

Leviticus 8 - Thursday, October 1st, 2009

- We now round a corner as we get into chapter eight because in the first seven chapters, we complete a study of the five offerings.

8:1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:2 "Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, the anointing oil, a bull as the sin offering, two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread;3 and gather all the congregation together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting."

- The Lord tells Moses to take Aaron and his sons as priests and prepare them for their service to the Lord in the newly built Tabernacle.
- We may be quick to think that passages like this don't really have any application to our lives because it was for the priests back then.
- While that is true, it is important to understand that, as believers, we are all priests and make up what is called a Holy Priesthood.

1 Peter 2:4-5 4 As you come to him, the living Stone-rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him- 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. NIV

4 So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. And the congregation was gathered together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.5 And Moses said to the congregation, "This is what the LORD commanded to be done."

- It's important to understand what is going on here; there is a preparation process that is part and parcel to the sanctification process.
- Moses will now do "as the Lord commanded him" to do, and have the congregation assemble together at the door of the tabernacle.
- Also, notice the obedience on the part of Moses to do all that he was commanded to do. Obedience is a requirement for consecration.

6 Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water.7 And he put the tunic on him, girded him with the sash, clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod on him; and he girded him with the intricately woven band of the ephod, and with it tied the ephod on him.8 Then he put the breastplate on him, and he put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastplate.9 And he put the turban on his head. Also on the turban, on its front, he put the golden plate, the holy crown, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- Notice that this cleansing of Aaron and his sons was done publically in front of the entire assembly, which would have required humility.
- There's an order to this process of sanctification. We are cleansed before we are clothed. You don't put clean clothes on if you're dirty.
- As a Holy Priesthood of believers, this speaks to our cleansing with the water of the Word, and then our clothing in His righteousness.

John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. NIV

Ephesians 5:25-26 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, NIV

Galatians 3:26-27 26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. NIV

10 Also Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them.11 He sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times, anointed the altar and all its utensils, and the laver and its base, to consecrate them.12 And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him, to consecrate him.

- Here Moses takes the anointing oil, which in the Bible is symbolic of the Holy Spirit, and anoints the Tabernacle and all that was in it.
- He also sprinkles it seven times, the number of completion, on the altar and all its utensils, and the laver along with its base.
- In addition to anointing the Tabernacle and articles with oil he also anoints Aaron's head for the purpose of consecrating him for service.

13 Then Moses brought Aaron's sons and put tunics on them, girded them with sashes, and put hats on them, as the LORD had commanded Moses. 14 And he brought the bull for the sin offering. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull for the sin offering,15 and Moses killed it. Then he took the blood, and put some on the horns of the altar all around with his finger, and purified the altar. And he poured the blood at the base of the altar, and consecrated it, to make atonement for it.16 Then he took all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, and the two kidneys with their fat, and Moses burned them on the altar.17 But the bull, its hide, its flesh, and its offal, he burned with fire outside the camp, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- Even Aaron and his sons had to lay hands on the head of the bull identifying it as the one being offered as a sacrifice for their sin.
- In other words, everyone has to identify with Jesus Christ as the one being offered as a sacrifice for their sin, or they aren't justified.
- Again, there is an order to this consecration, in that anyone serving the Lord were washed, sanctified, and then they were justified.

1 Corinthians 6:11b ... you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. NIV

18 Then he brought the ram as the burnt offering. And Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram,19 and Moses killed it. Then he sprinkled the blood all around on the altar.20 And he cut the ram into pieces; and Moses burned the head, the pieces, and the fat.21 Then he washed the entrails and the legs in water. And Moses burned the whole ram on the altar. It was a burnt sacrifice for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.22 And he brought the second ram, the ram of consecration. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram,23 and Moses killed it. Also he took some of its blood and put it on the tip of Aaron's right ear, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.24 Then he brought Aaron's sons. And Moses put some of the blood on the tips of their right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses sprinkled the blood all around on the altar.

