

## ROYAL ARCH MASONRY

The Royal Arch Degree is the most symbolic degree in Masonry. The symbolism begins with the officers. Each major officer of the Royal Arch Chapter has a symbolic background.

The **High Priest** represents Joshua in some jurisdiction, Jeshua in others, the first High Priest of the Jews after their return from Babylonian captivity. The **King** represents Zerubbabel, a prince of Judah and rightful King, but because Judah was a tributary Province, he was called Governor. The **Scribe** represents Haggai, the prophet. The **Captain of the Hosts** represents the General of the troops who returned from Babylon. The **Principal Sojourner** represents the leader of a small party of Jews, who came up from Babylonian captivity to assist in rebuilding the Temple. The **Royal Arch Captain** represents the Captain of the King's Guards. The **Masters of the Veils** represent the guards of the Tabernacle. Thus, all of the officers symbolically represent those who were the most instrumental in the rebuilding the Temple.

Excerpt taken from THE HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM OF ROYAL ARCH MASONRY, BY EDWARD R. GRAHAM.