The Office of the High Priest
What is a Priest?

A priest is one who is authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion especially as a mediatory agent between humans and God.

To Mediate means:

1 occupying a middle position
2 a : acting through an intervening agency
   b : exhibiting indirect causation, connection, or relation
The High Priest makes atonement for the people...

Leviticus 16:
15 Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat.
16 So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.
The High Priest is the one authorized to atone for our sins through the blood of the goat as the offering for the sins of the people.

But to fully understand the change in the office of the High Priest from the Old to New Covenant there are controversies in scripture that are important for us to research.

Israel has been returned to the land but there is still no Temple or High Priest in Jerusalem for the sacrifices of Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) to be made.
What is the office of the High Priest?

Isaiah 52:
1  Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the unclean shall no longer come to you.
2  Shake yourself from the dust, arise; sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion!

Jerusalem will one day be cleansed but In Isaiah 52:15 there is a controversy as to the meaning of the word nazah which appears as sprinkle, startle or wonder concerning the servant of the Lord.
The Hebrew word nazah can mean either:

1) to spurt, spatter, **sprinkle**
   a) (Qal) to spurt, spatter
   b) (Hiphil) to cause to spurt, sprinkle upon

or:

2) to spring, leap
   a) (Hiphil) to cause to leap, **startle**

(05137 Strongs Concordance)
It is important to understand because Isaiah 52 speaks about the servant of God as the source of anointing for the nations...

Isaiah 52: 13 Behold, My servant shall deal prudently; he shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. 14 Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; 15 So shall He sprinkle (yazeh) many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; for what had not been told them they shall see, and what they had not heard they shall consider.

New King James
This is the same verse in the Greek Septuagint…

13 Behold, my servant shall understand, and be exalted, and glorified exceedingly.

14 As many shall be amazed at thee, so shall thy face be without glory from men, and thy glory shall not be honoured by the sons of men.

15 Thus shall many nations wonder at him; and kings shall keep their mouths shut: for they to whom no report was brought concerning him, shall see; and they who have not heard, shall consider.
13 Behold, My servant shall prosper, he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.
14 According as many were appalled at thee—so marred was his visage unlike that of a man, and his form unlike that of the sons of men—
15 So shall he startle many nations, kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them shall they see, and that which they had not heard shall they perceive.

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There are only two other times nazah in this form yazeh (he shall sprinkle) is used in the Old Testament other than Isaiah 52...

Leviticus 6:
27 whatsoever shall touch the flesh thereof shall be holy: and when there is sprinkled (yazeh) of the blood thereof upon any garment, thou shalt wash that whereon it was sprinkled in the holy place.

16:14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle (yazeh) of the blood with his finger seven times.

King James Version
The Jewish translators agree with the use of the verb. It can not mean startle in these verses concerning sacrifice.

Le 6:27  (6-20) Whatsoever shall touch the flesh thereof shall be holy; and when there is *sprinkled* of the blood thereof upon any garment, thou shalt wash that whereon it was sprinkled in a holy place.

Le 16:14  And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the ark-cover on the east; and before the ark-cover shall he *sprinkle* of the blood with his finger seven times.
The English translations agree…

Leviticus 16:
14 And he shall take of the blood of the calf, and sprinkle with his finger on the mercy-seat eastward: before the mercy-seat shall he <em>sprinkle seven times</em> of the blood with his finger.

15 and he shall kill the goat for the sin-offering that is for the people, before the Lord; and he shall bring in of its blood within the veil, and shall do with its blood as he did with the blood of the calf, and shall <em>sprinkle</em> its blood on the mercy-seat, in front of the mercy-seat.

New King James
The High Priest dipping his finger seven times in the blood indicates completion…

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

John 19:30

This can only be accomplished by the High Priest…a few years later the Temple was destroyed, Yom Kippur sacrifices ceased, and the office of the High Priest cancelled for disobedience. (Deuteronomy 4:24-30)
The writer of Hebrews talks about the importance of sprinkling concerning the Covenant...

Hebrews 9:
19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and *sprinkled* (Greek *rhantizo* sprinkle) both the book itself and all the people,
20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."
21 Then likewise he *sprinkled* with blood both the tabernacle and all the *vessels* of the ministry.

The writers of the Septuagint use *thaumazo* in Isaiah 52:15 which means to marvel, wonder or admire.
He goes on to say that the blood of the High Priest must be received/sprinkled in our hearts…

Hebrews 10:
19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,
20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,
21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

New King James
Paul states that the atonement and sacrifice is achieved by God alone...

Romans 3:19-31
23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
25 whom God set forth as a propitiation (hilasterion) by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

Propitiation hilasterion is used by the writers of the Septuagint in Leviticus 16:14 for both sprinkle and mercy seat.
Paul uses the verse in Romans as an opening statement of salvation and in closing to explain the place of Israel and the nations unifying them in God’s plan of salvation (sprinkling) but with the foreknowledge of God…

Romans 15:
10 And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!"
11 And again: "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!"

Romans 3:
25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,
The unification of these two scriptures shows the place of Israel and the messiah in God’s plan as His servant(s) for the reconciliation of mankind from the foundation of the nation.

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; for He will avenge the blood of His servants, and render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for (or He will purge) His land and His people.” Deuteronomy 32:43

“For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?”

“Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.” Romans 11: 15, 28
Septuagint

Deuteronomy 32:
43  Rejoice, ye heavens, with him, and let all the angels of God worship him; rejoice ye Gentiles, with his people, and let all the sons of God strengthen themselves in him; for he will avenge the blood of his sons, and he will render vengeance, and recompense justice to his enemies, and will reward them that hate him; and the Lord shall purge the land of his people. (cleanse, remove)

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43  Sing aloud, O ye nations, of His people; for He doth avenge the blood of His servants, and doth render vengeance to His adversaries, and doth make expiation for the land of His people. (expiation = compensation)
The writer of Hebrews points to this scripture too, and begins his doctrinal statement with it…

Hebrews 1:
1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

The Greek word for purged here is not the same word used in the Septuagint but has the same meaning…
In Paul’s summation in Romans he uses Isaiah 52 to connect and clarify the ministry of messiah and his part as a New Covenant priest sprinkling the nations.

Romans 15:
20 And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man’s foundation,
21 but as it is written: “To whom He was not announced, they shall see; and those who have not heard shall understand.”

Isaiah 52:
15...for they to whom no report was brought concerning him, shall see; and they who have not heard, shall consider.
Septuagint
This is the inauguration of God’s Covenant with Israel through Moses ministry...

Hebrews 9:
19  For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,
20  saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."
21  Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. (Exodus 24:6-8)
And it is the same for the ministry of Yeshua, the High Priest of the New Covenant…

Hebrews 10:
19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,
20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,
21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,
22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
That all nations will come to Jerusalem, to the High Priest and mediator of our freedom from Adam’s sin…

But you have come…to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. Hebrews 12:22, 24

You might be startled (nazah) by Him but you must be sprinkled (nazah) by Him…and you must know Him for He is our only High Priest and sacrifice for sin.
We are called to be priests of the New Covenant and obedient to the word of God…

1 Peter 2:
7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,"
8 and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.
9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.
The nations are affected through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit we receive as priests of the New Covenant. They are sprinkled by the ministry of the High Priest through His anointed vessels...

Mark 16:
15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

Matthew 28:
18 And Yeshua came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.
The Covenant has not changed in that the High Priest is still interceding for us continually “because of their (our) transgressions” and “in the midst of their (our) uncleanness.” Leviticus 16:16

*We need to be sprinkled by His blood…*

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Colossians 1:13-14