

Chapter Twelve

The Priesthood and the Mass

Another issue that is central to Roman Catholicism, is the establishment of the priesthood and the Mass.

What is a priest? The Roman Catholic church claims the authority to establish a sacrificing, mediatorial priesthood that assumes the authority to forgive sins against God.

What is the Mass? According to the New York Catechism, “The Mass is the same sacrifice as the sacrifice of the cross.” The church teaches that the Mass represents and repeats the sacrifice of the Messiah as “an unbloody sacrifice”.

Let us look to the Word of God to examine these issues as it relates to believers in Yeshua.

- 1 Timothy 2:5 states, “For there is one God and **one mediator between God and men**, the man Messiah Yeshua.”

- Hebrews 7:17, quoting Psalm 110:4, states, referring to Yeshua, “You are a priest **forever**, according to the order of Melchizedek.”
- Hebrews 7:24 states, “But he, because he lives forever, has his priesthood **unchangeable**.” The word unchangeable means inviolate and not transmissible to others.
- Hebrews 7:25 states, “Therefore he is also able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God **through him**, seeing that **he lives forever** to make intercession for them.”
- Hebrews 7:26-28 states, “For such a high priest was fitting for us: holy, guiltless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; who doesn’t need, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices daily, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. For he did this **once for all**, when he offered up himself. For the Torah appoints men as high priests who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, **appoints a Son forever** who has been perfected.”
- Hebrews 9:12 states, “nor yet through the blood of

goats and calves, but through his own blood, entered in **once for all** into the Holy Place, **having obtained eternal redemption.**”

- Hebrews 9:26 states, “But now **once** at the end of the ages, he has been revealed to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”
- Hebrews 9:28 states, “So Messiah also, having been offered **once** to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”
- Hebrews 10:10-12 states, “by which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Yeshua the Messiah **once for all**. Every priest indeed stands day by day serving and offering often the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins, but he, when he had offered **one sacrifice for sins forever**, sat down on the right hand of God.”
- Hebrews 10:14 states, “For by **one offering** he has **perfected forever** those who are being sanctified.”
- Hebrews 10:17,18 states, “I will remember their sins and their iniquities **no more**. Now where remission of

these is, there is **no more offering for sin.**” Messiah’s act on Calvary is unrepeatable!

- Leviticus 17:11 states, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood. I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement by reason of the life.”
- Hebrews 9:22 states, “Apart from shedding of blood there is no remission.” There is, therefore, no such thing as an “unbloody sacrifice.”

The Hebrew word for priest is “kohen”. In the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Tanach, this word is translated using the Greek word “hierus”. The word “hierus” is entirely absent from the Apostolic writings. There is no such thing as a sacrificing, mediatorial “New Testament Priest” other than Yeshua and as outlined in the Scriptures above, nor is there any need. Yeshua is our High Priest. His sacrifice was **once for all** and is not to be repeated. There is **no more offering for sin.** As Yeshua said from the cross, **“It is finished!”**