is our duty to warn the people called out of the religions of the world by God about their transgressions, as we read from Isaiah 58: 1, as follows: ***“Cry loudly, do not hold back; raise your voice like a trumpet, and declare to My people their transgression, and to the house of Jacob their sins.”*** Every person whom HASHEM calls is important to Him and no one of us is beyond correction. HASHEM wants each and every one of us to be ready to take action, when there is a need to do so. Are we going to do what HASHEM requires of us, or are we going to make excuses for not doing so? Are we prepared to defend the helpless amongst us? Are we prepared to correct those who make coarse jokes? Are we going to point out those who teach falsehood in our community? Or are we going to remain quiet and avoid our responsibility as Nazarenes? The duty of a Nazarene or watchman is as described in Ezekiel 3: 17 – 21, as follows: ***“Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.*** (18) ***When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die’; and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.***  (19) ***Yet if you have warned the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself.*** (20) ***Again, when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I place an obstacle before him, he shall die; since you have not warned him, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.*** (21) ***However, if you have warned the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; and you have delivered yourself.”*** Phinehas and his descendants after him will hold the office of priest forever. It seems odd that since Phinehas a Levite and descendant of Aaron the High Priest, that HASHEM did not give him the office of High Priest forever. But, we know the reason for this being that Y’shua our Messiah has become the one and only High Priest forever. However, Messiah a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek and not in the order of Levi.

As mediators between HASHEM and the people of Israel, the priesthood had to stand as righteous as humanly possible between HASHEM and His people, and at the same time represent both HASHEM and the people according to (HASHEM)’s plan for Israel. After the commonwealth nation of Israel split in two separate nations after King Solomon’s rule, the king of the house of Israel, namely Jeroboam, made priests from among the ten tribe nation of Israel, who were not of the descendants of Levi, as witnessed in 1 Kings 12: 28 – 32, in this way: ***‘So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt.”*** (29) ***And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.*** (30) ***Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan.*** (31) ***And he made houses on high places, and made priests from among all the people who were not of the sons of Levi.*** (32) ***And Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; thus he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.’*** As a result Jerobaom led the house of Israel to follow him in idolatry and HASHEM ultimately scattered them into the nations of the world (as per 2 Kings 17: 22 & 23[[1]](#footnote-1)), where they continued worshipping idols, and are doing so even today, as described in 2 Kings 17: 33, as follows: ***‘They feared HASHEM and served their own gods according to the custom of the nations from among whom they had been carried away into exile.’*** Whereas the Levites chosen by God to replace the original priesthood of first-born Israelites ensured that the house of Judah amongst whom they remained because of Jeroboam’s rejection of their authority, continued to act as mediators between the house of Judah and God. This essentially left the house of Israel without a mediator and because of HASHEM our God’s promise to our father in the faith Abraham, He caused His word (who was with Him from the beginning and was in reality God Himself) to become flesh in Y’shua, the mediator between Him and the house of Israel, as witnessed in Galatians 3: 17 - 20, in this way: ***‘What I am saying is this; the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.*** (18) ***For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.*** (19) ***Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made.*** (20) ***Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one.”*** The inheritance of the Promised Land by Abraham’s children through Isaac and Jacob depended upon the condition that they remain loyal to HASHEM and His Torah and as a sign of the covenant circumcise their sons at eight days old. However, because HASHEM being the all-knowing God knew the end from the beginning, His promise to Abraham included that a remnant of those of Jacob’s children who lost their identity, language, culture and religion because of idolatry, be called by God during the latter days to again become inheritors of the Promised Land through Abraham’s one seed Y’shua, through whom He will also save the rest of mankind after the second resurrection.

Considering again what we read in verse 20 of Galatians 3, some might vehemently object to my reference to HASHEM of Hosts as savior or yeshuati, but this is in fact what HASHEM tells us in Isaiah 43: 10 & 11, saying: ***“You are My witnesses,” declares HASHEM, “And My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me.*** (11) ***“I, even I, am HASHEM; and there is no savior besides Me.”*** A second witness comes from Isaiah 63: 8, in this way: ***‘For He said, “Surely, they are My people, sons who will not deal falsely.” So He became their Savior.’*** Moses told the united nation of Israel in Deuteronomy 18: 15 – 19, saying: ***“HASHEM your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.*** (16) ***This is according to all that you asked of HASHEM your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of HASHEM my God, let me not see this great fire any more, lest I die.’*** (17) ***And HASHEM said to me, “They have spoken well.*** (18) **‘*I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.*** (19) ***And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.’”*** Messiah as Immanuel, and unless believers from the lost ten tribes call upon the name of HASHEM through Him our mediator, they cannot obtain salvation. Yes, Messiah is the visible image of the invisible God (according to Colossians 1: 15) in whom the fullness of Deity (God) dwells in bodily form (as per Colossians 2: 9). The point is that no man can fulfill the dual role of physical man and God. We read accordingly from Isaiah 59: 16, in this way: ***‘And He saw that there was no man, and was astonished that there was no one to intercede; then His own arm brought salvation to Him.’*** His main purpose was to bring the lost sheep of the house of Israel back to the covenant we made with HASHEM, together with the house of Judah as revealed in the Torah, the Prophets and the writings.

