

LE GRAND-PRETRE, FIGURE CENTRALE DU JUDAÏSME PENDANT LA PERIODE DU SECOND TEMPLE

Prof. PhD Ștefan MUNTEANU
Institut de Théologie Orthodoxe Saint-Serge, Paris

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Abstract

The word ἀρχιερεύς is used 122 times in the NT in both singular and plural forms. In the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, the word usually refers to the “High Priest” as the religious and civil leader of the Jewish nation. In the Epistle to the Hebrews, of its 17 occurrences, ἀρχιερεύς is 10 times explicitly or implicitly identified to Jesus Christ, as “High Priest”. Obviously, this identification raises questions about the role and functions of the “High Priest” in the OT. In the MT, the title hakkōhén haggādōl (לִיָּדָבָר יְהוֹדָבָר) is used only 20 times to designate the Aaronic “High Priest”. The translators of the LXX have rendered it in Greek each time word for word: ὁ ἱερεὺς ὁ μέγας. In the books of the Maccabees, written during the two centuries before Jesus, ἀρχιερεύς is used to describe someone who were cumulating the functions of “High Priest”, military leader and ethmarch of the Jewish nation. In order to better understand the meaning of the word ἀρχιερεύς, the article addresses the following three points: 1) the vocabulary of the “High Priest” in the OT; 2) the role of the “High Priest” during the Second Temple period (516 BCE-70 CE); 3) the expectation of a “High Priest” of the messianic times.

Keywords: High Priest, hakkōhén haggādōl (לִיָּדָבָר יְהוֹדָבָר), ἀρχιερεὺς, Second Temple period

1. Jésus Christ, *Grand-prêtre* de l’Ancienne et de la *Nouvelle Alliance*

Dans la parabole du Bon samaritain – une des paraboles propres à l’Évangile selon Luc –, nous sommes confrontés au comportement honteux des deux représentants de la religion juive. Après que l’homme qui descendait de Jérusalem vers Jéricho soit tombé entre les mains des voleurs qui le laissèrent à moitié mort, Jésus nous dit que: