The Levites

A shadow of good things to come

“For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.” (Hebrews 10:1)
2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;”

Levi

- “She conceived again and bore a son and said, "Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore he was named Levi. (Genesis 29:34)
- lavah, "to adhere"
Levi’s future foretold

- “Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, "Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what will befall you in the days to come." (Genesis 49:1)
- “... Their swords are implements of violence. "Let my soul not enter into their council; Let not my glory be united with their assembly; because in their anger they slew men, And in their self-will they lamed oxen.” Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel. I will disperse them in Jacob, And scatter them in Israel. (Genesis 49:5–7)

A Christian’s past

- “...you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world... lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, ...”(Ephesians 2:1–3)
- "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt." (Exodus 32:1–4)
Taking a Stand

- “... ‘Whoever is for the LORD, come to me!’ And all the sons of Levi gathered together to him.” (Exodus 32:26)
- "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.” Mat 10:32–33

The Levites

- “Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Now, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the sons of Israel instead of every firstborn, the first issue of the womb among the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine. "For all the firstborn are Mine; on the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, from man to beast. They shall be Mine; I am the LORD." (Numbers 3:11–13)
The Church

- "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. (John 6:44)
- And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father." (John 6:65)

The Levites

- "For the ransom of the 273 of the firstborn of the sons of Israel who are in excess beyond the Levites, you shall take five shekels apiece, per head; " (Numbers 3:46–47)
- “This was the price set to redeem the first born men that were to be offered to God.” (Num 18:16)
The Church

- “But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming. Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.” (Acts 13:45–46)

The Promise

- 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel." (Exodus 19:3–6)
- "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" (Exodus 19:8)
Our Commitment

• “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. (2 Timothy 4:6–8)

Divisions of the Tribe of Levi

• The High Priest
  “Then he (Moses) poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron’s head and anointed him, to consecrate him.” (Leviticus 8:12)

• The Priesthood
  “He also had Aaron's sons come near; and Moses put some of the blood on the lobe of their right ear, and on the thumb of their right hand and on the big toe of their right foot. Moses then sprinkled the rest of the blood around on the altar. (Leviticus 8:24)
Divisions of the Tribe of Levi

The Sons Kohath

- “Now their duties involved the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, and the utensils of the sanctuary with which they minister, and the screen, and all the service concerning them;” (Numbers 3:31)

The Sons of Gershon

- they shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle and the tent of meeting with its covering and the covering of porpoise skin that is on top of it, and the screen for the doorway of the tent of meeting, and the hangings of the court, and the screen for the doorway of the gate of the court which is around the tabernacle and the altar, and their cords and all the equipment for their service; and all that is to be done, they shall perform. (Numbers 4:25–26)
Divisions of the Tribe of Levi

The Sons of Merari.
"Now this is the duty of their loads, for all their service in the tent of meeting: the boards of the tabernacle and its bars and its pillars and its sockets, and the pillars around the court and their sockets and their pegs and their cords, with all their equipment and with all their service; and you shall assign each man by name the items he is to carry.” (Numbers 4:31–32)

The Duties

- The High Priest
  - To Enter the Most Holy of the Day of Atonement.
  - The Urim and Thummin
  - "You shall put in the breastpiece of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD; and Aaron shall carry the judgment of the sons of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually. (Exodus 28:30)
The Duties

The Priests

- To watch over the fire on the Altar of Burnt Offering, and to keep it burning (Lev 6:12–13)
- To feed the golden lamp outside the veil with oil. (Exodus 27:20–21)
- To offer the morning and evening sacrifices. (Exodus 29:38–42)
- They were also to teach, the children of Israel, the statutes of the Lord. (Lev 10:8–11)
- Preparing the Ark and the vessels of the Sanctuary by covering them with a purple of scarlet cloth. (Numbers 4:15)

The Levites

- "When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy objects and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is to set out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them, so that they will not touch the holy objects and die. These are the things in the tent of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry." (Numbers 4:15)
- “But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there will be no wrath on the congregation of the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the testimony." (Numbers 1:53)
Age Requirements

- "This is what applies to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall enter to perform service in the work of the tent of meeting." (Numbers 8:24)
- “from thirty years and upward, even to fifty years old, all who enter the service to do the work in the tent of meeting.” (Numbers 4:3, 23, 35 & 47)

They entered on their work in their twenty-fifth year, as pupils and probationers, under the superintendence and direction of their senior brethren; and at thirty they were admitted to the full discharge of their official functions. 

*Jamieson, Fausset & Brown*

“ Their work needed matured strength; so their service began not until 30 years old (with a previous probationary period of five years: Num_8:24), whereas military service began at 20. At 50 their service ceased (Num_8:25–26). 

*Smith’s Bible Dictionary*
Age Requirements

- "These were the sons of Levi ... doing the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from twenty years old and upward. For David said, "The LORD God of Israel has given rest to His people, and He dwells in Jerusalem forever. "Also, the Levites will no longer need to carry the tabernacle and all its utensils for its service" (1 Chronicles 23:24–27)

Their Inheritance

- "Then the LORD said to Aaron, "You shall have no inheritance in their land nor own any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the sons of Israel.” (Numbers 18:20)
- "For the tithe of the sons of Israel, which they offer as an offering to the LORD, I have given to the Levites for an inheritance; therefore I have said concerning them, 'They shall have no inheritance among the sons of Israel.'" (Numbers 18:24)
Types and Anti-types

**The High Priest:** Aaron Christ

- For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, ... And no one takes the honor to himself, but receives it when he is called by God, even as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"; (Hebrews 5:1–5)

**The High Priest:** Aaron Christ

- “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)
- “But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;” (Hebrews 9:11)
Types and Anti-types

The Priests: Aaron sons  The Bride

- “you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5)
- Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:6)

The Question

- Who do the Levites represent in the Millennium?
  1. The Levites were all set aside by God
  2. no inheritance in the land
  3. they had access to the tabernacle
  4. They played the instruments and sang in the tabernacle
The Great Multitude

“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;... And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. (Revelation 7:9,13–17)
The Great Multitude

- “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” (Colossians 3:1)
- “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ;” (Philippians 3:20)

The Great Multitude

- “the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.” (Mark 4:19)
- “…they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." (Mark 4:20)
Conclusion

The High Priest was chosen by God
The Priests and the Levites were chosen by God.
Their positions and duties were set out by God.
Our High Priest was chosen by God
The Bride and the Great Multitude are chosen by God.
Their positions and duties were set out by God.

May God Add His Blessing