We read fittingly from Hebrews 7: 26 & 27, ***‘For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy*** (set-apart)***, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;*** (27) ***who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.’*** As believers in Messiahe, the early Nazarenes were a sect of the Pharisees, much like the Levites, but of a different Priesthood; namely the royal priesthood of the coming King Messiah, the High Priest to the order of Melchizedek (as per Hebrews 7: 16 & 17[[2]](#footnote-2)). This Scriptural revelation required that the name of God be made known to mankind and when He revealed Himself in Exodus 3: 14 as ***“I AM WHO I AM”*** to Moses  ***–*** it implied that He could be whatever we need Him to be, as may be understood from His various names given in the Tanach, as follows: In Genesis 22: 14, HASHEM-YIRAH meaning HASHEM our Provider; in Exodus 17: 15, HASHEM-NISSI meaning HASHEM is My Banner; and in Jeremiah 23: 6, HASHEM-TSIDIKENU meaning HASHEM our Righteousness, which refers to Y’shua the righteous Branch, through whom we His creation become righteous before God. In addition most of us are aware that the meaning of Y’shua’s name is the Salvation of HASHEM, since the purpose of His first advent was to save His people (the house of Israel) from their sins. Through these truths the commandments given in Exodus 20: 3 – 11, HASHEM ensured that His people understood the importance of His name in worshipping Him. Nevertheless, if the proclamation that Y’shua is HASHEM in the flesh is an offense to some, it will have to be the stumbling stone that Y’shua told the Pharisees it would be in Matthew 21: 42 – 44, saying: ***“Did you never read in the Scriptures, ‘THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM HASHEM, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES’?*** (43) ***Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it.*** (44) ***And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”*** God has truly gone to extremes to make His name and deeds known to mankind throughout the Scriptures, as king David also shows in Psalm 118: 21 – 26 saying: ***‘I shall give thanks to Thee, for Thou hast answered me; and Thou hast become my salvation.*** (22) ***The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone.*** (23) ***This is (HASHEM)’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.*** (24) ***This is the day which HASHEM has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*** (25) ***O HASHEM, do save, we beseech Thee; O HASHEM, we beseech Thee, do send prosperity!*** (26) ***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of HASHEM; we have blessed you from the house of HASHEM.’***

According to Rav Kepha, we who believe this truth about our Master are as per 1 Peter 2: 9 again ***‘***(***But you are***) ***A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellences of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.’*** Are we like the ancient Israelites going to shirk our responsibility as priests? As priests of God, most of us are able to recall the set-apart garments which were given to Aaron and his sons to wear. Similarly through Messiah, we are again given priestly garments to wear, as was prophesied by Isaiah about Y’shua in Isaiah 61: 1 – 10, as follows: ***‘The Spirit of HASHEM God is upon me, because HASHEM has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners;*** (2) ***To proclaim the favorable year of HASHEM, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn,*** (3) ***To grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland*** (a peer shaped head covering) ***instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of HASHEM, that He may be glorified*** (esteemed)***.*** (4) ***Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will raise up the former devastations, and they will repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.*** (5) ***And strangers will stand and pasture your flocks, and foreigners will be your farmers and your vinedressers.*** (6) ***But you will be called the priests of HASHEM; you will be spoken of as ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.*** (7) ***Instead of your shame you will have a double portion, and instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double portion in their land, everlasting joy will be theirs.*** (8) ***For I, HASHEM, love justice, I hate robbery in the burnt offering; and I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.*** (9) ***Then their offspring will be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them will recognize them because they are the offspring whom HASHEM has blessed.*** (10) ***I will rejoice greatly in HASHEM, my soul will exalt in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.’***

