

Leviticus 8:1-9 -The Priesthood – Part 1

TSK, Handfuls, Schultz, Bonar, Poythress, Edersheim, JFB, Calvin, Clarke, Poole, Bonar, Gray, Delitzsch, Henry, Geneva, Trapp, Bush, Barnes, Gill Beloved in Christ: **You have heard a lot about the 5 sacrifices the priest made for the Jews and for themselves.** But there were more offerings as well. Those included freewill offerings of cakes, wafers, and plain flour. They were brought to the tabernacle and given to the priests and Levites for their work. You can read more about them in Exodus and Leviticus.

Today you will hear about how the priests were prepared for their tasks of making those sacrifices. In particular, you will hear about the clothes the priests (and high priest) wore to do their job. Keep in mind priests had to have more than just the clothes to be priests. You will hear about those other things that qualified them to be priests later.

Our headings are:

Assembling the material

Adorning of the priests

Our goals are: **That you will be thankful Jesus was your perfectly qualified priest who gave himself as a sacrifice for your sins.**

Assembling the material

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."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."

1. God required his worship to be led by men.

Only men had this office because they were the federal head and had authority over their wives. For a woman to be a priest would have meant she had authority over her husband and therefore have the authority to discipline him. God hates usurping of authority!

2. God required that certain things be prepared in order to ordain Aaron and his sons as priests.

Moses had to get the special **garments**, **anointing oil**, a **bull**, **2 rams**, and **unleavened bread**. The smaller things had to be **brought in a basket**. Look at a little more detail of the list of things God required.

Exodus 29: 1 "And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests: Take one young bull and two rams without blemish, 2 "and unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil (you shall make them of wheat flour). 3 "You shall put them in one basket and bring them in the basket

a. Garments. The clothes had to be exactly as God said. Why? The clothes prefigured much about work of Jesus in saving and caring for man. **Pastors don't have special clothing today because Jesus has fulfilled the symbols of the clothing.**

b. Anointing oil. This was a special blend of oil that no one else could make or have in their possession.

Exodus 30:25 "And you shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil.

The oil represented the Holy Spirit. Without his working, the sacrifices would have been useless, meaningless.

The oil which represented the Holy Spirit foreshadowed that Jesus would have the fulness of the Holy Spirit on him.

You see that especially at his baptism.

c. Bull. This was for a sin offering, the most important offering of all. Exodus 29:14.

The bull pictured Jesus as the one suffering for sinners.

d. Ram 1 – This ram was used as a **burnt offering** for the priests. It showed the priestly relationship with God.

Jesus was your burnt offering – suffering outside the city – totally consumed for you.

e. Ram 2 – This ram was used for a fellowship or peace offering. Some of it was waved before the Lord. It showed a great relationship between man and God and man and man!

Jesus, your sacrifice, brought peace between God and man, and between man and man.

f. Unleavened bread with oil. This bread had to be rich but not with any pollution as yeast.

The priests were going to fill the people with the Bread of Life, so as a symbol of Christ, it had to be undefiled.

The Gospel of the work of Jesus must never be corrupted. It is this Gospel that leads to eternal life.

g. The one basket. The Good News of the Gospel had to be carried, just as the bread had to be carried to the temple.

3. God also commanded the congregation be gathered at the door of the tabernacle.

The congregation had to witness the authority God was giving to the priests, so they would submit to them.

4. Lessons:

a. Men are appointed as leaders in the church as they are the federal head of the family, church, and nation.

b. No one should take on the authority to be a leader in God's church by himself. Any authority is derived from God.

c. See the specialness of those who serve in leadership by the specialness of the oil that was used to anoint them. You are therefore to honor, pray for, encourage, and help that authority the Lord has placed over you.

d. There was no rank among ministers just as there was none among the priests. Pastors shouldn't control other pastors.

e. You are now the vessel of news – Good news! Let it live in you. Carry it everywhere.

f. This instruction fits in with the 2nd command, that you are to worship God in the way he says. The elements and form of worship were not left to the imaginations of men. Man's imagination is too wild.

Adorning of the Priests

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.

1. God required Moses take water and pour it on Aaron and his sons.

Moses did not literally wash a grown man. It was symbolic. This washing symbolized Aaron was spiritually clean for his work. Indeed, this is the work Jesus does for his children, declaring you to be priests of the Most High.

