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### “Kingdom of Israel’s Hierarchy Structure”

Ancient Israel was not just a typical politically motivated but also a religiously motivated nation. Religion was ingrained in the monarchy, the rule of one sovereign king or queen, so the king was supposed to rule in a certain way to uphold specific religious ideals.

There was a social class for priests, while the rest of the civilization was essentially divided between rulers, those in the military or royal court, and working-class people, such as farmers and artisans. To make it easier to understand, I will separate them into five groups; Pharaoh, which is the king of the kingdom, the upper class, the middle class, the lower class, and the slaves and servants.

The highest rank in the ancient Israel hierarchy was the king of the kingdom called Pharaoh. The king was responsible for interacting with other nations and ruling on behalf of the Israelite god, Yahweh. The upper class was the people who owned land in Israel, the army officials, and the government officials. The middle class was a group of people, including merchants and artisans. The lower class was the workers, such as the farmers. Lastly, the slaves and servants. They had few rights, which had almost no value. The only thing they did was serve their owner.

From the textbook, we are able to see that the hierarchy structure of Shang China is very similar to ancient Israel’s, with the king on the top, then the priests and warriors, the scribes, and

the peasants. The king in Shang China was known as the divine kingship, and the king also had a warrior honor.

One thing that makes ancient Israel's hierarchy resemble Shang China's structure is that both kings are warriors, and religion is involved in a way. However, while Shang China's king was a divine person, Israel's king acted on behalf of the divine god. Besides that, the overall of both ancient Israel's hierarchy structure and Shang China's hierarchy structure is very similar. One big difference between these hierarchies is that Israel's god was Yahweh, and Shang China worshiped their ancestor, used magic, and had local spirits.

As we can see, even with similarities in their hierarchies' structure, there are many cultural, political, and religious differences between ancient Israel's and Shang China's hierarchies.

## **Work Cited**

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