In addition HASHEM tells our Jewish Brothers in Isaiah 66: 20 & 21: ***‘Then they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as a grain offering*** (first-fruits) ***to HASHEM, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem,” says HASHEM, “just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of HASHEM.*** (21) ***I will also take some of them for priests and for Levites,” says HASHEM.’*** Yes,those of us called at this time, who manage to overcome Satan, the world and the self, will become kings and priests with our Torah observant Jewish Brothers who remain loyal to HASHEM and His Torah, at Messiah’s rule the world during the millennium and beyond as shown in Revelation 5: 10, as follows: ***“And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”*** The first time that we read in the Scriptures about a person or being, holding the offices of king and priest together, is in Genesis 14: 18, in this way: ***‘And Melchizedek king of Salem*** (meaning king of peace) ***brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.’*** We are told in Hebrews 7: 3 that Melchizedek was without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God. In Psalm 110: 4 talking about our Messiah, David wrote: ***‘HASHEM has sworn and will not change His mind, “Thou are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”*** We read further from Hebrews 5: 5 & 6: ***‘So also Messiah did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, “THOU ART MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE”; just as He says also in another passage, “THOU ART A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.”’*** The Order of the Priesthood of Melchizedek will consist of the High Priest and King Y’shua, with other priests who were called and chosen by God and remained faithful throughout their human lives, to be changed into spiritual children of God at Messiah’s return, to rule with Him as His bride.

Rav Shaul confirmed our calling in Romans 8: 29 & 30, saying: ***‘For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;*** (30) ***and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.’*** A second witness to this may be read in Hebrews 2: 11: ***‘For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.’*** We, who are called during this age, are predestined, if we make it, to become kings and priests under Y’shua during His millennial rule. This is further confirmed by Rav Shaul in Ephesians 2: 13 – 22, saying:*‘****But now in Messiah Y’shua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah.*** (14) ***For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,*** (15) ***by abolishing in His flesh the enmity*** (punishment due for our sins)***, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances*** (judgments of Torah)***, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,*** (16) ***and might reconcile them both in one body*** (the congregation of HASHEM and body of Messiah) ***to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.***(17) ***AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY*** (the house of Israel)***, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR*** (the house of Judah)***;***  (18) ***for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.*** (19) ***So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,*** (20) ***having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Messiah Y’shua Himself being the corner stone,*** (21) ***in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Master;*** (22) ***in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.’*** We are being built-up as a Spiritual House for a Set-apart Priesthood to offer sacrifices to God. We read accordingly from 1 Peter 2: 4 & 5: ***‘And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God,*** (5) ***you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a Set-apart priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Y’shua Messiah.’*** Even though we are physical at present, we are being trained to become a spiritual priesthood. We keep the Sabbath, new moons and Set-apart Days of HASHEM as shadows of (Spiritual) things to come (Colossians 2: 16 & 17). We read from the second part of verse 5 and verse 6 of Revelation 1 that Y’shua made us to be a kingdom of priests, as follows: ***‘To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood,*** (6) ***and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the esteem and the dominion forever and ever Amein.’***

We need to practice to become kings and priests during the coming Kingdom of God, as we will be required to perform priestly duties then and have to learn to do so during this age. We should practice righteousness in our lives by doing what HASHEM requires of us in His Torah, so that we may teach our siblings, those who survive the tribulation into the millennium, as well as those in the second resurrection, the physical and spiritual application of Torah in their lives. However, let’s also turn to Exodus 29: 38 & 39 to see what some of the other duties of royal priests are, as follows: ***“Now this is what you shall offer on the altar; two one year old lambs each day, continuously.*** (29) ***The one lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight.”*** We do not sacrifice animals any longer, but are nevertheless required to make two offerings per day, as is confirmed in Exodus 30: 7 & 8, in this way: ***“And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps.*** (8)***And when Aaron trims the lamps at twilight*** (in the evening)***, he shall burn incense. There shall be perpetual incense before HASHEM throughout your generations.”*** In Psalm 141: 1 & 2 David wrote about such offerings, saying: ***“O HASHEM, I call upon Thee; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to Thee!*** (2) ***May my prayer be counted as incense before Thee; the lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.”*** We also read from Revelation 5: 8 that the prayers of the saints are considered as incense before HASHEM, as follows: ***‘And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.’***  A second witness comes from Revelation 8: 4 as follows: ***‘And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel’s hand.’***

Finally we read the example of Daniel in Daniel 6: 10 that even under the threat of being thrown into a lions’ den, he prayed three times daily, in this way: ***‘Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.’ ’*** We should not neglect our priestly duties; to pray every evening and morning and even during the afternoon. We should pray for the Kingdom of God to come; that He will make Jerusalem a place of praise in the earth; for the peace of Jerusalem; and for forgiveness of our many sins. We should ask HASHEM to give us more of His Set-apart Spirit and pray for both our spiritual and physical leaders; asking that our spiritual leaders will assist us to find the way of God and that our physical leaders will make decisions which will allow us freedom of religion to worship HASHEM our God without being persecuted for doing so. Think about it!

1. *2 Kings17: 22 & 23:* ***‘And the sons of Israel walked in all the sins of Jerobaom which he did; they did not depart from them, until HASHEM removed Israel from His sight, as He spoke through all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away into exile from their own land to Assyria until this day.’*** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Hebrews 7: 16 & 17:* ***‘Who has become such not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of Him, “THOU ART A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.”’*** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)