

Dear Jeff,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You wanted to know how the prophecy about the Levites in Jeremiah 33:17-18 will or would be fulfilled.

“For this is what the LORD says: ‘David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, nor will the priests, who are Levites, ever fail to have a man to stand before me continually to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to present sacrifices.’” (Jeremiah 33:17-18)

This passage is challenging in that we believe it has two fulfillments. The first fulfillment took place when the Jews returned to Jerusalem after having been held captive in Babylon. When they returned they rebuilt the temple and continued to offer sacrifices until Jesus appeared at his first advent. We gather that meaning from verse 15, which says, “In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land.” The righteous Branch is Jesus. It was not long after Jesus’ death and resurrection that the temple was once again destroyed and the typical sacrificing ceased, even to this day.

The second, or antitypical, fulfillment begins during this present age of the Gospel and leads to the time when Jesus and his Church will reign during the Millennium. During this Gospel age, verse 17 (“David will never fail to have a man sit on the throne”) refers to Jesus as the everlasting king. In verse 18 the priests, who are Levites, represent true Christians, who sacrifice their wills as well as bring others to God by preaching the Gospel. 1 Peter 2:9 calls these Christians a royal priesthood. “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” During the Millennium, this royal priesthood (Revelation 20:6) will be Christ’s glorified Church and will be involved in accepting offerings by the world of prayers and thankfulness intended for God. Therefore, we believe that Jeremiah 33:17-18 has two applications within the second fulfillment; the first for the Christian in the Gospel age, who is offering his will to God and the second for the world in the Millennial age, as each person offers a thankful prayer to God as an acknowledgment of His mercy, wisdom and love.

We hope we have shed some light on your question. Please write us again.

Sincerely,
Christian Questions Radio