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. **To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins** in His own blood, 6 and has **made us kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

2. Moses then put on the tunic, sash, robe, ephod, band, a breastplate, turban, and a crown on Aaron.

All the materials for the priestly garments were special; the splendor was apparent. Most were made from linen.

a. Tunic. This was a coat made of **white seamless cloth.** (Jesus had one!) This was closest to the body. Jesus was pure – that perfect sacrifice! You see the first picture of a tunic after the fall of Adam. God made it to cover them.

b. Sash. This was worn from one shoulder to the alternate hip over the outer garments. It showed the dignity of the wearer! Jesus showed that dignity throughout his life.

c. Robe. This was blue in color with **pomegranates and bells** alternating on the hem.

The bells and pomegranates were **announcements** of **bountiful provisions** through the sacrifices the priests would make. The **color of the robe reminded them God was concerned about the whole firmament, the earth.** Jesus came to save the world.

d. Ephod. This was made up of two pieces and were gold, blue, purple, and scarlet, and it went down to the knees. On each shoulder the priest wore a stone, each with the names of 6 tribes of Israel. The borders of the ephod were gold. It was an intricately woven garment. **This was the outermost article of clothing.**

The ephod reminded the Jews the priest carried the burden on the people on his shoulders.

Jesus carried all his children to the cross; you were on him when he died.

e. Band. Everything was held together by a belt that was blue, purple, and scarlet. These colors appeared in the tabernacle also.

This girding was a picture that there was work to be done. The band pictured zeal for their mediatory work.

Jesus said his food and drink was doing his Father's work! Zeal for God's house consumed him.

f. Breast plate. This was about 9 inches (23cm) square. It was attached to the shoulders by 2 gold chains. The bottom was tied to the waist band with blue laces. Twelve stones were engraved in it, for the 12 tribes of Israel – tribes that were on the priest's heart. He carried them everywhere, even into the Holiest Place. Exodus 28:29. **This is the same picture of the church!**

Revelation 21:16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation **was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.**

Jesus not only has you on his heart, but wrote your names on the palm of his hands.

In the folds of the breast plate were the Urim and Thumim. These two stones which meant “light” and “perfection” were used to determine God’s answers to man’s questions. We don’t know much more about them.

g. Turban. This was plain and close fitting. The turban of the High Priest was more elaborate and longer. It is a reminder of the pure thinking of Jesus and how he thinks of his children.

h. Crown. This was a plate of pure gold, likely shaped as a flower, attached to the turban with blue lace. It was a symbol of royalty, and on it was written “Holiness to the Lord.” God’s holiness was always on the priest’s mind.

Exodus 28: 38 "So it shall be on Aaron’s forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.

This was a reminder of Christ’s holiness and what he demands from his children. **Without holiness no one will see the Lord.**

3. Lessons:

a. Stand in awe at the beauty and holiness of God. Yes, this was only a picture of God, but even in sinful man with earthly things, you could still get a picture of God’s wondrous beauty and purity.

b. Stand in awe of what a strong Savior does for you. He carries you on his shoulders. You could not carry yourself. **Stand in awe of how your Savior cares for you.** He carries you over his heart. He thinks about you! A wretch like you, he still loves!

c. You are to come to God with washed consciences! Let Christ wash you!

Hebrews 10:22 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.**

Notice how sprinkled and washed are used in parallel. You are now clean. Rejoice.

d. Christians have the clothing of Christ’s righteousness and are now priests. Wear it well! Zechariah!

Zechariah 3: 4 Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "**Take away the filthy garments from him.**" And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes." 5 And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they **put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him.** And the Angel of the LORD stood by.

What does your covering look like? Are you characterized by holiness? Do you have your belt on to work for him as you should?

e. Jesus is still your high priest today so look at him to plead your cause in heaven.

Revelation 1: 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Conclusion:

Think of the dignity of the priests. Think of the work of the priest. Think how the priests look forward to Jesus and how they symbolized him being the true and perfect High Priest.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Jesus is now your High Priest. He was holy, harmless, and undefiled. He did not make sacrifices, but he gave himself as a sacrifice for sinners. Love him for that. Worship him for that. Live like you are cleaned-out!

2. You are now priest of the Most High God. How are you doing in your job? Are you praying for others, representing them to God above? Are you laying down your life for others? Are you opening the door for others to come and meet the true sacrifice for sins – the true High Priest?

Finally, without the sacrifice of Jesus, you will go to hell. So grab hold of him today and plead with the Father in heaven saying, "Father, I offer Jesus for my sins." God will always receive those who plead his Son for their sins.