



LEVITICUS

Sermon Points & Notes

Week 3 - 10.22.23 | Terrell Spears

Title: His Kingdom of Priests

Scripture: Leviticus 8-10

Main Point:

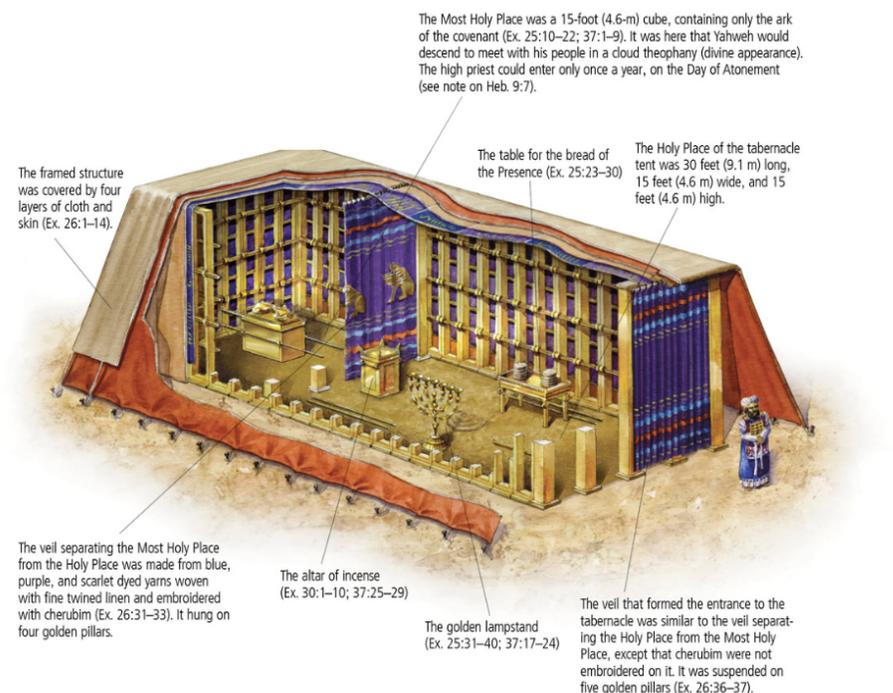
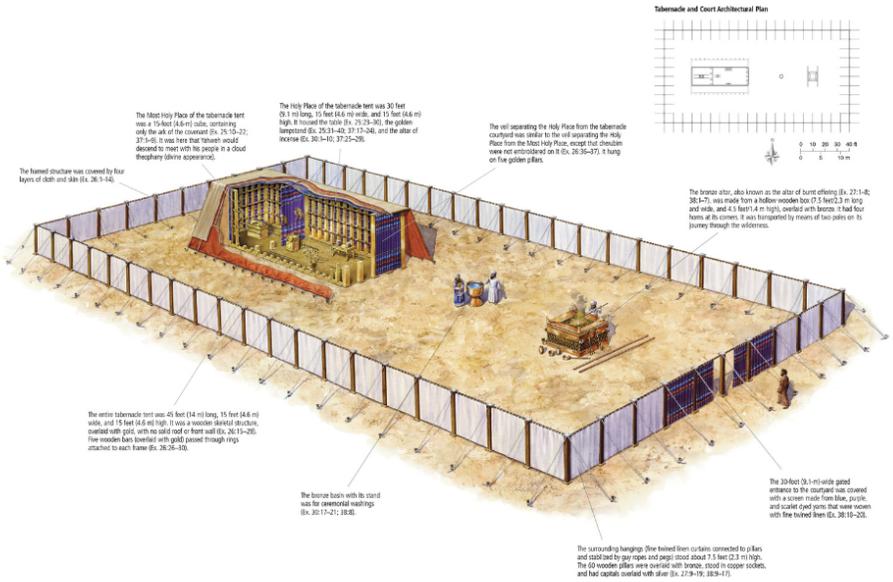
Through the priestly work of Christ, God in His grace calls, cleanses, consecrates, and commissions us as a royal priesthood to spread His glory to the nations.

In many ways, our understanding of who we are as Christians is better served by a deeper understanding of the Old Testament, Leviticus, and the priesthood.

What does it mean to be a kingdom of priests?

