

## **MEN ARE CALLED AS HIGH PRIESTS**

(Alma 9:62-10:31)

### **Alma 9:62-73**

Alma reminds the people that God has ordained priests from the beginning to teach the commandments to the people (v. 62-63). These priests are ordained following the order of the Son of God so the people might know the source of redemption (v. 64).

Alma now pauses for a lengthy parenthesis (v. 65-73) expanding and discussing the subject of v. 64. Verses 62-69 discuss the election of the priests and v. 70-72 the nature of their calling.

Those who were foreordained and who do good works and exercise faith in mortality are ordained to be priests (v. 65-66). Thus have they been called to be priests when others were not eligible for this privilege because they chose to be hardhearted (v. 67), not because they weren't on an equal footing. And, so, this calling to the Priesthood is one that has been established from the beginning for those who would not harden their hearts (v. 68) so they may teach the commandments to those who will harden their hearts, so all may obtain salvation (v. 69).

Alma then emphasizes that the Priesthood is an eternal order of the Son of God (v. 70-71). Those who obtain the Priesthood by this calling and ordinance (v. 72) become high priests to the Son of God and gain eternal life by partaking in His "grace, equity, and truth" (v. 73).

### **Alma 10:1-17**

Alma now exhorts the people to repent so they may obtain eternal life (v. 6). He encourages them to follow the example of Melchizedek and the people of Salem (v. 7), who was that same high priest whom their father Abraham paid tithes to (v. 8). Alma then pauses to insert a parenthesis to point out the paying of tithing, and the other ordinances under the Law of Sacrifice, are all symbols representing the order of the Son of God (v. 9-10).

Alma states that the people at Salem had grown wicked (v. 11), but Melchizedek exercised great faith, became a high priest, and then preached repentance to the people. The people did repent because of his preaching, and thus he did establish peace in the land and became known as the "prince of peace" (v. 12-14). There were many high priests before him and many afterwards, but none greater, so he is held up as the example (v. 15). Alma then encourages the people to read the Scriptures for themselves, and tells them if they distort the Scriptures it will lead to their destruction (v. 16-17).

### **V18-31**

Alma follows up the example of Melchizedek and Salem with his own appeal for the people to repent because the day of salvation is coming soon (v. 18). Angels are preaching the good news of salvation to all of scattered Israel, and that includes the Nephites (v. 19-20). The message is made known to the Nephites in a manner that is easy to understand, so they will not make a mistake because they are cut off from the rest of Israel. Thus, they are very fortunate to have the message declared to them in their own place (v. 21-22) with many angels declaring the message so that all among them will receive Christ's message when he comes (v. 23).

Alma eagerly anticipates the time of Christ's coming, he hopes it will be able to see it, but he doesn't know when it will be (v. 24-25). But, when it does happen, it will be made known to the prophets among them so the predictions made to their fathers will be fulfilled (v. 26).

Alma then pleads with them to repent and cast away their sins (v. 27), and humble themselves before the Lord so they may be filled with love (v. 28) and obtain eternal life (v. 29). He then expresses hope that God will grant them time to repent before He punishes them for their wickedness, because otherwise He will destroy them and cast them into hell (v. 30).