



And I saw another angel fly
every nation, and kindred, a

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Chrysostom wrote in his work entitled *On The Priesthood*, "Put when one is required to preside over the Church, and to be entrusted with the care of so many that 'women may not go to the altar."¹²⁵

Consistently throughout the early church, priesthood function was denied women. The reason the church had to repeatedly address this issue was because of constant oversight of the church some women were deceived. False teachings suggesting some women in ancient Israel had held priesthood were even cited in the Council of Nîmes in 394 ruled,

"It has been reported by certain ones that, contrary to apostolic discipline and unknown until today, women seem to have been, one knows not whether to permit this-innovation. Made contrary to reason, an ordination of this type must be annulled and care must be taken that no one in the future shows

Conclusion

In time the issue of women serving in priesthood duties abated until it was no longer heard in the church. We have already seen that it stopped about the same time as Montanism fueled the debate among the saints. While it has been shown that until this time women served the church in significant ways, it has also been shown that women were not to hold the sacerdotal office.

Ancient texts show that from the time of Christ the church resisted the pagan notion that women serve in the priesthood. Unfortunately, the practice drew many people to the church in order to attract a following. The church may have responded by focusing attention on ministries already open to women. In fact, the eventual position of women in response to Montanism, so that faithful women might feel fulfilled within the church and not be enticed into joining a heresy in order to hold both office and ordination, never presided or administered in the sacraments or ordinances of the church. It was forbidden in each generation, and flourishish scholars conclude, "The priesthood was not conferred upon women. The absence and the negation of the priesthood of women is supported so uniformly

While women were not ordained in the early church, let us not lose sight of the fact that they provided valuable service. Their willingness to bear their testifies to Priesthood responsibility is not the goal of devoted Christians. Celestial glory is. Those who achieve it must, like their Master, Jesus, become a submissive in fact, every person can, through obedience to Christ, become his follow servant. For this reason, priesthood office is not a requirement for salvation. Jesus himself on their success in bearing priestly authority. He said, "Rejoice not, that the spirits are subject to you; but rather rejoice because your names are written in the book of life. Here is the miracle of Christianity; that anyone can, through obedience to Christ, become his follow servant. Here is the miracle of Christianity; that anyone God, enabled to dwell forever in His presence.

Footnotes

¹ Hermes Trismegistus; *Asclepius*, 37, as quoted in Augustine; *City of God*, Bk 8, Ch 24; Penguin Books; NY, NY; 1981; p 334

² Apuleius as quoted in Colonel J. Garnier; *The Worship of The Dead Or The Origin And Nature Of Pagan Idolatry*; Chapman & Hall; London; 1904; p 25

³ A. Maude Royden; *The Church And Women*; George M. Doran Company; 1924; p 25

⁴ Ibid

⁵ *Apostolic Constitution*; Bk 2, Sec 7, Ch 57, as quoted in *Ante-Nicean Fathers*; Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; Grand Rapids, Michigan; 1986

⁶ Will Durant; *Story of Civilization, Vol 2, Caesar And Christ*; Shuster and Shuster; NY, NY; 1944; p 370-371

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Roger Gryson; *The Ministry Of Women In The Early Church*; Translated by Jean LaPorte and Mary Louise Hall; The Liturgical Press; Collegeville, Minn; 1977; p 577

⁹ Durant; p 577

¹⁰ Alexander Hislop; *The Two Babylons*; Loizeaux Brothers; Neptune, N.J.; 1959; p 228

¹¹ Clement of Alexandria; *Stromata* 9;6, as quoted in Gryson; p 30

¹² John Chrysostom, *Homily on Romans*, 20, as quoted in *Nicean And Post-Nicean Fathers*; Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; Grand Rapids, Mich; 1958; p 7

¹³ Jean Morris; *Against Nature And God: The History of Women With Clergical Ordination and The Order Of Bishops*; Mowbrays; 1978; p 7

¹⁴ Justin, *First Apology*, Ch 67, as quoted in *AF*, Vol 1, p 186

[NOTE: This article was scanned in from an old typewritten copy. (A few typos may still exist from the scanning process that are not found in the original.)
Editor]