Leviticus Ch. 8 - Ordination & Consecration

Help Graphic from Crossway:



On the priestly garments:

If the priests were sinful men who needed cleansing, they were also inadequate men who needed clothing. So, having bathed, Aaron, followed by his sons, donned the robes of office. The high priest was invested with eight garments, four of which were unique to him. His sons were dressed more simply in undergarments, tunics that were tied around with sashes, and headbands. Leviticus only lists the garments: we must look to Exodus 28 for a description of them in all their colourful detail. That passage leaves us in no doubt that the high priest would have looked resplendent in his robes and made a magnificent impression on the Israelites, contributing to the splendour and majesty of the worship of God. Yet, for all the details given, no footwear is mentioned. The priests would have performed their duties barefoot, as was considered fitting for those who were standing on holy ground in the midst of the Lord. - Derek Tidball

Regarding priestly ordination and consecration:

1. Called by God, not self-appointed leaders or ruler
2. Presented to the people publicly, not in private
3. Clothed by God to cover nakedness, and display His beauty and glory
4. Consecrated by God, it is He who qualifies and sets apart for service

It is God who Calls > Cleanses > Consecrates > Commissions

Ch. 9 - Inauguration & Administration

God gives instructions for the first tabernacle service

1. Every offering but guilt is presented
2. Offerings are made for the priest firsts, then offerings are made for the people.

V. 9:22-24 - Blessing & Glory

1. Aaron gives a priestly blessing
2. Moses & Aaron enter the tent together, first time for Aaron and someone other than Moses
3. God's holy fire consumes the offerings in acceptance of what's been presented
4. Worship ensues with joy & reverence

This is the climax and culmination of everything happening, pointing back to the garden of Eden and the beginning of creation where God displayed His desire to personally dwell with humanity.

The symbolism of the tabernacle and tent was intended to point us back to that glorious reality.

On connecting the tabernacle and the Garden of Eden:

In the Eden narratives (Gen 2:4-4:16), the tabernacle imagery develops richly, with the garden of Eden portrayed as the original holy of holies. The lushness of Eden is captured in the fullness of life associated with the tabernacle, including the lampstand, a stylized tree that some have compared to Eden's tree of life (and the vision of Ezekiel's temple includes a river of life as well, Ezek 47:1-12). The Lord's presence in Eden, described as walking, is presented similarly with the tabernacle (Gen 3:3; Lev 26:11-12). - L. Michael Morales

As Ch. 9 points us to the Creation in Genesis, Ch. 10 points us to the Fall

On the priestly role of Adam and the fallout of his rebellion:

*We were made by the Triune God who's overflowing with life
For His glory He created us to know His delight
Although He doesn't need us He was pleased just
To make us His conduits who show what He's like
To be His image-bearers yep His mirrors in Eden
Made from the dust but by His Spirit we're breathing (Genesis 2:7)
(Who are we?) We're physical-spiritual beings
Who live before the face of God, He's near and He's seeing
Made to be dependent so clearly we need Him
Straying would bring His vengeance so fear Him and please Him
We're embodied souls (Genesis 2:7) what is logical?
It's giving all honor to our God in full*

We were given dominion to be kings in His kingdom (Genesis 1:26)
To spread godliness through our kids and their kinsmen (Genesis 1:28)
Vice-kings made in His likeness to be like Him
Wise, Kind, Holy and Righteous (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10)...
Made to love Him from our hearts and in action (Genesis 2:15-17)
In covenant relationship with God everlasting (Hosea 6:7)...
But sin made every part of us defiled insane (Genesis 6:5)
We went from image-bearers now to image-makers (Isaiah 44:9-20;
Ezekiel 16:7; Amos 5:26)
No longer royal children because sin's enslaved us

Adam was intended to be the original priest, dwelling with God and expanding His kingdom, but his rebellion in the fall brought devastating consequences...that continued to play out over time.

Exodus 19:5-6

"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.

God's desire was that Israel would be a kingdom *of* priests, but instead they became a kingdom *with* priests.

Ch. 10 - Presumption & Rejection

Nadab & Abihu's Presumption & The Lord's Rejection

1. They presumed upon the Lord's holiness, and in their disregard for God's instructions, were consumed by the same holy fire that had just consumed their sacrificial offerings.
2. As if they stood before the burning bush, and reached out to grasp it for themselves

God will be sanctified and glorified

1. Those involved in priestly service have a holy standard
2. To approach their duty with purity and holiness
3. To distinguish between the holy and common, unclean and clean
4. To teach Israel the statutes of the Lord

Aaron's silence and response shows he is not the same man who fashioned the golden calf, but a changed man who won't presume upon the Lord.

APPLICATION

As Christian we are like Aaron - idolater God has redeemed and called into priestly service.

Jesus is the True and Better High Priest

Hebrews 7:22-28

This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

As Christians, we are a Royal Priesthood:

I Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him

who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

To be called and cleansed in Christ, is to be consecrated and commissioned for priestly service unto the Lord:

I Peter 1:13-21

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."

All 4 of these are true for every Christian:

1. Called - out of darkness into light

I Peter 2:9; John 6:44

2. Cleansed - by the blood of Christ

I John 1:7-9; Colossians 1:20; Ephesians 1:7

3. Consecrated - set apart for holiness and service

I Peter 2:5; I Timothy 4:6-10; Colossians 3:5; Romans 12:1-2

4. Commissioned - go into all the world

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8

QUESTIONS:

1. Where is my view of God's holiness too small?
2. Where am I lacking a pursuit of holiness in how I live?