



# The Kentucky Keystone



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*ME Companion Stewart F. Strickland  
Grand High Priest Message*

Greetings fellow Companions.

By now all of the Inspections are finished and should be submitted to Companion George Brooks. If you are a Deputy Grand High Priest and have not completed this task, then you are derelict in your duties and will receive a call from us.

Plans have been made and finalized for the Grand Sessions and it is not too early to make sure that September 18-21 is firmly marked and cleared on your calendars for the Grand York Rite Sessions. Once again they will be held in Lexington at the Embassy Suites. Detailed information, reservation information and meal ticket forms will be forthcoming in the next couple months.

The summer also seems to knock our attendance at our meetings. Let me encourage you to make a special effort to make the Chapter meetings a priority of your monthly schedule. By priority, I mean that, except for providential hindrances of the most severe nature, you are always at your Chapter meeting. Only when masonry has this priority in our lives will it once again flourish in our lives.

Fraternally,

*Stewart F. Strickland*

Grand High Priest, 2015-2016

## *June Education Talk*

The Twelve Tribes of Israel, Part 3: The Tribe of Levi

The Tribe of Levi was given a special place with special privileges and duties among the Tribes of Israel. Although there are the twelve tribes of Israel, we notice that the tribe of Levi, often mentioned, gives an additional one, and worthy of mention. That is because of the special privilege given to the tribe of Levi when the Levites supported Moses' and joined his side and "on the Lord's side", at the time of Israel's rebellion. From that moment on they were ordained for the service of God and set apart as the priestly tribe.

This would have left only eleven tribes but the large tribe of Joseph was divided into two, consisting of the descendants of his sons Ephraim and Manasseh. Each was regarded as an individual tribe. Not only was the loyal tribe of Levi involved in an act of dedication but also in one of substitution. On that night of terror in Egypt when the firstborn of every Egyptian family had been



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slain, the Israelite firstborn son lived because a lamb ad died in substitution for him. As soon as this happened God called on Moses to consecrate all those firstborn sons, and those who would be born in the future, to his service. They had been saved from death while those around them had died. From then on, they were to be set apart for the service of God.

When the Levites were chosen as the consecrated tribe, in an act of substitution, they took the place previously required of the firstborn son in each family.

Moses and his brother Aaron belonged to the tribe of Levi, the third son of Jacob. Levi had three sons; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. Moses and his brother sprang from the family of Kohath. Having chosen Moses to be leader of his people, God gave further honor to the family of Kohath by selecting Aaron to be the first of his priests, and commanding that only the descendants of Aaron should serve as priests and represent the people to God.

The rest of the men of Levi, known as Levites, were charged with the care of the sanctuary. This was a holy commission which no other group of people in Israel were permitted to participate in. Only the Levites could handle the tabernacle and its furnishings when the camp was on the move. When it came to rest they were the ones to erect it, care for it, and assist [the priests](#) (the sons of Aaron) in their work.

The Levites were camped just outside the tabernacle. The Levites performed the priestly duties and therefore were mediators between God and the people. The tribe of Levi was divided into four families. Their tents were pitched between the tabernacle and the people, one family on each side.

The [Kohathites](#) on the south, the [Gershonites](#) on the west, the [Merarites](#) on the north, and on the eastern side were the tents of Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's sons.

*Reading and discussing this in open Chapter counts as an educational meeting on your annual inspection. Please record such in your minutes.)*

## **Grand High Priest Itinerary June 2016**

Upcoming Itinerary (Tentative and Subject to Change)

## *No Itinerary for June 2016*



## **Chapter Bylaws Change**

*Somerset Chapter # 25 will be having a vote on the changing of current bylaws to include changing of meeting date, to be held on June 10, 2016 at 7 pm EST at 105 Masonic Hall, Somerset, Kentucky*