

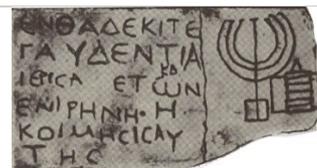
Lesson 9 mirrors – mirrors & vision enabling priests to see and wash themselves

Moreover, he made the laver of bronze with its base of bronze, from the mirrors of the women ministers/army, who waged war/ministered/served at the doorway of the tent of meeting (Ex. 38:8).

Were they priests? "The priests the Levites, and all the tribe of Levi, shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel: they shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and his inheritance ... for the Lord your God has chosen them and their descendants out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the Lord's name always" (Deuteronomy 18:1,3).

The whole tribe and their decendents (men and women) ate the offerings and ministered before the Lord.

The title of priest has been found on inscriptions for Jewish women. E.g. 4th Century BC white marble plaque: "Here lies Gaudentia, priest, 24 years. In peace be her sleep."



Luke 2:36-37 And there was a **prophetess, Anna** the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. **She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.**

Women served in the temple along with the men.

Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the **doorkeeper**, and brought Peter in. Then the **bond-slave-girl who kept the door** said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not" (John 18:15-17).

Doorkeeper/gate keeper to High priest. People couldn't go into the court of the high priest, unless she let them through. She "sees" right through Peter.

They may have been called priests or descendants of priests or prophetesses like Anna because of the significance of the mirrors. Some wore a mirror as a necklace between their breasts.

marah –vision, mirror, it's also the name of the place of bitter waters made sweet (water and mirrors reflect)

עֵזֶר ezer – helper is made from the letters for an eye, sword/plough and head. The helper God created for Adam had: **eyes** to see –visionary, prophetic. She waged war with a **sword**, or **ploughed**, cut or pruned preparing the ground for the seed. **Head**: beginning, first, chief, start, shake or rattle, poverty. She was first to see the serpent in the garden of Eden. She was first – at the entrance to the Tabernacle and Holy of Holies - a shaker and rattler with her words, sounding the alarm when she saw the enemy.

ע Eye 
ז Sword 
ר Plough 
ה Head 



<p> טו strong גז circular, border, crown, but not a king's crown ער foe, foreigner </p>	<p> Take away her head and she's still strong Take away her eye and she still surrounds Take away her tools and she's a foe, stranger </p>	<p>Surround, protect: This is why a bride walks around the man 7 times in the traditional Jewish wedding.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">J. K. Phillips christian-artist.com</p>		<p>Military service at the door of the temple?</p>
<p>צבא to go forth, wage war, army, minister, serve. This word is used of the Levite priests and the women doorkeepers. <i>tzvah</i> is used in YHWH Tz'vaot (LORD of Hosts/armies).</p>	<p>"Take a census of the sons/children/descendants of Gershon also, by their fathers' houses, by their families; from thirty years old and upward until fifty years old shalt thou number them; all that enter in to perform the service, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation. This <i>is</i> the service of the families of the Gershonites, to serve/wage war, and for burdens: And they shall bear the curtains of the tabernacle" (Numbers 4:23).</p>	<p>The word often translated as <i>sons of</i> also meant <i>descendent of</i>. Families, not sons or men.</p>
<p>"Go, inquire of the LORD for me and the people and all Judah concerning the words of this book that has been found, for great is the wrath of the LORD that burns against us, because our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us." So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter); and they spoke to her. She said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel ..."</p>	<p>High priest –foreshadow of Jesus being our High priest. The woman Huldah (descendent of Aaron -1 Chronicles:5:39) was the person the high priest, Hilkiah sought out to fulfil the king's command, to inquire of the Lord regarding the book of the law that had been found.</p>	
<p>מראה marah - prophetic vision, auditory and ocular revelation, mirror. A mirror reflects. It enables people to see themselves. The mirrors enabled the priests to see their dirt and their cleanliness.</p>		<p>Translated as vision: "The vision I saw" Ezekiel 43:3</p>
<p>Keeyor – laver. This word means a furnace and also to purify. The priests washed their hands and feet in the water from the laver. The washing was important for physical dirt, but also had spiritual significance. The tabernacle was a shadow of what was to come in Christ. The washing of the water of the Word. The Word of God shows us our sin and washes us clean from it. When Jesus washed the disciple's feet, He was performing a symbolic act – Jesus as the Word of God, said it made them clean all over. He was doing what the water in the laver did for the priests. The word of God makes people clean. "<i>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you</i>" (John 15:3).</p>		<p>The masculine form of a word was used if there was one male in a group, even if there were 1000 women and one man. The laver probably had taps on the side for the water to flow.</p>
<p>Priests were chosen for the tabernacle and temple worship and made intercessions and sacrifices for the whole nation and for those who</p>		

came to the tabernacle. "While they are clothed in the priestly garments, they are clothed in the priesthood; but when they are not wearing the garments, the priesthood is not upon them" (Talmud, BT Zevachim 17:B). The high priest mediated between God and His people and Jesus has now become our high priest. God wanted Israel to be a nation of priests for the rest of the world too. "... you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation," (Exodus 19:6).

"But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11).

"But you [men and women] are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).



Activity: Finish painting the seascapes from lesson eight and begin looking at images of water and mirror reflections.

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