- Moses takes some of the blood of the second ram of consecration that was sacrificed and puts it on their right ear, thumb and big toe.
- As one commentator put it, "To be set apart for God's service is to have His blood on you." There is power in the blood of Christ.

- The question may be asked, "why was the blood placed on the right ear, the thumb on the right hand, and the big toe on the right foot?"
- The right ear speaks to the consecration of what we hear, the thumb to the things that we do, and the big toe speaks to where we go.

25 Then he took the fat and the fat tail, all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, the two kidneys and their fat, and the right thigh;26 and from the basket of unleavened bread that was before the LORD he took one unleavened cake, a cake of bread anointed with oil, and one wafer, and put them on the fat and on the right thigh;

- The giving of the fat to the Lord spoke to the giving of our best part to the Lord, and it also meant that He took all the diseases from us.

27 and he put all these in Aaron's hands and in his sons' hands, and waved them as a wave offering before the LORD.28 Then Moses took them from their hands and burned them on the altar, on the burnt offering. They were consecration offerings for a sweet aroma. That was an offering made by fire to the LORD.29 And Moses took the breast and waved it as a wave offering before the LORD. It was Moses' part of the ram of consecration, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- Here we have the wave offering, which was in the shape of a cross, and as we'll see shortly; it would be used in the fellowship meal.

30 Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar, and sprinkled it on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him; and he consecrated Aaron, his garments, his sons, and the garments of his sons with him.31 And Moses said to Aaron and his sons, "Boil the flesh at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and eat it there with the bread that is in the basket of consecration offerings, as I commanded, saying, 'Aaron and his sons shall eat it.'32 What remains of the flesh and of the bread you shall burn with fire.33 And you shall not go outside the door of the tabernacle of meeting for seven days, until the days of your consecration are ended. For seven days he shall consecrate you.34 As he has done this day, so the LORD has commanded to do, to make atonement for you.35 Therefore you shall stay at the door of the tabernacle of meeting day and night for seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, so that you may not die; for so I have been commanded."36 So Aaron and his sons did all the things that the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses.

- Notice that they were not to leave the door of the Tabernacle for seven days until the days of their consecration had come to an end.

For seven days Aaron and his sons, newly consecrated by the blood and oil, waited together in the Holy Place. They were prohibited from going beyond the door, but fed on the consecrated food till the eighth day summoned them to begin their priestly duties. Similarly we are shut in with our Great Aaron, the High Priest of our profession. We are in Christ in the purposes of God, for we were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world. We are in Him, as Noah was in the ark, and as the child is in the home; as the member is in the body, and the branch in the vine; as the sponge in the ocean, or the jewel in the sunbeam. We are in Him as a strong enclosure, through which the malice and strength of our foes cannot break — a fortress, a strong tower, a castle keep. We are in Him, as a banqueting-hall, a Tabernacle with its spew-bread, an upper room with its descending fire. It is highly necessary that we should maintain our walk and experience on this blessed elevation. The great enemy of our souls is perpetually tempting us to leave our abiding-place, and to try issues with him in the plains beneath. What is temptation but his subtle solicitation to come out from the secret place of the Most High. Beware! the bait may be very attractive, but the end is death. Keep the charge of the Lord, and abide day and night in the company of the Great High Priest. "He shall dwell among them." On what viands do such happy souls feast with Christ! A table is provided before them by the Lord Himself, and they feast on all that pertains to Him in blessed partnership. "Son, thou art ever with Me, and all that I have is thine." F.B. Meyer Devotionals on Leviticus (http://preceptaustin.org/leviticus_sermon_illustrations_2.htm)

- If you were to list the ingredients in this recipe of consecration for service it would include the following prerequisites and characteristics.

1. Preparation by the Lord
2. Obedience to the Lord
3. Humility before the Lord
4. Cleansing by the Word through the Lord
5. Righteousness clothed from the Lord

6. The Holy Spirit's anointing of the Lord
7. Sacrifice in the Lord
8. Fellowship with the Lord
9. Devotion for the Lord