



and well-organized **priesthood** long before the time of Moses as indicated by the story of Joseph (**Genesis 47:22 and 26**). For Isra'el, however, the creation of an official **priesthood** was something new and unique.⁶¹⁵

There were *five key responsibilities* of **the priesthood**. First, was to *administer the burnt offering* twice daily (**Exodus 29:39**). Secondly, they were to *burn incense* at the altar in the Holy Place (**Exodus 30:7-8**). Thirdly, they were to *inspect the animals* that were brought to the Tabernacle, and later the Temple, and to make sure they were without defect (**Leviticus 27:11-12**). Fourthly, they were to *keep the golden lampstand burning* in the Holy Place (**Leviticus 24:1-4**). And lastly, they were to *teach Isra'el* the Word of **God**. In those days, not everyone had his or her own copy of the Scriptures as we have available to us today. So the Levites, who did have the Scriptures, had the responsibility to teach its contents to the people of Isra'el (**Deuteronomy 17:8-13, 19:15-20, 21:5**).

The priests of the Levitical system had to offer sacrifices for **their** own sins. That is why **their** ministry on behalf of **Isra'el**, was always imperfect. **They** were sinful dying men. The superiority of **the priesthood** of **Christ** is that **His** ministry on behalf of **Isra'el**, was sinless, and because of the resurrection, **He** lives forever (**Hebrews 9:25-26**).