

Etymological investigation of :

1)priest 2) hierarchy 3)minister

1)priest (OEnglish) preost, OHGerm. prest OFris. prestere from L. presbyter- from Grk πρεσβύτερος - elder presbyter. Origin of OE obscure

signification

Etymologically priest represents Grk πρεσβύτερος Latin -presbyter, elder

By 375 AD or even perhaps earlier, thus long before this word was taken into English , the Latin word *sacerdos*, closer to the Greek ἱερεὺς applied to the sacrificing priests of the heathen deities, as well as the translation of the scriptures referring to the Jewish priests, and then applied to Christian ministers in time becoming a synonym of presbyter. In Old English, Latin *presbyter* was represented *preost* and the L *sacerdos*. At the close of the OE period *sacerdos* fell into disuse and preost, prest, and Old French prestre became the current word, pretre - priest.

For the benefit of this study, included is the etymological background for '*sacerdos*'

Sacerdos- from the L. sacerdotalis, pertaining to a priest, from sacerdos(genitive sacerdotis) 'priest' literally offerer of sacrifices from sacer- sacred, holy + stem of 'dare' to give Relative to this is the word *sacred*, from an obsolete word *Sacren* , to make holy. Latin sacrare, to make sacred, dedicated , holy from a Proto Indo European (PIE) root sak- to sanctify.

Minister c.1300 from the O.French *menistre* defined as "servant, valet, member of a household staff, administrator, musician, minstrel- from the Latin *ministri* "inferior, servant,priest's assistant, from *minus,minor* less hence subordinate. It is from this reference we see the

word 'priest' is attested to in the English by the 14th century.

Finally the 'hieratic', pertaining to sacred things- Latin *Hieraticus*, from the Greek *hieratikos* -pertaining to a priest or his office, from Grk *hierus*, priest from *hieros*- Sacred, holy or hallowed.

The Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Grecian and Roman Empires, which the Jewish high priests had seen overshadowing the world, had each, except the last one, withered away. The last successor of Aton was stripped of his sacerdotal robes, and the temple which he served - level with the ground. But the True High Priest, King and minister of the sanctuary and true tabernacle which the Lord pitched, and not man, offered his one sacrifice, once and for all, taking his place at the right hand of the Majesty, a continuing Priest forever - In the sanctuary which shall never fall or be taken down.

Study of Hebrews 4:14 and related word study within Hebrews

1- 'high priest' (ἀρχιερεύς, arkhierūs) - 749 → from Strong's

In the NT - Matthew 25 times
 Mark 22 times
 Luke 16 times
 John 21 times
 Acts 22 times
 Hebrews 17 times

746 "archē"
 and
 2409
 "iepeus"
 a priest
 from
 2413

Hebrews 2:17, 3:1, 4:14,15, 5:1,5,10, 6:20, 7:26,27,28, 8:1,3
 9:7,11,25, 13:11

2- 'priest' (ἱερεύς, hierūs) - 2409 → from Strong's

In the NT - Matthew 3 times
 Mark 2 times
 Luke 5 times
 John 1 time
 Acts 4 times
 Hebrews 13 times
 Rev 3 times

2413
 'iepos'
 sacred, holy

Hebrews 5:6, 7:1,3,11,15,17,20*,21*,23 8:4,9:6,10:11,21 - 2420

3- 'priesthood' (ἱερωσύνη, hierōsunē) - 2413

from
 Strong's
 2413

In the NT - Hebrews (ONLY) 4 times

Hebrews 7:11,12,14,24

4- ἱερατεία, hieratēia → One office of the priesthood

In the NT Luke 1 time
 Hebrews 1 time

Hebrews 7:5