

Step Into Scripture: Shadows

Day 43 Reading: Exodus 39—40 and Day 43 of Step Into Scripture

Week 7 Lesson: A Royal Priesthood

This week, we are discussing the significance of the requirements God provided to the Israelites for the priesthood, emphasizing how these details illuminate God's plan for humanity's restoration to His presence, lost due to sin. A pivotal moment in Exodus is where the Israelites, in their despair, turned to idolatry, prompting Moses to break the covenant and demonstrating the need for accountability in sin and the path to reconciliation with God. Moses' actions and the establishment of the Levitical priesthood foreshadows the greater priesthood fulfilled by Jesus, who mediates between God and humanity through His sacrifice. Christians must embrace our identity as a royal priesthood tasked with sharing God's Word fearlessly and reflecting His glory in a world shrouded in darkness.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the Israelites felt the need to create a golden calf while Moses was on the mountain?
 - The Israelites lost hope in Moses when he was delayed on the mountain, and they turned to idolatry instead of trusting in God.
 - How can we stay focused on our faith in challenging times instead of seeking comfort in things that could lead us away from God?
2. What does it mean to you that God originally intended for all of Israel to be a nation of priests?
 - God's plan for Israel was for them to represent Him and model a relationship with Him to the nations, similar to the role assigned to the Levites after the covenant was broken.
 - In what ways can you actively fulfill your role as part of a 'royal priesthood' in your everyday life?
3. How does Moses exemplify the role of a mediator between God and the people?
 - Moses acted as a priest, interceding for the people even when he himself was not guilty of sin, showing the importance of mediating in relationships.
 - Can you think of a time when you had to act as a mediator in a situation? What did you learn from that experience?
4. In what ways do you think the concept of being a royal priesthood applies to modern-day Christians according to 1 Peter 2:9-10?
 - The passage explains that Christians are chosen and called to declare the praises of God and to help others come to Him just as the Israelites were once meant to do.
 - How can you personally declare God's praises to those around you, especially to people who may not yet know Him?
5. Why do you think it is important for us to have 'unveiled faces' when sharing God's Word?

- Moses had a radiant appearance after being in God's presence, and he did not hide that from the people. This is a metaphor for how we should share God boldly without fear.
- What challenges do you face when trying to share your faith with others, and how can you overcome these challenges to speak freely about God?

Prayer:

- Ask for prayer requests and lift them up to God.
- Pray for the ability to recognize and take accountability for our actions.
- Ask God to help us reflect His glory in our daily lives.
- Seek guidance on how to share His Word with others this week.