

The limitations on the Levitical lesser ministers and their duties that separated them from their brothers in the tribe of Levi who were chief priests descended from Aaron:

1. They were not anointed or ordained; therefore, they did not wear the priestly garments.
2. They could not serve at the altar or offer the sacrifices.
3. They could not touch the sacred vessels.
4. They could not forgive sins.
5. They could not eat the sacred meal of the sin sacrifices.
6. They were not eligible to receive the priestly portions of sacrifices.
7. Their term of service was limited to age 50.
8. They could not enter the Tabernacle.
9. They served the chief priests as “dedicated” men.
10. They guarded and transported the Sanctuary.

Prerogatives of the chief priests:

1. It was the duty of the priesthood of Aaron to proclaim the Law.
2. The priests were anointed and ordained to serve at the altar, offering the communal and individual sacrifices of the people.
3. They wore liturgical vestments when ministering in the Sanctuary.
4. The priests served in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle.
5. The High Priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year on the Feast of Atonement.
6. They had the authority to forgive the sins of the people and to eat the sin sacrifices in a sacred meal.
7. The priests restored communion with God by sacrifice and prayer